Lemovices or Arvernes - circuit 2

Gorges et plateaux de la Haute-Dordogne - Saint-Étienne-aux-Clos

(G.Salat - CC HCC)

Stories of railways, natural boundaries, administrative boundaries, and therefore of the link between people...

This is a very special valley... The fauna, the flora and the climate here are rather Auvergne-like, as is the architecture; The former railway line ran from one bank of the Chavanon to the other, following the contours of the land, linking the Auvergne to Paris via the Limousin. We are at the border of the two regions, drawn here by the Chavanon, which meant "the excavator" in old French.

Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 3 h

Length : 8.8 km

Trek ascent : 275 m

Difficulty : Difficult

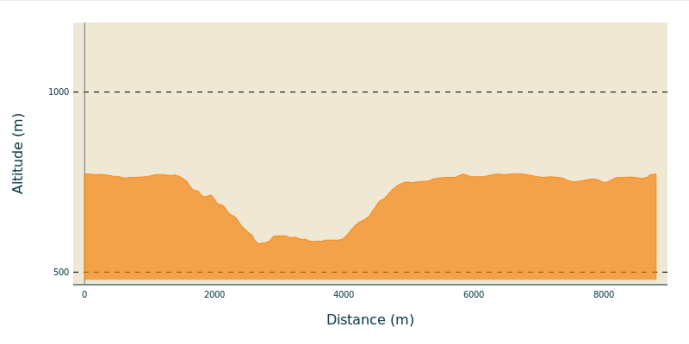
Type : Loop

Themes : Heritage site and architecture, Landscape

Trek

Departure : Bourg, St-Etienne aux Clos
Arrival : Bourg, St-Etienne aux Clos
Markings : Yellow markers
Cities : 1. Saint-Étienne-aux-Clos

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 579 m Max elevation 773 m

Departure from the esplanade on the edge of the departmental road. Head off towards the church; go past the front of the building, and before the café, turn left into the Chemin des Tilleuls.

1. Find the road and follow it to the right. Go straight on at the next crossroads. Follow the signage carefully on this section: ignore a path to the right and then another to the left. The path becomes a trail and starts to descend. At the crossroads, fork left: the path winds down to the Chavanon.
2. Continue to the left, over a small footbridge. Continue for 200 m. At the crossroads, go straight on (to the right, off the circuit, is the railway bridge), you will recognise the old trackbed. Continue; just before a tunnel, turn right onto a path that leads down to the Chavanon and then back to the other tunnel entrance.
3. Continue for 300 m, then fork left (go straight on for circuit III): a path winds up to reach the plateau. Continue along a grassy path to Loubatière. Follow the road to the right. Go straight ahead to reach the D 27 through the village of Froides Maisons.
4. Follow the departmental road to the left for 200 m, then take a path to the right through a wood, alongside a meadow and into the woodland undergrowth.
5. At the end of the trail, follow the earth path to the left. Turn right after the tree-felling area. Continue straight ahead to return to the starting point

On your path...

Town of St-Etienne aux Clos (A)
Le Sancy (B)
The Chavanon valley (C)
The railway (D)

All useful information

Advices

Please note: This circuit is a shorter version of a longer circuit (12 km) which is the subject of a special description sheet.Please note: This circuit is a shorter version of a longer circuit (12 km) which is the subject of a special description sheet.

How to come ?

Access

Coming from Ussel, follow the RD 1089 towards Clermont-Fd. Fork right and take the D 27 towards St-Etienneaux Clos

Advised parking

Bourg, St-Etienne aux Clos

Information desks

Bureau d'information touristique de Bort-les-Orgues
287 Place Marmontel, 19110 Bort-les-Orgues
Tel : 05 19 60 00 30
https://www.tourisme-hautecorreze.fr/

Bureau d'information touristique estival d'Eygurande
2 place de l'église, 19340 Eygurande
Tel : 05 19 60 00 30

Bureau d'information touristique d'Ussel
Rue Saint-Martin, 19200 Ussel
Tel : 05 19 60 00 30
https://www.tourisme-hautecorreze.fr/

On your path...

Town of St-Etienne aux Clos (A)

Saint Etienne aux Clos was probably created by the union of two parishes: Esclaux and a larger village, better placed in relation to the communication routes, which took the name of Saint Etienne.
You can find the old shop fronts at the end of the esplanade, away from the road. The café, still in operation, is worth a visit.

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Le Sancy (B)

This hike will offer you several viewpoints overlooking the highest volcano in mainland France, the Puy de Sancy. At 1885 metres above sea level, this summit is the highest point of the Massif Central. The two streams, the Dore and the Dogne, originate there, and their confluence forms the Dordogne.

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The Chavanon valley (C)

A natural boundary between the Corrèze and the Puy de Dôme, the Chavanon is born from the confluence of two streams, the Ramade and the Méouzette.
It continues its course through gorges then flows into the Dordogne, upstream of the Bort-les-Orgues dam reservoir. Classified Natura 2000 along its entire course, it is a river famous for its trout.

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The railway (D)

It may come as a surprise to see such a splendid roadbed at the bottom of the valley, but soon the size of the walls reminds one of the remains of a railway. We are on the old Paris-Béziers line, which crossed the Massif Central. The filling of the Bort les Orgues dam led to the closure of the line in 1950. This closure benefited the bats that found refuge in the old Froides Maisons tunnel.

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