3

→ VERY EAZY

THE CASTLE PATH

→ SITUATION : Peyrilles

→ START POINT : Village square

GPS Coordinates : N44°37.193' E01°24.885

DURATION : 1 hr. 30 mins.

LENGTH : 4,2 kms

WAYMARKING : Yellow

« A walk through the history of Peyrilles, whose imposing 12th C. castle watches over the village with its typical Quercy-style houses and its Romanesque church, once a stopping-place on the Santiago Pilgrim Ways. »

From the village square, climb the steps on your right up to the War monument. From there, go along beside St. Pierre church *(13th C.)*, then turn left. At the end of the road, turn right, then walk past the former Girls' School (Ecole des Filles). Go past the chapel *(on your left)* and the Château de Peyrilles *(on the right)*.

1 200m further on, take the track on the right running beside the pastures. The take the track on the right shaded by old pubescent oak trees and heading for «Drouille». Take the tarmac road going to the right for 50 m. and go past the farm in the hamlet of «Drouille».

2 Continue straight on *(You can go and see a «gariotte» on the left : a dry-stone building, constructed by shepherds who once used to use it as a shelter)*, then follow the track on the left lined with low walls *(built in the past by farmers to define the limits of a field or a vineyard)*.

3 Then go to the right towards the hamlet of «Verdy» on a road with first a pond on one side and then on the other to provide water for the flocks of sheep, a «gariotte» and some remarkable traditional buildings.

4 As you leave the hamlet, after the last house with its former bread oven, turn left to go back down into the valley via a steep track which then follows the bottom of the coomb.

5 At «La Borie Basse», continue straight ahead for about 500m, then turn right on a narrow path following the hillside parallel to the stream. Follow the path for about 1 km to return to the village of Peyrilles, passing close by three renovated former mills.

TO SEE IN THE AREA...

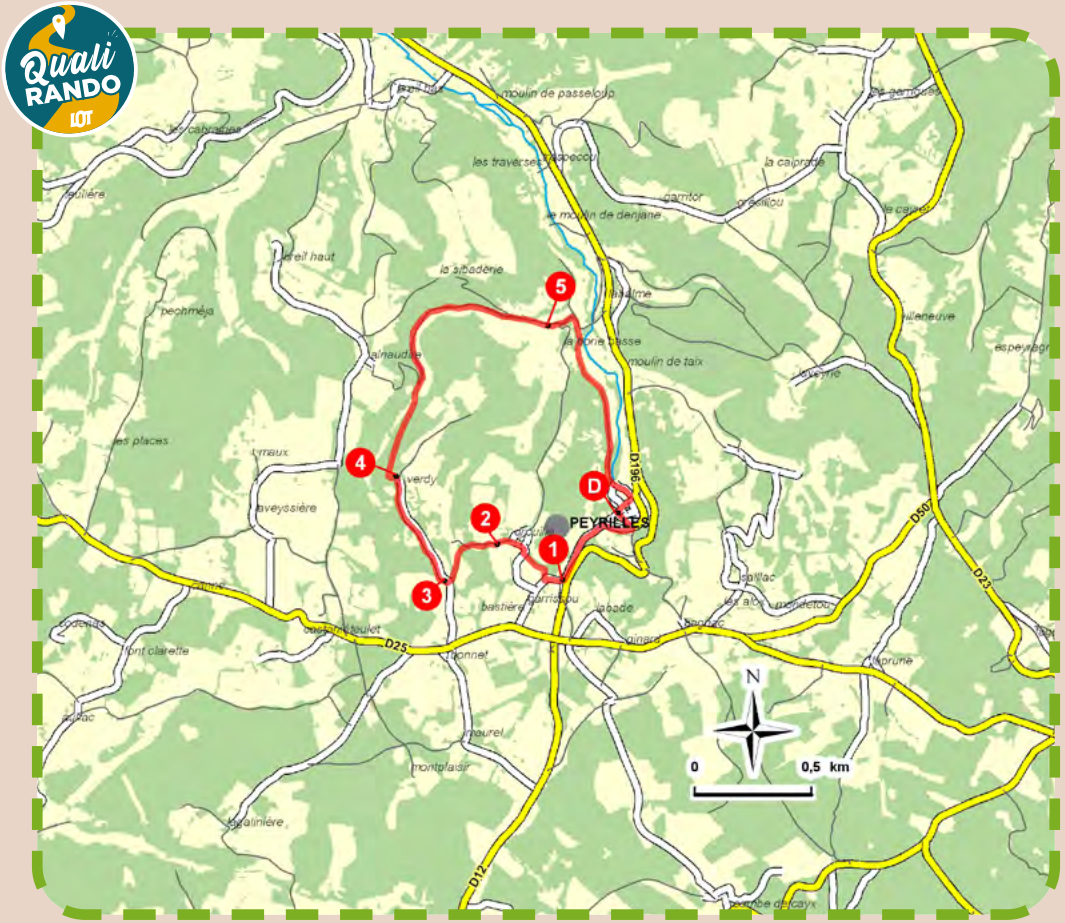
- Peyrilles : 12th C. castle, former school, Romanesque church Ossuary dedicated to St. Roch.
- Peyrilles : ESA Dégagnazès nature path
- Lavercantière : ESA The Frau heathlands nature path

→ FOOD SHOPS/ RESTAURANTS ETC

St. Germain du Bel Air, Concorès.
(Restaurant in Peyrilles)

→ INFORMATION

Gourdon Tourist Office
05 65 27 52 50
www.tourisme-gourdon.com

THE CASTLE

Once a possession of the Lords of Gourdon, Peyrilles, a little gem tucked in a hollow amongst green hills, has managed to retain the traces of times long past and its castle is a worthy example of this. This building still has some remarkable traces of the 12th C., in particular the dressed stone and limestone tablets used in its construction, even though the most part dates from the 13th and 14th C. Works done during the 15th and 16th C. saw the installation of a spiral staircase linking the apartments with the tower, which had remained separate until then. Then numerous later alterations, particularly in the 18th C., gave it its present appearance. A real journey back in Time which brings back memories of the pictures and drawings in our history books.