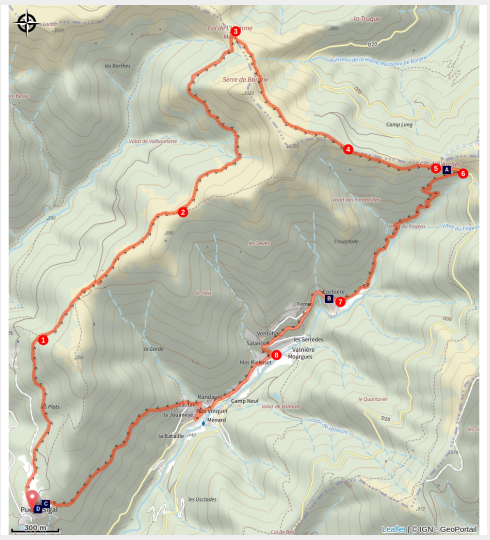
Sheep bridge

Aigoual



La draille au col de l'Homme Mort (Nathalie Thomas)



After a beautiful uphill section through a chestnut orchard, you get extraordinary views.

The ridge path that you are on is a former route for transhumant sheep (sheep going to and from summer pastures). As you explore the sheep bridge and walk back downhill, alongside you is a former forest now planted with downy oaks.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 11.3 km

Trek ascent : 669 m

Difficulty : Difficult

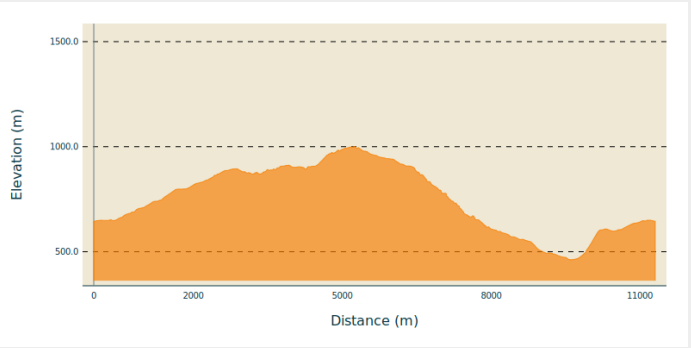
Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, Forest

Trek

Departure : Puech Sigal
Arrival : Puech Sigal
Markings : Yellow waymarks
Cities : 1. Val-d'Aigoual
2. Les Plantiers

Altimetric profile



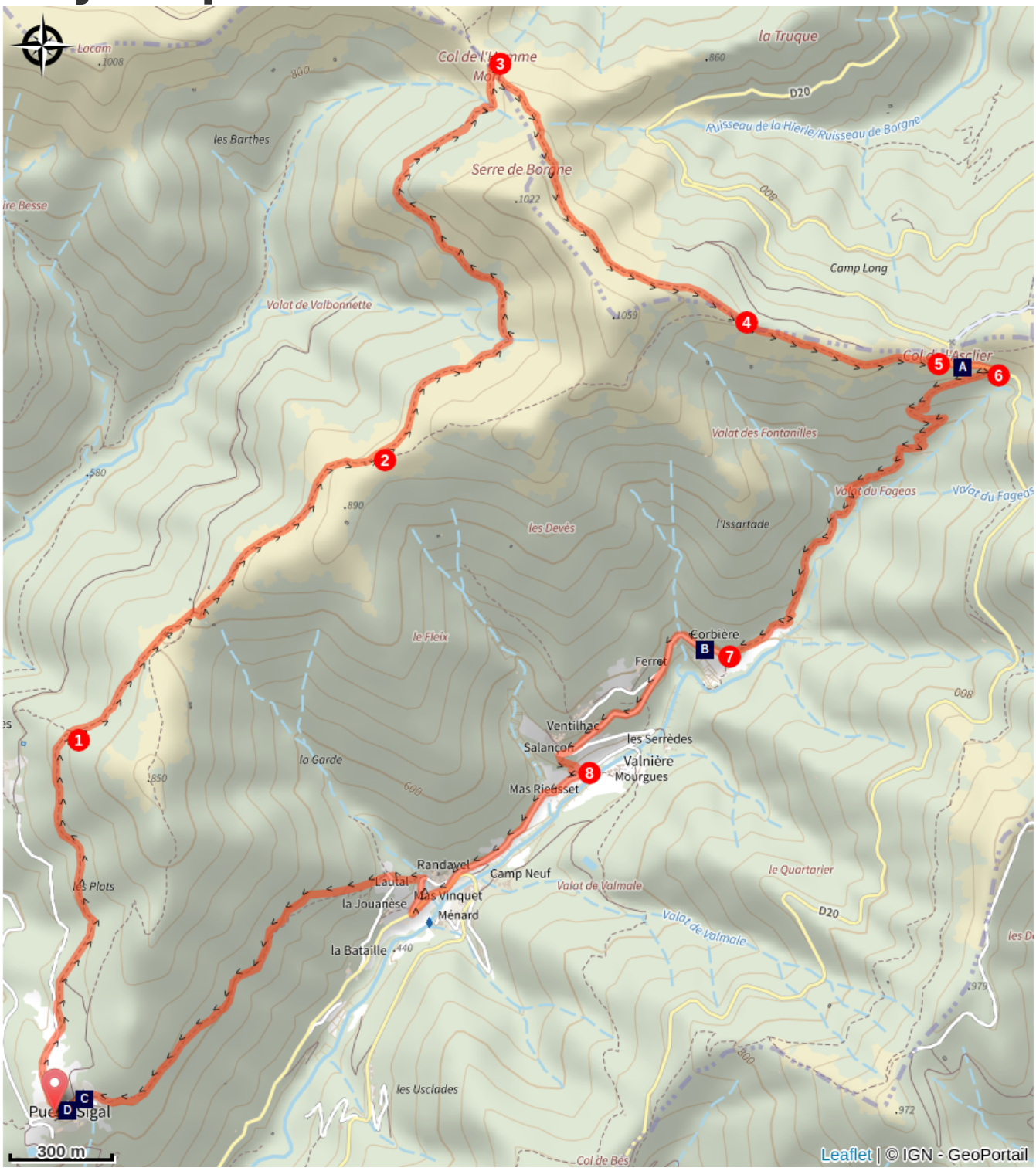
Min elevation 462 m Max elevation 1001 m

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

From your starting-point at **"Puech Sigal"**, take the track on the left. Follow signs for

1. "**Favières**",
2. "**Jasse de Rieusset**",
3. At **“Col de l’Homme Mort”**, Turn right toward
4. "**Le Clos**",
5. "**Col de l'Asclier**". Go downhill on the road for 100m
6. At **"Source de l'Asclier"**, take the path on the right and go downhill to **“Mas Corbières**”.
7. At **"Mas Corbières"**, head for "Puech Sigal" via
8. **"Valnières"**.

On your path...



The draille (drovers' road) and the sheep bridge (A)

The downy or pubescent oak (B)

Belvédère of Le Puech Sigal (C)

Puech Sigal (D)

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. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.
Caution: The downhill section to Mas Corbières is difficult.

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

Access

From the D986, drive uphill to Notre-Dame de la Rouvière. As you enter the village, turn left onto the D152A to Puech Sigal.

Advised parking

Puech Sigal

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisondelaigoual@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 Causses Cévennes, Valleraugue
7 quartier des Horts, 30570 Valleraugue

valleraugue@sudcevennes.com
Tel : 04 67 64 82 15
https://www.sudcevennes.com

Source

CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

http://www.caussesaigoualcevennes.fr/

Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



The draille (drovers’ road) and the sheep bridge (A)

The draille (drovers’ road) and the sheep bridge architecture
 The sheep bridge at the Col de l’Asclier is on an important draille (a traditional path for livestock migrating to the upland summer pastures of Mont Aigoual and Mont Lozère), which was also a King’s road during the Camisard revolt in the 18th century, a peddlers’ road and is now a long-distance hiking path. The Col de l’Asclier pass (from Occitan asclar, to split), where the road seems to go through a gap, is well-named: it lies on a fault line in the rock. But the most astonishing is the bridge, a bridge without road. It was built to help sheep flocks negotiate this difficult spot!

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The downy or pubescent oak (B)

Before the pass, you can see a downy oak wood below the path, with some good-sized specimens. This tree is native to low and intermediate altitudes; from the 9th century onwards, sweet chestnuts were planted in its stead. And yet it provides high-quality wood, resists fire and drought due to its deep roots, and shelters a large number of insect and herbaceous plant species (700 different plant and animal species, including 490 of beetles that live in wood).

Attribution : Yves Maccagno



Belvédère of Le Puech Sigal (C)

From the Puech Sigal belvedere, you have amazing views over the upper Hérault valley. The fact that the name Sigal is close to séguéla, Occitan for rye, suggests that rye was grown here. There are believed to have been Benedictine months in the area. The cobblestoned path (calade) leading via the great drovers’ road to the Col de l’Homme Mort pass makes this hypothesis plausible...

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Puech Sigal (D)

At Puech Sigal (from the Occitan for “rye”), the land has been farmed since the Middle Ages. Some believe that there were local Benedictine monks at the time. Certainly, many areas were cleared and enhanced by monks during that period. This sunny belvedere gives superb views onto the Aigoual massif and the upper Hérault valley. Around the egde of this hamlet with its granite houses are vegetable gardens, meadows and orchards, giving the site the feel of an island amidst a sea of holm oaks and chestnut trees.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas