

Rambling in Lot-et-Garonne

Bonaguil - Communauté de Communes Fumélois-Lémance



crédit: photo: J. Macé / ODT 47



- Road
- Path
- Itinerary
- Hedge

Key

Classified Monument	Conservation area	Church	Beauty spot	Place of interest

Markings code

good direction	change of direction	wrong way	variation



Walking in the Lot-et-Garonne

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You are going to cover : 2 km. You should allow : $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs on foot. You are 35 km north-east of Villeneuve-sur-Lot on the D 911, the D 673 and D 158, via Fumel. **Park in the Place in bottom of the town. Set off from here.** Take with you a water bottle and binoculars. The markings are blue. Difficulty : very easy. Overall change in altitude: 95 m.

Bonaguil, the last medieval château

This short walk around the Château de Bonaguil passes through woods and vegetation that are typical of the Haut Agenais Périgord, such as oaks, chestnut trees, hornbeam, box tree and broom (genet). The old iron ore quarries in the woods serve as a reminder of the region's steel-making past.

- 1 Follow the road to the left, in front of the restaurant, towards Sauveterre-la-Lémance. Fork to the right onto the access road to the château. After fifty metres, turn right onto a hollowed track, towards the old "Bistrot Lagrezette".
- 2 At the crossroads, in front of "La Belle Coloquinte" turn left and, at the foot of the wall, follow the wide gravel track.
- 3 Cross and go up the road to the right for a few metres. Go to the left on a steep track, under an archway of box trees. (View over the hillsides, full of colours due to the wide variety of deciduous and evergreen trees). On the slope, the rocky track is bordered with holly, juniper and box wood. Higher up, a dry stone wall borders the dirt track.
- 4 In a little clearing, with a pond and a large oak tree, go to the right into a chestnut coppice, which also contains some pines and hornbeam. Go down to the right on a slightly hollowed, stony track. Go to the left of the pits from the old iron quarries that used to be very common in this part of the Fuméolois - Lémance. (Notice how red the earth is).
- 5 After the picnic tables, go down to the car park, under a box hedge and go towards the entrance of the château.
- 6 Go down the steep steps to the right and along the wall over looking the moat and the big round tower.
- 7 At the bottom of the concrete slope, turn left in front of "La Belle Coloquinte". Go down towards Les Jurades and follow the winding street.
- 8 After the twists and turns, continue going down to the right, to the car park where the walk started.

Bonaguil, the last fortified château

It is said that many ancient sites were built on magnetic nodes, the points where the earth's powerful magnetic energy lines intersect. This could be the case at Bonaguil. The château radiates a feeling a calmness and a rare serenity. Is it on account of its location, buried in the middle of the forest, between two valleys, far from any main roads? Is it because it is so remarkably well preserved? (The fortress has never been attacked or besieged.) Is it the stamp of Béranger de Roquefeuil, the slightly eccentric baron who had it built? The tour lasts two hours, and while it proves that many of our ideas concerning life and the defence of castles in the Middle Ages are somewhat mistaken, it does not explain the château's strange atmosphere!

For further information...

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