



Credits Photos : Norbert Dutranoy

Did you know ?

→ SAINT-GERVAZY

The village is installed at the foot of a plateau of volcanic origin, the «lime». The houses are located on either side of the Uolave River between two historic buildings. Saint-Gervais Church is a 12th century building that was rebuilt in the 15th century and still preserves its original features of Romanesque columns and capitals. It houses a beautiful example of a statue of the Virgin Mary and Child from Auvergne of the 12th century, sitting on a throne and holding the child in her lap, called in Majesty. In the village, on your way to the castle, you will observe that the colourful hue of the houses is based on the use of red clay rocks, coloured by iron oxides. Along the narrow streets, you can also find the entrances to cellars and dovecotes, traditional annexes of the winegrower's house crowned with rows of tiles called genoises. In the 13th century, the Lords of Mercoeur authorised their vassals, the Lords of Saint Gervazy, to build a castle, modified between the 16th and 18th centuries, shared between various owners, abandoned and then finally saved. Buildings leaning against the curtain walls are organised around a courtyard and are flanked by circular towers. At the corner to the southwest rises the twenty-metre high master tower.

CONTACT
04 73 89 15 90

Hiking guide






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Les chaux

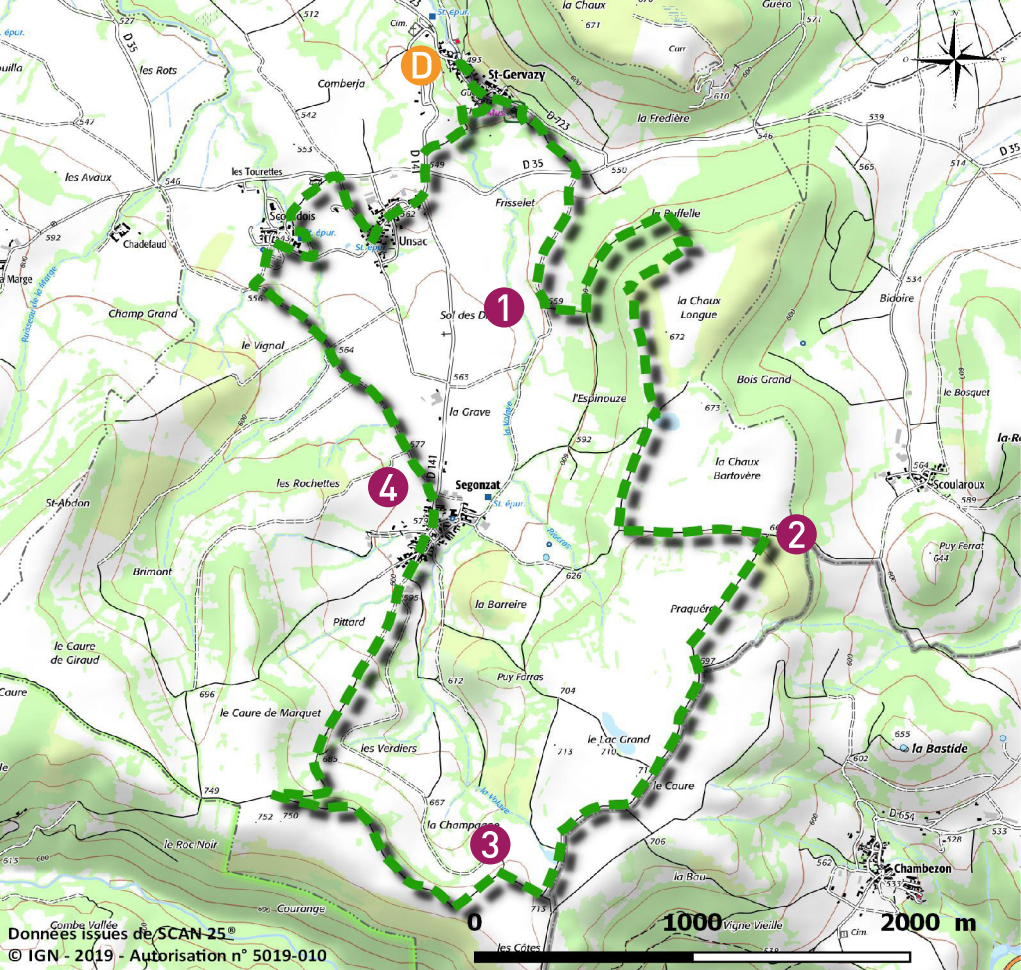
Starting point : Saint-Gervazy

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



-  Distance : 14,5 km
-  Hiking Time : 4 h 15
-  Difficulty : Difficult
-  Marking Out : Green
-  Height Difference : 320 m





D Starting point - From the starting point, near the signposts, head towards the «13th century castle». Turn right after the riding school. Cross the D35 and continue straight ahead until you reach the first road on the left.

1 Take it (steep climb). At the T-junction, turn left, and follow the curve up to the plateau. Continue on the right along the edge of the plateau (view of the Lembronese plain, the Cézallier). After the orientation table, stay on the edge of the plateau (fauna-flora information signs as the only reference points) until you reach the explanatory sign of the Grey Lake (swamp area). Cross the fence. Ignore the right path. Further on, take the first road on the left and continue until the next intersection.

2 Turn right (view of the Cézallier on the right and the Forez mountains on the left). Continue on this main path. Ignore a path to the right (wetland). At the T-junction, turn right until you reach a crossroads.

3 Turn left. Take further to the right the closed angle path (view on the Léotoing castle and panorama) which leads to the village of Segonzat. Cross it until the cross at the exit.

4 Take the street on the left. Ignore two paths. At the crossing, go opposite and continue on this wide path. At the fork, go down to the right until you reach the hamlet of Scourdois. Turn right after the farm building. Turn left before the stream. At the fork, go up to the right, pass to the right of a dolmen. At the D35, turn right and, again on the right, take the path that leads to Unsac. On the square (cross, fountain and oven), go up the Grand' rue to the left. Pass to the left of the war memorial and go down to the crossroads with the D35. Cross it and take the right track which goes down to Saint-Gervazy (views over the castle). Turn left after the castle to get to the start.

