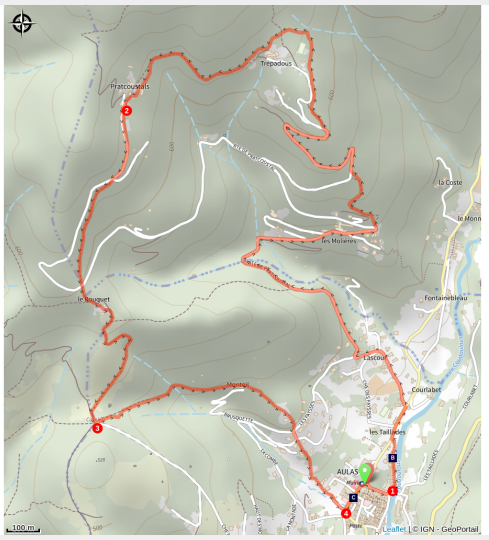
Around Aulas

Aigoual



Chemin de Pratcoustal (Nathalie Thomas)



Hike up to the hamlet of Pratcoustal and then descend on the St-Guilhem Path.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h

Length : 6.3 km

Trek ascent : 373 m

Difficulty : Medium

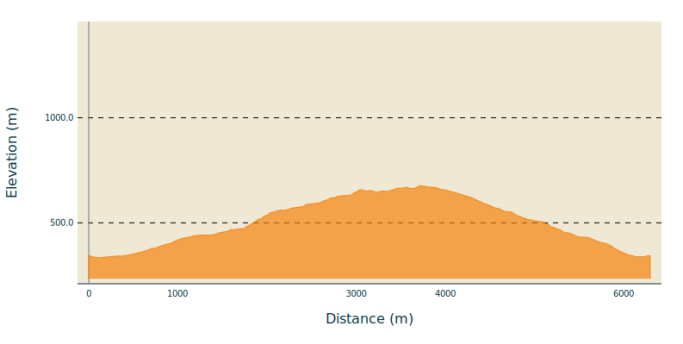
Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, History and culture

Trek

Departure : Aulas
Arrival : Aulas
Markings : Yellow waymarks
Cities : 1. Aulas
2. Arphy
3. Bréau-Mars

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 334 m Max elevation 677 m

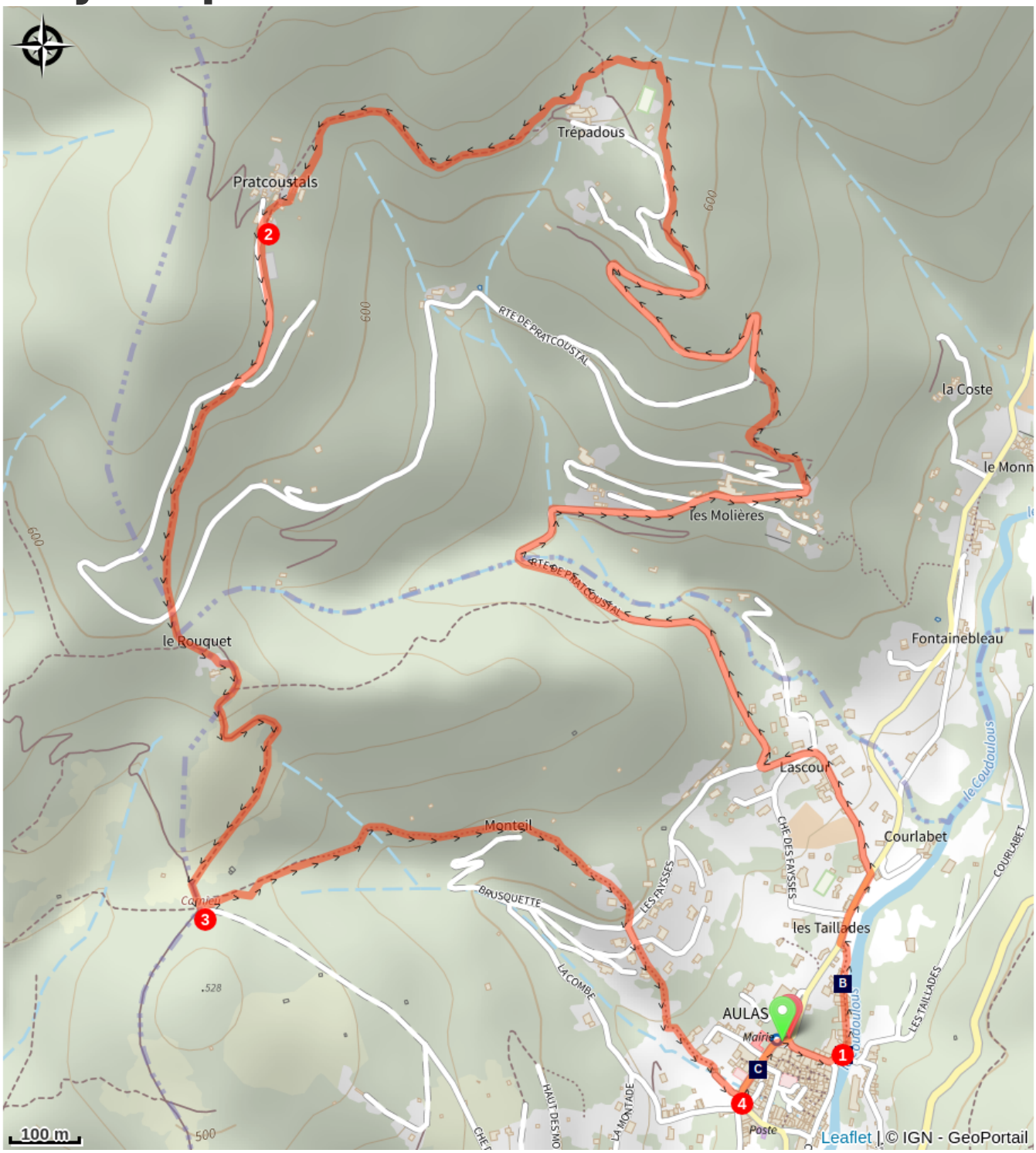
Signposts will guide you all along this route. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in **bold italics** between quotation marks:

Starting at the Mairie (town hall) of Aulas, go downhill to the river, passing in front of the restaurant to get to Le Pont.

1. At "**Quartier du Pont**", take "**Pratcoustal 3,6 km**"; go uphill on the road, then on a path.
2. At "**Pratcoustal**" walk to "**Aulas**" via:
3. "**Camieu**" and
4. "**Aulas-Temple**", on the GR®7 long-distance path.

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...



River management (A)
The village of Aulas (C)

Coudoulous river (B)

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 all gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Access

From Le Vigan take the D 999 towards Cavaillac, then the D1 90 to Aulas.

Advised parking

In the village near the Mairie (town hall)

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisondelaigoual@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 Cévennes and Navacelles, Le Vigan
Maison de pays, place du Marché, BP 21, 30120 Le Vigan

contact@sudcevennes.com
Tel : 04 67 81 01 72
https://sudcevennes.com/

Source

CC du Pays Viganais

http://www.cc-paysviganais.fr/

Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...

River management (A)

Lords were responsible for managing non-navigable rivers. Since building a mill was expensive, funding was provided by lords or religious orders. Mills were a substantial source of income. Sometimes, a lord sold his rights. In 1275, “the baron of Hierle, Guillaume d'Anduze, who had a pressing need for money, granted the inhabitants [of Aulas] significant tax exemptions in exchange for 6 000 livres tournois”.



Coudoulous river (B)

From the road, you overlook Coudoulous river. On its banks were the mills and spinning-mills of Aulas. In around 1870, a carding factory was established near the bridge. During a visit of the workshops by the owner, his wife’s hoop skirt caught in the gears of a waterwheel. It was impossible to bring the machine to an immediate stop and the poor woman died the following day, her bones crushed.
In the feudal era, the village was well-known for its mills. The numerous fulling mills were used to make sheets. Other mills dotted the banks too: flour mills and oil mills (olive and walnut). According to Adrienne Durand Tullou, in 1550 there were 17 mills (nine flour, six fulling and two oil mills) in Aulas.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The village of Aulas (C)

In the old days, the Place de l’Airette was where the wheat was thrashed. The village’s two fountains – on the Place de l'Airette and on the church square – were created on the initiative of the village council in 1887. They were almost removed when the houses were connected to mains water but were preserved by the support of certain councillors. Aulas was called Aulacio in 1001, from the Latin man’s name Aulas. In the 14th century, the village was fortified due to the many groups of brigands in the area. The ramparts were bordered by ditches and had gates. One of them, La Poterne, can still be seen. The village has remained picturesque thanks to its narrow lanes, its covered passage and its old buildings.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas