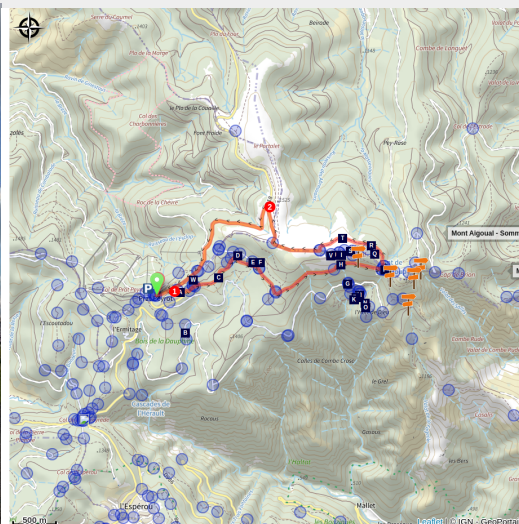


# Ascension du mont Aigoual par la voie de découverte

CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes - Terres solidaires



Vue au-dessus de Prat-Peyrot (Béatrice Galzin)



**Ideal for beginners and families. Enjoy rest stops as you explore; take the land art trail “Les balcons de l’Aigoual”.**

From Prat Peyrot, you take a magnificent, gently sloping country lane.

All along the circuit, enjoy the views. Rest for a moment at the summit, near the weather station. The panorama is exceptional. Then return to Prat Peyrot without any hurry.

## Useful information

Practice : Cycling

Duration : 45 min

Length : 7.6 km

Trek ascent : 167 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Boucle

# Trek

**Departure** : Prat-Peyrot

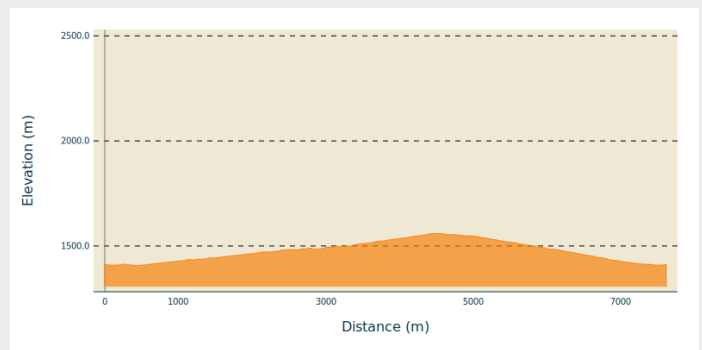
**Arrival** : Prat-Peyrot

**Cities** : 1. Val-d'Aigoual

2. Meyrueis

3. Bassurels

## Altimetric profile

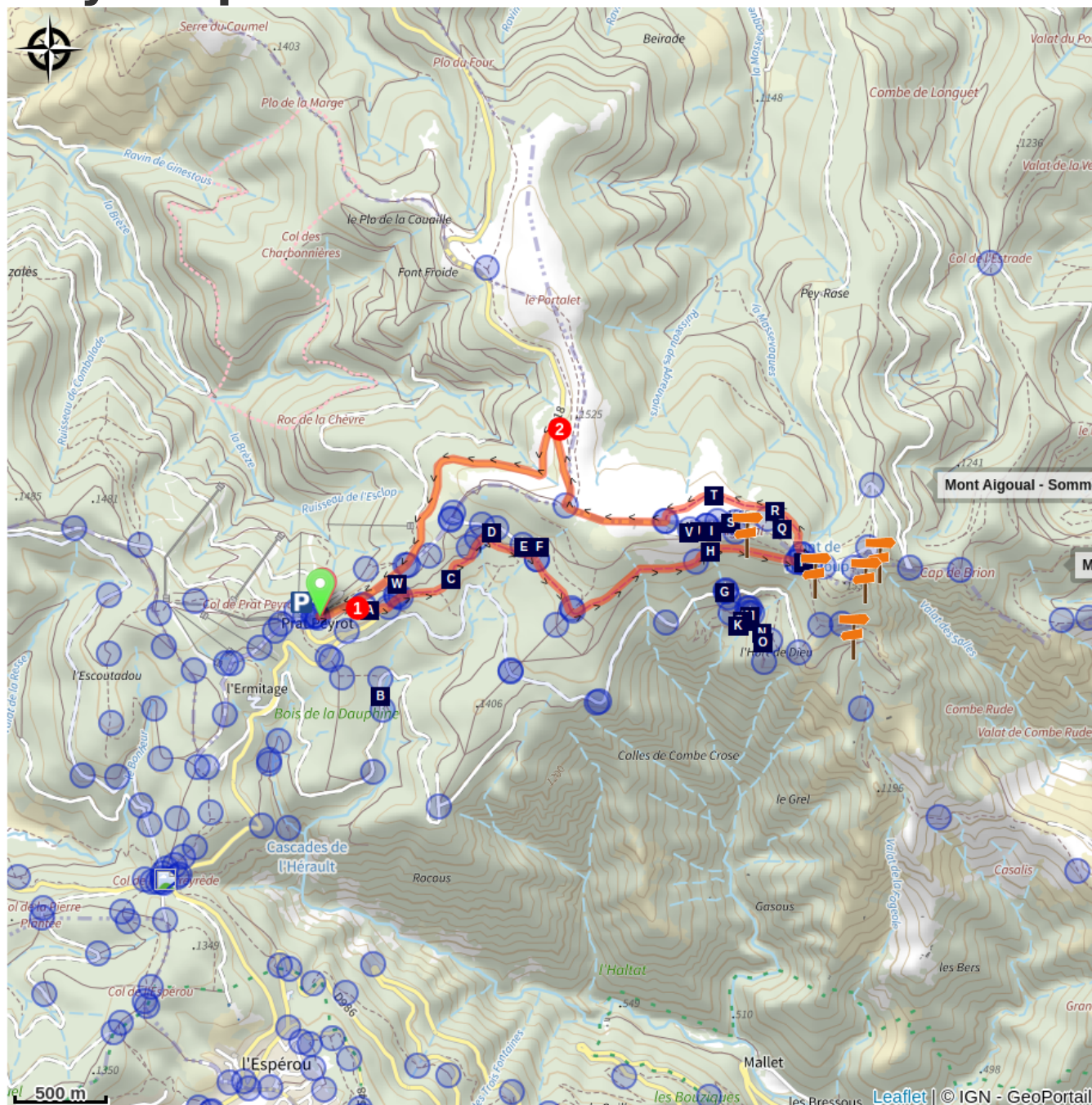


Min elevation 1405 m    Max elevation 1550 m

From **Prat-Peyrot** :

1. Go downhill on the D269 and turn left onto the track closed to motorised vehicles to reach the summit of **Mont Aigoual**.
2. Turn left onto the D118 then the D18 to return to **Prat-Peyrot**.

# On your path...



- On the Verge (Yoann Crépin) (A)
- Catchment Area (Xavier Rèche) (C)
-  The Nests (Céline Pialot) (E)
- A site for botanical experiments (G)
- Mont Aigoual weather station (I)
- Botanists' history (K)
- The Chalet, Charles Flahault's laboratory (M)

- River capture (B)
- Leaf-Tree (Alain Bernegger) (D)
-  Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (F)
- Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (H)
- An invasive species: knotweed (*fallopia japonica*) (J)
-  Acclimatising a plant species (L)
-  Alpine garden (N)

# 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

### Only attempt this circuit in good weather.

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 to L'Espérou and the Col de La Serreyrède pass on the D986; then to Prat Peyrot on the D269.

From Meyrueis, to St-Sauveur-Camprieu and the Col de La Serreyrède pass on the D986; from the pass, to Prat Peyrot on the D269.

### Advised parking

Prat-Peyrot outdoor activity centre

## **Information desks**

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

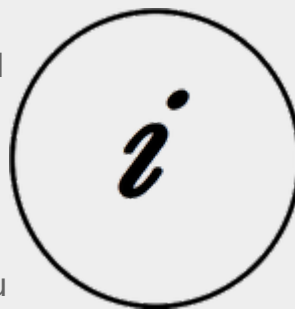
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisondeilaigoual@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**



CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

<http://www.caussesaignoualcevennes.fr/>



Pôle Nature Aigoual

# On your path...

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## On the Verge (Yoann Crépin) (A)

A doorway to a circuit of art within the natural environment. To fuse and interact with the environment and play with the seasons, time, light and weightlessness. To let humanity express itself through nature and nature express itself through humanity – a necessary interaction, a symbiotic interaction that inspires us to discover another world.

Attribution : © Filature du Mazel

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## River capture (B)

Violent precipitation and the steep gradient of Mediterranean torrents cause regressive (i.e. upstream) erosion of the valleys through which they flow. This erosion can invert the sense of flow and thus “capture” for the Mediterranean a waterway that had, until then, flowed into the Atlantic. One example is the Hérault with its waterfalls, the capture being located at the falls. The Hérault and the Dauphine brook used to flow via L'Espérrou into the Dourbie... River pebbles found around the village by geologists attest to the existence of a waterway in the past.

Attribution : Arnaud.Bouissou

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## Catchment Area (Xavier Rèche) (C)

By its location and name, this installation evokes the nearby watershed between the Atlantic and Mediterranean. A vessel reduced to a suspended wooden framework, without strakes or gunwale, tilts in the direction of the runoff. It emphasises the first branches of a gigantic drainage system.

Attribution : © Filature du Mazel

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## Leaf-Tree (Alain Bernegger) (D)

Leaf-Trees use a veined structure to create a visual resonance between the tree and the leaf. The change of scale works like an inverted echo of this fractal structure. And as winter comes, the eternal summer of the Leaf-Trees confronts the winter of the bare branches.

Attribution : © Filature du Mazel



## The Nests (Céline Pialot) (E)

Little by little, the bird makes its nest, its cosy nest, baby cocoon, wasps' nest...  
Like a bird, the artist has gathered materials offered by nature and has arranged them to build three nests, three refuges, three circles that reference perfection and invite meditation.

Attribution : © E. Fréget



## Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (F)

The Pôle Nature 4 Saisons of the Aigoual massif offers outdoor activities in all seasons in the central zone of the Cévennes National Park, overlooked by the legendary summit of Mont Aigoual (1,570 m). Discover our network of trails on foot, on horseback, by bike, or else by mountain-bike or with a donkey, as the fancy takes you!

Children can explore the orienteering circuit or geocaching. For the sportier among you we have laid out trail running circuits!

Prefer road biking? We have created circuits of varying difficulty levels so you can discover our villages and valleys.

Try not to make any noise! Wildlife enthusiasts can spot mouflons and other animals.

And if you would just like a gentle walk on the massif, the discovery trail "The cliffs of Mont Aigoual" is for you. There are various rest stops over its 4.5 km, with only 150 m in height difference.

We look forward to seeing you on our paths.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



## A site for botanical experiments (G)

### Marker 1

L'Hort de Dieu is located at an altitude of 1,300 m and shaped by an extreme climate. This site with its exceptional assets is a favoured study and experimentation zone for botanists. The tree collection is just over 100 years old, and some of the specimens are declining because of old age or else because they are not well-adapted to this mountain range. Today, there are 75 species left of the 140 that have been tested over the past century. To safeguard the interest of this heritage site, the Office National des Forêts and the Cévennes National Park are currently reflecting on renewing the collection.

Attribution : © Gaël Karczewski



## Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (H)

Far from town, paths open the door to new rhythms. Another vision of life and time lets us breathe in the ever-present contemplation, stones, trees and skies. A physical experience of coming face-to-face with nature. A bench made of wood and branches, whose back becomes thinner as it rises towards the sky, as if to turn back into a tree.

Attribution : © Filature du Mazel

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## Mont Aigoual weather station (I)

Inaugurated in 1894, this infrastructure is France's last mountain weather station to be inhabited. Its history is closely linked to the reforestation of Mont Aigoual. It has become a high-performance weather station with an array of modern test instruments, measuring devices for extreme conditions, and a museum/exhibition on meteorology. The 800 sq m exhibition will tell you more about climatology on Mont Aigoual and about meteorology in general.

Attribution : © Météosite du Mont Aigoual

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## An invasive species: knotweed (fallopia japonica) (J)

### Marker 8

Sakhalin knotweed, just like Japanese knotweed, is an invasive species. That means it is not in its environment of origin and grows at the expense of other species, alongside roads and on the banks of many rivers. A "test zone" project aiming to limit the species is being studied at L'Hort de Dieu, thus continuing the experimental mission of the arboretum. To stop knotweed from proliferating, ripping-up, rhizome destruction and covering- up with tarpaulins are all being tried.

Attribution : © Valère Marsaudon

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## Botanists' history (K)

### Marker 9

The particular nature of this site earned it the name of “God's garden” (Hortus Dei). Since the 16th century, Mont Aigoual has provided botanists with rare species for herbariums and botanical surveys. Some species were also gathered for their medicinal qualities, called “vertus des simples”, a term to be found on a handwritten map of the Cévennes dating from the early 18th century. In 1936, a stele was inaugurated that is dedicated to the memory of the many botanists who contributed to the advancement of the sciences on the L'Hort de Dieu site.

Attribution : © B. Algoët

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## Acclimatising a plant species (L)

### Marker 7

Fabre and Flahault pursued two objectives: studying the way certain forest species adapt to the Cevenol climate and studying plants in their relationship with environmental conditions. Some plant species are better adapted than others to the Cevenol climate. Thus, Mediterranean and Douglas firs do very well, as do almost all the species native to Europe, Asia Minor and the western United States. Species from East Asia and the eastern United States, however, whither away. Through his work, Flahault laid the foundations of phytosociology, the study of how plants arrange themselves into communities as a function of the environmental conditions.

Attribution : © B. Algoët



## The Chalet, Charles Flahault's laboratory (M)

### Marker 6

“And who knows whether some generous benefactor will not decide one day that our students should have a hospitable roof at L'Hort de Dieu itself? I can see the little house as if it were already built, receiving much sunlight on the Mediterranean side, with its study room on the ground floor and its large fireplace around which scientific problems are discussed late into the night..” (Charles Flahault, 1904)

The Chalet, which was built the following year, made it possible to establish a botanical garden, a high-altitude vegetable plot and a plant nursery nearby. Despite the forest reconquering the surroundings, some of the plants introduced at the time have survived until today: Pyrenean lily, great masterwort, and others.

Attribution : © B. Algoët

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## Alpine garden (N)

### Marker 5

This panel shows the legacy of Charles Flahault's experimental work.

Attribution : © J.-P. Grandmont