

Rambling in Lot-et-Garonne

Blanquefort-sur-Briolance - Cté de Communes Fumélois-Lémance



crédit photo: J. Macé / CDT 47



- Road
- Path
- Itinerary
- Hedge

Key

- Classified Monument
- Beauty spot
- Church
- Place of interest
- Vineyard
- Water-tower

Markings code

- good direction
- change of direction
- wrong way
- variation

Walking in the Lot-et-Garonne

Blanquefort-sur-Briolance – Cté de Communes Fumélois-Lémance



You are going to cover : 10.4 km. You should allow : 2 ¾ hrs on foot, 1 ¾ hrs on horseback , 1 ¼ hrs on a mountain bike. You are 40 km north-east of Villeneuve-sur-Lot on the D 911 and the D 710. Park in the Place of the Town Hall. Set off from here. Take with you a water bottle and binoculars. The markings are yellow. Difficulty : medium. Overall change in altitude: 260 m.

Blanquefort, a château on the Briolance River

From the Briolance valley, this route crosses through coppices and chestnut orchards, passing by some interesting buildings, a listed church and château, Naugarède, La Sauvetat...

1 Follow the D240 to the left towards the old tower of the smelting furnace. Go up the first road on the left. On the bend, continue climbing on the other side up the grassy, rocky track. Take a few steps down the access road to the Maison de la Planquette. Climb up into the woods on the gravel track overlooking the Briolance. At the top, take the gravel path across a chestnut wood.

2 On the plateau, before a bend in the road, turn left on a slightly hollowed track through a coppice of chestnut trees. Follow the road for about 270 m. Before a bend, turn left on a wide gravel path. In the chestnut wood, cross the access road to the Ferme des Crayroux.

➤ Variation to point 5; 8.7 km circuit. Follow the road to the left into the woods.

3 Continue on the other side, further on, along side the Bonne tree nursery. Cross the D426.

➤ Off the path, 350 m straight ahead, is the hamlet and church of La Sauvetat de Blanquefort.

4 At the meeting of three roads in a fork (sign prohibiting motor vehicles), go to the left on a slightly hollowed track. At the end of the Allée de la Ringade, take the D426 to the right. At the next bend, after another chestnut wood, head into the woods on the track that is the most to the right. Wind your way through a chestnut coppice.

5 Follow the perpendicular dirt track bordered by a hedge. At the roadside cross in Naugarède, go down the road to the right. After the Maison de Camp de Naugarède, follow the shaded path bordered by a stone wall (the Domaine da Nogarède, a corbelled half-timbered house, is on the right).

6 At Pecette, cross the valley road and then the stream on a raised stone. Go up again on the hollowed track. After the Maison de Coulon, go down to the left on a shaded track. Cross the D240 diagonally to the right. Climb the pebble track to the left and continue upwards on the winding road, bordered by a stone wall.

➤ Variation to point 9, go straight ahead on the pebble track.

7 Go up to the right.

8 Continue on the road up to the church. Go down the tarmac path to the left.

9 Before the château, go down the grassy track to the right. On the slope, go between the two houses under the château's terrace. Go past the multi-service / restaurant. Cross the D240 and the bridge over the Briolance to return to the square in front of the town hall.

The low shaft furnaces of the Upper Agenais

The low shaft furnace is an internal combustion furnace that has been used, since the iron age, to transform iron ore (hematite, limonite etc.) into iron. It consists of a brick and terracotta chimney, about the size of a person, in which were arranged alternate layers of iron ore and charcoal. When burnt the charcoal produces carbon monoxide which acts as a reducing agent on the ore. This produces a spongy solid that is made up of impure iron and molten slag. The blacksmith then has to purify this substance. This is achieved by a hammering process. The construction of these furnaces can be explained by the presence in the little valleys of the "Land of Woods" (Lémance, Briolance, Lède) of iron ore and the vast forests which supplied the necessary charcoal.

For further information...

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