

# Aire-de-Côte

Aigoual - Bassurels



Mésange huppée (Gaël Karczewski)



*A pleasant circular walk in a mixed and biodiverse forest, accompanied by birdsong.*

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 7.8 km

Trek ascent : 223 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Forest, History and culture

# Trek

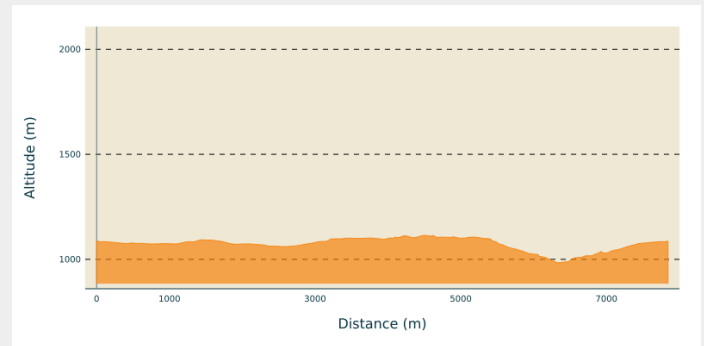
**Departure** : Aire-de-Côte (Bassurels)

**Arrival** : Aire-de-Côte (Bassurels)

**Markings** :  Yellow waymarks

**Cities** : 1. Bassurels

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 984 m    Max elevation 1114 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:

Starting at the Aire de Côte gîte, head towards "***Mont Aigoual***" via "***Montée du Bédil***" and "***Le Coulet***", then follow "***Col de l'Estrade***" via "***Valat du Bédil***" to "***Côte 1100***". Return to "***Aire de Côte***" via "***Montée du Bédil***".

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...



- ▲ Aire de Côte (A)
- Le Coulet (C)

- ▲ A Resistance refuge (B)
- Reforestation (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 ?

### Access

In St-André-de-Valborgne take the RD10 towards Valleraugue. At the Col de l'Espinass pass, head to Aire-de-Côte on the RD 10d

### Advised parking

Aire-de-Côte

## **Information desks**

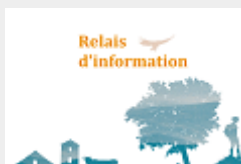
### **Office de tourisme Des Cévennes au mont Lozère**

le Quai, 48220 Le Pont de Montvert sud  
mont-Lozère

[info@cevennes-montlozere.com](mailto:info@cevennes-montlozere.com)

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

<https://www.cevennes-montlozere.com/>



### **Tourism & national parc'house**

Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

[office-du-tourisme-causse@wanadoo.fr](mailto:office-du-tourisme-causse@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/>

# On your path...

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## 🌲 Aire de Côte (A)

Aire-de-Côte farm was purchased by the French State in 1862, during the period of reforestation. Before the farm became a stopover gîte, it was for a long time the residence of the local forester and his family. In the first half of the 20th century, Aire-de-Côte was very different. To the north, behind the house, was the draille (drovers' road), lined by upright stones and 40 to 50 metres wide. Thousands of transhumant animals passed every year on their way to or from summer pastures. The transhumant animals stopped there at lunchtime, then continued on towards Mont Aigoual.

Attribution : Stephan.Corporan

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## 🌲 A Resistance refuge (B)

In early 1943, the first Resistance group of the Cévennes was formed. The refuge of the Aire-de-côte group was one of the wooden shacks used for forestry works, whose roof was camouflaged using branches. On 10 July 1943, a message warned the post office in Rousses that a German attack was imminent. The Resistance was informed – but a storm delayed the group's departure. The Germans arrived... The forester was arrested as an accomplice, accused of being in radio contact with London. Indeed, the Aire-de-côte Resistance listened to a crystal radio set built by the two Jews who were hiding there.

Attribution : Guy.Grégoire

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## 👁️ Le Coulet (C)

At Le Coulet (meaning little pass), views open up onto the Mediterranean side, towards Valleraugue. The viewpoint lies on the watershed. Up to this point, the route followed the valley of the Bédil, a brook with a gentle, non-torrential gradient, whose waters flow into the Atlantic. Here, you discover the valley of the Clarou (a tributary of the Hérault), with its typically Mediterranean, i.e. more abrupt, profile. To the south, schist outcrops break through the slopes; to the north, the slopes are entirely wooded.

Attribution : Olivier.Prohin



## Reforestation (D)

In 1875, the French State initiated a reforestation policy. It bought up existing beech forests and bare parcels. This was the case of Aire-de-Côte and the land belonging to it. To settle poor soils, foresters planted a pioneering species: the dwarf mountain or bog pine. On more fertile soils, nobler species were planted: fir, spruce and larch. Commercial exploitation began in 1938, when the local mines bought the first harvests to shore up mine tunnels. The original reforested areas were thinned out and firs planted beneath the pines. It is said that in a bedroom at Aire-de-Côte, there was a heap of coniferous tree seeds at least one metre high. They were sown onto the snow, which dragged them into the soil as it melted.

Attribution : Arnaud.Bouissou