

Syndicat d'Initiative de Puy-Saint-Martin

Information sheets for the « **Chevrière – La Pigne** » (32) footpath
(11,5 km) (3h30) (348 m)

This walk gives you the chance of seeing some of the local flora ; periwinkle, broom, soapworts, butcher's broom, laburnum, Italian orchids, solomon's seal and lithospermum.

From the mairie (town hall) take Rue du 19 mars 1962 (the road to Manas).

Cross straight over the D6 (main village street) and go up Rue du Bourg. Turn right into Rue des Remparts, then left up Montée Portal (a short cobbled path) and right up Montée des Genêts. Immediately go left up the Belvedere path (a grassy track). Go past a well on your right (likely to have been part of the former medieval castle) then immediately climb up the footpath on your right. At the crossing, go left, then straight away right at the next fork. Keep going up till you reach the cemetery wall. Go right on the Belvedere path, which goes round the ruins of a castle destroyed in the 17th century during the wars of religion between Catholics and Protestants.

From the viewpoint (orientation table), there is a beautiful 180 degree view over the Valdaine plain. Carry on round to the right, alongside the cemetery. Continue on down Montée des Genêts, then at a crossroads go left down Montée du Téron. At the bottom of the hill, follow the Chemin des Ours to the left. At the fork, go right, then right again (Rue de la Grange). Carry straight on, on the Chemin de Chevrière. On the bend, go into the wood and start to ascend.

The footpath zigzags up to the « boucle panoramique de Chevrière », a loop which will reward you with magnificent views over the village, the Valdaine plain, Cleon d'Andran, Vieux Roynac and Marsanne (take care near the cliff edges !), and a bit further on over the mountain of Couspeau, the wind turbines, and the Forest of Saoû.

Once back at the start of the loop, go left (or, if you haven't done the loop, go right), and walk along the ridge. You will pass on your left the Roynac footpaths 19 and 70. At the next intersection, go left and stay on the ridge as it descends. After walking along a field (to your right), the footpath goes up again. Keep straight on until you reach the intersection with a wide path (with a former caravan site, called « Berthouin » on the left). A bit further on, on the edge of a small field (to your left) leave this wide path and go into the wood, climbing up onto the ridge. Pass a footpath on your left and carry on climbing gradually till you reach an intersection with footpaths 6 (coming up) and 6A (going down). To the right there's a beautiful view over La Roche Colombe. Carry straight on till you reach the edge of a large field. Leave the Roynac circuits 19 and 70, and go round the field to the right. Carry on again, till you reach the road to Auriples. Go right on this road, till you reach the D6 where there is a picnic area.

Cross the D6 and take the footpath opposite, which goes steeply up in zigzags. At the top, pass a water tank on the left, and follow the ridge of La Pigne (opposite). After the second stony path, take the footpath below the ridge ; a bench invites the walker to enjoy the beautiful panoramic views over the village, the Chastelas, and the cemetery. It's more or less at this point that black Austrian pines give way to Aleppo pines. Continue along the ridge till you reach the D136, (the road to Saoû) ; cross it and go right, then on the left take a few steps along the chemin Bovet. Here footpath 32 joins up with footpath 5. At the bend take the path opposite which runs between two fields towards a small wood. The footpath goes into the wood and winds down to a road that leads to a private property. Turn left and carry on down to the Impasse du Vieux Chêne. To the left is the Chemin des Moulins. At the intersection you join up with the « blue » circuit, which takes a path between two fields towards Puy-Saint-Martin. Pass to the rear of an industrial building and rejoin the D107. Turn right to get back to the town hall (mairie).