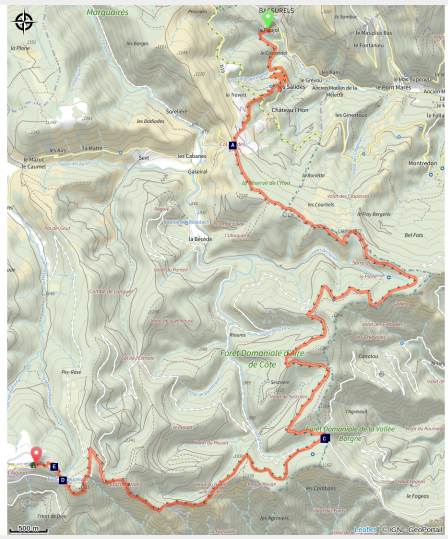
Variante GR®7, Le Poujol au sommet de l'Aigoual - Jour 2

Aigoual - Bassurels

Vue sur la vallée Borgne (N. Thomas)



Le gîte d'Aire de Côte étant fermé pour la saison 2022 jusqu'à mai 2023,
nous vous proposons comme alternative: Le Poujols – Col du Salidès - Aire de Côte – Le sommet de l'Aigoual. Depuis Le Poujol vous rejoignez un sentier balisé en jaune qui monte au Col Salidès, puis du Col vous reprenez le balisage du GR®7 jusqu'au sommet de l'Aigoual.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 8 h

Length : 19.5 km

Trek ascent : 1208 m

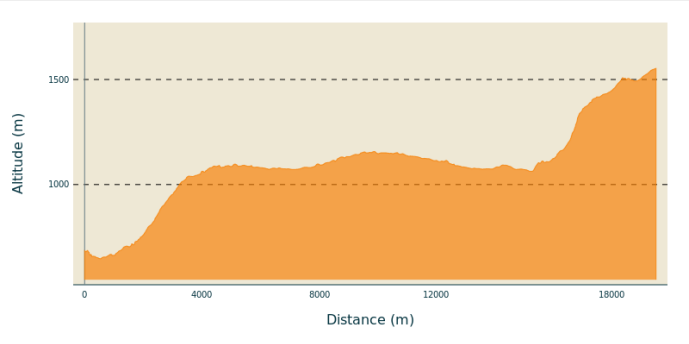
Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Roaming

Trek

Departure : Le Poujol (Bassurels)
Arrival : Sommet de l'Aigoual
Markings : GR (long-distance hiking path) Yellow waymarks
Cities : 1. Bassurels
2. Saint-André-de-Valborgne
3. Val-d'Aigoual

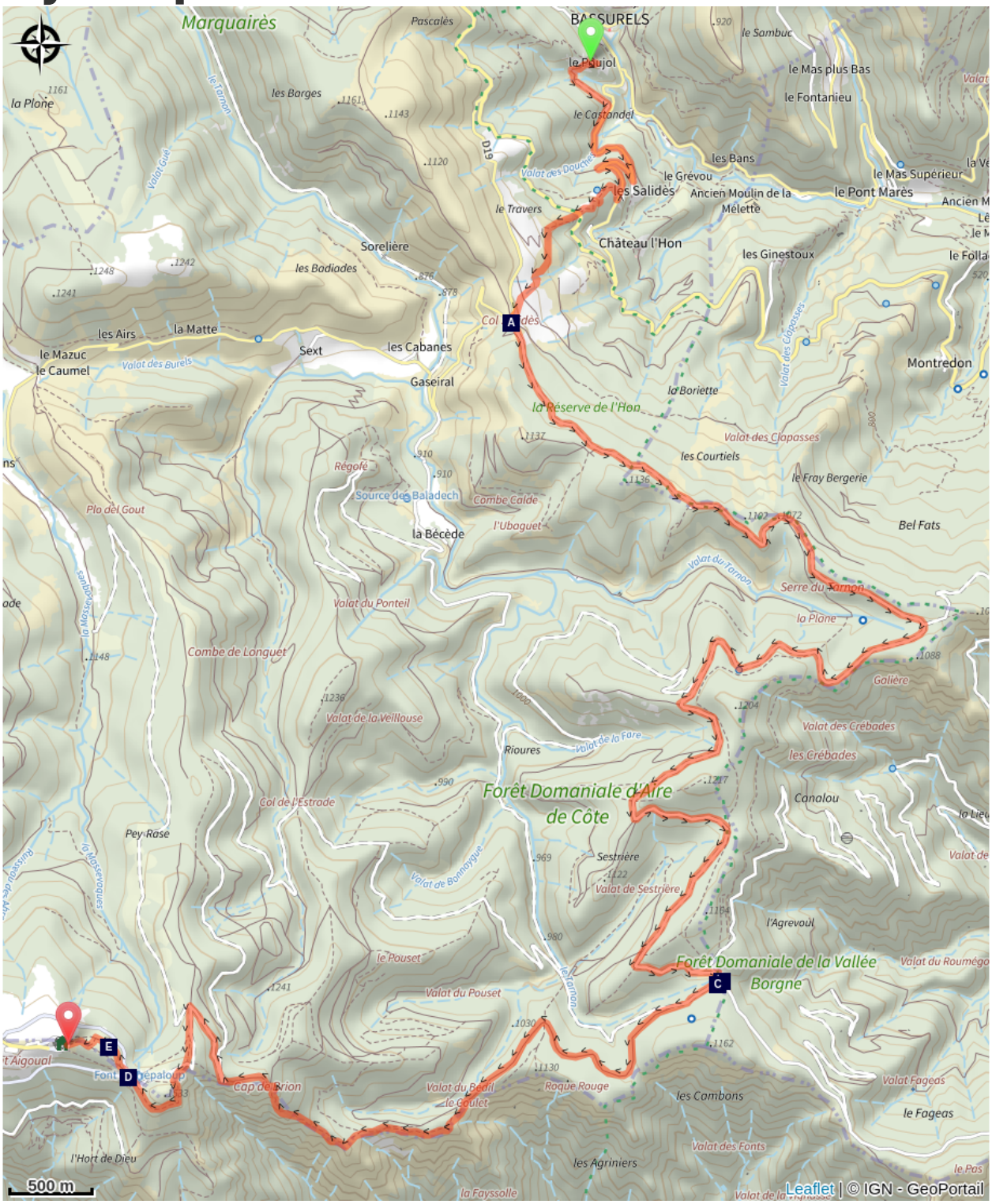
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 647 m Max elevation 1553 m

Depuis Le Poujol, descendez sous le château et continuez sur la route pour rejoindre Les Salidès. Ne rentrez pas dans le village mais continuez sur la route, en suivant le balisage de peinture jaune du PR de Pont Mares, qui monte au Col de Salidès.
Au Col de Salidès, vous tournez à gauche en direction d'Aire de Côte par le GR®7, puis le Sommet de l'Aigoual par le GR®7.

On your path...



Col Salidès (A)
Aire de Côte (B)
A Resistance refuge (C)
The evolution of plant life (D)
Short-grass prairies and heath on the summit of Mont Aigoual (E)

All useful information

Advices

Attention, bien prendre la trace GPX ou une carte au 1/25000e car la partie Le Poujol jusqu'au col du Salidès, n'est pas balisée en GR®. Adaptez votre équipement à la randonnée de plusieurs jours mais aussi aux conditions météorologiques du jour. N'oubliez pas que le temps change vite en montagne. Pensez à emporter de l'eau en quantité suffisante, de bonnes chaussures et un chapeau. Refermez soigneusement clôtures et portillons.

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

Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Saint-André-de-Valborgne
les quais, 30940 Saint-André-de-Valborgne

standredevalborgne@sudcevennes.com
Tel : 04 66 60 32 11
https://www.sudcevennes.com

Source

Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...

Col Salidès (A)

The bare ridge that rises opposite is the watershed between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Rain that falls on the Sexte valley flows into the Tarnon below (on the left) and ends up in the ocean. On your right, the Mediterranean side offers extraordinary views onto the foothills of the can de l'Hospitalet plateau and the entirety of the Cévenol mountains. On some days, the Alps and Mont Ventoux can be seen in the distance …

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin

Aire de Côte (B)

Aire-de-Côte farm was purchased by the French State in 1862, during the period of reforestation. Before the farm became a stopover gîte, it was for a long time the residence of the local forester and his family. In the first half of the 20th century, Aire-de-Côte was very different. To the north, behind the house, was the draille (drovers' road), lined by upright stones and 40 to 50 metres wide. Thousands of transhumant animals passed every year on their way to or from summer pastures. The transhumant animals stopped there at lunchtime, then continued on towards Mont Aigoual.

Attribution : Stephan.Corporan

A Resistance refuge (C)

In early 1943, the first Resistance group of the Cévennes was formed. The refuge of the Aire-de-côte group was one of the wooden shacks used for forestry works, whose roof was camouflaged using branches. On 10 July 1943, a message warned the post office in Rousses that a German attack was imminent. The Resistance was informed – but a storm delayed the group's departure. The Germans arrived… The forester was arrested as an accomplice, accused of being in radio contact with London. Indeed, the Aire-de-côte Resistance listened to a crystal radio set built by the two Jews who were hiding there.

Attribution : Guy.Grégoire

The evolution of plant life (D)

At the pass stands a schist menhir (standing stone). To the north, in Trépaloup ravine, hewn flint implements bear witness to a human presence in the region since prehistoric times. Palynological analyses (studies of pollen fossilised in peatbogs) have allowed scientists to piece together the plant life on Mont Aigoual from 8,000 to 5,000 BC. Pine predominated, accompanied by birch and hazelnut. Then pine populations gradually diminished. The damp climate warmed up, favouring the spread of oak and hazelnut. Finally, the increased damp and cloud cover at altitude allowed fir and beech to develop. From the end of the first century BC, the substantial percentage of grasses shows that forest had receded in favour of pasture and prairies. This was the start of the great deforestation.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

Short-grass prairies and heath on the summit of Mont Aigoual (E)

Here, only species with a short reproductive cycle can settle due to the frequently glacial climate. The heath has been invaded by heather and mountain pine. This zone is barely wooded due to the violent winds and is comparable to subalpine vegetation, consisting of short-grass prairies and heather and blueberry moor. It is sometimes called pseudo-alpine.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas