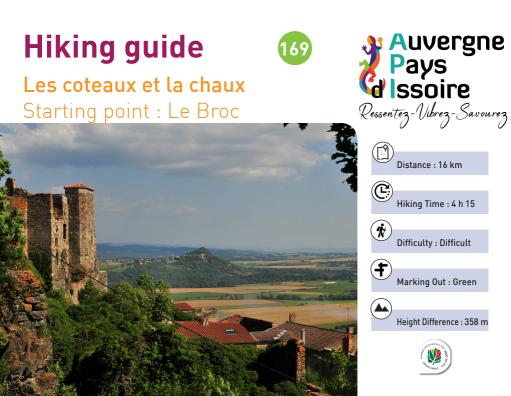


Did you know ?

→ LIME FROM BROC

The hike couers the largest lime of the Lembron and its specific environment of basaltic scree slopes and sub-Mediterranean vegetation. Everywhere low walls and dry stone huts testify to the ancient and intense development of the plateau. They delimited plots of land and pasture on the plateau, while the terraced slopes were used for cultivation and the vine. The walk also connects the medieval castles and fortified villages of Bergonne and Broc, represented in the Armorial de Revel (illustrated manuscript, collection of lineage coats of arms of the nobles of Auvergne, Forez and Bourbonnais, composed around 1456 by Guillaume Revel), whereas in Gignat, you can observe the winegrowers' houses from the 19th century, the peak period of the vineyard of the Val d'Allier. On the hillside overlooking the village remains a fine example of a tonne de vigne, a small winegrower's shelter here transformed into a holiday resort with a porch, fireplace and arbour.

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- Starting point: From the starting sign, go to the right of the chapel towards the panoramic area (stone sculptures in bas relief on the ground, panorama on the Liuradois-Forez mountains, the Nonette peak and the Lembron plain). Go down the stairs then in front of the town hall go right by the rue du Beffroi. Continue on rue Saint-Verny, walk along the ramparts until you reach the crossroads of the D718.
- Follow the direction of Issoire for 400 m. In a wide curve, take the dirt road on the right, then at the entrance of a wood, turn left, and pass under the high voltage line. At a T-junction, go down on the left (view on the village of Broc). At the bottom of the descent, turn right and walk through the woods, ignoring the adjacent paths until you reach a thematic table: the path of the hillside of Les Espinasses (view on the villages of Gignat, to the bottom of the rue des Espinasses.
- 2 Go to the right and walk along the square until you reach rue du Colombier, which you climb. Continue straight ahead, ignoring the paths on the right, at a fork stay on the left and continue on the plateau. In the woods, go to an intersection.
- 3 Take the path on the left and continue along the edge of the plateau, between low walls, on volcanic stones (remains of former shepherd's huts). At a fork, turn left and go straight down into the woods until you reach the road.

- Take it on the right and follow it to the village. At the top of the hill, at the first street (rue de Nava), turn right. When you arrive at Place de la Chambre, take the stairs under the church. Pass under the porch, follow the rue de l'Église to reach the «»coudert»», place du Charlavet (on the left escaped on the Sancy), cross it, pass on the left of the mairie-école and follow the D718. At the exit of Bergonne, leave the road to take the path opposite. Further on, turn left and take the path that goes down to the Malbattu estate. At the D32, turn right, follow it for 500 m (with caution) until the first road on the right.
- 5 Go straight up and at a fork continue on the left along the edge of a field (before the hamlet of Quinze, overlooking the Issoire basin). At the place called Domaine des Quinze, go straight ahead by a wide path until 100 m before the top of the hill, at the beginning of a path that is not very visible.
- Turn right on the narrow path between woods and thorns until you find the wide path you take on the right until you reach the road. Go to the left to reach the starting point.

