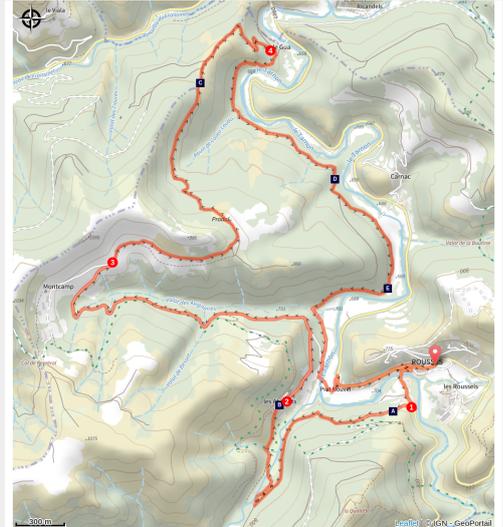


Le Serre de Pradal, MTB circuit #13 (graded blue)

Aigoual



Les paysages de l'Aigoual (Olivier Prohin)



Despite its elevation gain, this route is of medium difficulty because the main climb is on the road. However, it also has superb singletrack sections, which contribute to making it a magnificent MTB circuit.

This is a slightly technical route but you are sure to appreciate the views on the Causse Méjean plateau and the return to Rousses along the Tarnon river.

Useful information

Practice : Bike

Duration : 2 h

Length : 13.5 km

Trek ascent : 498 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Water and geology

Trek

Departure : Rousses

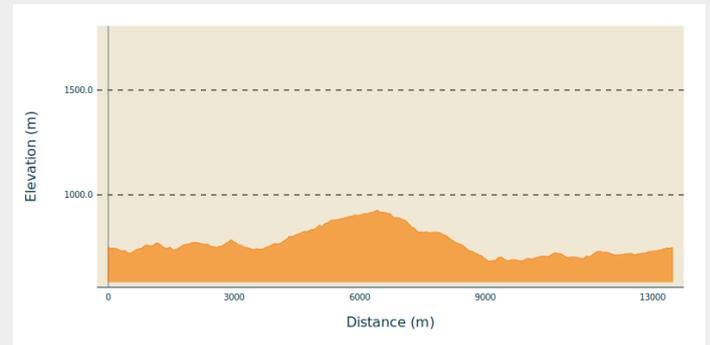
Arrival : Rousses

Markings : 🏠 Blue mountain-bike

Cities : 1. Rousses

2. Fraissinet-de-Fourques

Altimetric profile

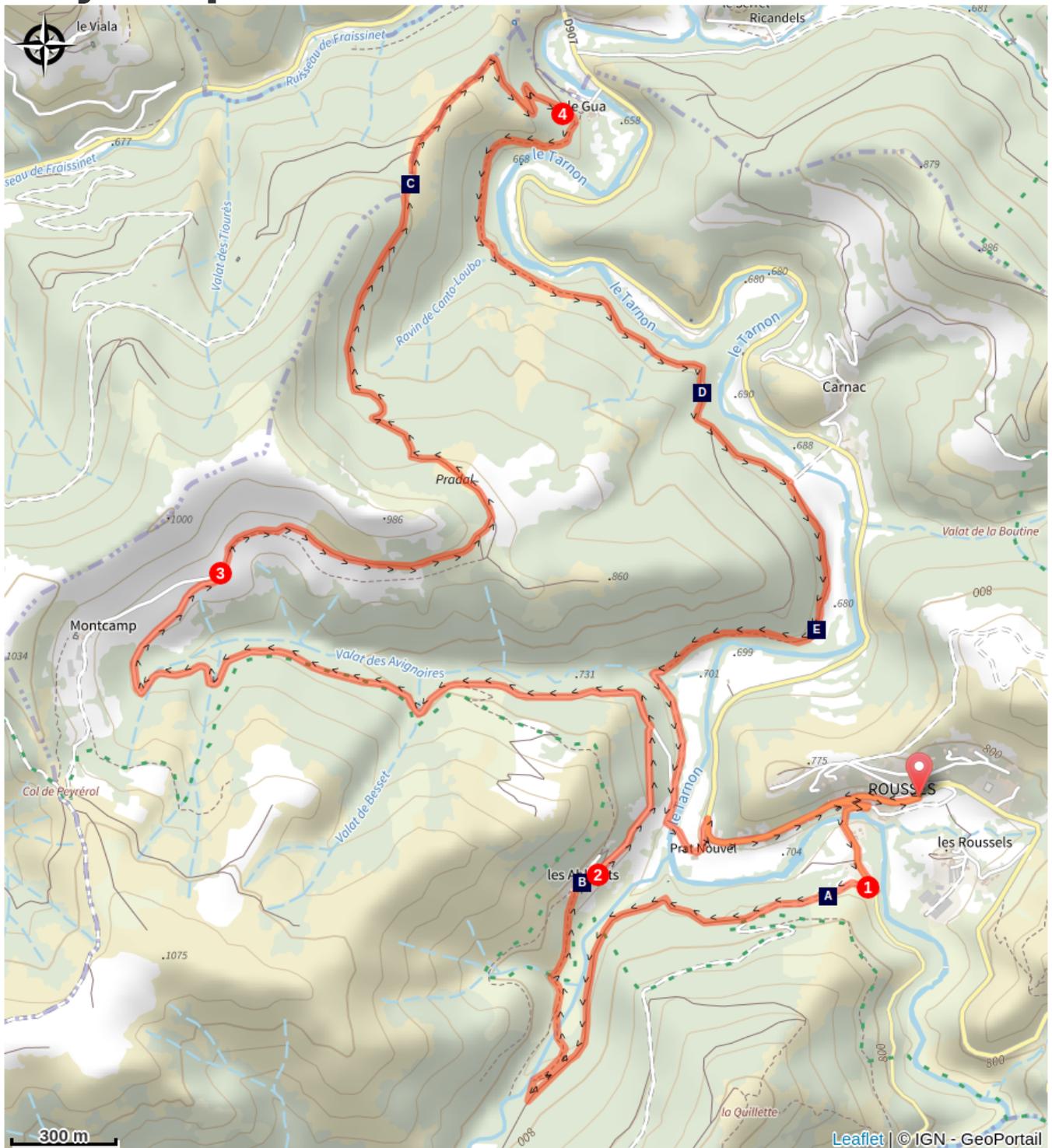


Min elevation 683 m Max elevation 926 m

Take the road towards Massevaques, Mont Aigoual. After camping, then take the 2nd path on the right (concrete at the start it quickly becomes a track).

1. Everything starts with a track, then a singletrack, that take you to Les Ablatats. The exit between the houses is a little steep.
2. You then join the road that climbs to Montcamp and takes you to the route's highest point, at an altitude of 900 metres.
3. At the last hairpin bend before you get to Montcamp, take the track on your right. The descent is first on a path among fields with a view of the Causse Méjean, then enters the forest.
4. At Le Gua, the return to Rousses is on a path that borders the Tarnon.

On your path...



Small walls and terraces (A)
Serre and valat (C)
The Tarnon river (E)

Les Ablatats : village of refuge (B)
The Camisards (D)

All useful information

Advices

Easy but somewhat technical circuit. No off-roading. You are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet. Do not forget your repair kit and a small tool kit. Close barriers and gates behind you. Slow down in farms and hamlets.

How to come ?

Access

From Florac or Meyrueis, take the D 996 to Vébron. At Vébron, take the D 907 to Rousses.

Advised parking

Car park above the country café "La Ruche"

Information desks

Tourism'house and national Parc at Florac

Place de l'ancienne gare, N106, 48400 Florac-trois-rivières

info@cevennes-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 66 45 01 14

<https://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com>



Source



Agence d'Attractivité Touristique Gorges Causses Cévennes

<http://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com>



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



Small walls and terraces (A)

"The path, lined in places by a wall, used to lead from Rousses to Massevaques. Some locals still remember having used it to get back up to Massevaques after a wake in Rouse. At the start of the path, you can see on your left the small walls of two bancelles (crop terraces), where rye was grown. Then you enter the beech forest. This slope is exposed to the north and west winds, which suits beech, but it is only in the more protected vales that you will find a few sweet chestnuts interspersed with conifers. This forest is still exploited by the inhabitants of the district, who cut their firewood here." (P. Grime)

Attribution : N Thomas



Les Ablatats : village of refuge (B)

With their rugged terrain, the Cévennes became a refuge during the Second World War. About 60 Jews were hidden in Vébron and Rousses, a dozen of them in the hamlet of Les Ablats. Whilst they certainly benefited from the locals' silence, they were able to seek refuge here thanks to the mayors of the two villages, the pastors and an assistant to the prefect. Reportedly some of them were even sent directly here by the prefecture.

Attribution : PnC-N Thomas



Serre and valat (C)

These Occitan words designate a jagged humpback ridge and a ditch or trench, respectively. The upland part of this circuit is on a serre.

Attribution : OT Gorges du Tarn Causses & Cévennes nc



The Camisards (D)

The Tarnon valley was a significant area during the Camisard War. It sheltered the 3rd Camisard Army. Many clandestine gatherings were held here in the gloomy forests or in a cave underneath the Can de l'Hospitalet (known as Baume dolente).

Attribution : © Henry SALESSE / MEDDE-MLETR



The Tarnon river (E)

The Tarnon is 38.9 km long and has its spring on the Mont Aigoual massif (Mont Aigoual: 1,565 m) in the municipality of Bassurels. It flows into the Tarn upstream of Florac, having already joined with the Mimente river. It separates the Causse Méjean plateau from the Cévennes.

Upstream of Rousses, the Trépalous flows into the Tarnon. It is this small river that has carved out the Tapoul gorge, famous for canyoning.

The Tarnon may experience violent and sudden floods during Cévenol episodes (major rain storms). Its flow rate may vary from 0.1 m³ per second (in the dry period) to 400 m³/s (November 1982).

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas