

The Tiergues dolmen

Des falaises de Roquefort au Rougier - Saint-Affrique



Rocher de Caylus (Virginie Govignon)



The Caylus rock which used to be the bedrock of a feudal castle and the Tiergues dolmen, an outstanding megalith are the two symbols of this excursion in the heart the Saint-Affrique countryside.

Following valleys and ridges, throughout buissières and Scotch pine forests, this looped hiking trail is accessible to all and invites you to reach two outstanding stone remains located in the Saint-Affrique region. A pleasant trip back in time... and into geological strata: from the Permian Basin in Saint-Affrique to the limestones and dolostones in the frontal Causses area.

Useful information

Practice : Trekking

Duration : 4 h

Length : 14.2 km

Trek ascent : 426 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Geology, History and heritage, Panorama, Top 3 Aveyron

Trek

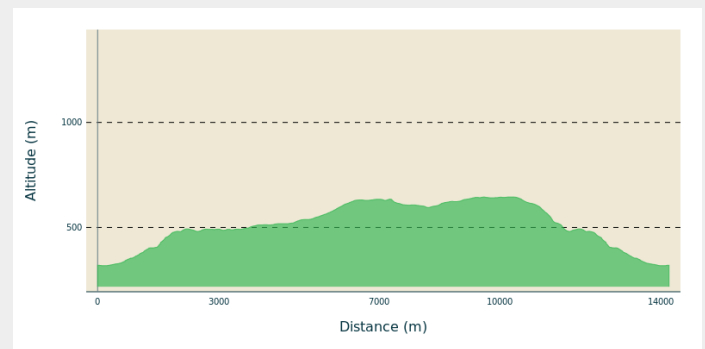
Departure : From de tourist office reach the Painlevé square

Arrival : Return your way back to the tourist office

Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. Saint-Affrique

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 318 m Max elevation 645 m

- 1 Start from the Painlevé square and follow the D 993 for 100m, then take the left turn under the porch and follow the stone pathway. Carry on along the road on the right hand side, up to the start of the bend, then walk straight on along the path in front of you and then follow a larger track that takes you back onto the road.
 - 2 Take the right turn onto the stone pathway that runs around the base of Caylus rock. Take the path towards the NE which slopes gently upwards and overlooks the D 993 which is to your right.
 - 3 Take the left track that runs in the valley parallel to the D 50. The walk is a shady path alongside the ravine and the Nougayrolles brook. Leave the farm trail to your right that ascends towards the crest and the path to your left which leads towards Crassous. After the sheepfold the path gets wider and reaches a junction.
 - 4 Take the path that slopes up through woodland and ends at a plateau, nearby the Tiergues dolmen. Walk on the right side of the D 250 alongside the road, and then carry on along a sheep path until you reach the village of Tiergues. Take the road to the right along the graveyard and then walk through the village.
 - 5 When you pass the last houses and reach the calvary cross, take the path opposite which is lined with low walls and hedges. Follow a long “bouissière” (a path lined with box trees) which ends at the crest of the hill where you can enjoy a nice view over Saint-Affrique and the Caylus rock. Carry on along the crest through pasture lands and groves, then go through a cedar plantation, and eventually walk down towards the Caylus rock passing a cliff to your right.
- 3 From here, follow the route you took back to your starting point.

On your path...



 Counts of Caylus' Castle (A)

 Tiersgues dolmen (B)

All useful information

Advices

The path is steep at the Caylus rock and on the crest before n°3.

Box tree moths are active from May to October. During the caterpillar phase, they feed on the leaves of box trees. They crawl down trees and move on long silken threads, although these threads are annoying when hiking they do not pose any health risk

Gear

Prévoir une réserve d'eau et une tenue adaptée.

How to come ?

Transports

Travel by bus or train: <https://lio.laregion.fr/>

Carpooling : [BlaBlaCar](#), [Rézo Pouce](#), [Mobicoop](#), [Idvroom](#), [LaRoueVerte](#), [Roulez malin](#)

Access

Saint-Affrique is located 31 km from Millau and is accessible from roads D 992 and D 999

Advised parking

tourist office Foch square

Information desks

Saint-Affrique Tourist Office

Boulevard Aristide Briand, 12400 Saint-Affrique

contact@roquefort-tourisme.fr

Tel : 0565585600

<http://www.roquefort-tourisme.fr/>



On your path...



Counts of Caylus' Castle (A)

This rock was used as the bedrock for the building of the Counts of Caylus' Castle of which nothing remains today

The castle was destroyed in retaliation of Count of Caylus' rebellion against his overlord Raymond VII, count of Toulouse, marquis of Provence and of Gothie.

Attribution : Roquefort Tourisme



Tiergues dolmen (B)

Listed as a historical monument, the Tiergues dolmen is part of the 20 or so dolmens which have been recorded in the area, some of them being poorly-preserved. The excavations of these megaliths were carried out by Emile Cartailhac during the 20th century and today their artefacts are scattered throughout Midi-Pyrennées (Rodez, Toulouse...)

Attribution : Roquefort Tourisme