

## La Balma del Moro (Dolmen)

Rated: Medium. Climb: 500 m. Duration: 4 hours, without stops.

Follow: Route No. 8.

Points of interest: “**La Balma del Moro**” is one of 60 Dolmens in the Albères Massif; it is a mass burial Dolmen, about 4000 years old and in a particularly good state of preservation. It is a “Corridor” Dolmen and was used between the period of 2500 to 1800 AD. This was during the “Copper Age” immediately prior to the Iron Age.

From the Tourism Office, Walkers’ Centre, return to the church at the old village. With your back to the church door, go up the “**Rue de L’Eglise**” and at the end, take the footpath with a small stream on the left: this footpath leaves the village. On the right hand is the old windmill - “**Moulin de la Pave**”. Shortly you come to fine shady spring – “**Fontaine des Oiseaux**”. The footpath then goes uphill following a half buried pipe. Arriving at a fork, go right and immediately on the right will be a small reservoir at the end of which is a crossroads with a signpost. Take the path towards “**Dolmen-Pic Neulos – Col de L’Ullat**”. To the left of the footpath is a small watering canal that you follow until you arrive at a main pathway crossroads where you can hear the river below.

Then, take the path to the left; note the wood boundary marker which is coloured blue and white. The path ascends through low vegetation and the route markers are **yellow**.

At the intersection, take the route which goes ahead and to the right, continuing to follow the yellow markers.

You come to a new pathway intersection; here, there is a stone marked with yellow writing – take the path to the left. Eventually the pathway comes out onto a larger track – go up this track, keeping to the right hand side and after about 200 m you will come across an old ruined farmhouse on the left. After this ruined building, come off the track and take the pathway to the left.

You come to a pathway intersection: go to the left and after a short distance you come to an enclosure. The route becomes very gullied and you come to a path crossing. To the right there is an enclosure and a metal gate; to the left a pathway marked with a yellow cross. The path to take is straight ahead. This path climbs steeply under chestnut trees; keep following the yellow markers ( you will pass a black plastic pipe on the way). The pathway levels out bringing you to an intersection with a signpost. Take the left hand route which ascends and a few metres further on you come to a fork ; take the left hand path which takes you directly to the Dolmen on the crest.

### **The Dolmen itself**

Behind it you will find you will find a small path leading to a good viewpoint. Retrace your steps to a signpost on the right hand, take the pathway on the left; this goes down gently through the forest. You cross a first gully where you will come across the “**Fointaine Galdriq**”. Progress on the side of the gully and change over to another small valley; here the pathway rejoins an old route, covered with vegetation, leading to the stream (**Correc de les Teixoneres**). Cross this river and continue onwards passing the spring “**D’en Pep**” which is slightly above you. There is a fork; take the left path

which rejoins a forest track which goes down to the right. This track crosses a ford over the “**Correc de les Teixoneres**”. Continue on down towards the plain.

There is an intersection which leads to “**Parraguères**”; take the path to the left and continue downwards. After a right hand bend you come across the ruined farmhouse which you passed on the way up. 200m further on, come off the path and take a track to the left, marked in yellow, which goes down through vegetation. At a crossroads, take the right hand route. At a second crossroads, take the left fork. At the main crossroads, take the route to the Church in the opposite direction to the one on which you started out. Arrive at the Church or continue to the tourism office, if required.