



Credits Photos : Norbert Dutranoy

Did you know ?

→ THE CASTLE OF SAINT-CIRGUES

It is to the Bohier family that we owe, at the end of the 15th century, the construction of the Château de Saint Cirgues, the seat of their barony. Originally from Issoire, this lineage of royal officials, is then in the midst of its social ascension. Ennobled in 1490, Austremoine Bohier was secretary to the kings of France Charles VII, Louis XI and Charles VIII. His son Thomas will be counsellor and chamberlain to the kings, from Louis XI to Francis I. Of medieval inspiration, the fortified aspect of the castle is above all ornamental and symbolic. The defensive elements have been modified several times by the following owners, such as Marshal Yves de Tourzel d'Allègre and his daughter, the Countess of Rupelmonde. Ravaged by a fire in 1991, the castle was listed as a Historical Monument in 2002.

→ THE PROMONTORY OF RONZIÈRES

On the edge of the Allier valley, this high site with defensive value knew early settlement. Around the 4th-5th centuries, Ronzières was a rural fortress, seat of one of the first Christian parishes in the region. The Romanesque church is dedicated to Notre-Dame and to Saint-Baudime, companion of Saint-Nectaire. It conserves the statue of a virgin in Majesty of Romanesque tradition, the subject of an annual pilgrimage.

CONTACT

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Hiking guide

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Les cinq villages

Starting point : St-Cirgues-sur-Couze

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



Distance : 13,5 km



Hiking Time : 4 h



Difficulty : Difficult

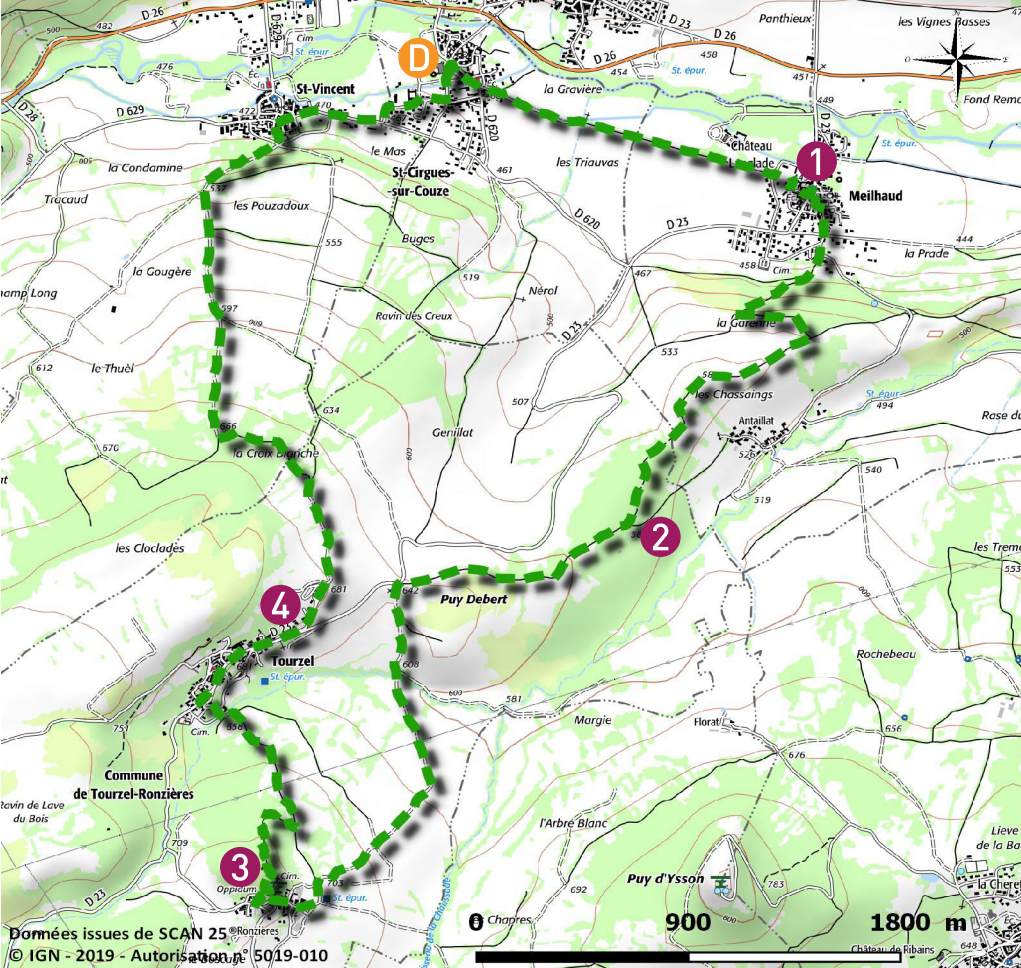


Marking Out : Green



Height Difference : 400 m





D Starting point - From the starting sign, at the back of the castle take the Tourzel road on the right. After the stream follow the alley to Meilhaud's first house. Turn left for 10 m and follow the wall to the right. Continue along rue du Pré Clos. At the tipping point turn left until you reach the fountain.

1 Turn right into rue des Remparts, then rue d'Antaillat. At the end of the village go straight ahead and climb the Way of the Cross. On the plateau take the grassy path to the left. At the intersection, continue to the right (panorama on the puy d'Ysson, the Sancy massif, the puy de Lavelle, the villages of Chidrac, Saint-Cirgues-sur-Couze and Meilhaud). Go beyond the large dry stone walls and continue until you reach the wide stone path.

2 Turn right on it. At the road go down the wide path to the left (view of the Livradois-Foréz mountains and the hillock of Uodable). Cross the Gripet stream and climb to Ronzières. At the intersection, under the farm, turn left and at the sewage treatment plant go up to the right towards the village centre. Continue along rue du Coudrat to the

church (Romanesque church) and its enclosure (orientation table).

3 Exit through the porch, go around the small tower and the church (oppidum) on the right. Go down the path to the left along the fence. At the crossroads in the woods turn right. At the exit of the wood turn left. In view of the Gripet stream, turn left and cross the bridge. Go up to the village of Tourzel. At the fork take the stairs to the left and turn right immediately. Cross the village by the rue du Dauphiné d'Auvergne to a fork at the exit.

4 Turn left, continue straight ahead, leaving a path on the right. At the T-junction, take the wide road on the right, and continue down to Saint-Uincent. On the asphalt road take opposite rue de la Cure. At the crossroads, turn right into rue des Fontaines and then rue du Mas. At the exit of Saint-Uincent continue on the main road. At a fire hydrant go left, rue de la Tour Madame to enter Saint-Cirgues-sur-Couze and join the castle (Château de l'Anglade, 18th century).