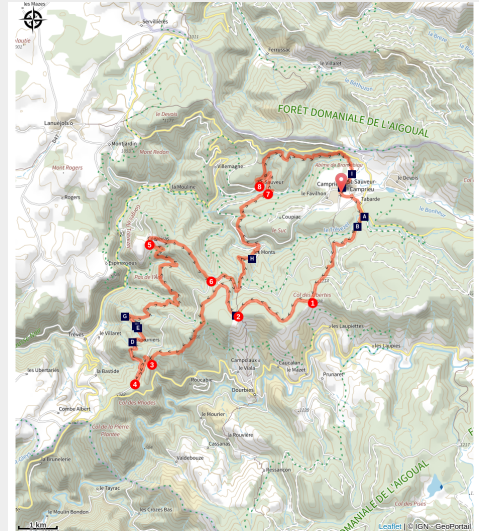


# MTB 14 - The 3 rivers challenge - graded black

Aigoual - Saint-Sauveur-Camprieu



Village de Camprieu (Béatrice Galzin)



*A superb and challenging trek through varied landscapes and atmospheres ranging from the forests of Mont Aigoual to the valleys of the Trévezel or Dourbie, alternating between rolling paths and technical single tracks.*

## Useful information

Practice : Bike

Duration : 4 h 45

Length : 35.6 km

Trek ascent : 1337 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, Forest, History and culture

# Trek

**Departure** : Camprieu

**Arrival** : Camprieu

**Markings** : 🏠 mountain-bike

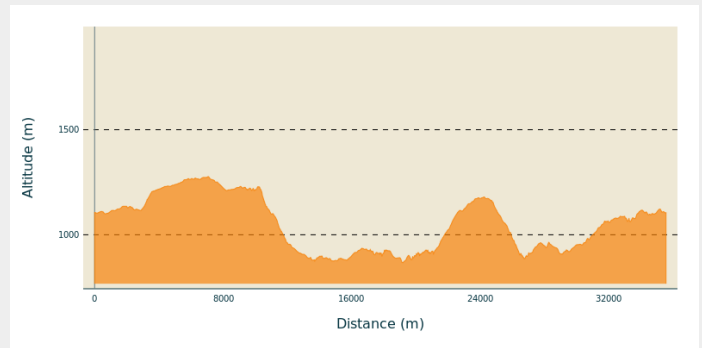
**Cities** : 1. Saint-Sauveur-Camprieu

2. Dourbies

3. Trèves

4. Lanuéjols

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 867 m Max elevation 1277 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 from "***Camprieu***", head towards "***col des Ubertes***" via "***Le Cros***", "***Tabarde***", "***Maison du bois***", "***Tailladette***", "***Terondel***".

1) At "***col des Ubertes***" follow "***Col du Suquet***".

2) At "***col du Suquet***" follow the GR® trail towards "***Le Vieux Hêtre***", then turn left towards "***Mont Mal***", "***Serre de Cade***".

3) From "***Serre de Cade***", there is a technical descent to the road. Turn left onto the road for 1 km till you reach "***Sous le col des Rhodes***".

4) Turn right and follow "***Canayère***" via "***Le pas du Coulet***" and "***Les Pins noirs***", then continue to "***Comeiras***".

5) At "***Comeiras***" start the long climb to "***La Roque***".

6) Take the road on the left towards "***Valat de Malbosc***", then turn left to "***Les Monts***". Then head towards "***Pont de l'Âne***" via "***La Combette***", "***La Matte***" and "***Conduite forcée***".

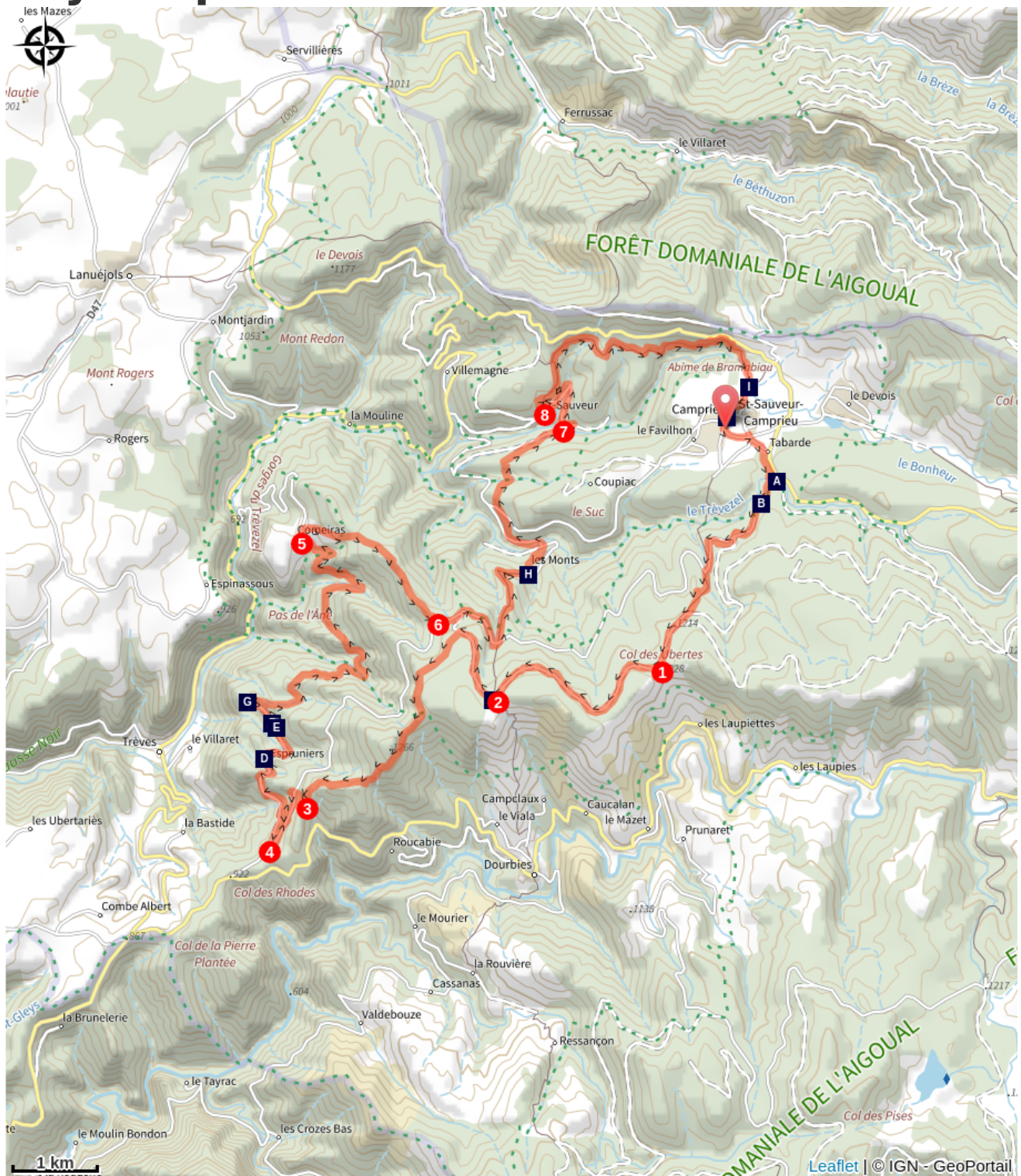
7) At "***Pont de l'Âne***", go to "***St Sauveur des Pourcils***" via "***Le Muguet***", "***La Fonderie***", "***Valat de la Fonderie***". Then head for "***Carrefour des Pourcils***".











8) Turn right to return to "***Camprieu***" via "***Travadaire***", "***Rouveyrolle***", "***Abîme de Bramabiau***", "***Perte de Bramabiau***", "***La mairie***", "***La Croix basse***".

This circuit 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...



-  The Mont Aigoual forest (A)
-  Col du Suquet pass (C)
-  The schist/limestone contact zone (E)
-  Canayère (G)
-  The Bonheur river (I)
-  The hidden life of the forest (B)
-  The hamlet of Espruniers (D)
-  Calcifugous vegetation (F)
-  Les Monts wash house (H)
-  Camprieu (J)

# 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

Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability. You must wear a helmet. Protective equipment is recommended. Respect other road users and stay in control of your speed and trajectory. Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water. Please close all gates and barriers behind you. No off-roading.

## How to come ?

### Transports

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

### Access

From Valleraugue, take the D 986 towards L'Espérou. At the roundabout, turn right to the col de la Serreyrède pass. At the pass, turn left onto the D 986 – car park in the village.

### Advised parking

Camprieu village

## **Information desks**

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

Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisonde-laigoual@sudcevennes.com

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.causse-aigoual-cevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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



Pôle Nature Aigoual

# On your path...

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## 🌿 The Mont Aigoual forest (A)

“Aigoual, Forêt d’Exception”

The French Forestry Office, which manages state forests, launched a programme in 2013 called “Aigoual, Forêt d’Exception” (Aigoual: An Exceptional Forest) with the aim of highlighting the massif’s natural and cultural heritage. The Forestry Office thus tries to foreground the different aspects of its multi-faceted management: production, protection and receiving visitors. One key aspect of this approach, which complements other initiatives by local actors, is to improve visitors’ experience in the forest.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin

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## 🌿 The hidden life of the forest (B)

Trees grow upwards towards the light while mosses benefit from their shade on the ground and spread out. Like soft cushions or carpets, they hug everything that sticks out of the ground, such as old tree stumps. This soft felted surface is pleasing to see, and an undergrowth without mosses would not be worthy of the name. Legend has it that mosses show which way is north.

Wrong!

Mosses indicate a degree of moisture; they protect the soil from drying out by retaining every last drop of dew. They prepare pockets of humus for the future occupants: grasses and herbaceous plants. They also love the damp of tree trunks and can grow there, on the side that is most exposed to the prevailing rains.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin

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## ⚠️ Col du Suquet pass (C)

You are at the highest point of the hike. On the right bank of the Dourbie, the path crosses a sheer slope that is alternatively made up of zones of solid granite and other zones where it has decomposed due to weathering into coarse granitic sand. To the south, the views encompass the entire Lingas massif, a high wooded plateau overlooking, further south, the region around Le Vigan and the Languedocian plain.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas





### The hamlet of Espruniers (D)

This hamlet, which consisted of a sizeable grouping of houses, was inhabited until about 1930. You have stopped on what was probably the threshing floor for grains.

Attribution : © Fonds Flahault



### The schist/limestone contact zone (E)

Here, the layers of the schist outcrops are almost vertical in places. This contact between Causses and Cévennes, between the primary bedrock and the limestone layers, is due to a geological fault created by the various movements and constraints that have affected the Earth's crust. In this zone, the schist bedrock has been pushed upwards by several hundred metres along the fault line compared to the limestone plateau, although the latter is less old.

Attribution : © Yves Maccagno



### Calcifugous vegetation (F)

This section of the path in the schist zone showcases calcifugous ("limestone-avoiding") vegetation, which only grows on acid soils (schist or granite): especially chestnut trees, ferns, heather and broom.

Attribution : © Valère Marsaudon



### Canayère (G)

A former farm turned forester's house in 1880. In the early days of the Mont Aiguol reforestation, forestry officers lived here year-round during their missions. Forestry workers working on the replanting were allowed to use the outbuildings. Later, only one official resided here. Since 1967, no official has permanently lived here. (B. Mathieu)

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



### Les Monts wash house (H)

The wash house in Les Monts still has running water but the washerwomen have disappeared for good. The site is magical. The water is clear enough for dragonflies to lay their eggs in and for birds to drink

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



## 🕒 The Bonheur river (I)

The Bramabiau site is an example of a karst spring. Here, slightly east of Camprieu, the Bonheur River has dug into the Causse (limestone plateau) and disappears in a natural tunnel. It re-emerges into the open at the bottom of the Aven de Balset, but it twists to the south to disappear again below ground. The river meanders through more than 10 km of tunnels. Then, 700 horizontal meters from its sinkhole, it reappears as a spring! The rock walls of the narrow canyon magnify the sound of its waters and add to its rumbling some acoustic vibrations that are close to a gigantic roaring. This is no longer the tranquil Bonheur, it is the tumultuous Bramabiau.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

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## 🏠 Camprieu (J)

In the 19th century, the village streets were bustling year-round with a throng of artisans, labourers and shopkeepers, who lived in these modest mountain houses that were also suitable for livestock rearing. Camprieu had: two cobblers, six clog makers, two basket makers, one carpenter, two wheelwrights, two farriers, one miller, two stonemasons, one glassworks, one sawmill, one dairy, two grocer's shops, a haberdashery and ironmonger's and one shop for ladies' "fashion and dresses". There was also a cheese cellar that produced Roquefort until 1932, a hotel and an inn.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas