



Beside the lake at Tournemine

summer, flags fly outside and folk in medieval attire can be seen flitting about the grassy banks as they act out everyday life in the 14th century. Out of season the audience is often school children, but July and August bring in the tourists. Whether or not you venture inside, the setting itself is quite photogenic - and just up the road is an excellent crêperie in a lovely old stone farmhouse, just right for the end of the walk.

From the Château the route leads you through pleasant countryside to the banks of the River Arguenon. Here the river has been dammed to provide a water supply and there is now a twisting ribbon lake some ten miles long in a surprisingly deep valley. The forest spills over the steep slopes to the water's edge and creates an attractive scene where, under a canopy of green, wild flowers thrive in the dappled light. The winding path climbs and descends through the woodland, offering views from rocky heights soon followed by close encounters with the reedy shores. At times the path is flanked by dense vegetation and long fronds of climbing plants hang from the trees. You could be forgiven for thinking you were in the African jungle - at least on a hot day. The path continues all the way around the lake - a distance of 35kms or so - but this walk climbs out of the valley beside a bubbling stream and soon returns you to the château.

Directions

1. From the car park, walk down the road with the Château on your left. At the fork, keep right, towards St-Jean, and take the first stony track on the right, waymarked yellow and red. This track climbs gently uphill and soon there are distant views. On reaching the road, cross straight over (ignore waymarking to left) towards Bélouze. Descend the hill and take the right fork, in the direction of Bélouze, picking up once more the yellow on red waymarks. Still going downhill, the old Auberge is now on your right. At the bottom of the hill, bear left on the road and continue along it to the cross-roads, just before le Fougeray. Turn left here towards Tournemine. The road now descends to a parking place and picnic spot beside a viewpoint on the lake.

