

OF WATER AND STONE

→ SITUATION : Puyjourdes, 11 kms south of Cajarc via the D19 then the D79

→ START POINT: Salle des fêtes

GPS Coordinates : : N 44.405817° E 1.862136°

DURATION : 4 hrs.

LENGTH : 12.5 kms

WAYMARKING : Yellow



1 From the Salle des Fêtes, go towards Puyjourdes church. Go past it on the left and immediately right then left on the track which goes down to a wooden cross.

Turn right, and 150m further on take a track to the left. Follow it for 1.7 kms («gariottes» - stone huts - built into the wall on the left). As you get to the hilltop, the view opens out: you can see the Lot valley cliffs on the right, and the Cantal hills when it's fine. At the pylon/mast in St Jean de Laur, make a 60m there-and-back detour to the left to see the superb «cazelle» well and cazelle (stone hut).

1 Continue straight on following the little hilltop road (pigeon towers, bread oven, former windmill) for 500m. Take a short track on the right before coming to the road leading to *Mas del Petit*.

2 Go to the right on the downhill track for 1.5 kms (cazelles) towards the Oule chasm (gouffre). At the crossing, turn left to go and see the chasm : 600m there and back.

3 Retrace your steps, continue on the track opposite which goes uphill

for 1.4 kms up to a cross as you arrive at the *Mas de Vivigné*. Turn left on the little road which you follow as far as the *Mas de Treille*. Turn right at the calvary with a metal cross.

4 At the crossing, (spring 30m away if you cross the track), take the wide, stony surfaced track making a hairpin bend. Go 2 kms on this, cutting across a first valley before a sudden descent into the Oule valley.

5 At to the bottom of the valley, after the ruin, take the track on the right for 300m. At the fork, take the track to the right for 1km.

6 At a fork, leave the valley by taking the track which goes back uphill to the right. Continue on this track up to a stone cross. Where tracks meet, continuer opposite towards *Puyjourdes*.

FROM CHASMS TO REAPPEARING STREAMS

The landscape of the Quercy Causses was formed by the interaction of water and stone. You'll see the results of this on this round walk, and especially when you see the Oule chasm which you come across after following a hilly path.

The landscape around you is of the karstic type : water is scarce on the surface and abundant in the depths. Chasms are characteristic of this type of landscape, as are cliffs, dry pastures and reappearing streams.

The Oule chasm, just like its neighbours, was hollowed out by rainwater. This picks up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and this gas transforms into carbonic acid in the water. This acidic water erodes the alkaline limestone as it seeps into fissures in the ground. It then picks up calcite which it deposits elsewhere later (stalactites, stalagmites, petrifying springs.) The phenomenon of natural abrasive erosion due to underground streams of water also takes place.



“ A ramble which provides the opportunity to explore a dry valley and the Oule chasm. ”

TO SEE IN THE AREA...

- Cajarc : 13th C. Maison de l'Hébrardie (HM), 13th C. church, Georges Pompidou Contemporary Art Centre
- Cénevières : Cénevières Castle (HM)

→ FOOD SHOPS/
RESTAURANTS ETC
Limogne en Quercy and
Cajarc

→ INFORMATION
Grand Figeac
Lot and Célé Valley
Tourist Office
05 65 34 06 25
www.tourisme-figeac.com

