

A multi-day hike on the Causses and through the Gorges of the Tarn, the Dourbie and the Jonte

A hike through the Cevennes, a mountain range in the Massif Central, over the plateaus of les Grands Causses and through the deep ravines of the Tarn, the Dourbie and the Jonte. And all this in an almost circular walk of six day stages with about 15-20 kilometers per day. You rarely can get it better!



the Tarn at les Vignes

The GR6

We decided to start the hike in La Canourgue. Then on the first day you walk quietly via the GR6 to St. Georges-de-Lévéjac.

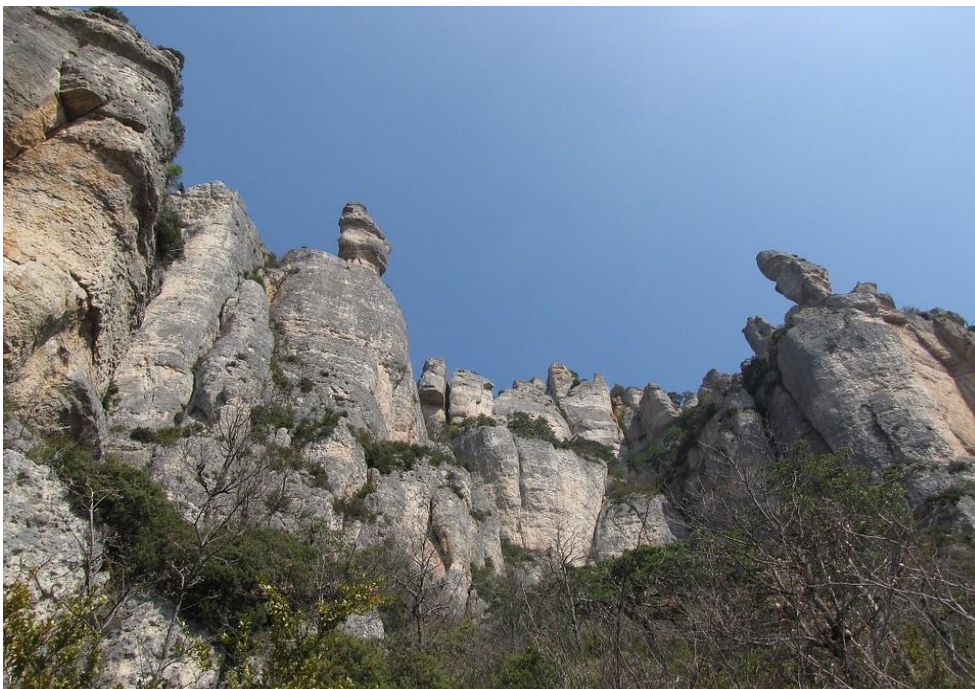
For reasons that are not entirely clear, la Canourgue has been nicknamed Little Venice. The beautiful village with its beautiful houses from the 18th century is located on the river Urugne, but to speak of Venice But don't whine on such a first day. The GR route is beautiful: not yet the "real causses" but a lovely agricultural hilly landscape. And halfway through the stage you walk into the municipality of Masegros Causses Gorges. St. Georges de Lévéjac (250 inhabitants) is not dotted with gîtes or hotels so a reservation is recommended. A campsite is 1.5 kilometres away, in the direction of Point Sublime.

The Tarn The next morning you quickly walk to the Point Sublime, possibly the most beautiful viewpoint on and over the Tarn. At 875 meters you can see both left and right looking at the grandeur that has arisen after centuries of wearing out the limestone valleys by the water. Behind a small gate you can look down almost perpendicularly (if you want...). Don't take too many pictures. Once at home, you can only conclude that the human eye is infinitely better than the technical eye of your device.



Point Sublime

To reach our next goal, les Vignes, you can walk with a detour above, with the necessary asphalt, or the footpath to la-Chapelle-St. Trying to find Hilaire, into the gorge. Once down, on the banks of the Tarn, it is another hour to les Vignes. Nice in time for a delicious salad niçoise on the terrace of Le Parisien. After which a fabulously beautiful path follows to le Rozier, along the Tarn, 12 kilometers, again via the GR6. After the necessary climbing via ladders from the Rocher de Capluc with the two vase-shaped rocks, you can look back where you walked. You have now arrived in le Rozier, in the extreme southwest corner of the Causse Méjean. Here the Jonte flows into the Tarn and the two gorges of the same name meet. Vultures soar high in the air. Buzzard, kite and sparrowhawk are also not far away. *Miraculeuse.*



Gorge de la Jonte

The Jonte

The river flows here through an impressive canyon, whose caves are very popular with griffon vultures. But the hiker can also fall in love here: with the overwhelming nature with its high-rising multicolor rocks. At the start of this stage you will see le Vase de Chine, a monolith, sandstone, formed by wind weather. When the description of the monolith, which was intended to be romantic, got its name, we apparently had different feelings about China than the associations with the current China. In the villages along the way you will encounter various remains from medieval times, as well as testimonies from more recent history.

At la Planque, near the village of le Truel and overlooking the Grotte Notre Dame, you can cross the river without undressing. It could be a bit of a search. La Planque has nothing to do with a possible plank over the river but with "the safe house". Which you can't miss either, by the way.



Causse Méjean

Causse Méjean

To leave the river from here and climb up to the limestone plateau (800m – 1200m). A scene change that could hardly be more extreme! Views over an impressive karst landscape, dry, bare, yellow, wild, rugged..... A steppe, wide and with rock formations that stimulate your imagination but can also fool you. I love this landscape! Just as you can't do me a greater hiking pleasure than with the landscape of [the Bangor Trail](#) northwest Ireland.

Ici, vous êtes seul.

We walked north to la Viale and the next morning south to Veyreau, on the edge of the Causse Noir. That means the entire hiking day - 16 to 18 kilometers - strolling through these lunar landscapes. And cross the Jonte one more time. So let's go down and climb again.



de chaos - la Cité de Pierres - de Montpellier-le-Vieux

The Dourbie

In the penultimate stage of La Roque Ste Marguerite we arrived at the Dourbie, the separation between the Causse Noire and the Causse du Larzac. You can see the vultures from afar. With a classic castle ruin in the background. That too. The Dourbie flows into the Tarn near Millau. You can also see the (famous?) bridge from afar. Advice: try to map out a route to Millau north of the Dourbie with the help of a good hiking map. For example, along the chaos - la Cité de Pierres - the Montpellier-le-Vieux, described as a rock city, via La vallée de la Vis. Here you can see panoramas as panoramas are meant to be.

General route tips

- ING's topographic hiking maps are fine.
- In the Parc national des Cévennes, wild camping - for 1 night - is subject to strict rules.
- Overall, the routes are well signposted. A card remains indispensable.
- When preparing, do not blindly rely on the texts of the websites of, for example, the gîtes. That's how they're open, that's how they're closed.
- Bring plenty of water. Distances *can be covered on the causses* without any provision.
- The described route requires, among other things, a good condition and good walking shoes.



Veyreau Causse Noir



Vase Chinois



Gorge de la Jonte



St George de Lévéjac



La Canourgue, Urugne river



Caves d'Entre-Deux-Monts