

# 9. Les charbonnières

## Villes-sur-Auzon

Discover the charcoal kilns, former "ovens" where charcoal was manufactured, on this beautiful walk overlooking the gorges of the Nesque.

**TYPE** Loop

**LEVEL** Family

**DURATION** 4h

**DISTANCE** 9.3 Km

**HEIGHT VARIATION (+ / -)** 350 m

**SIGNS USED**



### START POINT

Car park on the D1, in the direction of Sault opposite the barn  
GPS : N44 04 57.7 E5 17 49.4



**View Point**



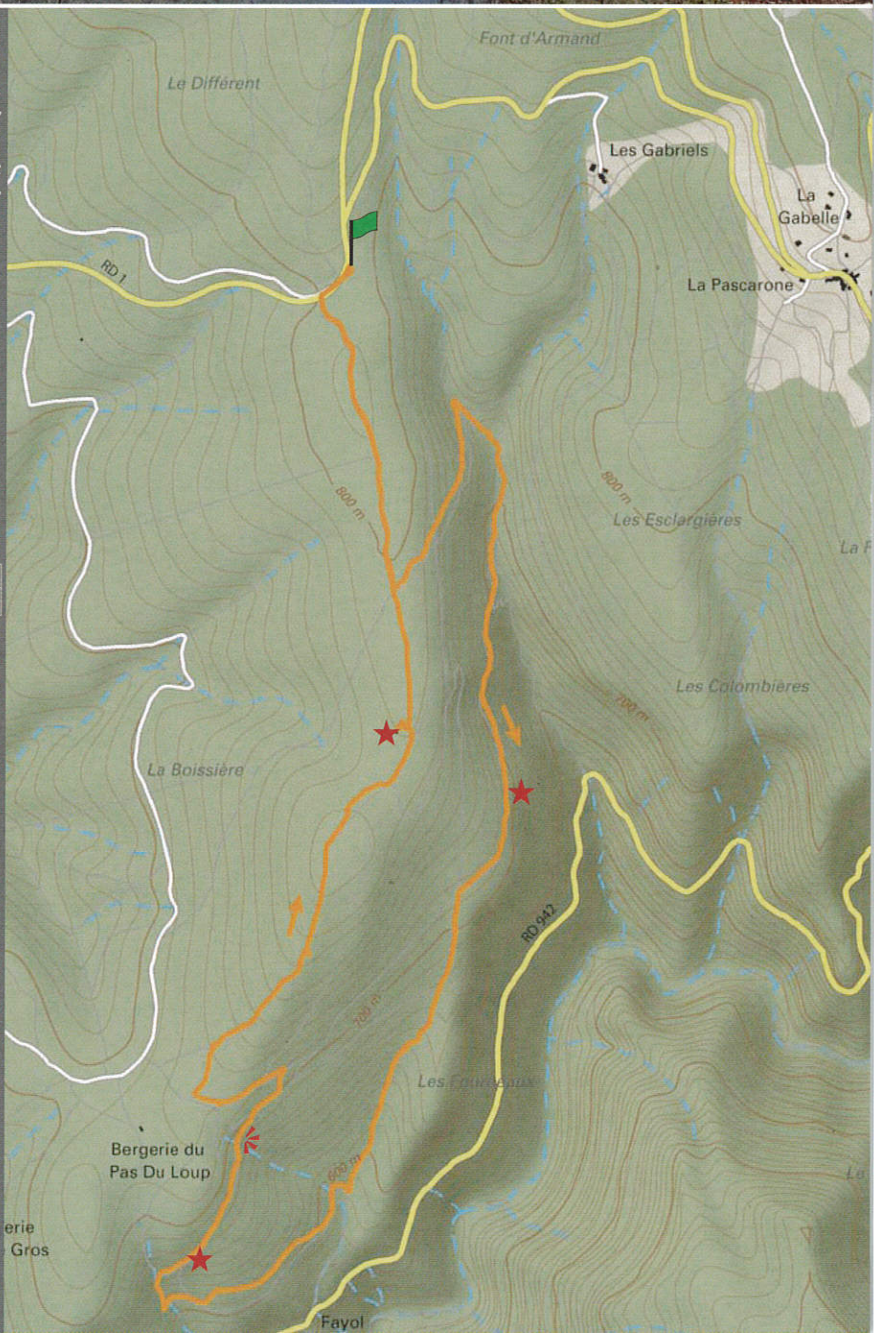
**Curiosity**



**Departure**



1 / 20 000



**Limestone:** This sedimentary rock is dominant throughout the Ventoux region.

**Karst:** The karstic formation is a geological phenomenon created on the earth's surface by water drained from the ground.

**A cairn** is a man-made pile of stones erratically and usually in a rough environment. The purpose of a cairn is to indicate a mark or route in arid, rocky or frozen ground. It can also be used to indicate a mountain peak or a burial site.

**Bories:** Dry stone huts with corbelled arches. Usually built in agro-pastoral areas. They served as temporary shelters for the shepherd.

**Encorbelled arch:** Arch built with flat stones one above the other. This construction does not require wood beams to maintain the roof.

**Trees:** Hairy Oak, Holly Oak, Boxwood, Black Pine, Scotch Pine, Atlas Cedar.

**Gorges de la Nesque:** beautiful limestone gorges with the legendary Rocher du Cire (over 200m high).

**Charcoal Kiln:** square or with a projecting ledge where logs up to 1 m long were assembled in the shape of a dome. The charcoal maker would set fire to the logs and maintain the fire in order to obtain charcoal. The ground remains blackened to this day.



## Description of the route

By car from Villes-sur-Auzon head in the direction of Sault. The start of the trail is at the large car park on the D1, opposite the barn, just before the crossroads "La gabelle". Pinpoint and head towards the hiking post at the wide bend. At the hiking post "La gaillarde" (802m) go in the direction of "Baume du Bélé" following the route (PR) marked in yellow. Close the sheep gate carefully and continue to follow the markers.

At the hiking post "Baume du Bélé" follow the track to the left, (marked with a cairn), to "La lauze – Les fourneaux." Continue straight down until another track joins the path. Follow it to the right until you arrive in the valley bottom. There are domed shaped markers with orange arrows etched on them – this is the "route of the charcoal kilns". Heading down along the valley of adrets, you will come across the charcoal kilns on either side.



When you come across a large kiln with a reservoir to the left take the path to the left.



At the hiking post "Les Fourneaux" go in the direction of "La Gaillarde - Les Adrets" on the path that heads up to the right (PR yellow, orange trail). A little further on, there is a hairpin bend to the right, make sure to follow it. The climb is quite challenging. When you arrive at the driveable track, head left.

At the hiking post "Les Adrets" take the right towards "La Gaillarde – Baume du Bélé". At the junction go right. At one point a small cairn indicates a path on the right that takes you to a limestone water reservoir (round trip). On leaving the forest, take the driveable road on the right.

On the left is the Jas Henri (a sheep-pen) with its water storage system that is worth discovering. Back on the road, you pass the hiking post for "Baume du Bélé". Take the original start route in the opposite direction to get back to the car park ( Approximately 1Km).