

Bézuc

Vallées cévenoles - Le Pompidou



Plateau de La Can (nathalie.thomas)



This loop takes you from the Corniche des Cévennes to the Can de l'Hospitalet, a small cause (plateau) lost amidst the undulating Cévenol mountains. You cross an infinite variety of landscapes.

Ce circuit vous conduit de la corniche des Cévennes jusqu'à la can de l'Hospital, petit cause perdu au milieu de l'océan des montagnes cévenoles. Les paysages traversés sont d'une infinie variété.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 6 h 30

Length : 16.1 km

Trek ascent : 515 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Water and geology

Trek

Departure : Le Pompidou: on the square in front of the Salle des fêtes (village hall)

Arrival : Le Pompidou: on the square in front of the Salle des fêtes (village hall)

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

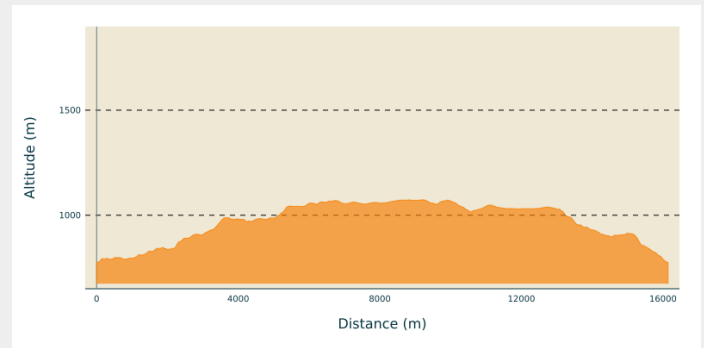
Cities : 1. Le Pompidou

2. Vebron

3. Rousses

4. Bassurels

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 774 m Max elevation 1073 m

Start on the square in front of the Salle des fêtes.

1) Take the lane, then turn left to join up with the path that climbs to the Col de Tartabissac pass.

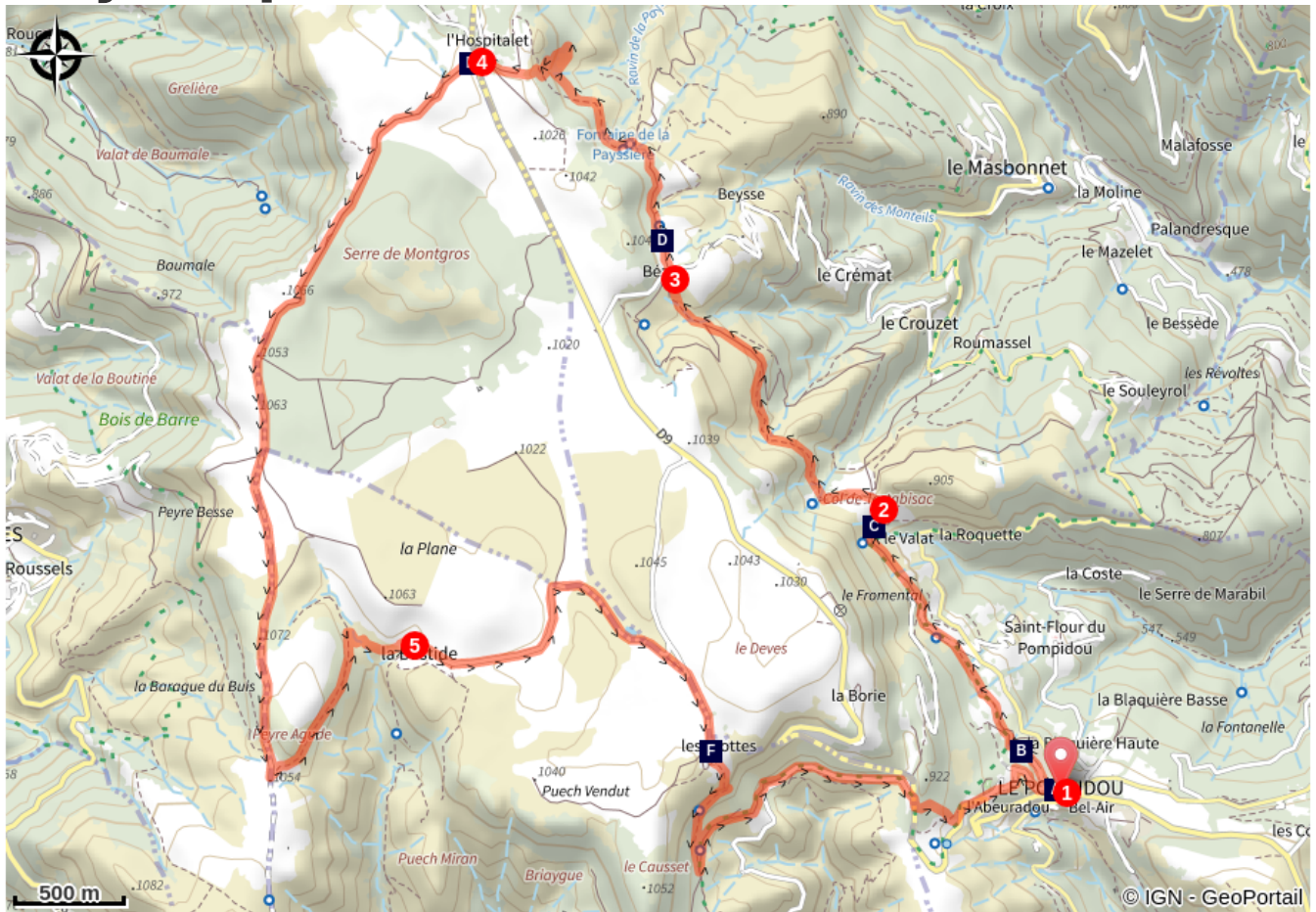
2) At the pass, take the path on the left. Be careful fording the river and avoid this walk altogether during heavy rain.

3) At Bézuc, go over the stile and cross the road. Take the path opposite. After 300 m, turn left; then, after 400 m, turn left again and take the path that climbs to L'Hospitalet.

4) At L'Hospitalet, cross the road and continue on the track (GR 7) for 3.9 km. Leave the track to take a path on the left to the hamlet of La Bastide.

5) Go through the hamlet and follow the road to Les Crottes. Go past the farm on the left to take a path that goes downhill through the limestone cliffs. Turn left onto the road to join up with the D 9 and a stile. Arrive at L'Abeuradou, then take the D 9 for 120 m and, in the bend, go straight downhill to Le Pompidou.

On your path...



- ▲ Le Pompidou (A)
- Contact (C)
- Ash trees (E)

- Small buildings (B)
- Schist, limestone or granite (D)
- Water (F)

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

NB: Do not attempt this walk after heavy rain (river crossings). 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

From Florac-Trois-Rivières, take the D 907 and D 983 towards St-Laurent-de-Trèves, then the D 9 to Le Pompidou.

Advised parking

Car park below the mairie (town hall)

Information desks

Office de tourisme Des Cévennes au mont Lozère

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

info@cevennes-montlozere.com

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

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



Tourism'house and national Parc at Florac

Place de l'ancienne gare, N106, 48400 Florac-trois-rivières

info@cevennes-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 66 45 01 14

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



Tourism office Des Cévennes au mont-Lozère, Saint-Germain-de-Calberte

Village, 48370 Saint-Germain-de-Calberte

info@cevennes-montlozere.com

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

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



Source



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



🏠 Le Pompidou (A)

Le Pompidou, like Saint-Roman de Tousque, owes its development to its location on the Corniche des Cévennes road. From the 17th century onwards, this former mule track carried substantial trade, with mule cart drivers bringing up salt, wine and dried fish from southern France to the Gévaudan, taking grains and cloth down from the uplands, and exporting the silk and chestnuts of the Cévennes. You can still see two buildings, the former inn (Le Cheval Blanc) and the Chapeau Rouge staging post, where travellers changed carriage horses.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Small buildings (B)

The small buildings you see dotted here and there are jasses (from jas: place where livestock sleeps), sheepfolds of times gone by. There used to be at least 20 between Tartabissac and Bézuc. From the first warm days to 6 December, livestock would spend the night here, and their owners would come up during the day to watch them. An old saying goes, “No livestock in the chestnut groves before the sixth of December”. 6 December was the date of the fair in Florac when the local chestnuts were sold. Today Bézuc hosts 200 sheep for 8 months of the year.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🌐 Contact (C)

At the Col de Tartabisac pass, there is a clear limit between the two bedrocks: on the left, the limestone plateau; on the right, a schist slope. The two rocks are in contact at a geological fault. A layer of very wet sandstone sits at the level of the meadows, at the foot of the limestone. This is where the water that has infiltrated via the thick layers of the Can plateau re-emerges.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🌍 Schist, limestone or granite (D)

From the track, you can make out the hamlets on the side of the valley at the foot of the Can: Roumassel, Le Crouzet, Le Crémat, Le Masbonnet. The land stretching from the valley floor to the plateau belongs to these hamlets, including chestnut groves, pasture and parcels for growing grains. After Bézuc, the bedrock is partly schist, where broom and heather grow, partly limestone, which is linked to the presence of the carline thistle. In a meadow beyond the beech forest, you can see blocks of granite, which stem from a vein linking Mont Aigoual to Mont Lozère. The ruiniform rocks on the plateau were shaped by water, which infiltrates fractures in the rock and dissolves the dolomite that they are made of.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🌿 Ash trees (E)

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



💧 Water (F)

On the plateau, mains water was not installed until 1975. Before that, livestock had to be herded to the lavogne (a natural basin made waterproof using clay) to be watered, even in winter. At Les Crottes, two cisterns under the buildings recovered the rainwater from the roofs using a system of gutters: one is accessible via a sort of well from the house; the other, which holds 2,500 litres, can be accessed from the sheepfold. As you go downhill from Les Crottes, you pass a tapped source whose strong flow was surely a factor in the building of the farm just above.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas