



Did you know ?

→ THE TROGLODYTE VILLAGE

The complex nature of the Perrier plateau is the result of a long geological history. Periods of fluvial deposits alternate with lava, mud and ash flows, then the couze Pavin has dug the current valley and created the relief of this not very resistant pile. The last volcanic flow carried voluminous blocks that have protected many of the more vulnerable parts of the valley, creating a strange relief, where the silhouette of an imposing fairy chimney dominates. The village of Les Roches has been inhabited since medieval times. The remains of the circular tower which extends the 'fée de Maurifolet' bears witness to the defence of the site. In 1788, a Parisian traveller recounts his encounter with the inhabitants of one of the highest caves of the place and at the end of the 19th century, some twenty families were still living in the hollow of the cliff. Marie Uidal, known as Marie Piarrette, was the last known inhabitant, around 1950. Several housing areas and annexes are superimposed on a first level of wine cellars. In total there are about 300 caves. Gradually rehabilitated and secured by a preservation association, this archaeological site is still subject to natural erosion and its fragility imposes pedestrian circulation limited to the signposted route.

CONTACT

04 73 89 15 90

Hiking guide

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Le plateau de Pardines et les grottes de Perrier

Starting point : Perrier

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



Distance : 12 km



Hiking Time : 3 h 30



Difficulty : Medium

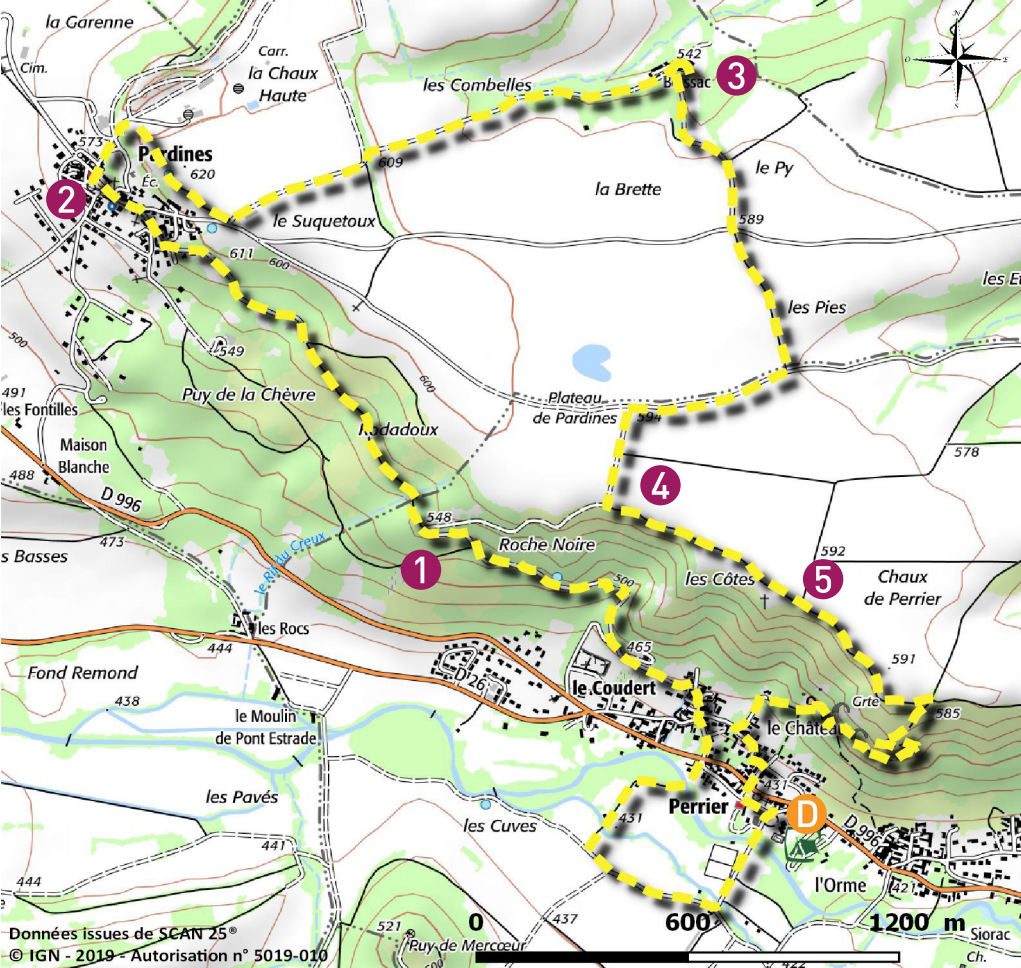


Marking Out : Yellow



Height Difference : 353 m





- D** Starting point - From the starting sign, head towards the bridge, cross the Couze Pavin, turn right at the iron cross and then turn right again to the Couze. Take the footbridge, go opposite, cross the main street and go up rue du Coudert. Cross the square (PP1: ferryboat and cross), continue along rue du Coudert and turn left onto chemin des Triavaux. At the intersection, turn right, (colored sediment outcrops and eroding shapes in a fairy chimney). Continue until the second track on the left.
- 1** Take it (PU1: view on the villages of the Couze Pavin valley). Go straight ahead until you reach the village of Pardines. Cross it by the rue de la Loubeyre, then the place du Maréchal Ferrand and the rue des Lavandières to the church (PP2: Romanesque church).
- 2** Go up to the right rue de la Chaix and pass to the right of the quarry. Continue until the crossroads and turn left towards Boissac. Cross a crossing and go down to the castle (PP3: castle).
- 3** Go up a tarred road on the right, go straight ahead until the road, cross it and continue until the T-junction. Turn right and then, 500 m further on, turn left. Leave a path on the left and continue until you reach an intersection.
- 4** Turn left to follow the edge of the plateau (PU2: wide panorama). Ignore the path on the left at the cross, and continue until the crossing.
- 5** Go down the path to the right. After a few bends in curves, follow the site of Les Grottes (PP4: village of Les Roches). In the chemin des Grottes, turn left (PP5: common oven and railway loom) then right, rue des Grottes, cross the main street and join the car park under the church.

