

(On disk filename/dossier ref: Lignairolles)

COMMUNITY OF COMMUNES  
The Razès Hillsides

## Lignairolles and Seignalens Panoramic Footpath

(photo: Lignairolles – ‘The Black Madonna’)

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### Access routes:

**Motorway A61.** Take the BRAM exit, between Carcassonne & Castelnaudary, and follow signs for Limoux. At the fourth roundabout, take the road to Belvèze. In Belvèze, follow signs for Bellegarde and Mirepoix. After Escueillens, turn right as you go down the hill, and Lignairolles is signposted.

**Limoux.** Take the Carcassonne road. At sports stadium junction, turn left onto D623, marked to Castelnaudary and Belvèze. In Belvèze, follow signs for Bellegarde and Mirepoix. After Escueillens, turn right as you go down the hill, and Lignairolles is signposted.

**Carcassonne.** Take the Montréal road. After Montréal, follow signs for Fanjeaux and Mirepoix. At the foot of the hill, after the little bridge, turn left, signposted to Belvèze. In Belvèze, follow signs for Bellegarde and Mirepoix. After Escueillens, turn right as you go down the hill, and Lignairolles is signposted.

**Mirepoix** Take the Limoux road. As you leave Caudeval, turn left onto D18, marked to Escueillens and Belvèze. After a former railway level crossing, turn left signposted Lignairolles.

**Castelnaudary.** Take the Limoux road. After Villasavary, follow signs for Limoux and Belvèze. At the second roundabout, take the road to Belvèze. In Belvèze, follow signs for Bellegarde and Mirepoix. After Escueillens, turn right as you go down the hill, and Lignairolles is signposted.

*For further information:*

The Community of Communes.  
The Razès Hillsides.  
Tel: 04 68 69 55 32

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(photos: A few of our orchids)

[Photocopies authorised]

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**The footpath** follows the ridge and winds between the hills. It offers a variety of panoramas over the countryside, made up of meadows, fields, woods and stretches of water. Certain viewpoints over the Black Mountain and the Pyrenees are outstanding. The meeting point of the Oceanic and the Mediterranean climates, influenced by the proximity of the Pyrenees, gives rise to numerous species of flora and fauna that are concentrated in this one area. Because of this, the countryside around Lignairolles and Seignalens is highly prized by photographers and painters who draw inspiration from the area, and by botanists, entomologists and ornithologists who discover many subjects for study.

**Lignairolles** is an old fortified village from the 12thC, with houses clustered around the church.

In 1265, Lord Guy Lévis of Mirepoix founded Lignairolles, making it a 'town from the Middle Ages'. Only a few traces remain today, but the position of certain buildings enables us to imagine the construction of the village, carried out at that time to a very precise plan. In Lignairolles one can admire 'The Black Madonna' (Our Lady of Marceille), and a sculpture representing 'the hand of St. Anne'.

**Signalens** is situated on a headland, surrounded by circular hills that add interest to the village. There are traces of very old settlements. After the village, at the junction point between the GR7 and the Lignairolles & Signalens panoramic footpath, do not miss climbing up to the viewpoint to admire the distant town of Mirepoix with its tall cathedral spire.

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## Description

(yellow markers)

**Lignairolles:** Turn right out of the church forecourt, take the first road left, then turn right and take the lane which goes down to the left (signposted Signalens). Pass a trough and turn left onto the small tarmac road. At the top of the hill turn left to follow the edge of the field and pass to the right of a large tree. When you meet a track which comes down on your left, turn right, crossing the field, to take a small track which does downhill. Follow this as far as the road, ignoring all other tracks to right & left. At the road, turn left to head for the village of ...

**Signalens:** At the small square (phone box) turn right and left to go out of the village. Just after the village name sign as you leave Signalens, turn right and follow the track, ignoring all other tracks to right & left, until you reach the junction at the top of a climb with ...

(red & white markers)

**GR7:** Turn right to follow a line along the ridge, cross the 'Domaine du Pal' (Piquet). Turning once to the left and then to the right, and pass a swimming pool. As you leave the Domaine, go straight ahead (ignore the track which goes down to the right) and follow the path. At the point where it turns firmly to the left, go straight ahead to follow the GR7. Ignore the little track which goes down immediately to right towards a small building. Follow the ridge until you meet ...

**A track** that goes downhill to the right after a headland (yellow markers). Follow this track, through a wood. As you leave the wood, after going downhill (you will see Lignairolles), turn right to re-join the village.

## Useful Information

Duration: 2 hours

Distance: 8 kms. The distance can be extended by 5 kms by adding part of the 'Hounoux Ridge Path', or by 10kms, with its 'Variant'.

Height variation: 100 metres.

**Waymarkers:** Yellow lines. Red & white lines on the GR7.

**IGN Maps:** 1/25000 (Blue series).  
2246 East Montréal  
2246 West Mirepoix

*Further information:*

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The Razès Hillsides. Tel: 04 68 69 55 32

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(Lignairolles/Seignalens – 1p)

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