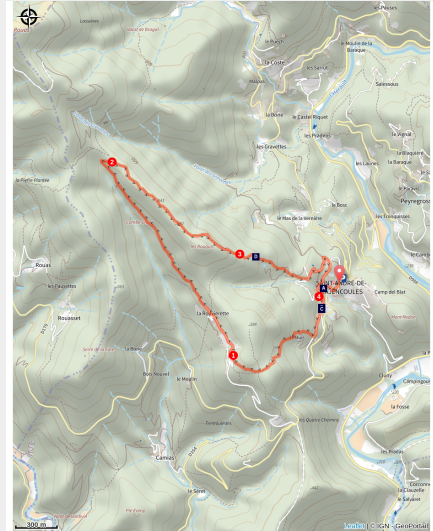


# Les Rouquis

Aigoual



Le hameau de la Rouvièrette (Béatrice Galzin)



Take the time to stroll through the perched village of St-André: its lanes, its church, its château and the magnificent spinning-mill take us back to the prosperous but difficult period of the 18th century.

The path climbs into the chestnut and holm oak grove. Steps carved into the granite bedrock bear witness to its regular use. The hamlet of La Rouvièrette, located on the draille (drovers' road), is a stopover place for transhumant shepherds going up onto summer pastures with their sheep. Up there, the views over the surroundings slopes are panoramic.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 6.1 km

Trek ascent : 335 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna and flora, History and culture

# Trek

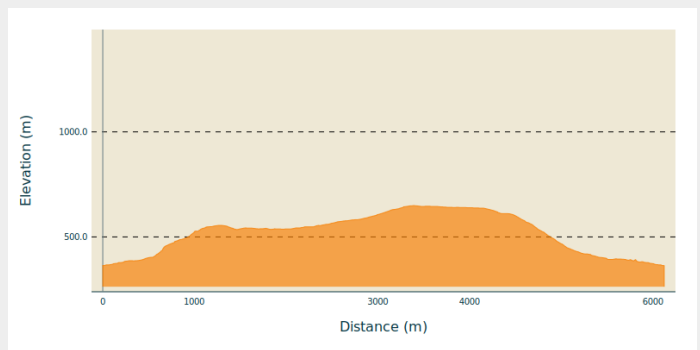
**Departure** : Saint- André-de-Majencoules

**Arrival** : Saint- André-de-Majencoules

**Markings** :  Yellow waymarks

**Cities** : 1. Saint-André-de-Majencoules

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 363 m Max elevation 649 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:

From the car park in "**Saint- André-de-Majencoules**", walk towards "**La Rouvièrette**" via "**Les Buis**".

1. At "**La Rouvièrette**" walk through the hamlet and continue to "**Les Suels**".
2. At "**Les Suels**" leave the path on your right and continue to "**Le Rouquis**".
3. At "**Le Rouquis**" leave the GR® long-distance path and head to "**Saint- André-de-Majencoules**".
4. The fork left to return to the village.

## On your path...



St-André de Majencoules (A)  
The spinning-mill (C)

Water and the spinning-mill (B)  
Bracken (D)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Somewhat steep descent. Before committing yourself to this walk, 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.

<http://lio.laregion.fr>

(during school time)

### Access

At Pont de l'Hérault, take the D986 towards Valleraugue, then the D420 to the village of Saint-André-de-Majencoules

### Advised parking

As you enter the village

## **Information desks**

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

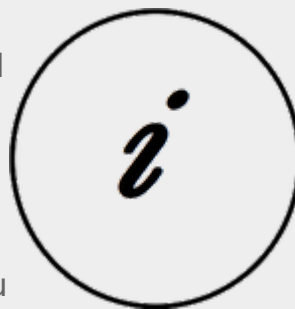
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maison delaigoual@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)



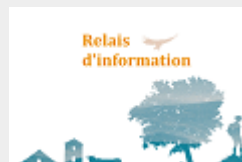
### **Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Valleraugue**

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.caussesaignoualcevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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



# On your path...

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## St-André de Majencoules (A)

With agricultural decline, the village's population has dropped sharply: 561 inhabitants in 2000 compared to 1,506 in 1913. In those days, the village had about 40 artisans and shopkeepers, including two blacksmiths, six shoemakers, four tailors, three hairdressers and eight grocers.

You will notice that the village is built on a rocky spur above the river, a strategic position which makes it possible to survey the valley but also to use water for crops. Near the village are terraces planted with mild onions.

Attribution : Michel Monnot

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## Water and the spinning-mill (B)

How strange to have a spinning-mill at the top of the village!

Usually, this kind of building is erected alongside a waterway. But here, a powerful spring is tapped using a béal (irrigation channel), which takes the water to the mill. The precious water is stored in gourgues (basins or pools) above the building, making it possible to regulate the quantity of water used to drive the spinning-mill.

Attribution : Michel Monnot

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## The spinning-mill (C)

The spinning-mill was built out of shaped blocks of granite in 1825, under the supervision of the architect Victor Chapot of Le Vigan and its owner M. Durand.

On the ground floor were the (GENSOUL type) furnace, the ovens [for asphyxiating the silkworms using hot air], the vast wood stores and the stables and yards for the horses.

On the first floor was the spinners' workshop with its 54 circular terra cotta bassins (still visible) and rows of swifts (reels) that have since disappeared.

The top floor was home to the nursery, the storage area for the silk cocoons.

The silkworm disease pébrine (1856), the opening of the Suez Canal (1869), artificial silk (1884) and the owner's death put an end to this beautiful adventure.

Attribution : Beatrice Galzin



## Bracken (D)

Since the abandonment of the chestnut orchard, the bracken, which was once cut and used as litter and fodder for animals, has spread. Some locals still remember that bracken fronds were given to pigs to eat with water and flour.

Attribution : PNC