

Centre	13 HUELGOAT	Long
Length 12kms	Time 4hrs	Level 3
Location & parking: HUELGOAT. Park in the car-park near the mairie, behind the church in the main square.		
Refreshments: cafés, crêperies and restaurants in Huelgoat.		



This is a memorable walk through the depths of a peaceful and atmospheric forest.

First following a canal out to the old mining areas, the route then returns along the River Argent, with its extraordinary granite boulders of remarkable sizes and shapes, before crossing the D769 to explore the Wild Boars' Pool and an Iron Age camp. At the end is the famous granite 'Chaos' on the edge of the lakeside town of Huelgoat.



DIRECTIONS

A From the car-park, follow the footpath sign down to the canal, cross a bridge and turn right along the bank. Follow this to steps up to a main road. Cross the road and turn left. After a few metres, the canal path sign is on the bank on the right.

Follow the canal, on the left bank, for 4kms through the forest, (ignoring other paths) until a metal bridge by a small hydro-electric station. Cross this and turn left to a clearing. Then bear right alongside a dry canal bed, and follow it round the head of the valley for 2kms.



B Towards the end of the canal, cross a wooden bridge over a gully and follow the path ahead. To reach the mine site, either go first left down a steep path or, for an easier descent, go ahead to a T-junction of tracks and turn left, then very sharp left at the next junction into the site.

This area was first mined for lead and silver by the Celts and Romans, but had its heyday in the 18th-19th centuries. The lake in Huelgoat and two canals (1761 and 1772-4) were constructed by German workers to run the hydraulic machinery needed for efficient exploitation. The old mine workings, wheel and ruined master's house remain today.



From the ruined house, return to the junction of paths and go sharp left downhill, continuing ahead at the bottom along the stony road. (There are information boards about the mines to the left here).

Continue to a bridge over the river. Cross it and follow the footpath sign to the left. After about a kilometre, the path reaches the riverbank. Continue up to the Gouffre.

At the Gouffre a torrent of water crashes down the deep gorge. Here, in legend, Dahut, daughter of King Gradlon, lured her many lovers to their deaths. Their cries are still heard echoing from the depths...

The belvedere, a short steep climb above the gouffre, is on an 11th century defensive motte. There is also a memorial to the poet Victor Ségalen.