



Credits Photos : Norbert Dutranoy

Did you know ?

→ ESTEIL ABBEY

Notre-Dame d'Esteil Priory was founded in 1151 by the Lords of Châteauneuf du Drac. Until the Revolution, it depended on the Order of Fontevraud and was home for more than six hundred years to a community of nuns that still counted twenty nuns in 1767, from the Auvergne aristocracy and the local bourgeoisie. The site is characteristic of the first outbuildings of the famous royal abbey, protected by the Plantagénets and then by the Bourbons: a border area, located on the borders of the Livradois and the val d'Allier, on the edge of a plateau. The priory was sold in 1796 and the buildings were dispersed between different owners. The church itself was divided into two lots. The choir, purchased from 1848 by the inhabitants, is reassigned to the cult under the name of Saint-Jean le Décollé. The parish was initially a branch of Auzat, the municipality of Esteil being created only in 1873. The church, a historical monument, dates from the 12th and 13th centuries, including its elegant bell tower. The exterior walls are remarkable for the use of basalt prisms. To the south, the provisions of the demolished cloister are still very legible: even though the galleries have disappeared, the carved bases of the 15th century rib vaults remain.

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Hiking guide

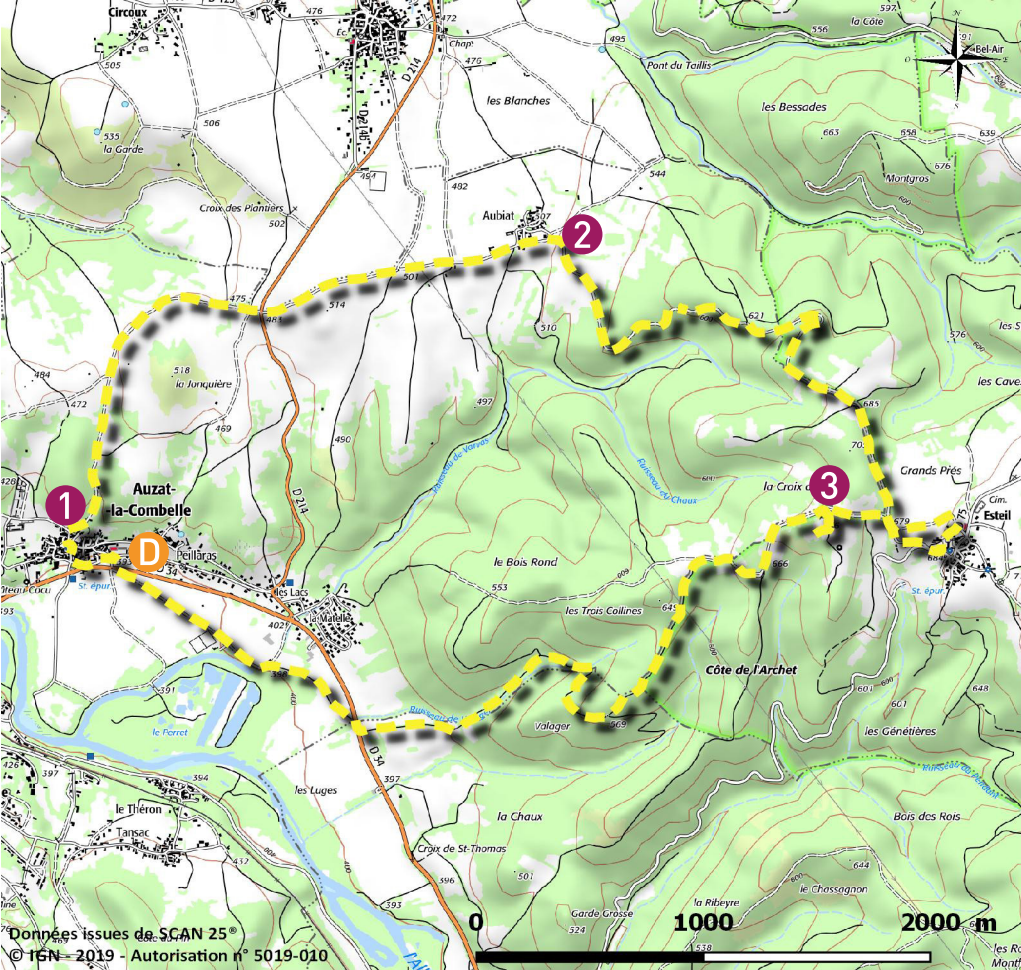
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La Croix d'Auzat
Starting point : Auzat



- Distance : 12,5 km
- Hiking Time : 3 h 45
- Difficulty : Medium
- Marking Out : Yellow
- Height Difference : 339 m





D Starting point - From the starting sign, walk along the square in the direction of the Saut du Loup. Turn right into rue de la Poste and then right into rue du Ruisseau. In the square, (church of the 11th-15th centuries, with Piètà) go right up the rue de la Bonne Uierge to the exit of the village.

1 The dirt road climbs on the plateau (view on the hillock and the village of Nonette, the Cézallier, the Sancy massif and the Puys chain). Ignore the small paths on the left and right to reach and cross the D214. A small asphalt road leads up to the entrance to Aubiat. Continue straight ahead along the Esteil road until you leave the village.

2 The path then rises, on the right, on the hillside (view on the valley of the Allier, La Combelle and the Lembron). We join a path in a clearing. Go up to the right, ignore the small paths on the left and right to lead to a flat area (view on the first foothills of the Livradois). At the intersection, at the entrance to Esteil, continue straight ahead, turn left and then right. Walk past the church (former priory and remains of the cloister),

continue under a porch and join the road to Jumeaux. Leave this road before leaving the village by a street on the right leading back to the intersection at the entrance of the village. Continue on the left until you reach the Croix d'Auzat.

3 Make a 5-minute round trip to a small building at the top of the hill (view of the hills of the County, the Puys mountain range, the Issoire basin, the Sancy massif and the Cantal mountains). From the Croix d'Auzat, go down the path and at the next fork, turn right and then turn left. Go down ignoring the small paths to the left and right until you reach the D34. Follow it on the right for a few meters, then take the path on the left which passes next to the stadium of Auzat-sur-Allier to reach the starting point.

