



Credits Photos : Norbert Dutranoy

## Did you know ?

### → THE ARKOSE OF MONTPEYROUX

Montpeyroux, the «stony mountain», is aptly named. The promontory and the village draw their reputation of the stone quarried here. Arkose is a sedimentary rock of the sandstone family, whose colour varies depending on the deposits and over time: beige, golden, ochre, pink... Extraction and stonecutting was, along with vine-growing, the main activity of the inhabitants. The fame of the arkose also results from its use, from the 12th century, in Romanesque construction, as well as in the prestigious churches of Issoire and Notre-Dame du Port. In 1212, Philippe-Auguste conquers the Auvergne and entrusts the lordship of Montpeyroux to the family de la Tour, known by famous descendants: Catherine de Medici and Marguerite de Valois. The 13th century dungeon, classified as a historical monument, is the typical expression of the master towers erected by the king's followers after the conquest. The fortified gate of the village dates from the 15th century and belongs to an enclosure of which various remains can still be seen.

#### CONTACT

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## Hiking guide

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### Sur le chemin de l'arkose

Starting point : Montpeyroux

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



Distance : 9 km



Hiking Time : 2 h 30



Difficulty : Medium

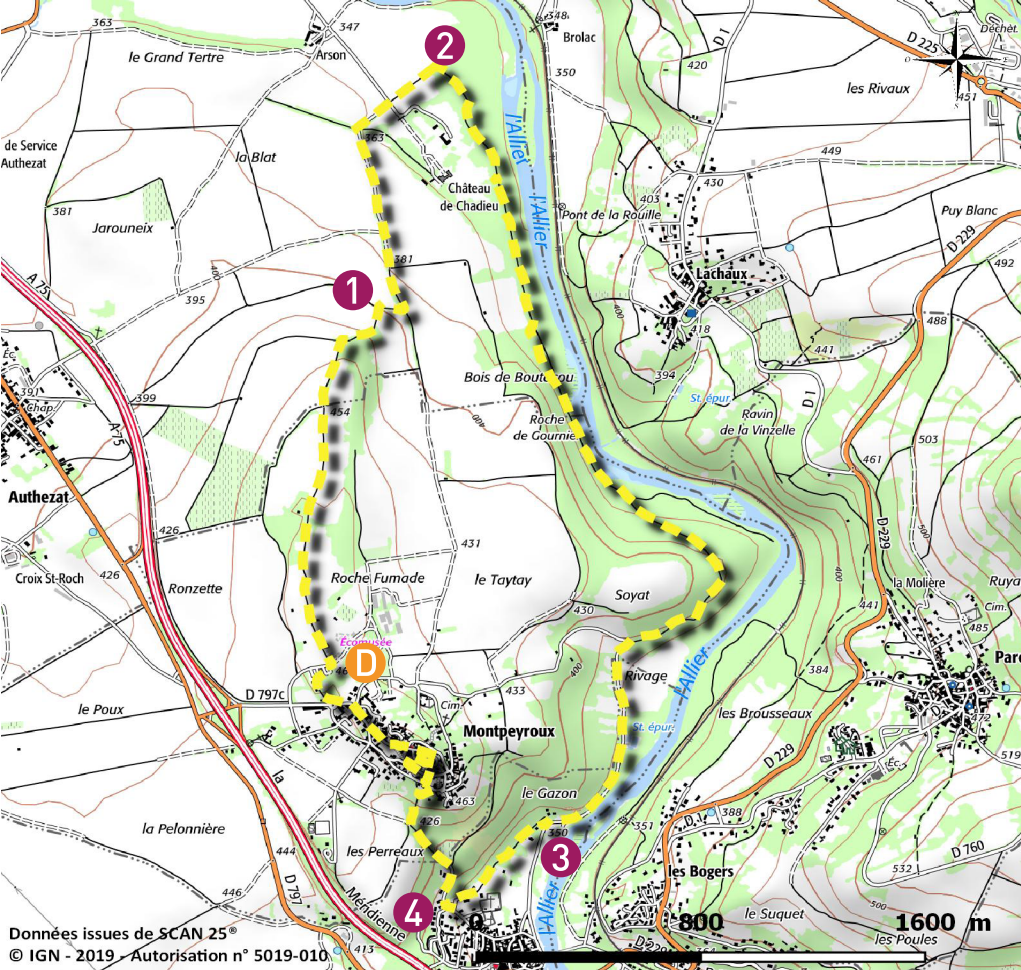


Marking Out : Yellow



Height Difference : 198 m





- D** Starting point - From the starting panel, walk along the car park. At the educational farm, turn left and progress on the arkose outcrops (view of the Sancy massif and the Puy chain) until the beginning of the descent. Continue on this road until you reach an intersection at mid-slope.
- 1** Turn right and go down immediately to the left until you reach a T-junction. Turn right and continue until you reach a wide flat path at the bottom of the descent. Take it to the left. At the next intersection go down to a road, cross it (access to Chadiieu Castle, private site) and continue opposite until the first road on the right.
- 2** Take it, barrier. Advance in the undergrowth along the banks of the Allier and leaving paths on either side. At the road, go down on the left and continue straight ahead until you reach the first houses of Coudes. Walk up to the level of a path going up to the right.
- 3** Engage between hedges and fences, continue along gardens and then in the middle of houses until you reach the road.
- 4** Go up to the right by the Chemin du Cuel. Further to the right, take the Pailhas path (terraces). On the plateau, continue to the left, until you reach the road. Turn left for 100 m, then go up on a road opposite. At the cross, go up the steps and turn right to the Place de l'Église. Go down through the streets of la Quye and des Granges (panorama on the Sancy massif) to reach the entrance of the village (former arkose quarry) and the starting car park.

