

Rambling in Lot-et-Garonne

Bonaguil / Lastreilles - Cté de Communes Fumélois-Lémance



credit: photo: J. Macé / CDT 47

- Road
- Path
- Itinerary
- Hedge

LOT-ET-GARONNE
CONSEIL GENERAL

Key

Classified monument

Conservation area

Church

Beauty spot

Place of interest

Vineyard

Markings code

good direction

change of direction

wrong way

Variation

Walking in the Lot-et-Garonne

Bonaguil / Lastreilles – Cté de Communes Fuméolois-Lémance



You are going to cover : 15 km. You should allow : 4 hrs on foot, 2 ¾ hrs on horseback , 1 ¾ hrs on a mountain bike. 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 yellow. Difficulty : difficult. Overall change in altitude: 435 m.

Bonaguil, from the Château to Lastreilles Church

From the Château de Bonaguil to Lastreilles Church, this woodland walk is fairly strenuous, passing through areas of oaks, chestnut trees, hornbeam and some sections of pine forest.

- 1 Go up, to the right of the "Le Cellier" restaurant, on the "Sentier du Château".
- 2 After Les Jurades, turn right on the concrete path. Go up the steps at the foot of the ramparts and continue towards the entrance of the château.
- 3 Go up to the left of the car park and climb the rocky path, bordered by box wood. Go to the left of the picnic tables and to the right of the pit (the old iron ore quarry). Take the rising, slightly hollowed, stony track, on the edge of some chestnut woods.
- 4 In a small clearing with a pond and a large oak tree, go straight ahead. At the house, follow the road to the left. Head for the Laville gîte (self-catering cottage). Turn left and, further on, continue on the other side. Turn right into the woods. Take the left fork on the edge of the woods on a track bordered by broom (genet).
- 5 Take the road on the left into the Aillon woods. At the junction of the three roads, go down to the right. On the hill, turn left on a dirt track. Turn immediately right on a winding path in a chestnut wood. Go down, staying straight ahead. On the hill, fork to the right and follow the long winding path alongside a fence. At the junction of the three tracks, turn right and follow the edge of the woods. Continue straight ahead on the asphalt path. At the Estang sign, go down the road to the right. On the bend, just before a stone house, fork to the left at the foot of a wooded bank.
- 6 At the next crossroads, continue straight on. Climb to the left on the path to Ferouailles and Le Cayrel. 100 m after the Cayrelanne house, go to the right, at the foot of a bank, on a shaded track. At the crossroads, go to the other side onto a hollowed track. Follow the road to the right. At the next crossroads, go down the steep road to the left. At the give way sign, take the D 440 to the right for 100 m. Turn left towards La Rode.
- 7 After the hamlet, go straight on, below a bank, then alongside a stone wall. After the fountain, go up to the left. Before Lastreilles Church, fork to the right on the road. Turn right by the first house. Cross the road and go into the woods on the other side. At the crossroads, fork to the left on the edge of the woods. After the house follow the tarmac path. At the intersection, at the Béral sign, follow the D 440 to the right for a few metres and go towards the Cave des Ardailloux.
- 8 On the bend, go straight ahead on a dirt track. After the GR 36 signpost, go down into the woods to the left. At the Le Lyon Dor sign, follow the winding road to the right and then to the left after the small dry stone hut, to go back down to Bonaguil

Bonaguil, the masterpiece of Béranger de Roquefeuil

One of Aquitaine's major sites, the château, built on a rocky outcrop in the middle of a forest and far away from any main roads, exudes a rare serenity. It was the work of Baron Béranger de Roquefeuil who, between 1480 and 1520, transformed the thirteenth century château into a masterpiece of military architecture in which the usual medieval defense features, including a remarkable keep in the shape of a ship's prow, "curtain wall" fortifications and a barbican (tower to defend a gateway) were combined with artillery fire power. The château was smattered up in the eighteenth century by Marguerite de Fumel, but the aristocratic symbols were partially destroyed in the revolution. It was acquired by the commune in 1860. Two aspects of the château make it particularly interesting: it is a perfect model of the fortified castle and was completed during the time when the first Renaissance buildings were beginning to flourish on the banks of the Loire; being completely impenetrable, it was never attacked, and thus all of the medieval features are remarkably well-preserved.

For further information...

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