

ON THE TRAIL OF WATER

→ SITUATION : Reilhac, 13.2 kms from Livernon via the D2, D14 and D42

→ START POINT : Reilhac church

GPS Coordinates : : N 44.700067° E 1.718492°

DURATION : 2 hrs. 15 mins.

LENGTH : 9 kms

WAYMARKING : Yellow



D Facing the information board at the start of the walk, go past the church, cross a lane. When you come to the D42, go to the right, up to the crossroads and follow the tarmac road towards Gabaudet for 350m.

1 Turn left level with a wayside cross and head towards the Lac Redon (pond dug out of the rock in a rectangular shape with one sloping side to provide a watering place for livestock. This artificial pond is the archetype of the one hundred or so Lacs de St. Namphaise.) Go around the Lac Redon, come back to the road to Gabaudet, and go to the right for 200m along this.

2 Turn left towards the Lac Lagadet.

3 Go around this «Lac de St Namphaise» by the left (one of the four «lacs» sited one at each compass point around the commune) and take the 2nd track on the left towards the Lac des Fargues. Go all the way around this pond, retrace your footsteps and turn left. Then after 500m turn right.

4 Cross the D14 at the place called «les 4 chemins» (cross on the right). Continue on this road to the right for 50 m before turning on to the track on the right, continue for 600m up to another track on the right and arrive

close to the Lac de la Crota. Notice as you go the 2 ponds known as «du Cornouiller», dug out of the rock and sited close to a fortified cave. You'll see that the smaller one, carefully carved out, could serve as a reservoir of drinking water for the inhabitants who had taken refuge in the cave. Go past this site via the path to the left.

5 When you come to the first path crossing, turn right, walk 700m.

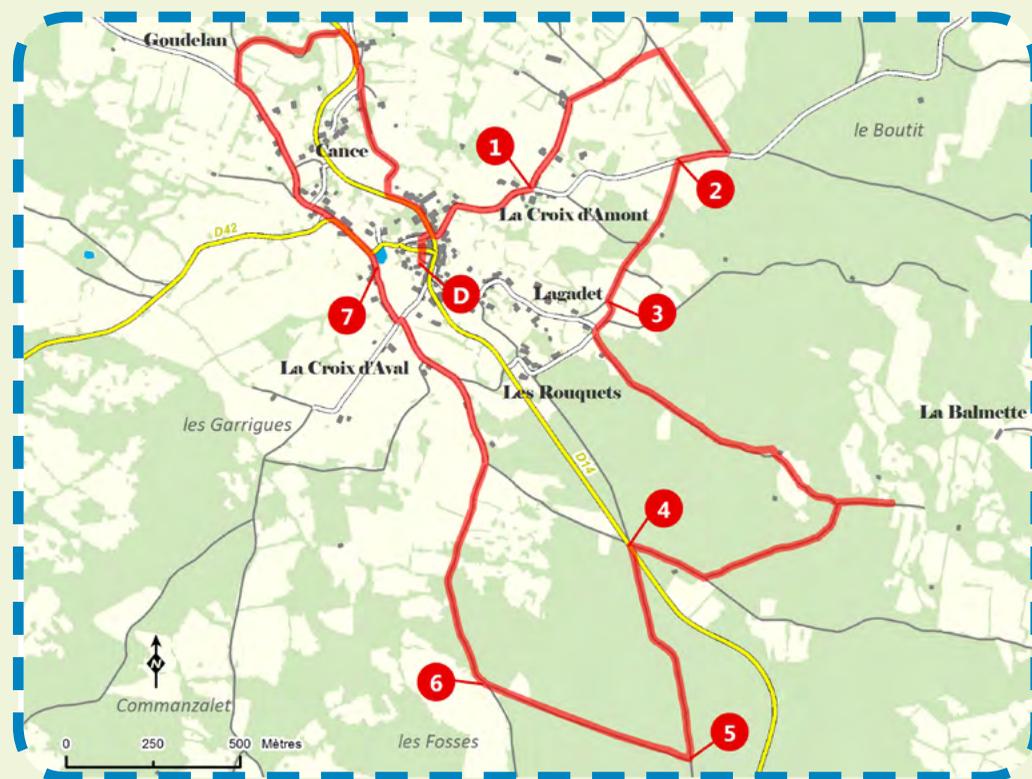
6 At a track crossing, go right towards Reilhac. On coming to the first houses, at the Croix d'Aval calvary statue, turn left and go towards the Lac de Reilhac. Constructed so that one section is a watering trough and another is a laundry trough, it is one of the largest on the Causse. This restored group of structures is characterised by its overflow conduit built to carry the surplus water towards an «igüe» (pothole).

7 Continue as far as the D42, then take the little road lined with houses, going past an area which has been landscaped. After the humid zone of Goudelan, turn right on to the track edged with stone walls and go up to the D14, cross over and leave it going left on the track which, after 500m, brings you back to the village so that you can return to Reilhac church.



WATER ON AND UNDER THE CAUSSE

Water is a rare commodity on the surface of the Causse. The history of Reilhac demonstrates the particular attention that people have paid to it throughout the ages, using their ingenuity to conserve it at a time when water didn't come out of a tap. The village was undoubtedly sited on this spot because of the presence of a spring with an abundant flow of water, which was retained thanks to various ingenious constructions. All around in this countryside, numerous places where water is to be found – often fed by rainwater – demonstrate the cause-dwellers' ingenuity in conserving this indispensable resource. (St. Namphaise, an ex-officer in Charlemagne's army, retired here to lead the religious life, and is credited with having greatly helped the poor Causse farmers to improve their husbandry by helping them to dig out ponds to retain rainwater for their livestock, hence «Lacs de St. Namphaise».)



TO SEE IN THE AREA...

- Reilhac : site for star gazing
- Lunegarde : church
- Espédaillac : remarkable village architecture

→ FOOD SHOPS/
RESTAURANTS ETC
Livernon

→ INFORMATION
Pays de Figeac
Tourist Office
05 65 34 06 25

Information Bureau
in Lacapelle Marival
05 65 40 81 11



“ This ramble takes you to explore a typical Causse village built around its laundry trough and Romanesque church. The ponds, laundry troughs and the ox-shoeing stall give this walk its particular character. ”