

THE LIMESTONE CLIFF PATH

- SITUATION : Crayssac, 16 kms from Cahors via the D811 and the D145.
 → START POINT : Town Hall square in Crayssac.
 GPS Coordinates : N 44.30607° E 1.19701°

DURATION : 2 hrs. 15 mins.

LENGTH : 6.9 kms.

WAYMARKING : yellow

PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES : steep and sloping paths
 between ③ and ④



“
 Stones beneath your feet, but before your eyes, a magnificent view over the AOC Cahors vineyards.”

TO SEE IN THE AREA :

• Crayssac : la Plage aux Ptérosaures (Pterosaur Beach)

→ FOOD SHOPS/ RESTAURANTS ETC : Catus and Crayssac

→ INFORMATION : Cahors / Saint-Cirq Lapopie Tourist Office
 +33 (0)5 65 53 20 65

- ① With your back to the church, go left towards the D23, then soon after turn right and immediately left.
- ② Continue along the track which goes downhill.
- ③ At the next junction, turn right and follow the bed of a stream.
- ④ Turn right and go up a stony track (view over the Cahors vineyards) then begin to descend towards the D9.
- ⑤ When you come to the D9 (Col de Crayssac, 219m), cross it to pick up a track on the left going up to the heights. Follow the stoniest track (take care : tricky section along the hill crest). At a T junction, turn right on to the road.
- ⑥ At «Le Mas de Bastide», turn left twice to get on to the tarmac road towards «La Bouyssounade», then leave the road to turn right on to a wide track and go straight on.
- ⑦ At the T junction with a wide track turn right and continue up to a crossroads.
- ⑧ Cross over this junction (stone cross) to go down on the little road opposite you (no entry sign) and continue straight ahead on this road (views over the village on the left).
- ⑨ At «Coustalou», take the road which goes steeply down to the left to get back to the church.

FLYING REPTILES

Crayssac is home to a palaeontological site which is unique in the world. Since 1993, «Pterosaur Beach» has been a very special place for hundreds of students and researchers from all over the world to come and study. As the successive tides of 140 million years ago deposited thin layers of mud on the beach, pterosaurs, close relatives of the dinosaurs, left footprints which have been preserved ever since in a kind of stone flaky pastry. Regular palaeontological digs have enabled an old controversy over the way in which these animals moved to be settled : we now know that pterosaurs were quadrupeds. But the site, which harboured numerous other species, has not yet given up all its secrets. In particular, footprints never previously known have been discovered...

Organised tours : information from the Cahors/Saint Cirq Lapopie Tourist Office, tel: +33 (0)5 65 53 20 65

