ON THE PATH OF THE GRAND SITE DE FRANCE DU CIRQUE DE NAVACELLES

VERSACEVAL takes the finder’s breath away: this is an earlier time. The stone circles tell the tale of those who lived and gathered together territories, and making us think of the people from a little-known society. Peasants, the dolmens make up collective graves, megalithic witnesses. We can see the templars’ fortified city at the Couvertoirade. This rich history, sometimes obvious, sometimes buried in the landscape, has not left many footprints on the soil today.

LANDSCAPES SHAPED BY 5 000 YEARS OF PASTORALISM

A WORLD UNDER THE EARTH...

In this landscape, the underground world holds many natural riches. Throughout the course of history, the caves have held water for the « caussenards » everyday life—brick, clay and coal for water, salt, and coal for villagers and animals. Later on, in history mining of its mineral riches took place from the Middle Ages to the past. In the landscape, the underground world is visible everywhere, for example places to cross fences so paths are accessible to walkers).

ROCK FORMATIONS AND WATER SHAPE THE EARTH

Vis begins on the schist and flow into the Vis. The river was an important water resource, particularly in the past. The river’s erosion power and the rain that falls today shape the landscape, and allow us to be witness to the creation of the landscape over time.

Erosion and water shape the earth...

The Cirque de Navacelles is a Grand Site de France in the Cévennes National Park, which created in 1970. This is the site of the largest and deepest basin on earth. This site is also a member of the « Natura 2000 » sites, a network of protected areas where the biodiversity is protected. The Cirque de Navacelles has obtained the label Grand Site de France in 2017.

STONY LANDSCAPES

The Cirque de Navacelles is a world under the earth. Water has shaped and modified the landscape, creating an underground river of water. This water has shaped the landscape and allowed us to witness the formation of the landscape over time. This is the case with erosion, and the rain that falls today shapes the landscape, and allows us to be witnesses to the creation of the landscape over time.

Karstic landscape

Originally covered by the sea, the Cevennes now form a former marine shelf that has accumulated 200 million years ago. The karst landscape is present today in the area of the Cirque de Navacelles. The « Grand Site de France » of the Cirque de Navacelles is a place where the interaction and dynamism between the landscape and the people who populate it.

Erosion and water shape the earth...

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Historic-everywhere

In the past, the Circue de Navacelles was an ideal place to live, with the availability of water, salt, and coal for villagers and animals. Later on, in history mining of its mineral riches took place from the Middle Ages to the past. In the landscape, the underground world is visible everywhere, for example places to cross fences so paths are accessible to walkers.

A Mixture of Environments and Experiential Biodiversity

The article, the character of the tribes and the landscape (especially the vegetation) have shaped this landscape, which is diverse, while still preserving a sense of coherence and naturalism. This is due to the fact that the landscape has been shaped by the elements, and the rain that falls today shapes the landscape, and allows us to be witnesses to the creation of the landscape over time.

RECOGNITION AS A WORLDWIDE HERITAGE SITE

The Hamlet of Navacelles was the first example of a site on the list of World heritage.

The Hamlet of Navacelles

Locally, the inhabitants have been able to take advantage of the landscape, the river, and the surrounding mountains to create their own way of life. This is the case with the rivers, which have shaped the landscape and allowed us to witness the formation of the landscape over time.

LOCAL LAND AND VISITS

The houses of the site

The locals have been able to take advantage of the landscape, the river, and the surrounding mountains to create their own way of life. This is the case with the rivers, which have shaped the landscape and allowed us to witness the formation of the landscape over time.

Local products

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Museums and Places to Visit

Located at the very North-West of the « Grand Site de France », this museum is in the heart of the protected area. The museum is in an old spinning mill. Reconstructions of old trades displayed over three floors show the old way of life in and the history of the Causse. The museum in Lodève is situated in an old spinning mill.

Walks in the countryside are great ways to explore the Causse and the Cévennes. These tours are available at the Cirque de Navacelles’ visitor centre. The « Grand Site de France » of the Cirque de Navacelles is a place where the interaction and dynamism between the landscape and the people who populate it.

Activities

As well as the suggested walks and trails, longer walks are also possible.

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WALKING AND COUNTRY SIDE ACTIVITIES

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