

Camias trail

Aigoual - Saint-André-de-Majencoules



Vue sur la vallée de l'Hérault (Nathalie Thomas)



This path on the hillside climbs and meanders, and then joins the curving old railroad. History is under your feet and all around. Every stone has a story to tell about its use: in a retaining wall, a house, a rail track.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h

Length : 8.7 km

Trek ascent : 430 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, History and culture, Transports en commun

Trek

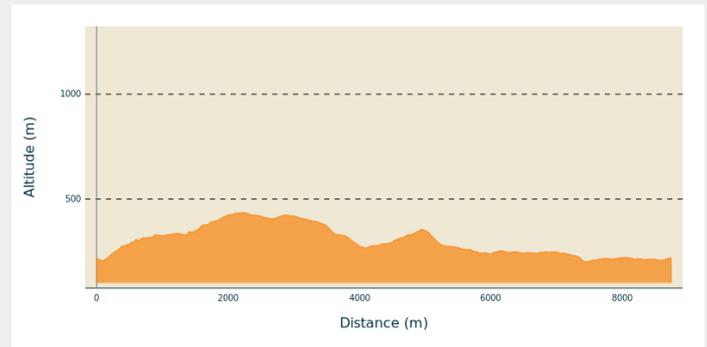
Departure : Old train station at Pont d'Hérault

Arrival : Old train station at Pont d'Hérault

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Saint-André-de-Majencoules
2. Mandagout

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 200 m Max elevation 435 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:

From the entrance to "***L'Ancienne gare de Pont d'Hérault***", head for "***Cap de Côte***" via "***les Quatre Chemins***".

1. At the crossroad "***Les Quatre Chemins***", take the road furthest on the left towards "***Pié Camp***".
2. Walk down this road, then take a small goat path on your left just after the house on the right.
3. Take the road again for about 50 m, then follow the path on your left.
4. In Camias, go uphill through the village to the end of the road.
5. Follow the track, then the path on the left. At the next crossroad, continue straight ahead to "***L'Arboux***" (steep downhill section to "***L'Arboux***").
6. Cross the brook and turn left to leave the village.
7. Stay on the road and, after the turn-off to Camias, take the path downhill to join the old railroad.
8. Turn left onto the railroad to return to "***L'Ancienne gare de Pont d'Hérault***".

On your path...



Camias and its agriculture (A)

The Reinette apple and the sweet onion (B)

 The railroad (C)

All useful information

Advices

Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water.

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 (in term time).

Access

From Ganges, drive towards Le Vigan on the D 999; just after the crossroads for Valleraugue (D 986), use the car park at the old train station on your right.

Advised parking

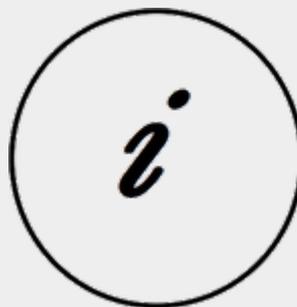
Ancienne gare de Pont d'Hérault (former train station)

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)



Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causse Cévennes, Valleraugue

7 quartier des Horts, 30570 Valleraugue
valleraugue@sudcevennes.com
Tel : 04 67 64 82 15
<https://www.sudcevennes.com>



Source



CC Causse Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...

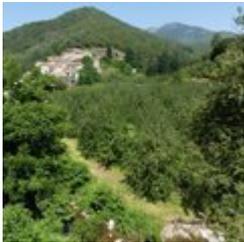


Camias and its agriculture (A)

In the 20th century, the hamlet of Camias still had 80 inhabitants. They grew grapes for wine. Some olive trees can also still be seen on the sunny sheltered slopes and some magnificent chestnut orchards on the shaded slopes (ubac). It is not difficult to imagine sheep and goats keeping these spaces open.

This is where Albertine Sarrazin lived, the author of the two novels *Astragal* and *La Traversière*, while her husband raised hell in Montpellier or elsewhere.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



The Reinette apple and the sweet onion (B)

The Arboux valley is the valley of the queen of apples! Apples have been grown here since the 11th century, and King Louis XIV was very partial to them. There are still many apple trees in the area.

But the sweet onion also has its birthplace in this valley. It has been grown here for almost two centuries. The local climate and soil favour it: a sandy acidic soil, dry weather in summer, and a lot of water. The sweet onion is sown in February, planted out in May and harvested in August. It keeps several months in a cool dark place.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



🚂 The railroad (C)

On 11 June 1863, an imperial decree approved a convention between the minister of agriculture, trade and public works and the Paris-Lyon-Mediterranean Railway Company to build the railroad from Quissac to Le Vigan.

It was built in sections: the Ganges-Quissac line was opened in 1872, the Ganges-Le Vigan line in 1874.

On 24 August 1896, the Midi Railway Company opened a line called the Tournemire, between Le Vigan and Alby. At an average speed of 23km/h, the train carried passengers and goods such as wood, silk and hosiery.

The old railway station at Pont d'Hérault is imposing and was built in a strategic location. In 1897 there was a project to extend the line to Valleraugue but it was never realised.

Passenger transport on the Tournemire line was suspended in 1939; the line then closed section by section until it definitively ceased all operation in 1971.

In contrast, the line linking Quissac and Le Vigan, which stopped carrying passengers in 1969, continued to convey freight until 1987 between Le Vigan and Ganges and until 1989 between Ganges and Quissac. Today, some walks use sections of this railway line to help us explore this heritage and the economic life of the time.

Attribution : Michel Monnot