

LE VERT, LA BELLE AND THE CHÂTEAUX



→ SITUATION : Gigouzac, 20 kms frm Cahors via the D820 and the D13.

→ START POINT : Church square in Gigouzac.

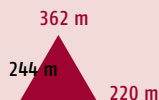
GPS Coordinates : : N 44.34969° E 1.125992°

DURATION : 3 hrs. 30 mins.

LENGTH : 13,6 kms

WAYMARKING : Yellow

PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES : point 7
path with pebbly surface through woodland
(MBK and horse-riders)



“ This route passes through some dry then some wet zones, on the plateaux of Mechmont and in the quiet, cool valley of Le Vert. ”

TO SEE IN THE AREA...
• Gigouzac : 17th C. church with a listed reredos (Hist. Mon.)

→ FOOD SHOPS/
RESTAURANTS ETC :
Catus and Gigouzac

→ INFORMATION :
Cahors - Lot Valley
Tourist Office
Cahors Office
05 65 53 20 65

- 1 Facing the church, turn right. Go along beside the pond, then follow the left bank of «Le Vert» stream. Come into a meadow.
- 2 Go past a road on the left and continue straight on along by the stream. Come to a road, and turn right.
- 3 On a right-hand bend, take the road on the left. Very soon you take the path going up to the right. Once you get back to the road, follow the path going up opposite towards «Mas de Jouanis».
- 4 At the hamlet, take the road going left. On the next bend, go to the right and, at the houses, go down a grassy track on the left. Follow this to the «Cap del Bosc». Fork right on a path through the woods. Where this crosses a track, go left the immediately to the right to get to a road.
- 5 Take this to the right. After a house, leave the road to take a path on the left which brings you to the «Mas de Bouyssou». Follow a wide track for 1.5 kms up to the «Teissié» junction. Before coming to the road, take a grassy track on the left which goes past a barn. Go down through a wood to get back to the road. Follow it for 200 m to the left and take the track on the right which goes past the laundry trough and goes uphill to get to Mechmont.
- 6 Go past the cemetery and take the road opposite you.
- 7 After «Les Granges», turn right into the woods. At the road, go straight ahead and continue up to the D13. Go along this to the right then immediately fork left towards the Mas de Paltrié.
- 8 Go through the hamlet, turn right before the last house and go down into the woods. At the bottom, turn right and immediately downhill again. Turn left towards «Lafaurie». At the road, go left and down once again to the left after the house.
- 9 At the end of the descent, turn left. At the road, go ahead to the left before the bridge to follow the stream. Follow it for 2.5 kms.
- 10 When you come to a road, turn right to cross the stream then immediately left to return to Gigouzac via the D127.

THE GIGOUZAC CROCODILE

This was 4 to 6 metres in length. Its body was covered with bony plates and its lower jaw was 1.23 m long. The Gigouzac crocodile - steneosaurus - whose fossilised bones were discovered in 1948 by a geologist from the Lot lived in this region about 150 million years ago.

At that period, this area was a marshy coastal zone opening on to a sea which linked the Paris basin, England, Belgium, Germany and the Languedoc. Numerous living organisms thrived in these warm waters. When they died, they fell to the sea bed, where they were gradually transformed into fossils. Such was the fate of the the Gigouzac steneosaurus, which had numerous cousins that have been discovered in Europe, North America and in Africa.

