

FROM THE MEDIEVAL CITY TO THE SAINT-FOULC PRIORY

Through vines and thickets, overlook the Medieval City of Carcassonne, then stroll through the garigue towards Palaja against a backdrop of the Pyrenees.






Distance : 9 km

Difficulty Level : Easy

Duration : 3h

Start : Saint-Gimer Church (Medieval City)

Also possible to start the circuit from the Pont Levis bridge ② to avoid going back into the City.

Signage : ① to ③  (GR36) ③ to ③  ③ to ①  (GR36)

Route description :

① From the Saint-Gimer church, go up the slope of the Porte d'Aude (GR36) and enter the City via the Porte d'Aude. The route goes right and passes in front of the Saint-Nazaire basilica, then exit via the Porte Narbonnaise.



- ② After the pont-levis bridge, cross the square and turn right, going along the cemetery. Take the first left towards Ste-Croix and go along a vineyard. Reach a fork opposite a road. Go right and then under the bridge.
- ③ Continue straight ahead (yellow signs) to the motorway. Cross the bridge and continue 120m.
- ④ Turn left and follow the path through broom trees which comes back down towards the vineyard, then go back up. (Towards Pech Ange)
- ⑤ On the plateau, go right into the undergrowth and go down towards the Cazaban estate. After having passed a long plot, reach an intersection (information board). Take a left along a field to go back up and then another left into the undergrowth. At the road, go right for 100m.
- ⑥ Join a path on the right and continue to the SaintFoulc priory. Cross the field in front of the priory to join the D42: (follow it right for 150m), then take the path on the right in the Cazaban estate. Turn right then left along the vines.
- ⑦ Go back up right along a stream, cross a pine forest and find the route along which you came.
- ④ Via the route along which you came, which crosses the motorway, return towards Carcassonne.

History / Good to know : The Pigeonnier de Cazaban

The Saint-Foulc priory, which is also called the “pigeonnier de Cazaban” (the Cazaban dovecote), is a magnificent 17 meter-tall square tower. It was recorded in the inventory of historical monuments on 24th April 1953. The origins of this priory date from the start of the 11th century. Over the 13th and 14th centuries, the lords of Palaja were buried in the cemetery close to the church. It was desecrated and partially destroyed in the course of the 12th century. In spite of this, chaplains were appointed until the end of the 18th century and religious services were celebrated in the parish church. The destruction and burying of the church and adjoining cemetery were recorded in the 19th century.