

Credits Photos : Norbert Duranoy

Did you know ?

→ THE CHASTEL SITE

The name of the site evokes the role played by this steep relief as a natural refuge, although any trace of the defence has disappeared. The church, built in the 12th-13th centuries, is dedicated to Saint-Florent, one of the first bishops of Auvergne, who gave the municipality its name. Formed by a single nave and a flat chevet, the sanctuary is flanked by three chapels and a late wooden-framed porch. After the transfer of the castle to the valley, this sanctuary was not neglected by the lords of Saint-Floret who kept their graves there. The north funeral chapel has a painted decoration of the late 14th century, displaying the family of Jehan de Saint-Floret presented to the Virgin by St. John-Baptist. Preceded by Stations of the Cross, the church was also a parish seat, as evidenced by the presence of the cemetery, which preserves an exceptional group of tombs, dominated by an ossuary. Dating is difficult, but these now empty cavities could have been used from the early Middle Ages to the 14th century.

→ THE SPRING OF THE LION'S HEAD

There are numerous springs in the Pays d'Issoire, on the banks of the Allier and its affluents: they are ven spread out in real processions along the Couze d'Ardes and Couze Pavin. In the scientific bubbling of the 19th century, we owe to Henri Lecoq, director of the museum of the same name in Clermont-Ferrand, the nickname of «Lion's Head» given to the «griffin» of the Saint-Foret spring that dominates the Couze Pavin with its astonishing limestone and ferruginous concretions and its stalactites.

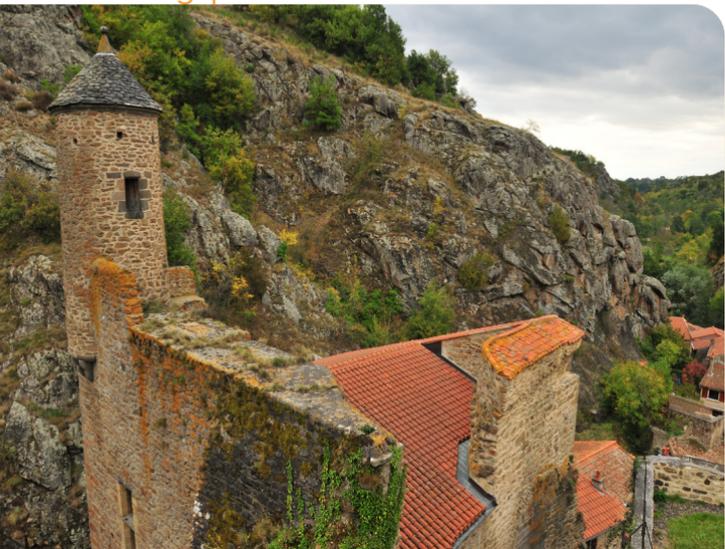
CONTACT
04 73 89 15 90

Hiking guide

162

La Chaubasse

Starting point : Saint-Floret



Distance : 9,5 km

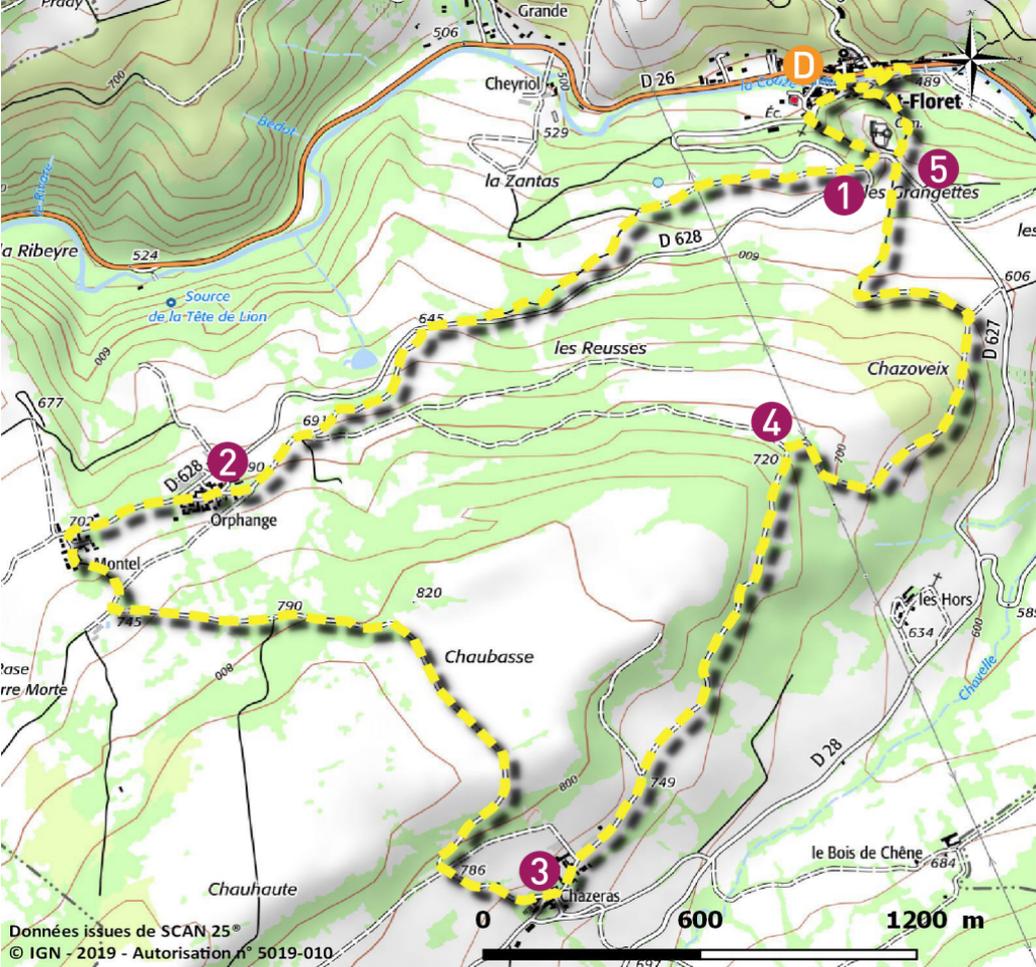
Hiking Time : 3 h 15

Difficulty : Medium

Marking Out : Yellow

Height Difference : 421 m





- D** Starting point - From the Place du Marronnier, cross the Couze on the old bridge, (16th century Pède bridge, oratory housing a polychrome wooden virgin with a child), follow the D627 towards the church of Châstel, until the sign indicating the exit of Saint-Floret. Turn left at the cross. Go up to the road, follow it on the right, and then turn right again for 50 m.
- 1** Turn left onto a wide track. At the fork, go up on the left, in the middle of the orchards. Take the road on the right, then the first track on the left. Follow it straight on, until you reach a new fork at the entrance to the village of Orphange.
- 2** Leave the three drinking troughs on the left, cross the village. At the exit, continue straight on the road (view on Sancy and the peak of Brionnet). In the village of Le Montel, turn left. After the last houses, climb between hedges to a wide path. Take it to the right for 50 m (viewpoint), then turn left on the first path up to the Chaubasse plateau (at the top, very wide panorama). Always go down the same path (leave the transversal paths) to the hamlet of Chazeras.
- 3** Turn left, pass in front of the water trough and the washhouse. Continue straight ahead on the hillside. At the fork, follow the right track, until you reach a T-junction.
- 4** Go down to the right (view of the Couze valley and its various villages, as far as Issoire), pass under the high voltage line and take the first path on the left until you reach the road you cross.
- 5** Possible return to the Châstel site (chapel, ossuary, necropolis). Go down to Saint-Floret by the grassy path, to the right of the hill (Way of the Cross and halfway down the hill, stone cross engraved with a heart, view over the village and the castle). At the road, turn right, cross the Couze on the footbridge, and follow the road on the left to reach the starting point.

