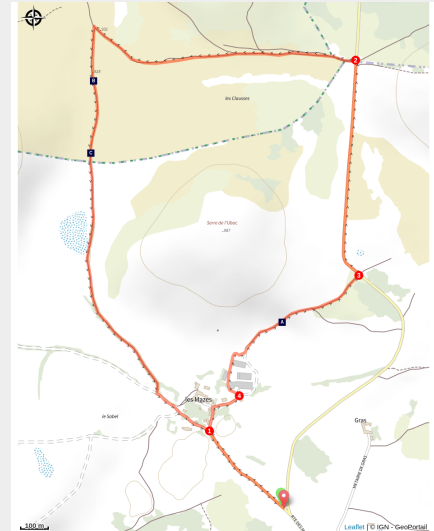


Three Bishops' Cross trail

Aigoual - Lanuéjols



La croix des 3 évêques (Nathalie Thomas)



In about 1790, when France's départements were created, the three bishops of the Gard, Lozère and Aveyron decided to celebrate the new administrative division by having this cross put up...

Enjoy the beautiful Causse atmosphere, with its vast prairie-like spaces, where sheep reign!

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h

Length : 5.4 km

Trek ascent : 35 m

Difficulty : Very easy


Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Architecture and village

Trek

Departure : Les Mazes – Lanuéjols

Arrival : Les Mazes – Lanuéjols

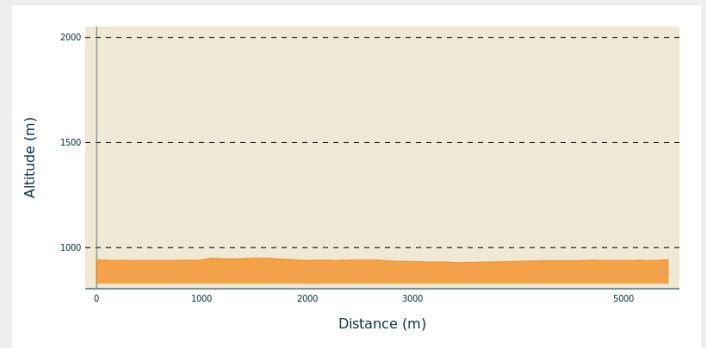
Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Lanuéjols

2. Meyrueis

3. Veyreau

Altimetric profile



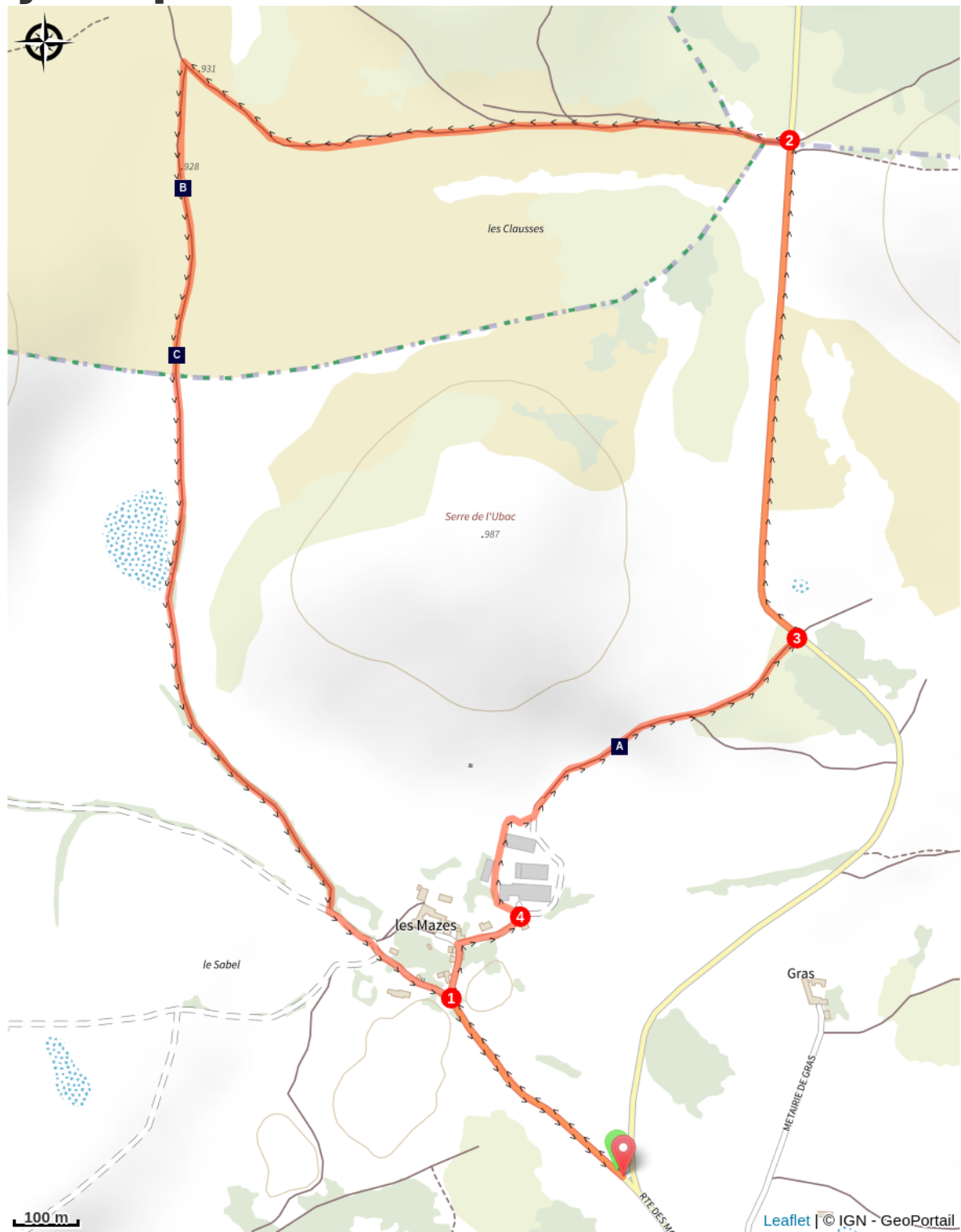
Min elevation 928 m Max elevation 950 m


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 the departure-point, take the road leading to Les "***Mazes hamlet***".

1. In the hamlet, head towards "***Croix des Trois Evêques*** » via "***Le Sabel***".
2. At "***Croix des Trois Evêques***", turn right onto the small road for 800m.
3. Take on your right the path to return to "***Les Mazes***". Walk along the right-hand side of the farm buildings.
4. Just after the farm buildings, at the road, turn right and go through the hamlet to return to your point of departure.

On your path...



 The dovecote at Les Mazes (A)
Livestock and other farming on the
Causse (C)

 The Causse flora (B)

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.

How to come ?

Access

From Meyrueis, head towards Lanuéjols on the D 986. At Bout-de-Côte, take the D 47 to Lanuéjols. At the roundabout, turn right onto the D 47a to Les Mazes. Park as you enter the village at the intersection of the D 47a and D 47c.

Advised parking

Intersection of the D 47c and D 47a in Les Mazes hamlet.

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.causses-aigoual-cevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



🏠 The dovecote at Les Mazes (A)

The round building in the middle of the field, on your right as you leave the hamlet, is a dovecote. It is mentioned in 1680. Carrier pigeons were bred there. They were an excellent means of communication in the turbulent 18th century. The efficiency of these uncatchable messengers was such that, as of 1927, the use of carrier pigeons was controlled by the French state. All carrier pigeons were counted, ringed and registered, and all releases were regulated by decree!

Pigeons have an extraordinary sense of orientation and are resilient against long journeys. They will find their way back home with precision, even from several hundreds of kilometres away.

NB. You are on private land. If you decide to approach the dovecote, please make sure the sheep barrier is closed.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



🌻 The Causse flora (B)

The Grands Causses plateaux host about 2,000 plant species, almost 40% of France's flora (which totals 4,762 species). This wealth was knowledgeably collected by René Pical, an eminent botanist at the Pharmacy faculty in Montpellier. Born in 1916, Pical lived in Lanuéjols, and over his lifetime drew up the famous *Herbier du causse Noir* (Causse Noir Herbarium), the second-oldest herbarium in France.

In this sea of grass, you can find the blue of aphyllanthes, Cupid's dart or perennial flax; the grey-green of thyme and honeysuckle; the gold and silver of hawkweed or St John's wort; the purple of sloes; the silver of quaking grasses, and so many others, such as the summer pheasant's eye with its bright-red petals grouped around a marvellous little black heart... To see them, you have to go hiking in May, June or July.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Livestock and other farming on the Causse (C)

Clapas everywhere you look!

To be able to cultivate and increase the surface area of grass in pastureland, locals removed and moved huge quantities of stones, collecting them in piles: so-called clapas.

A flock of over 700 sheep covers this sector every day. The type of feed that dairy sheep eat (pasture, meadow, hay, etc.) and their lactation cycle strongly influence the fat content of their milk. In January, the fat content is 54%; as lambing approaches, it is 94%!

All the sheep's milk here is collected and transported daily to the Roquefort cheese cellars.

Attribution : Emilien Hérault