



Did you know ?

→ THE BIEF DES MOINES, A WHOLE INDUSTRY

The watermill appeared in France around 900 and spread in the 12th and 13th centuries. First of all for flour production, it then experienced an extraordinary diversification. The mill depends on the secular and religious lords. Weighted in the Auvergne by local customs, this economic monopoly disappeared in 1789 with the abolition of privileges during the Revolution. Many «new mills» are created: 4 000 mills are registered in Auvergne around 1800, 350 in the district of Issoire. After 1850, the mills were concentrated near the towns and in the lowlands. About sixty mills and five diversion bays were identified in the Eau-Mère watershed. In Sauwillanges, the Monks' forebay has been feeding the mills for more than a millennium. In 927, the Duke Aelfred transfers five flour mills to the abbey. In the 15th and 16th centuries, mills appear in the Coierie and the Saint-Martin district. At Martinet, water was used to drive hammers for beating the brass off the dinners. The mill of Grollet crushed the oak bark for the tanners in the 18th century. In the 19th century, spinning and carding mills used hydraulic energy. Of the ten mills listed in 1805, four are in operation in 1931. The Valtly flour mill is their heiress.

CONTACT

04 73 89 15 90

Hiking guide

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La Vallée du Civadoux

Starting point : Sauwillanges

**Auvergne
Pays
d'Issoire**
Ressentez-Vibrez-Savourez



Distance : 14 km



Hiking Time : 4 h



Difficulty : Difficult

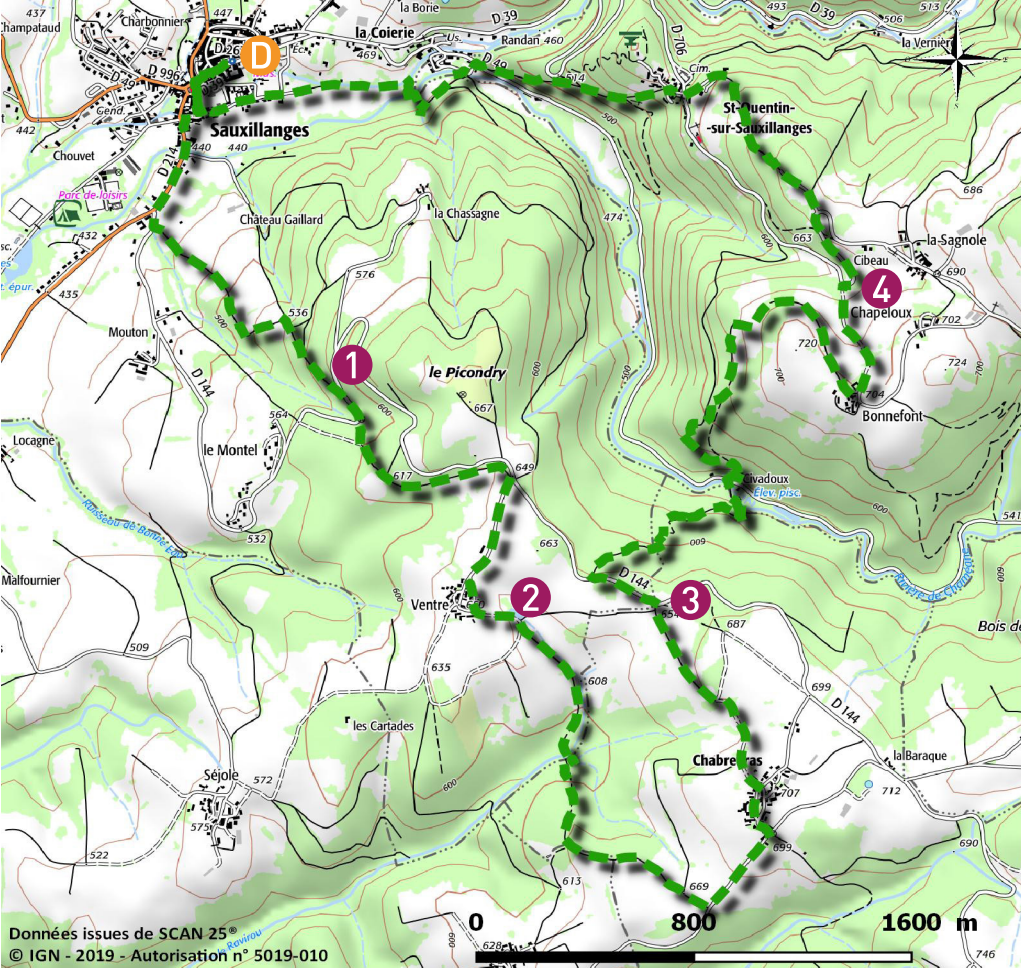


Marking Out : Green



Height Difference : 580 m





D Starting point - From the starting sign at the bottom of the car park, go down the main street. Turn left, cross the Place de l'Ancienne Poste, follow the rue des Coufferts. Cross the bridge (bief or «béal»), take opposite the Petite rue des Coufferts then turn left on the D214 for 200 m and then left again on the D144, go up the road on the left (view on Sauxillanges, Val d'Allier, puy de Dôme, massif du Sancy) and continue until the D144.

1 Take the D144 to the right. After the transformer, turn left on a steep slope through the woods. At the T-junction, turn left. At the crossroads, turn right towards Ventre. Enter the hamlet from the left. Go down the first path on the left until you reach the fork of the pond.

2 Turn to the right and then immediately to the left. At the bottom of the valley, cross the stream wading. Go up to the right in the woods. After the clearing, walk along a softwood forest. At the road, turn left towards Chabregras (view of the Puys chain). Cross the hamlet while staying to the left, then turn left into a wide dirt road. Ignore the side roads up to the D144.

3 Turn left for 200 m. Turn right into a forest road. At the fork, go left.

Follow the path on a steep slope towards the Chaméane river. Cross the wooden bridge and the D49 at Civadoux. Walk between the hostel buildings (old oat mill) and up into the woods. At the intersection, turn right. Go along pastures (view of the Dômes mountains and the Sancy massif). At the exit of the hamlet of Bonnefont, go down the road on the left until you reach the D706.

4 Go to the right and at the hairpin bend take the road on the left that leads to Saint-Quentin-sur-Sauxillanges. Cross the road and then the square, pass the church (Romanesque church with bell tower) and go straight ahead in the path below which runs along a surrounding wall, ignore the adjacent paths. At La Coirie, turn right on the D49 for 20 m, turn left, cross the footbridge over the Chaméane stream and follow the path on the right. Go down the wooden staircase on the right, cross the bridge downstream of the confluence of the streams of Astrou and Chaméane, continue following the Eau-Mère. In Sauxillanges continue straight on the same road and at the end of the dead end go to the right rue des Tanneries, find rue des Coufferts on the right and get back to the starting point.