

# The cart trail

Aigoual - Val-d'Aigoual



Chemin des chars vers Fenouillet (Michel Monnot)



*Hamlets steeped in history, where sheepfolds and houses still talk of life in the old days, with its clandestine Protestant gatherings – called gatherings in the Wilderness – which were held in remote spots, such as La Figayrole or Bonperrier.*

This path joins up with a ridge that has panoramic 360° views. It partly takes the Margeride draille (drovers' road), still used by transhumant flocks of sheep to reach the summer pastures in the uplands.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 4 h

Length : 11.0 km

Trek ascent : 652 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, Fauna and flora, History and culture

# Trek

**Departure** : Valleraugue - Le Cros hamlet

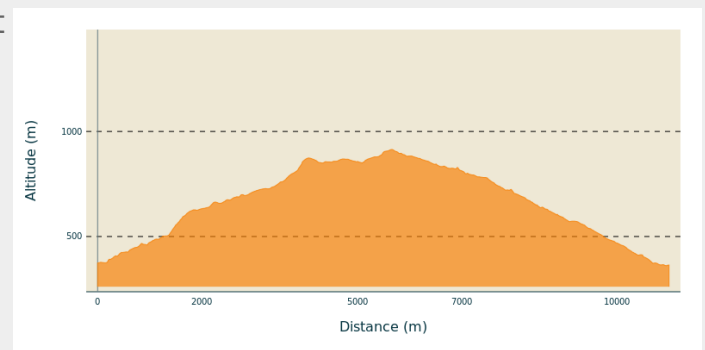
**Arrival** : Valleraugue - Le Cros hamlet

**Markings** :  Yellow waymarks

**Cities** : 1. Val-d'Aigoual

2. Les Plantiers

## Altimetric profile



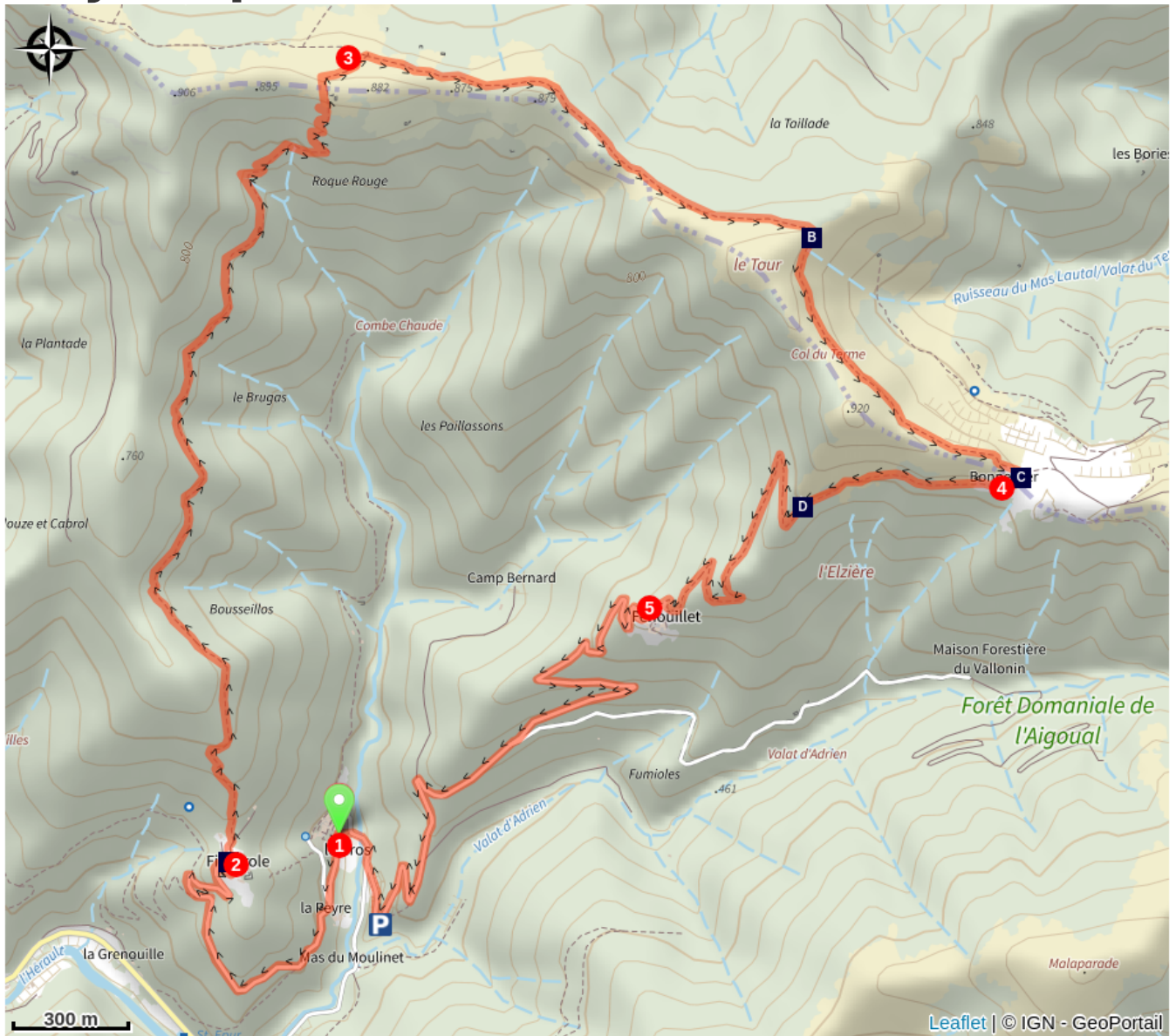
Min elevation 361 m    Max elevation 914 m

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:

Starting from the car park, take the road downhill to Le Cros hamlet.

1. At the signpost "***Le Cros***", head towards "***Roque Rouge***" via "***Figayrole***".
2. At "***Figayrole***" direction "***Roque rouge***".
3. At "***Roque Rouge***" turn right towards "***L'Elzière***".
4. At "***L'Elzière***" take the path on the right below the houses, the **GR®62**, towards "***Le Cros***", cross the hamlets of Fenouillet.
5. At Fenouillet, continue on the road to reach the car park.

# On your path...



Figayrole (A)

Bonperrier and its inn (C)

Bonperrier (B)



The short-toed snake eagle (D)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Before committing yourself to a walk, 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 ?**

### 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](http://www.laregion.fr) (in term time).

### Access

From Valleraugue, head downhill towards Le Vigan on the D 986 for 4 km, then take the D 344 on your right, towards Mas du Moulinet and Le Cros. Before you reach Le Cros, turn left onto the road to Fenouillet and park in the first bend.

### Advised parking

Car park above Le Cros hamlet

## **Information desks**

### **Tourism & national parc'house**

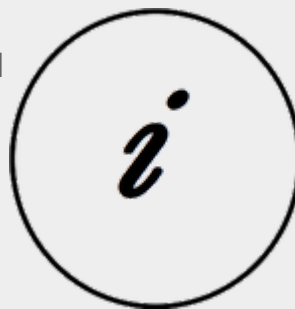
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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)



### **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...

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## Figayrole (A)

In 1692 a clandestine gathering of Protestants – who were meeting to practice their religion, banned in 1685 by Louis XIV – was surprised here. Dozens or even hundreds of people might attend such gatherings. When they were caught in the act, the community was severely punished. Families that were directly involved ran the risk of being sent to the galleys, having their property confiscated and having their children taken away from them.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas

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## Bonperrier (B)

The etymology of this name is believed to be “good fields”. Indeed, there are fields surrounding the hamlet that are still maintained today. It is said that the hamlet’s inhabitants grew cereals. After harvest, they would take the wheat and rye down to the mill in the village. The oats, however, stayed in the hamlet as livestock fodder.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin

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## Bonperrier and its inn (C)

Legend has it that up on the Bonperrier ridge, just before the Great War, there was an inn run by two families. The crossroads was a lively place of exchange. The former King’s Road running north-south is also the limit between two municipalities.

Ridge roads were faster, and the coaching inns located alongside them offered travellers warm and dry overnight stays as well as fresh horses so that they could pursue their journey. Postmen came with the post but also with stories from the neighbouring valleys. In June, transhumant shepherds and their flocks still stay over at Bonperrier before going on to their summer pastures the next morning. Their stopover always turns into a convivial evening even if the inn no longer exists.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas

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## The short-toed snake eag (D)

From spring to autumn, if you are lucky, you might see a large bird of prey whose underside is almost white and whose head is large and dark: the short-toed snake eagle. These bare ridges, which are hot and sunny during the day, are excellent hunting grounds for this lover of snakes, who knows how to flush them out. It is often windy here, which the snake eagle uses to hunt, not by circling in updrafts like other raptors but by flying on the spot, legs dangling, wings immobile. The snake eagle is migratory and stays here only to nest, from March to October – it winters in Africa