

The St. Michel Chapel



The St. Michel de Anesca chapel is set under a vast rocky overhang alongside the river at the bottom of the Nesque canyon.

The building itself is modest, but its situation, its age (12th century) and its history make it interesting. The Chapel consists of a short oblong nave and a vaulted semi-circular apse. On the wall can be seen traces of a specifically Romanesque decorative engraving.

The inscription carved above the arched doors shows that the chapel was restored in 1643.

Above this building are two more rock shelters linked by a man made shaft that were inhabited in prehistoric times.

To the west there used to be a hermitage where some hermits lived in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Places of prayer dedicated to the Archangel "St-Michel", conqueror of evil, protector against illnesses of body and soul, help against all accidents, are often situated on summits overlooking landscapes, or else, as with this Chapel, in caves, canyons or near rivers.

<u>Time</u>	: 3 ½ hours
<u>Distance</u>	: 9 km
<u>Altitude Change</u>	: 380 m
<u>Level</u>	: The difficulty level of this itinerary is classed average.
<u>Marks along the hiking paths</u>	: GR9, a red and white, and yellow.

Itinerary

- Departure from the village
- Cross the place "Léon Doux"
- Carry on straight after the bakery
- Take the first turn on the right, a slopping street marked GR9
- Carry on straight between the houses
- You'll come to a house with a wooden cross on the front, carry on straight ahead, you're on the right track.
- Parallel to the street, follow the path, which leads up to a signpost indicating the GR9, and the direction to the chapel (keep going straight ahead, stay on the same path).
- From above, admire the landscape.
- Carry on along the same path, following the red and white GR9 marks.
- Now you go down across the hill.
- You'll come to the Nesque canyon road, cross it. A stone indicates the way to "Chapelle Saint-Michel".
- Keep on going down, you will arrive at the chapel on your left.

- You have two options for the return :

- In summer : carry on after the Chapel, on your left you will see two small rocks (signpost and marking) climb up. (The river should be on your right).
- You'll come to a rock face with 7 metal rungs to climb, be brave!
- Follow the small path to the lake, you'll cross the river 5 times.
- Take the road back to the village.

- In winter : if the river is low enough, cross it directly after the chapel and take the GR9 path on your right. Stay on this path until you cross the equestrian track (yellow markings). You quit the GR9 which goes towards St-Hubert and you follow the equestrian track in the opposite direction, towards the lake.

Advice : The difficulty level of this itinerary is classed Average. Not suitable for young children.

Starting point at the lake : Easy, good for families

Please respect the environment.

Thank you and good hiking.