

CONFLENT-CANIGÓ WALKS

CATLLAR: the path to the SAINT-JACQUES de CALAHONS CHAPEL

This is a magnificent walk on the slopes of the lower part of the Castellane valley. There are fine views and features of historical interest. The "hermitage" of Saint-Jacques de Calahons, of medieval origin, comes into view from an ancient footpath as this chapel is approached. The hills are almost devoid of settlement now, and are mostly covered by wild vegetation; but there are still traces of former human activity (drystone walls and cabins, paved "packhorse" tracks, terraces, a former quarry...).

Mountain code of conduct

- Check the weather forecast
- Go well equipped: with walking shoes or boots, a sunhat and some drinking water
 - Keep to waymarked routes
 - Respect fauna and flora
 - Carry out all your litter
- Act in accordance with signs and notices
- Leave gates and fences as you find them
 - Make no unnecessary noise
 - Don't light fires

Duration: 2h30 (plus stops)

Distance: 5.4 km

Waymarks: yellow

Difference in altitude between highest and lowest points: 205 metres

You climb in total: 235 metres

Level of difficulty: Not difficult (but there are some stony sections, and the walk is not advisable on very hot days)

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Start: a car park next to the cemetery in Catllar - altitude 329m

From the N116 main road in Prades take the RD619 road to Catllar village. Turn left at a roundabout near the village exit, then go behind a boulangerie (baker's) to find the car park next to the cemetery.

1 From the starting point, turn left and go along a lane into the village, going away from the cemetery (this is the *Chemin de Baliaury*). Cross the RD619

road. Follow the *Rue d'en Haut* as far as a square in the village centre.

Go past a church on the left and a restaurant on the right. Descend a slope and pass by a washplace. Cross a small stone bridge. Go up the narrow street straight ahead (this is called the *Rue de la Coume*). Go up a few steps. Arrive at the RD24 road.

2 Almost directly opposite is a minor road. Go up that road, which climbs quite steeply. Arrive at an irrigation canal.

3 Ignore a sign which indicates a route ahead to Saint-Jacques de Calahons (you will come down that path later). Go to the left, alongside the canal, for about 250 metres.

4 Cross the canal on a small stone bridge. Go back in the opposite direction for a few metres. Then leave the path, to go to the left on a fainter path, uphill. (Be careful here; this section was not waymarked at the time of writing.)

5 You meet a path with a rocky surface (a former track). Go to the left, along that path.

6 (This point is closer to point 5 than indicated on the sketch map.) At a path intersection, go straight ahead. (If you encounter a barrier here, remember to close it if you open it to pass through.)

After a few zig-zags (with a fine view over Catllar, Prades and Canigou on the way), you pass in front of a former talc quarry. The path then continues to zig-zag up the hillside.

7 Intersection of several paths. Go straight ahead, on what is the old path to Saint-Jacques de Calahons. It is indicated on a nearby path signpost.

- Emergency telephone numbers: 112 (or 18 - the *pompiers* fire and emergency service)
- Map: IGN 2348 ET Prades

Cross a track. Immediately go past a small oratory. This ancient paved path, between old stone walls, descends. St Jacques comes into view. The path crosses a couple of stream beds (probably dry), then it climbs to the chapel.

8 The hermitage (chapel) of Saint-Jacques de Calahons.

Return by the same route as far as point 7. Follow a path to the left.

During the descent, notice a couple of *orris* (drystone cabins formerly used by shepherds). They lie just off your path and are signposted in each case ('*Cabane*'). Here as elsewhere on the route, some of the *orris* have been restored in recent times by local people.

9 At this point, ignore paths going off to the left and right. (You may also have to cross another barrier near here; if so close it if you open it to get through). Carry straight on. After descending a little further you meet the canal which you followed on the way up.

From the canal, follow your outward route down to and through the village of Catllar, back to the starting point of this walk.

Office de Tourisme Conflent Canigó

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(Translation 2019 by A.M)

Adresses et informations utiles

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Les Balises	GR0	GR0P	PR	PR
Bonne Direction Continuité				
Changement de Direction Tourne à Gauche				
Changement de Direction Tourne à Droite				
Mauvaise Direction				

Bonne Conduite en Montagne

- Se renseigner sur les conditions atmosphériques
- Être bien équipé : chaussures, chapeau, eau...
- Rester sur les sentiers balisés
- Respecter la Faune et la Flore
- Ramener ses déchets
- Respecter la réglementation affichée
- Ne pas oublier de refermer les barrières
- Rester silencieux et discret
- **- Ne pas faire de feu**

Météo : 08 99 71 02 66

Urgences : 112 ou 15

Pompiers : 18

Vous rencontrez un problème sur nos sentiers ? Signalez-le sur les fiches dédiées dans les différentes antennes de l'Office de Tourisme ou sur sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr

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Catllar Chemin de Saint-Jacques de Calahons



Distance : **5,4 km**

Dénivelé Positif : **205 m**

Temps : **2h30 (Hors arrêts)**

Dénivelé Positif Cumulé : **235 m**

Difficulté : **Facile**

Balisateur : **Jaune**

Panoramas et Patrimoine

Sentier quelquefois rocailleux, à éviter par fortes chaleurs.

Une magnifique balade au bas de la Vallée de la Castellane qui dévoilera au fil des pas son Ermitage de Saint-Jacques de Calahons et le témoignage de l'activité humaine.



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Carte IGN 1/25^{ème} 2348 ET

Départ Parking du cimetière. - altitude 329 m. –

Accès : depuis la N116, sortie à Prades direction Catllar, parking derrière la boulangerie à la sortie du village.

1 Du parking, prendre le chemin de Baliaury, puis traverser la RD 619 pour suivre la Rue d'en Haut jusqu'à la place. Passer devant le restaurant et descendre pour passer devant le lavoir. Franchir le petit pont de pierre, remonter la rue de la Coume, monter les quelques marches et arriver sur la RD 24.

2 Prendre presque en face la petite route montant raide jusqu'au canal.

3 Ignorer le panneau indiquant la direction de la chapelle Saint-Jacques et suivre le canal sur la gauche sur 250 m.

4 Franchir en épingle le canal par un petit pont en pierre et suivre le sentier quelques mètres avant de le quitter à gauche et remonter.

5 Le sentier arrive sur une ancienne piste qu'il faut suivre sur la gauche.

6 A l'intersection de sentiers, (pensez à refermer le fil de clôture), continuer tout droit. Après quelques lacets, passer devant les restes d'exploitation d'une ancienne carrière de talc.

7 Intersection de plusieurs sentiers. Prendre en face l'ancien chemin de Saint-Jacques (panneau), couper une piste et passer devant l'oratoire du petit Saint-Jacques.

8 Ermitage de Saint-Jacques de Calahons.

Le retour s'effectue par le même itinéraire jusqu'à l'intersection de sentiers (**6**). Au cours de la descente, remarquer les orris (cabanes de bergers en pierres sèches).

9 Ignorer les sentiers à gauche et à droite et continuer tout droit pour rejoindre le canal, puis traverser le village pour rejoindre le véhicule.

