

Tournemire hiking circuit

Des falaises de Roquefort au Rougier - Tournemire



Cirque de Tournemire (Roquefort Tourisme)



This amazing landscape was shaped by the sea at a time when it covered the causses 200 million of years ago. The Tournemire amphitheatre provides a wonderful natural habitat for fauna and flora varied species.

Starting from Tournemire, walk across a majestic setting made of limestone rocks and grey marls and try to identify bird and butterfly species that have found refuge in the area - the Rock Swallow, the Red-billed Chough, the Large Blue - and plant species clinging to the cliffs such as *Hormathophylla macrocarpa*... A walk through a haven of biodiversity!

Useful information

Practice : Trekking

Duration : 4 h

Length : 12.2 km

Trek ascent : 390 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna, Geology, Top 3 Aveyron

Accessibility : Rando-Train

Departure : Town Hall car park situated in the village centre, avenue Hippolyte Puech, in Tournemire.

Arrival : Town Hall car park situated in the village centre, avenue Hippolyte Puech, in Tournemire.

Markings :  GR  PR

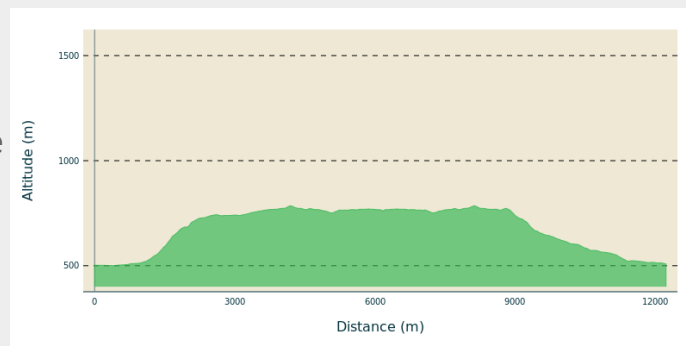
Cities : 1. Tournemire

2. Roquefort-sur-Soulzon

3. Saint-Rome-de-Cernon

4. Viala-du-Pas-de-Jaux

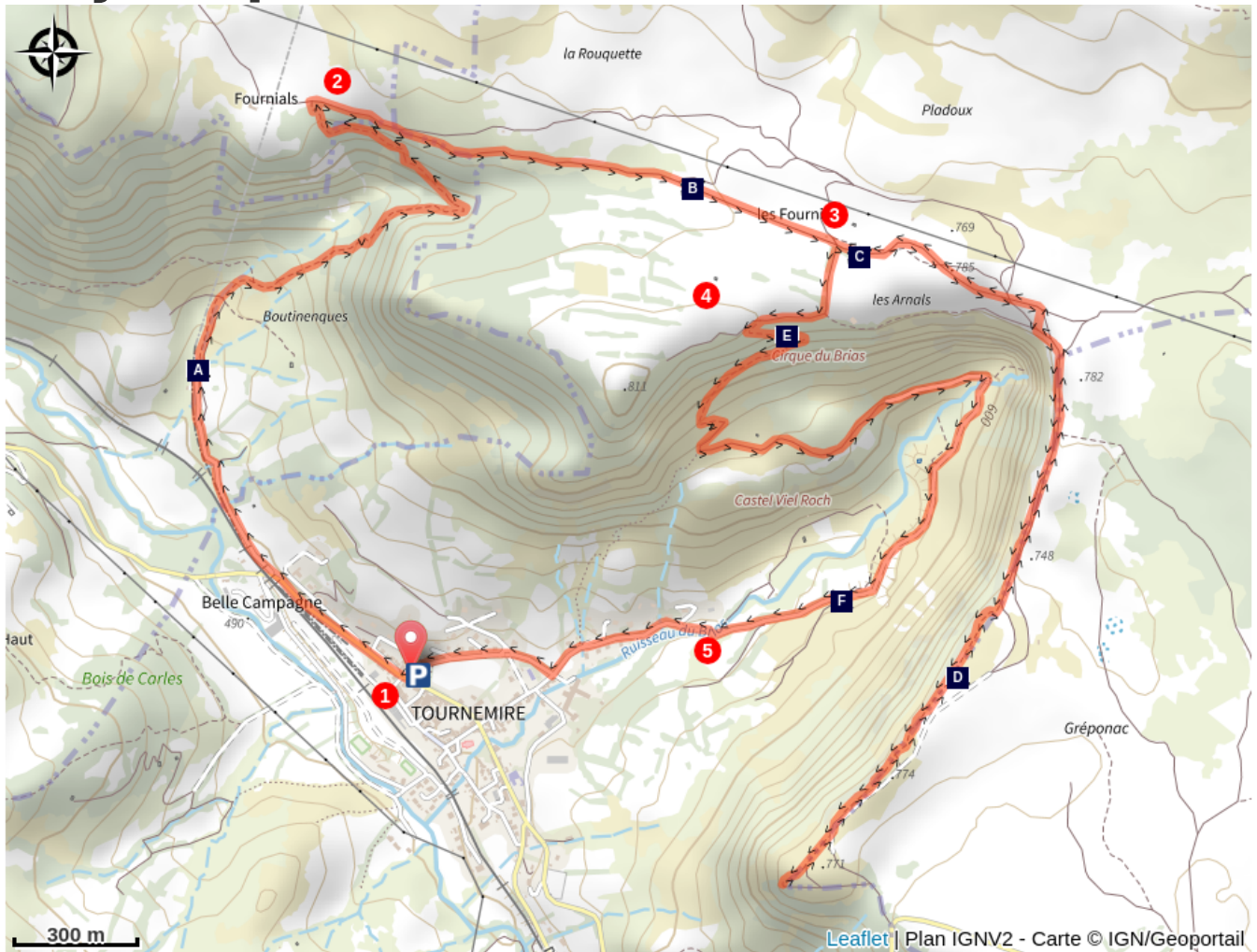
Altimetric profile









Min elevation 500 m Max elevation 785 m

1. Starting from the car park at the Tournemire town hall, walk along the D23 towards Roquefort. 20 m before the passageway that goes under the railway, take the tarmac track on your right up to the old railway tunnel entrance. Follow the yellow marks and turn to the right on a footpath. Go through a fence, then after 100 m cross a path and keep following the ascending track opposite “the engineer trail”. Once you’ve reached the top of a steep slope, turn into a small dry canyon and after 150 m enjoy a magnificent view on your left. Keep going until you reach the Causse du Larzac where the Fournials fortified farm can be seen (private property, visits not allowed).
2. Leaving the Fournials farm on your left, take the track to the right towards the Viala du Pas de Jaux. From here, a possible option is to walk onwards for 300 m and just before a small stone building leave the track and take right a footpath that goes directly down to Tournemire.
3. Keep following the caussenard footpath and walk past a lavogne (natural pond with a paved bottom on your left) then carry on along the amphitheatre up to the Grépounac cross.
4. Retrace your steps back to the fork with the Arnals path.
5. Take left the track with a red and white marking (GR71C). Carry on the GR which goes down the Tournemire amphitheatre. Walk your way down to the Pont du Diable where you will see the brook Brias resurgence.
6. Head back to Tournemire on the trail, then onto a road which passes the side of the stadium (on the right hand side) then past a beautiful building which was formerly a convent, come back to the Town Hall car park.

On your path...



-  Tournemire tunnel (A)
-  Lavogne (C)
-  Tournemire amphitheatre (E)

-  Dry Grasslands (B)
-  The Tournemire cirque (D)
-  Birds (F)

All useful information

Is in the midst of the park

This itinerary is located in the World Heritage zone Causses and Cévennes, mediterranean agropastoral cultural landscape.

Advices

Travel by bus or train: <http://www.mobimipy.fr/>

Carpooling : [BlaBlaCar](#), [Rézo Pouce](#), [Covoiturage-libre](#), [Idvroom](#), [LaRoueVerte](#), [Roulez malin](#)



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

Coming from Saint-Affrique or from Millau, take the D999, then follow the D23 towards Tournemire for 6 km

Advised parking

Town Hall car park situated in the village centre, avenue Hippolyte Puech, in Tournemire.

Accessibility

The plesiosaure house is accessible to people with mobility impairment.

i Information desks

OT Pays du Roquefort

Avenue de Lauras, 12250 Roquefort/
Soulzon

contact@roquefort-tourisme.fr

Tel : 0565585600

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



Source



LIO Train Occitanie

<https://www.ter.sncf.com/occitanie>

On your path...



Tournemire tunnel (A)

This 1885 m long old railway tunnel was excavated towards the end of the 19th century. In 1988, a laboratory designed to undertake, geophysical, geomechanical and hydrochemistry studies was set up inside the tunnel. The aim of this fundamental research, carried out by the Nuclear Safety and Protection Institute, is to gain more knowledge of the way underground water moves and transports dissolved materials. It also examines the geological structure of the area. Some grey marine marl outcrops can be seen in the surroundings and are an equal mixture of clay and limestone.

To get more information: [IRSN](https://www.irsn.fr)

Attribution : (c) Joël Atché



Dry Grasslands (B)

Dry Grasslands which are iconic features of the caussenard landscape originate from pristine forests that have been transformed by human actions (land clearing, stubble-burning, farming and pasture). This ecosystem is a semi-natural environment with outstanding biological particularities: it provides a critical habitat for rare animal and plant species and is a perfect hunting ground for birds nesting in surrounding cliffs and gorges. Moreover, these traditional pastoral lands have been used for centuries. At the end of the spring season, the causses scenery is decked out with tall grass (feather grass) that forms the shape of a thick silver hair. (source PNR Grands Causses).

Attribution : (c) Delphine Atché



Lavogne (C)

Ever since the Neolithic period, humans have kept on improving the numerous natural ponds that they came across all around the Causse. They took advantage of these small land depressions called sotch or doline that provided essential water supplies to ensure the sheep watering, but were also used as laundry places or fish ponds, although their clayey bottom have always posed problems with leakage.

In the Occitan language, the word lavanha refers to all kinds of ponds whether natural or hand built, whereas at the PNRGC, we have chosen to keep the word lavogne, or lavagne to designate ponds with paved bottoms, for they have witnessed the development of pastoralism over the 19th century. (source PNR Grands Causses).

Attribution : DelphineAtche



The Tournemire cirque (D)

Situated in the southwest of the Larzac Causse, the Tournemire Cirque is a remarkable geological area marking the boundary between the fore-causses and the great causses. It presents limestone ledges and rocky escarpments with caves and cavities where raptors such as the eagle owl and the golden eagle nest.

Attribution : Claude Chambaud



Tournemire amphitheatre (E)

The great Tournemire amphitheatre is one of the most outstanding escarpments of the western edge of the Larzac and as such is classified "Zone Natura 2000". The lower slopes are the only part where Toarcian marls are visible in the SW erosion gullies, everywhere else these marls are hidden under rocky slopes and big rock slides. At the top of the slopes, the dolomitic limestone ruin-shaped cliffs frame the outline of this amphitheatre.

Attribution : Roquefort Tourisme



🐦 Birds (F)

The cliffs of the Tournemire amphitheatre are an important playground and nesting area for numerous birds. These cliffs are home to great variety of bird life, from the most expressive to the most secretive such as: the Rock Swallow; the Alpine Swift; the Red-billed Chough; the Wall creeper; Bats (Greater Horseshoe) and birds of prey nesting on cliffs among which is the Eurasian Eagle-Owl.

Attribution : Roquefort Tourisme