

Mayrinhac le Francal round walk

This long walk over the causse and through the valley takes in a large number of interesting features : the Limon chasm and resurgent stream, the Saint-Sol pothole, wells, fountain and pigeon-tower plus the Sainte-Marie chapel built in a cave.

The most active could make a detour to Lacave to see the village and cave under the watchful eye of the Château de Belcastel.

MAYRINHAC LE FRANCAL ROUND WALK

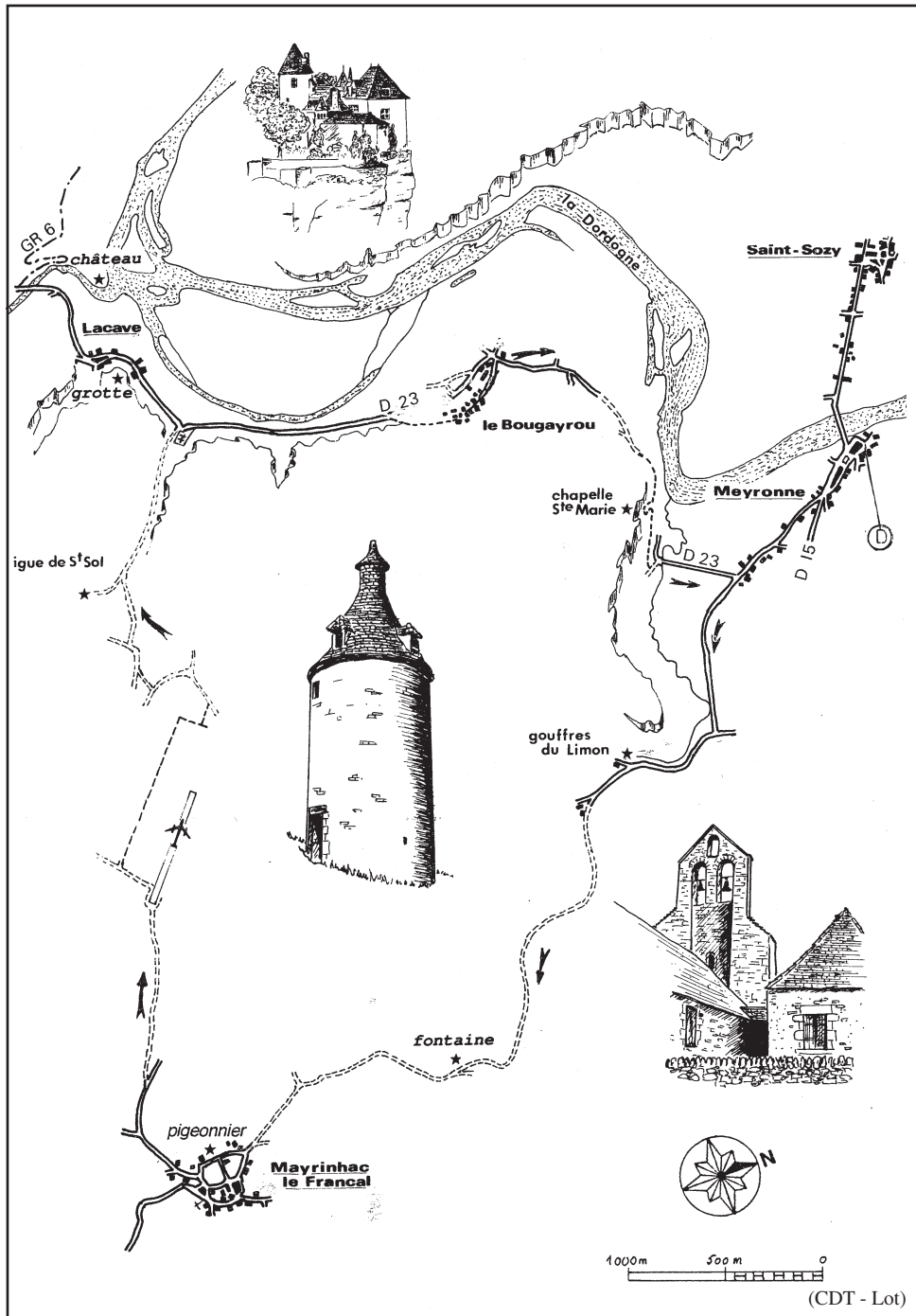
Distance : 16 km

Time : 5 hrs

Waymarking : yellow and bridle path (orange)

Starting point : Meyronne church

Accessible on foot, and on mountain bike (challenging)



Carte : IGN 1/25 000 Rocamadour-Padirac

From the church square, go towards “La Terrasse” hotel-restaurant and continue on down. Go straight ahead at the first junction. At the second, marked by a cross, take the D15 to the left and immediately turn right. Come to a wider road, D23, and turn right and go along this to the end of the village, then go left at the first fork. Come to a road that crosses your path, turn right on to this and further on, go past the turquoise waters of the Limon resurgent stream. At the next junction turn left and, just after a house and a ruined barn, leave this little tarmac road for a dirt track which opens on your left. This rises gently through the woods to the plateau, then comes out on a cross track; go right, continue along this main track and as it slopes upwards, come to a fork and turn left. Continue on this path which goes through the woods then descends rapidly to a fountain. Go straight on past this, past a track going off left. At a junction, go up to the left on a grassy track which rises rapidly to meet a stony track. Take this to the right and come to a little tarmac road. Go right. To the left, view over the village of Mayrinhac. You will see a strange pigeon-tower, and at the next junction, continue to the right. At the next fork, take a dirt track to the left. Follow this track for 200 m, then turn right on to the road. Leave this and take a dirt track running between low walls on the left. Further on, come out at the very end of an aerodrome runway, on a wide dirt track. After 50 m, this bends left then, 200 m further on, by a wooden fence, you leave it to go to the right on a well indicated track (bridle path) which goes for 1 km in a straight line before turning right. You come to a hilltop (good view). Turn left, following a fence.

Come out on a dirt track and follow it left. Go through a gate (close it) and go past the abandoned farm of La Borie Seche on your right. Then take the first track on your right, (gate to close). At the bottom of a hill, after a bend to the left, leave the main track to follow a little grassy path to the right.

After 500 m, a well-marked path to the left takes you to the Saint Sol pothole (stay behind the fencing: there is a sheer drop of 70 m.)

Go back to the grassy path, and continue down this shady track to a road which you can take to the village of Lacave to the left. If not, turn right on to the D23. After 1.5 km, having gone past a pig farm, take the path to the right. It runs along the base of the cliffs to Le Bougayrou. As you leave the hamlet, by a calvary, go right towards Bellemire.

Continue along this little road. Go past two paths opening on your left; when you come to a big right-hand bend, go straight ahead on a track which narrows as it goes through the woods.

When you come to a fork marked by a cross, go uphill to the right to the Chapel of Ste. Marie, then return to the fork and go downhill to the right. Come out on a wide, stony track, turn left to get to a road. Turn right on this and go over a bridge.

Go past the first road on the right to follow the D23 back to Meyronne.