

The Camisards (by mountain-bike)

Aigoual - Rousses



Vue aérienne de Vébron (© CC Florac Sud Lozère)



This trail crosses an old beech forest, which is part of Le Marquaires forest nature reserve, and thus monitored particularly closely by the Cévennes National Park and the Office National des Forêts.

Useful information

Practice : Bike

Duration : 4 h

Length : 30.7 km

Trek ascent : 1002 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Architecture and village, Forest

Trek

Departure : Rousses

Arrival : Rousses

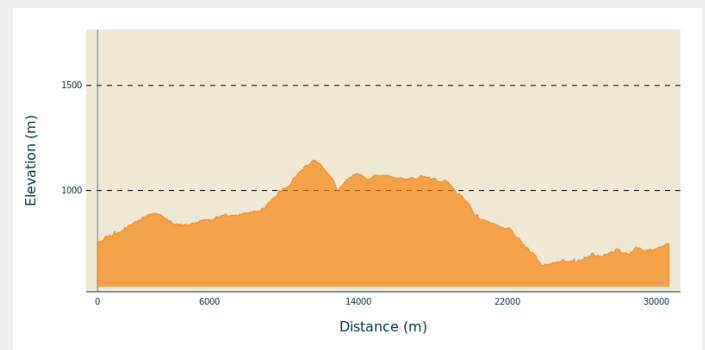
Markings : ♣ Black mountain-bike

Cities : 1. Rousses

2. Bassurels

3. Vebron

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 642 m Max elevation 1144 m

Mountain-bike route #15. From the village, take the D 907 for 4 km towards the Tunnel du Marquaires. Before the tunnel, fork right towards the Le Marquaires forester's house and continue on the forestry track to Gaseiral. Take the road uphill to the Col de Salides and there take the ridge track on the left to L'Hospitalet (GR 7). Go down to Vébron (don't hill to the Moulin d'Astier), cross the Tarnon and join up again with the D 907 to Gua. Cross Gua and cycle along the river Tarnon to get to Prat Nouvel and then to Rousses.

On your path...



 Hermit beetle (*Osmoderma eremita*) (A)

The Tarnon (C)

Mont Aigoual (E)

Schist or dolomite (G)

The Camisards (I)

1938: the forestry road (B)

The Margeride draille (drovers' road) (D)

Ash trees (F)

Vébron (H)

All useful information



Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.



Advices

No cycling off-track. You are strongly advised to wear a helmet. Do not forget your repair kit and a small set of tools. Please shut all gates and barriers after yourself. Slow down in farms and hamlets.

How to come ?

Access

From Florac or Meyrueis, take the D 996 to Vébron, and then the D 907 to Rousses.

Advised parking

Car park close to the Café "La Ruche"

Source



Agence d'Attractivité Touristique Gorges Causses
Cévennes

<http://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com>



Parc national des Cévennes

<http://www.cevennes-parcnational.fr/>

On your path...



Hermit beetle (*Osmoderma eremita*) (A)

This beetle is a declining, endangered and protected species. It is considered a reliable bio-indicator of environmental quality. An essential link in the proper functioning of forest environments, it likes mature deciduous forests and dead wood. The specific management of the strict nature reserve of Le Marquairès favours its development. Here, forestry is forbidden, and the forest is left to evolve naturally.

Attribution : © Jean Pierre Malafosse



1938: the forestry road (B)

You are on the “road of the unemployed”. From 1936 to 1939, the crisis that shook the country led the government to put in place social programmes giving the jobless employment on major works: forest planning, thinning out tree stands, opening up new roads, etc. This road was created using shovels, picks and axes by 20 or so unemployed men and some locals. The “unemployment card” of the day gave the unemployed the right to a bonus when they worked on major works. A refectory was set up in the forester’s house at Le Marquairès, then at Les Cabanes (at the other end of the road); locals brought their own food.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The Tarnon (C)

The Tarnon is 38.9 km long and has its spring on the Aigoual massif (1,565 m) in the municipality of Bassurels. After its confluence with the Mimente, it flows into the Tarn downstream of Florac. It separates the Causse Méjean plateau from the Cévennes. Upstream of Rousses, the Trépalous flows into the Tarnon. This small river has carved out the Tapoul Gorge, which is famous for canyoning. The Tarnon is a Cévenol river: very abrupt and intense floods can occur during extreme weather events.

Attribution : © com com Florac Sud Lozère



The Margeride draille (drovers' road) (D)

The draille follows the ridge and crosses the Can de l'Hospitalet plateau. This transhumant trail enables the sheep flocks of the plains (of the southern Cévennes and the Crau) to move up to northern Gévaudan (Aubrac, Margeride, Mont Lozère). This draille is only one branch of a larger network along which transhumant livestock still travel.

Attribution : © Michelle Sabatier



Mont Aigoual (E)

A beautiful view onto Mont Aigoual (1,567 m) – a mountain of winds, fog, snow and rain. Banks of clouds coming from the Mediterranean rub against its slopes and can cause violent precipitation (also called Cévenol episodes). This temperamental mountain is home to the last mountain weather-station in France.

Attribution : © Olivier Prohin



Ash trees (F)

Ash trees, like the ones that border the path, like cool and damp environments. They were planted alongside paths by locals because ash branches, cut towards the end of summer, provided additional fodder for livestock.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Schist or dolomite (G)

Schist areas form a rock base on which layers of sediment - limestone and dolomite - have collected. These are covered in chestnut trees and heaths of heather, broom and ferns unless they have been reforested. Underneath this vegetation, the transition between the two bedrocks is not always visible, but it is indicated by the human settlements at mid-slope. Rainwater that has filtered through the rocks emerges again where it hits the impermeable schist, creating springs.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Vébron (H)

A village of 200 inhabitants, Vébron extends from the Tarnon valley to the Causse Méjean. It has a school, temple (Protestant church) and shops. Every summer, it hosts the International Video Film Festival, whose patron until 2014 was [French veteran actress] Bernadette Lafont. The square at the heart of the village is a lovely spot for a little rest.

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The Camisards (I)

The Tarnon valley was a significant area during the Camisard War. It sheltered the 3rd Camisard Army. Many clandestine gatherings were held here in the gloomy forests or in a cave underneath the Can de l'Hospitalet (known as Baume dolente).

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