

The path passes the salt road

Chemin des passes à la route du sel

Mazamet

11 km - 3 h 30

Elevation : 320 m

Panoramic view over the Arnette gorges

From the Cathar village of Hautpoul, the historic birthplace of Mazamet which assured the protection of the Black Mountains throughout the middle ages, this circuit alternates the ascents and descents of the Arnette gorges. Before reaching the industrial Arnette Valley, former economic powerhouse of the region, you will see the small garden terraces which are the pride of Hautpoul's inhabitants. The trail then goes past the Cayenne factory passing through the south slopes of the Arnette gorges and leads through the meadows to the old Brettes farm and the Prat crucifix. Along the route there are a number of points of interest across the valley including the town, which opens out onto the plain and the Pic de Nore (highest point in the Black Mountains). A small detour from the main circuit by the houses of the Jamarié takes you on a promontory to the ruins of Saint Sauveur church, the first parish church which was used until at least the 16th century.

Access : From Mazamet, follow the D54 towards Pic de Nore. You will find Hautpoul to your right (recommended) or you can stop at the Oule mill to avoid the return journey to Hautpoul (- 1 km).

Start : From the car park at the bottom of Hautpoul go down the winding path to the right towards the Arnette Valley until you reach the Peigne d'Or factory.

① An alternative start point is from the banks of the Arnette River. Take the small path to the right by the wooden toy museum, la Maison du Bois et du Jouet.

② You will meet the road which will take you to Hautpoul. Cross it and follow the path that ascends via the chestnut trees overhanging the river: the path passes by cultivated terraces of land.

③ Take the path to the left that descends to the Maurel mill. Go through the little village and take the bridge over the Arnette, then take the factory road to the left and follow the D54 towards Mazamet.

④ By the Cayenne wool factory, take the small path to the right (GR7 and 36) ; after the winding turns, take the road to the left lined with holly and redwood trees which opens out into a meadow. Continue with the fence on your left hand side.

⑤ At Brettes farm, take the left hand path and follow it for 1.7 km. Then, after around 1.4 km, leave the main path for a track ascending to the left and follow it until you reach the Prat crucifix.

⑥ Once you have taken time to admire the view

Good to know

From its beginnings in the small fortified village of Hautpoul, Mazamet eventually managed to free itself from its medieval origins and its inhabitants permanently settled in the Valley, along the banks of the Arnette River. During the 16th Century it developed industrial activities and one in particular, the wool industry, brought the town international acclaim. This formidable adventure resulted in the town's very original urban architecture where the superb mansions have taken their inspiration from elegant South American hotels, in particular the huge wool stores, factories and offices. Both routes of the « Mazamet, au fil de la laine » situated in the heart of the town take you on a journey of historical discovery.

over Hautpoul and Mazamet, begin the steep descent towards Mazamet (dangerous in wet weather and walking poles are recommended). Rejoin the path to the left which goes through the wood and takes you to the hamlet of La Jamarié.

⑦ An alternative to the route (in orange) is to visit the ruins of Saint Sauveur church which tower over Mazamet (+ 600 m). If you do not want to do this part, then go down towards the original route and rejoin the Peigne d'Or factory. Go back up to Hautpoul via the path at the beginning of the route if you originally left from Hautpoul.

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