

Puech d'En Blanc

Aussillon

15 km - 4h30

Elevation: 460m

From the medieval village to the forests and mountain-lake...

At the gates of the mountain, the historic village of Aussillon stands up; it has been inhabited for centuries first of all by Gauls, then by Wisigoths. Along the half-timbered houses, the path goes up to cooler places, across chestnut-trees and rapidly high resinous trees. The forest tracks are above 300m from the village and the Thoré Valley that you can admire through clearings. Soon you will see the clear waters of the "Montagnès Lake" where you can swim or have a nice nap under the trees.

The Pic de Nore which is not far shows its large slopes with meadows and moors. Back to the village, you will have walked with the old generations of woodcutters, shepherds or peddlers who used to walk between plain and mountain for their prosperity.

Good to know

In the 13 th century, the fortified villages of Aussillon and Hautpoul both belonged to the Seigneur Jourdain de Saissac. The old parts have kept elegant half-timbered houses and rampart-houses with their thick walls and arrow-slits.

In the 19 th century, the activity of sheepskin fellmongering was very prosperous in Aussillon. It gave the prosperity to the valley. In homage to Joseph Poursines, a famous foreman from Aussillon, his name was given to a street of the village.



Acces: follow Aussillon-village by the street Joseph Poursines to the departure point.

Departure: arrival at the village, car-park, picnic area, area for playing boules; go up rue du Dèvès to a small square(200m), go up on small streets and turn right rue des Ormeaux.

- 1 At Bascouls, straight on the small road.
- 2 Take the track on the left, go up the twisting path to the chestnut grove.
- 3 At the junction, follow the track on the left; further, it goes right by a turn. You will have views on the village and the valley. On the right, different (shorter) : "Donadille".
- 4 At the pass, you can see the mountain of Nore. Straight on to a track then a small road. A different, shorter way: (la Frucharié).
- 5 At the crossroad, go down to the Montagnès lake (swimming, snack, restaurant in the summer), go around the lake on a fitness trail. Go back on the same road and follow the GR at the crossroad on the left. Pass a farm with stonewalls.
- 6 At the junction, take the track on the right. Puech d'En Blanc; moors.
- 7 Go down the track, the path becomes sandy and rocky. Don't take the right path, it goes back to point 4.
- 8 At La Frucharié , go down on the right, pass next to the ruins and go left on a steep track to the cross of Narial.
- 9 From the cross, follow the track, then the road, the village is at 1km.

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