

Col de la Caumette

Aigoual - Val-d'Aigoual



La forêt de hêtre (nathalie.thomas)



This path crosses the beautiful Aigoual beech forest and associated flora.

As you cross this beautiful forest, take the time to listen to the bird song. You may see a black woodpecker. Early risers will have the opportunity to spot the local wildlife: stags, roe deer, mouflons, rodents...

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 7.2 km

Trek ascent : 217 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna and flora, History and culture

Trek

Departure : Col de La Serreyrède

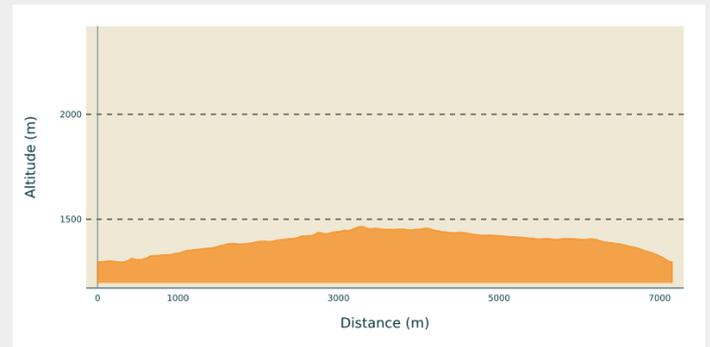
Arrival : Col de La Serreyrède

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Val-d'Aigoual

2. Meyrueis

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1296 m Max elevation 1465 m

Signposts will guide you all along this route. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in ***bold italics*** between quotation marks:

Start from "***Col de La Serreyrède***", behind the Maison de l'Aigoual. Head towards "***Col de la Caumette***" via "***L'Estradou***". Then take "***Prat Peyrot***" via "***Les Fayards***". Return to "***Col de La Serreyrède***" via "***Le Fangas***".

This walk is taken from the guidebook **Massif de l'Aigoual**, published by the communauté de communes Causses Aigoual Cévennes as part of the collection Espaces naturels gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

On your path...



-  Boreal owl (A)
-  The salt road (C)

-  The black woodpecker (B)
-  Beech trees and the Mont Aigoual forest (D)

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

Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water, wear sturdy shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Transports

liO is the regional public transport service of the region Occitanie/ Pyrénées - Méditerranée. It facilitates everyone's movements by prioritising public transport. For more information, call 08 10 33 42 73 or go to www.laregion.fr

Access

From Camprieu or L'Espérou on the RD 986.

Advised parking

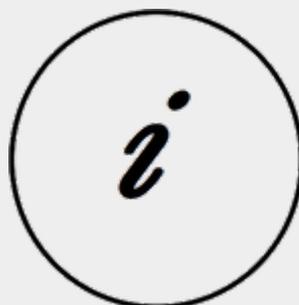
Col de la Serreyrède pass

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual
office-du-tourisme-cause@wanadoo.fr
Tel : 04 67 82 64 67
<https://www.sudcevennes.com>

Accessibility : Accessible aux personnes à mobilité réduite sur les trois niveaux du bâtiment (ascenseur)



Source



CC Causse Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

<http://www.causseaignoualcevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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



Pôle Nature Aigoual

On your path...



Boreal owl (A)

Abandoned woodpecker chambers are a boon for small mammals and other birds, such as the boreal owl, which has come from Nordic countries to settle here at altitudes of 800 m. Very discreet, it confines itself to the depths of our forested mountain ranges. It can be identified in March by its sonorous and gentle call. To maintain the species, the Cévennes National Park and the French forestry office protect trees with nesting chambers and old-growth forests from being logged.

Attribution : Gaël.Karczewski



The black woodpecker (B)

The black woodpecker is the largest of our woodpeckers and reappeared in the massif in 1936. Gripping wood with its claw, supported by its very stiff tail, it hammers a large hole (diameter over 30 cm) into the trunk of a beech: its nesting chamber, in which it will reproduce. The hole must be located over 6 m above ground, and its oval entrance must open onto a clear space to facilitate take-off. Abundant food must be available: ant hills; diseased or dead conifers that the black woodpecker will riddle with holes to extract larvae; pine or spruce cones that it will wedge into those holes to pick out the seeds. You may hear its call, a powerful “kree-kree”!

Attribution : Jean-Pierre.Malafosse



🌲 The salt road (C)

La Caumette pass is on a former salt road. From Antiquity to modern times, salt has been a precious merchandise used for preserving food and tanning leather. Salt has always been traded and taxed during its transport inland from the Mediterranean coast. The sentry box at the pass was built in the 16th or 17th century at a strategic point at the crossroads of several roads, both to levy the salt tax and for surveillance against smuggling.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🌲 Beech trees and the Mont Aigoual forest (D)

Beech is the main species of the Mont Aigoual forest, which consists of a large variety of trees adapted to the diverse soil types and exposure. Like most deciduous trees, beech stumps put out many shoots after a tree has been felled. Foresters select the best of these for timber. Old beeches can attain remarkable sizes, such as the beech in Le Suquet forest in the municipality of Camprieu, a vestige of the original forest that has come down to us through the centuries and has a circumference of six metres and a height of 25!

Attribution : Michel Monnot