

Prat-Peyrot via Dourbies - Road bike circuit #5

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Montée à la Serreyrède (N Thomas)



Look out over the Dourbies, Trévezel and Bonheur valleys. Breathtaking views.

At an average altitude of 1,000 m, you will feel as though you are flying over the exceptional landscape. Peaceful downhill section to the village of Dourbies. As you cross Le Suquet mountain with its green forest, you can observe the limestone cliffs of Le Trévezel. On the regular climb to the Col de La Serreyrède pass, admire the luxurious beech forest that surrounds you. Return to Prat Peyrot.

Useful information

Practice : Road bike

Duration : 3 h

Length : 47.9 km

Trek ascent : 1168 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Trek

Departure : Prat Peyrot

Arrival : Prat Peyrot

Cities : 1. Meyrueis

2. Val-d'Aigoual

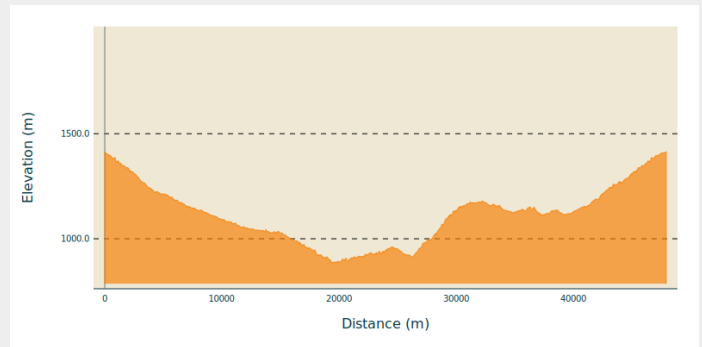
3. Dourbies

4. Trèves

5. Lanuéjols

6. Saint-Sauveur-Camprieu

Altimetric profile

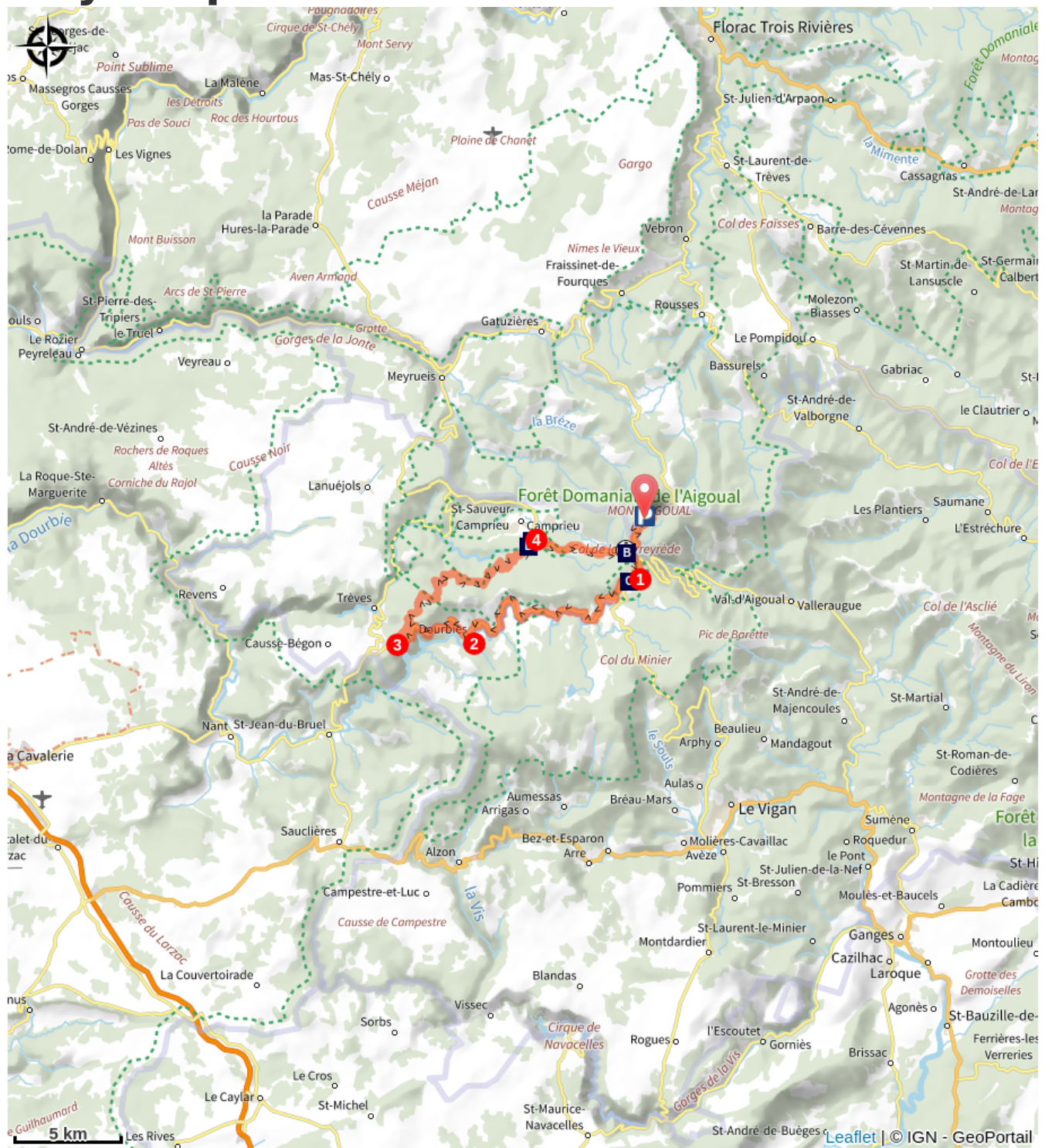


Min elevation 886 m Max elevation 1413 m

From the Prat Peyrot activity centre, go downhill to the Col de La Serreyrède pass on the D269. Turn right to L'Espérou on the D986.

1. At the roundabout, go to Dourbies on the D151.
2. After the village of Dourbies, continue on the D151 towards Trèves/Nant, until you reach the Col de Rhode pass.
3. Turn right onto the D170, towards Camprieu.
4. At Tabarde, go right on the D986, return to the Col de La Serreyrède pass, then take the D269 to the Prat-Peyrot activity centre.

On your path...




Climate frontier (A)

The village of L'Espérou (C)

 The Mont Aigoual forest (E)

The watershed (B)

 The hidden life of the forest (D)

All useful information



Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.



Advices

Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability. Respect traffic laws and other road users; stay in control of your speed and trajectory. Make sure to be seen and travel in single file when in a group. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water. Safe trip !

How to come ?

Access

From Valleraugue, take the D986 to L'Espérou and to the Col de La Serreyrède pass. At the pass, head to Prat Peyrot on the D269.

Advised parking

Prat Peyrot



Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

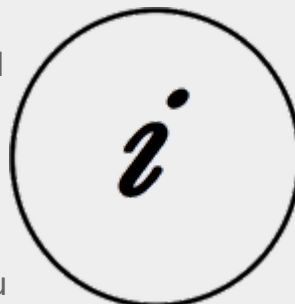
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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)



Source

On your path...



Climate frontier (A)

The pass is also a climate frontier. The Atlantic side is predominantly exposed to the west wind and receives rainfall that is fairly regularly spread over the year. The Mediterranean side, however, is drier and hotter and constitutes a massive barrier to the occasional southeast wind (the marin), thus forcing its humid air to rise suddenly. This makes the clouds' water content condense, which can give rise to so-called Cevenol episodes: heavy rainfall (600 mm in 24 hrs) causing catastrophic floods. The Aigoual, Mount Aigualis the rainy (A. Bernard), is well-named! After Savoie, it is the rainiest place in France.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The watershed (B)

The current relief creates a frontier between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean: depending on the slope, water runs towards either the Ocean or the Sea. This is due to the uplift of the Cevenol sill, brought about by geological activity along the Cévennes fault, which borders draw the northern limit of the Languedoc region. This natural sill marks the geographical border between the northwest slope – verdant, not too steep – and the southeast slope, which falls away abruptly in the Languedoc and continues to be subject to powerful erosion.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The village of L'Espérou (C)

The village of L'Espérou lies on the border of Dourbies and Valleraugue local councils. A draille (track for livestock to migrate to summer pastures with their shepherds) crosses the village. As in many villages in the Gard, the two places of worship – one Catholic, the other Protestant – are opposite each other. The village is located in a varied environment that is suitable for outdoor activities and sports.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



The hidden life of the forest (D)

Trees grow upwards towards the light while mosses benefit from their shade on the ground and spread out. Like soft cushions or carpets, they hug everything that sticks out of the ground, such as old tree stumps. This soft felted surface is pleasing to see, and an undergrowth without mosses would not be worthy of the name. Legend has it that mosses show which way is north.

Wrong!

Mosses indicate a degree of moisture; they protect the soil from drying out by retaining every last drop of dew. They prepare pockets of humus for the future occupants: grasses and herbaceous plants. They also love the damp of tree trunks and can grow there, on the side that is most exposed to the prevailing rains.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



The Mont Aigoual forest (E)

“Aigoual, Forêt d'Exception”

The French Forestry Office, which manages state forests, launched a programme in 2013 called “Aigoual, Forêt d'Exception” (Aigoual: An Exceptional Forest) with the aim of highlighting the massif's natural and cultural heritage. The Forestry Office thus tries to foreground the different aspects of its multi-faceted management: production, protection and receiving visitors. One key aspect of this approach, which complements other initiatives by local actors, is to improve visitors' experience in the forest.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin