



Credits Photos : G-Douard

Did you know ?

→ THE CÉZALLIER MINES

On the borders of the Puy-de-Dôme, Cantal and Haute-Loire is a small unusual corner of Cézallier. Certainly, as elsewhere on the massif, the green pastures backing on to the majestic signal du Luguet, and interspersed with deep wooded valleys, welcome the herds of cattle in summer pastures, and the hamlets of Combaliboëuf, Saroil, Bosberty and Leyvaux mark the human presence with their austere barns. Nevertheless, the valleys of Barthonnet and Apcher creeks hosted a rather original activity for this territory: the mining of silver, arsenic and antimony. Following the discovery of several veins of ore in the early 19th century, many mining companies have succeeded one another on site. A silvery-white metal, very toxic, antimony was particularly used in printing, in paints, in cosmetics and fireworks. Once extracted, this one was processed on site, in a factory with a square chimney of about 30 metres high along the Barthonnet. The abandonment of the exploitation of the veins in the area dates back to the 1920s.

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Hiking guide

137

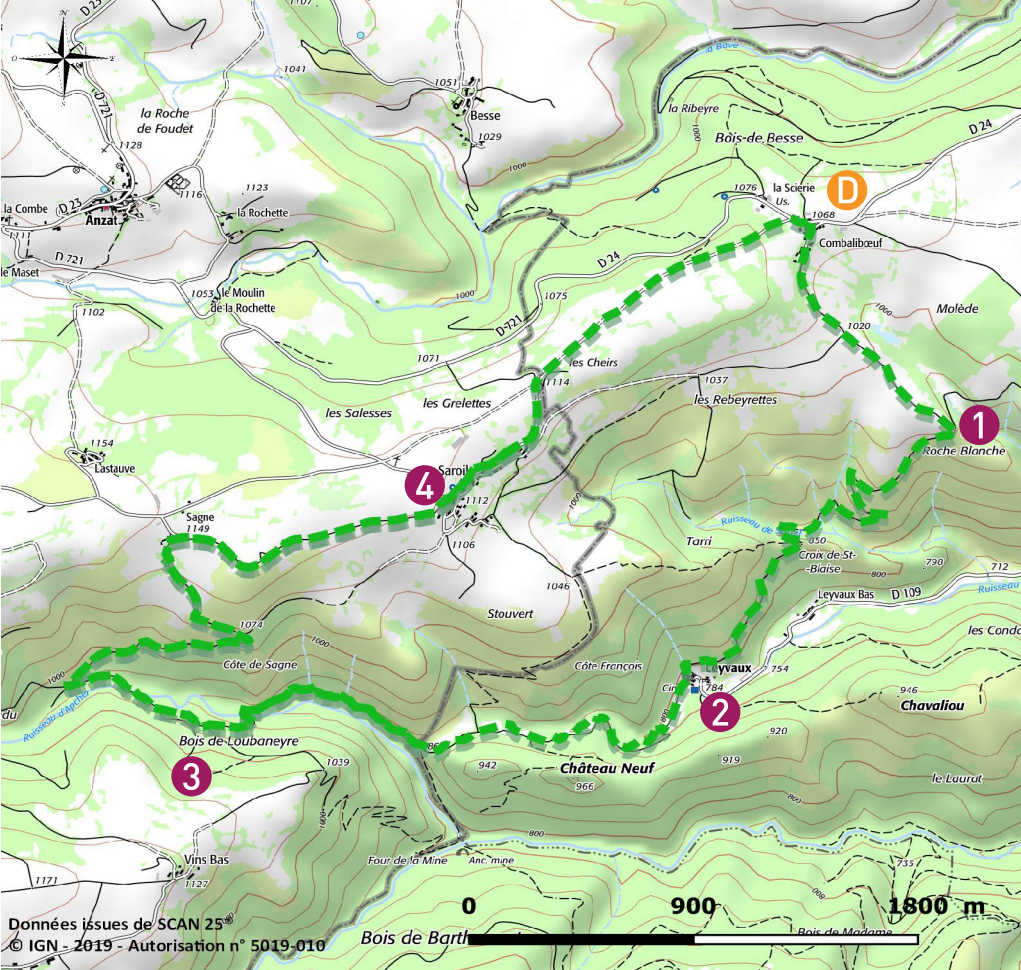
Les gorges de Leyvaux et d'Apcher
Starting point : Anzat-le-Luguet

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



-  Distance : 11,5 km
-  Hiking Time : 4 h
-  Difficulty : Difficult
-  Marking Out : Green
-  Height Difference : 466 m





- D** Starting point - Take a wide track opposite when looking at the starting sign. Leave a path on the right and continue down to the edge of the cliff (view of Montfouât, Monts du Livradois, du Devès, vallée de Leyvaux, plateau d'Anliac, Margeride, in the foreground the vallée des Trois Sauts).
- 1** Turn right to continue the descent in bends on a balcony path up to the lowest point of the valley. The path crosses the Saroil stream and goes up for about sixty meters before descending to the village of Leyvaux (church with combed bell tower and porch).
- 2** Leave the church on the left, take a wide path on the right and continue up the hill in front in the undergrowth. At a fork in the locality «Les Gorges d'Apcher» take the right track, direction Saroil. Go along the steep slopes of the Apcher gorges to the footbridge.
- 3** Leave a path on the left (alternative in case of high water) and take a path on the right along the stream (former antimony mines). Cross a second footbridge and start a steep climb up to Sagnes (view of the Livradois, Devès and Margeride mountains). Immediately after the last house, turn right into a path between dry stone walls. Continue until you reach Saroil.
- 4** In the village take a path on the left after an old transformer (old gabled houses with stepped gables, stone roofs). Leave the village. At the next crossing turn right (view of Anzat-le-Luguet and signal of Luguet). Continue straight ahead until you reach the start.

