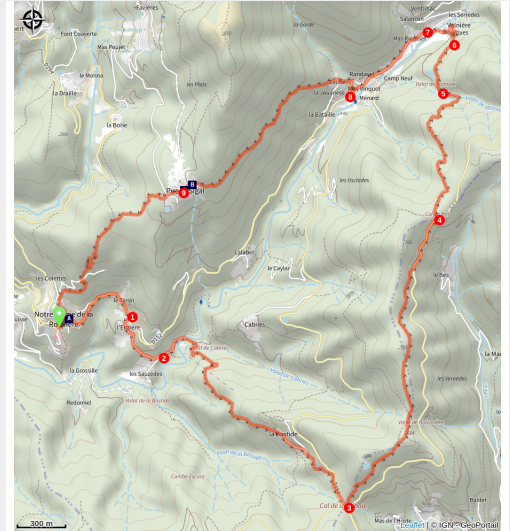


Col de Bès

Aigoual



Vue de Puech Sigal vers le Pic d'Anjeau, les Rochers de la Tude et la Serrane (Michel Monnot)

This small loop explore a typically Cévenol landscape, with its villages and hamlets scattered in the valleys and over the mountain sides, and offers magnificent views from Mont Aigoual all the way to the sea.

Gardens, crops – especially mild onions – orchards and flocks of sheep bear witness to the still active rural life in all seasons.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 11.3 km

Trek ascent : 650 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, History and culture

Trek

Departure : Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière

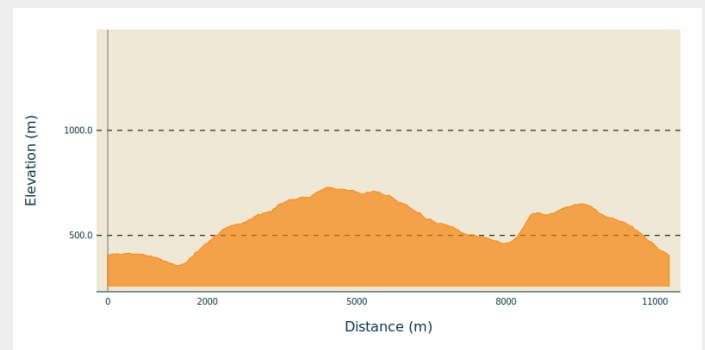
Arrival : Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Val-d'Aigoual

2. Saint-Martial

Altimetric profile



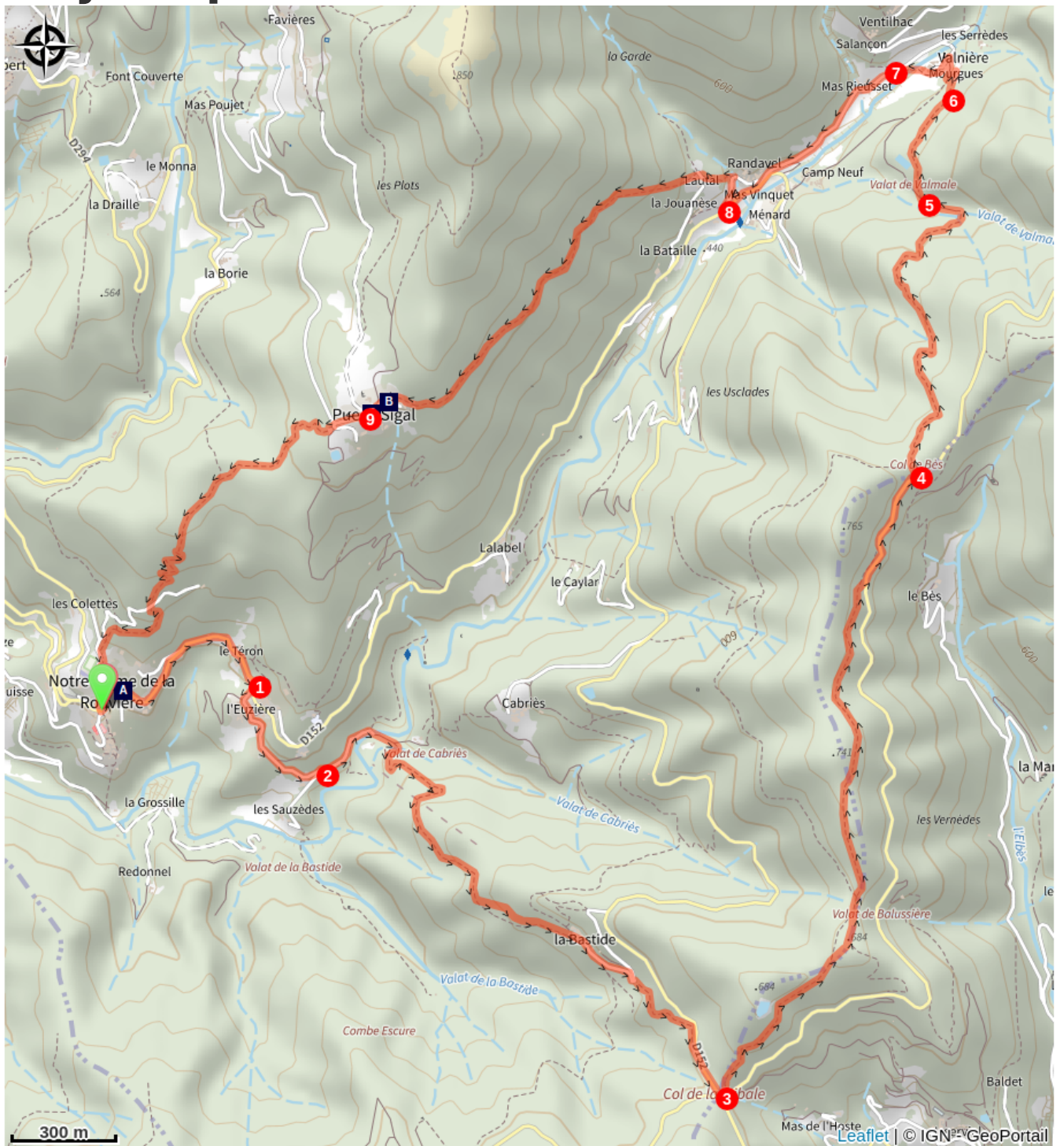
Min elevation 356 m Max elevation 730 m

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 the car park, walk towards "**Col de Bès**" and "**Col de la Tribale**" along the D152.

1. At "**l'Euzière**" take the road on the right to "**Sauzèdes**".
2. At the fork, cross the bridge, then a footbridge on the right to "**La Bastide**" and continue to "**Col de la Tribale**".
3. At "**col de la Tribale**", take the path on the left to "**col de Bès**".
4. At "**col de Bès**", in the gap across the ridge, go to "**Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière / Valnière**".
5. After the brook and a house, fork right.
6. Follow the waymarks to "**Mourgues**" and cross the hamlet to the road leading to "**Mas Rieusset**".
7. Go downhill on the road; at the signpost for "**Valnière**" walk to "**Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière**".
8. After the crossroads, pass a cross on the left and turn immediately onto the road on the right to "**Puech Sigal**".
9. At "**Puech Sigal**" go through the hamlet and back downhill to "**Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière**".

On your path...



Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière (A)
Puech Sigal (C)

Belvédère of Le Puech Sigal (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.

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, go to the lio Occitanie app or visit : <https://www.mestrajets.lio.laregion.fr>

(in term time)

Access

At the bridge over the Hérault river, take the D986 towards Valleraugue, then the D323 to Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière.

Advised parking

As you enter the village

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

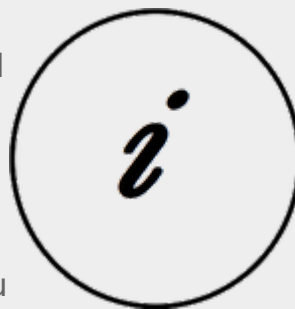
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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)



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.causses-aigoual-cevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière (A)

Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière (from *rouvière*, an area planted with English oaks) is one of the few villages in the Protestant Cévennes that remained entirely Catholic during the Camisard War, despite acts of intimidation. In the early 17th century, a Huguenot leader, the Duke of Rohan, wanted to force Catholic communities to convert to Protestantism. He rounded up the notables of Saint-Martial, Saint-André-de-Majencoules and Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière to make them renounce their faith. Terrified, they accepted the Duke's proposal but only on condition of a pact of "*recobre*" (redemption). The duke, unaware of the meaning of the word, signed the treaty.

After the Peace of Nîmes, the three communities thus returned to the bosom of the Catholic Church in accordance with the condition that they had imposed. (Ici en Cévennes, joint publication with the state school in Notre Dame de la Rouvière, 1994)

Attribution : Michel Monnot



Belvédère of Le Puech Sigal (B)

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 monks 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 (C)

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 edge 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