



Credits Photos : Norbert Dutranoy

Did you know ?

→ THE MONTCELET PLATEAU

Like an aircraft carrier overlooking the Allier valley, the exceptional site of Montcelet is the result of several volcanic phenomena. By inversion of relief, a very ancient lava flow now forms a tray or «lime». The puy de Montcelet, resulting for its part from a more recent lava rise is like «nested» in this lime. At the top of the peak the remains of a square tower can still be seen, the last witness of the 13th century castle and the adjacent village, the whole site preserves the memory of even older human occupancy: on the plateau, in the place called Eglise-vieille, the parish church of Saint-Cirgues, now vanished, is mentioned as early as the 9th century. Nearby, rare and delicate vegetation has colonised a lake area called «Lac du Prieur».

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Hiking guide

Saint-Gervazy

Starting point : Vichel

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



Distance : 9 km



Hiking Time : 3 h 15



Difficulty : Medium

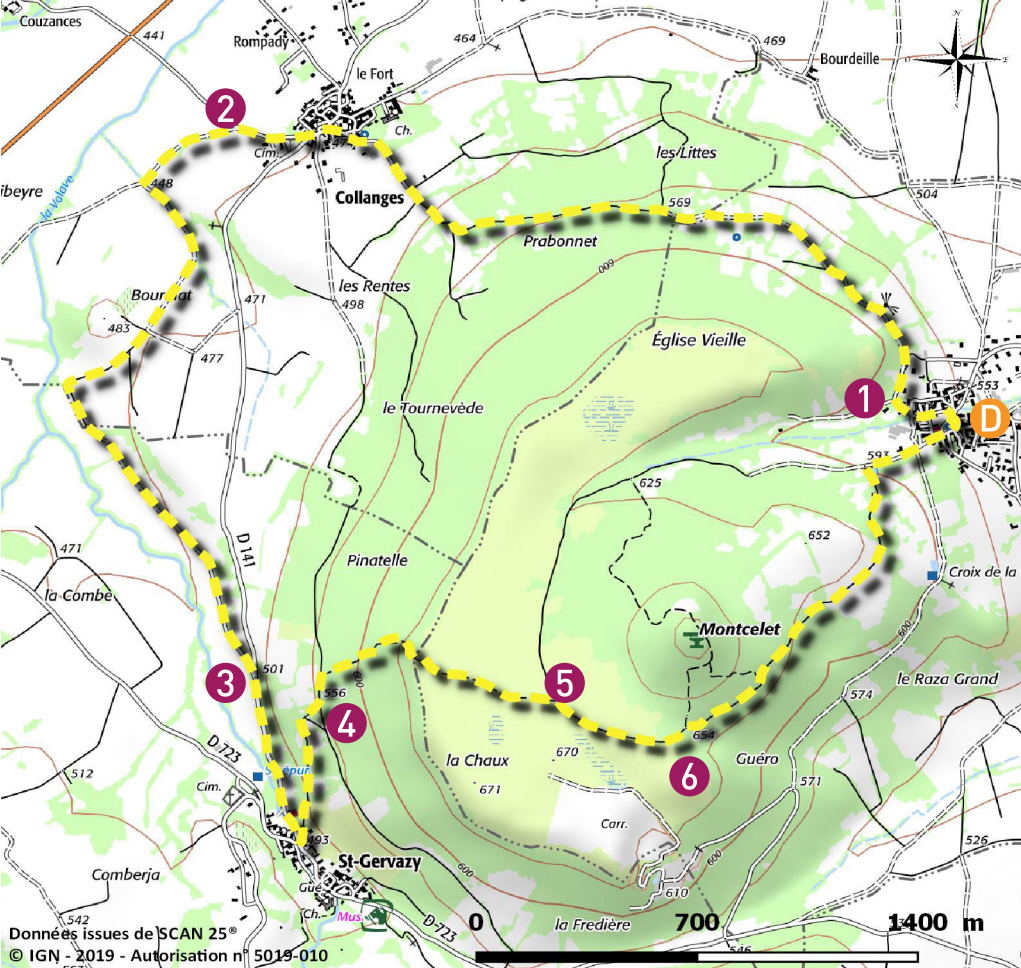


Marking Out : Yellow



Height Difference : 264 m





- D** Starting point - From the starting sign, Place de l'Église in Uichel, go to the back of the car park, behind the church, and turn left into Rue de la Croix Vieille. Go up in the village to the crow's feet at the end of the village.
- 1** Follow a stone path on the right (on the plateau, at the picnic car park, nice view over the valley and the peaks of Nonette and Usson). Ignore the small paths and go down towards the village of Collanges while staying on the right. Go straight through the village of Collanges until you reach the town hall. Take the road to the left towards the cross. Turn right under the cemetery and then take a path on the left about 200 m after leaving the village until you reach the crow's feet.
- 2** Go up the path to the left. At the crossing on the plateau, continue straight ahead until the road.
- 3** Go to the right until the village of Saint-Gervazy, go up the asphalt road called the Moncelet on the left, in front of the bridge (beautiful outcrop of red earth. At mid-coast, view of the village of Augnat and the Couze d'Ardes valley). Continue straight ahead until you reach a crossroads.
- 4** Turn left, continue for 100 m and take a right path through oaks and junipers (arrived on the plateau, point of view on the Puys chain). Cross the plateau towards the hilltop of Montcelet (astonishing «savannah» landscape) until you reach a crossroads.
- 5** Turn right on the grassy path and follow the sign «>>>Butte de Montcelet>>>» until you reach the entrance to the woods.
- 6** Leave the path on the left that goes up to the hill and continue until you leave the woods. Follow a trail through a dry meadow that extends into the woods (water tower on the left). At the crossing, go down the path on the right to reach the starting point.

