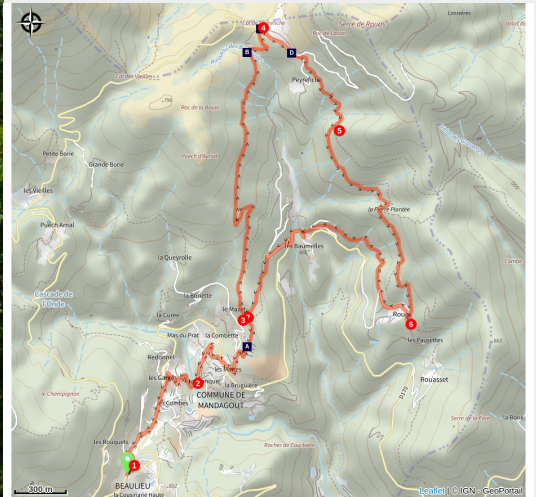


# Col de Peyrefiche

Aigoual



Les hameaux de Mandagout (N Thomas)



A spotlight on the drailles, the former traffic arteries for pastoralism in the Cévennes.

Walk between chestnut groves and holm oaks and through hamlets surrounded by gardens, orchards and crop terraces planted with mild Cévennes onions.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 4 h 30

Length : 10.8 km

Trek ascent : 515 m

Difficulty : Medium


Type : Loop

Themes : History and culture

# Trek

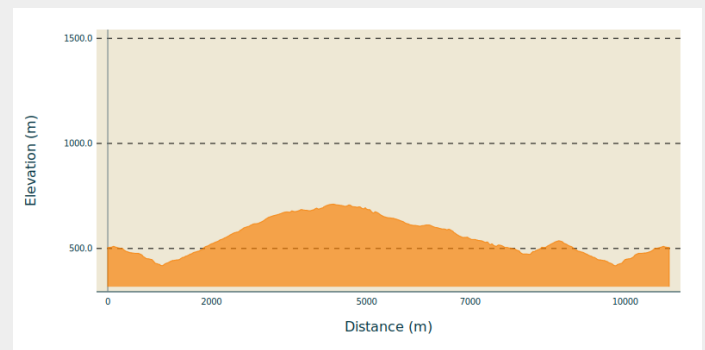
**Departure** : Mandagout

**Arrival** : Mandagout

**Markings** :  Yellow waymarks

**Cities** : 1. Mandagout

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 418 m    Max elevation 711 m

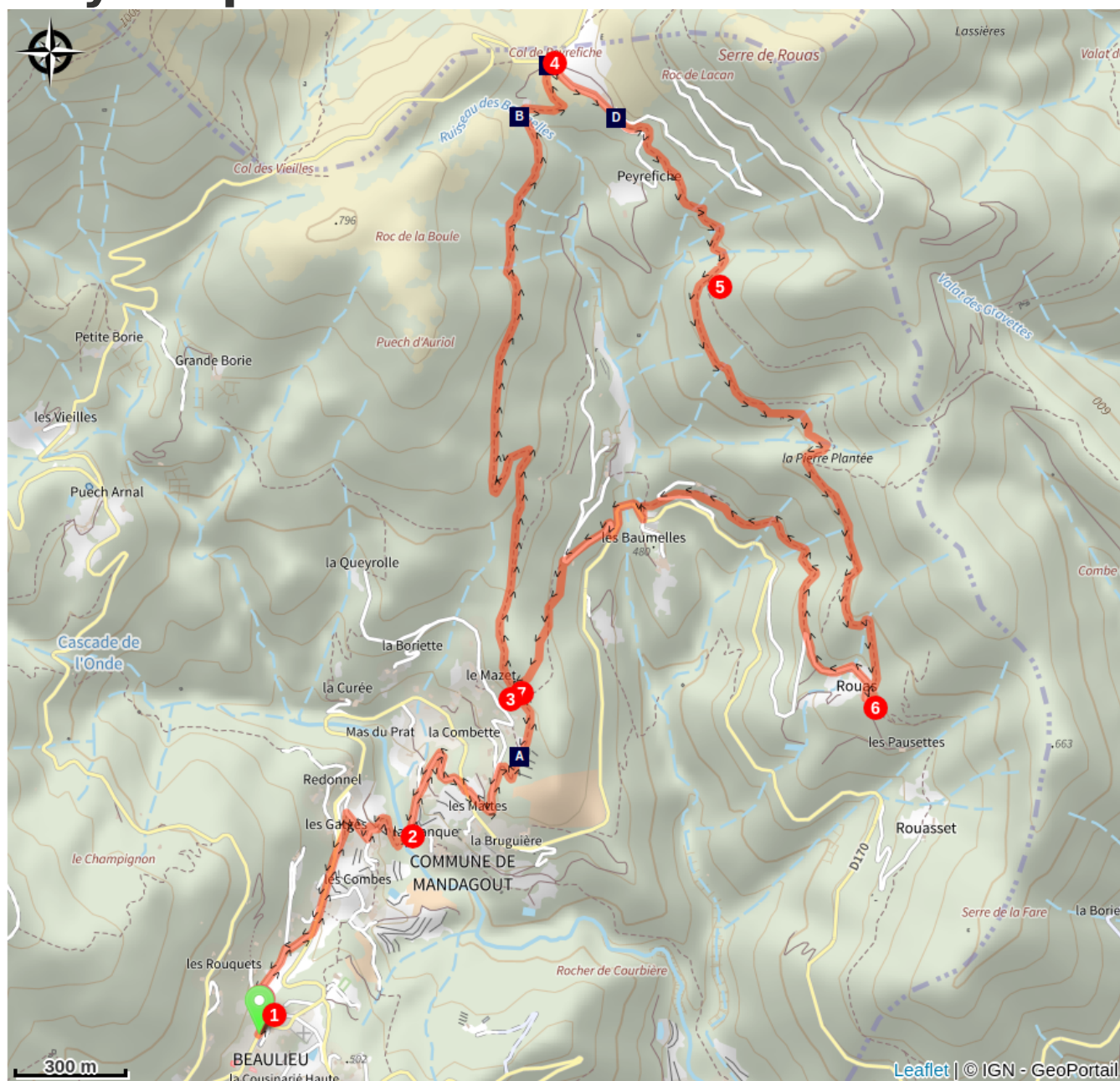
Signposts will guide you all along this route. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in **bold italics** between quotation marks :

Starting at "**MANDAGOUT**", walk to "**COL DE PEYREFICHE**" via :

1. "**Mandagout - Centre**",
2. "**La Planque**",
3. "**Chemin de Rouas**",
4. "**COL DE PEYREFICHE**",
5. "**Peyrefiche**",
6. "**Rouas**" before returning to :
7. "**Chemin de Rouas**" and then "**MANDAGOUT**" via "**La Planque**" and "**Mandagout - Centre**".

This walk is taken from the guidebook **Les Vallées Cévenoles - En Pays Viganais**, published by the Communauté de communes Pays Viganais-Cévennes as part of the collection Espaces Naturels Gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

# On your path...



Camin Ferrat (A)

The draille (drovers' road) (C)

Transhumance (B)

Peyrefiche (D)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Take enough water, wear sturdy shoes and put on a hat. Please close any gates and barriers behind you.

## **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>

### Access

From Le Vigan take the D170 to Gaujac, Beaulieu, Mandagout.

### Advised parking

Near La Poste (post office)

## **Information desks**

### **Tourism office Cévennes and Navacelles, Le Vigan**

Maison de pays, place du Marché, BP 21,  
30120 Le Vigan

[contact@sudcevennes.com](mailto:contact@sudcevennes.com)

Tel : 04 67 81 01 72

<https://sudcevennes.com/>



## **Source**



CC du Pays Viganois

<http://www.cc-paysviganois.fr/>



## On your path...

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### Camin Ferrat (A)

The name camin ferrat, literally “iron road”, is obscure in origin. For some, it was a transit route for iron bars; for others, a route used by itinerant blacksmiths. The most likely explanation seems to be that it was used by shod beasts of burden. A local woman claims that the path was damaged by oxcarts laden with wood.

Attribution : N Thomas

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### Transhumance (B)

For their transhumance (seasonal migration), sheep wear bells, also known as drailhes. In decreasing order of size, the bells are called the sonals, clapas and piques. Each has its own sound: sonals ring out “we’ll be climbing, we’ll be climbing”, clapas sing “we’re going down” and piques “we’re coming back”. After shearing, the sheep are marked so that their owners can tell them apart when they are jumbled together with other flocks. In the old days, tar or pitch were used; nowadays, it is paint. Examples of bells are on show at the Musée Cévenol in Le Vigan.

Attribution : Parc national des Cévennes

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### The draille (drovers' road) (C)

At the pass, you join the draille (drovers' road). These ancient pathways are believed to have been used since prehistoric times by herds of wild animals for their seasonal migrations. The drailles are sometimes lined by low dry-stone walls and marked out by standing stones, allowing shepherds to stay on the path even in bad weather. To this day, herds take a break at the Col de Peyrefiche pass and sometimes spend the night there, sheltered by the Pyrenean broom.

Attribution : N Thomas



## Peyrefiche (D)

Peyrefiche means standing stone; further on is the Col de la Pierre Plantée pass. In Occitan, peyra plantada designate either menhirs or else the stones marking out Celtic or Roman tracks. The latter used and improved the drovers' roads, which became efficient traffic arteries. Some stones quite simply delineate territories.

Attribution : N Thomas