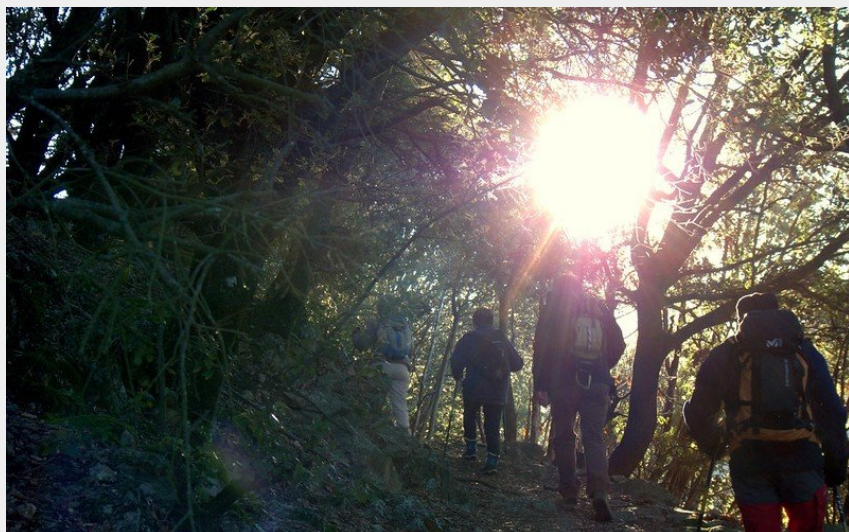
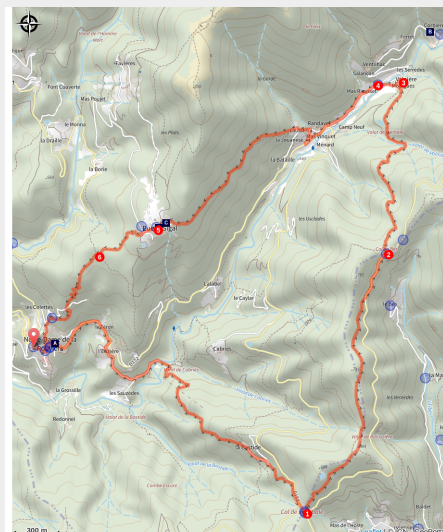


Col de Bès

Gard



Montée entre l'Euzière et la Bastide (Michel Monnot)



This small loop explore a typically Cévenol landscape, with its villages and hamlets scattered in the valleys and over the mountain sides, and offers magnificent views from Mont Aigoual all the way to the sea.

Gardens, crops – especially mild onions – orchards and flocks of sheep bear witness to the still active rural life in all seasons.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 11.5 km

Trek ascent : 653 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Histoire et culture,
Agriculture et élevage

Trek

Departure : Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière

Arrival : Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière

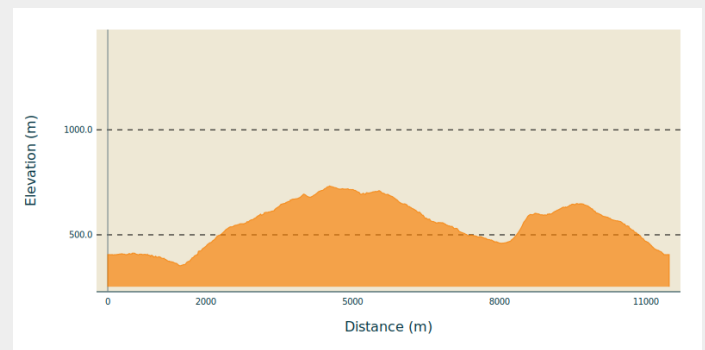
Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière

2. Val-d'Aigoual

3. Saint-Martial

Altimetric profile



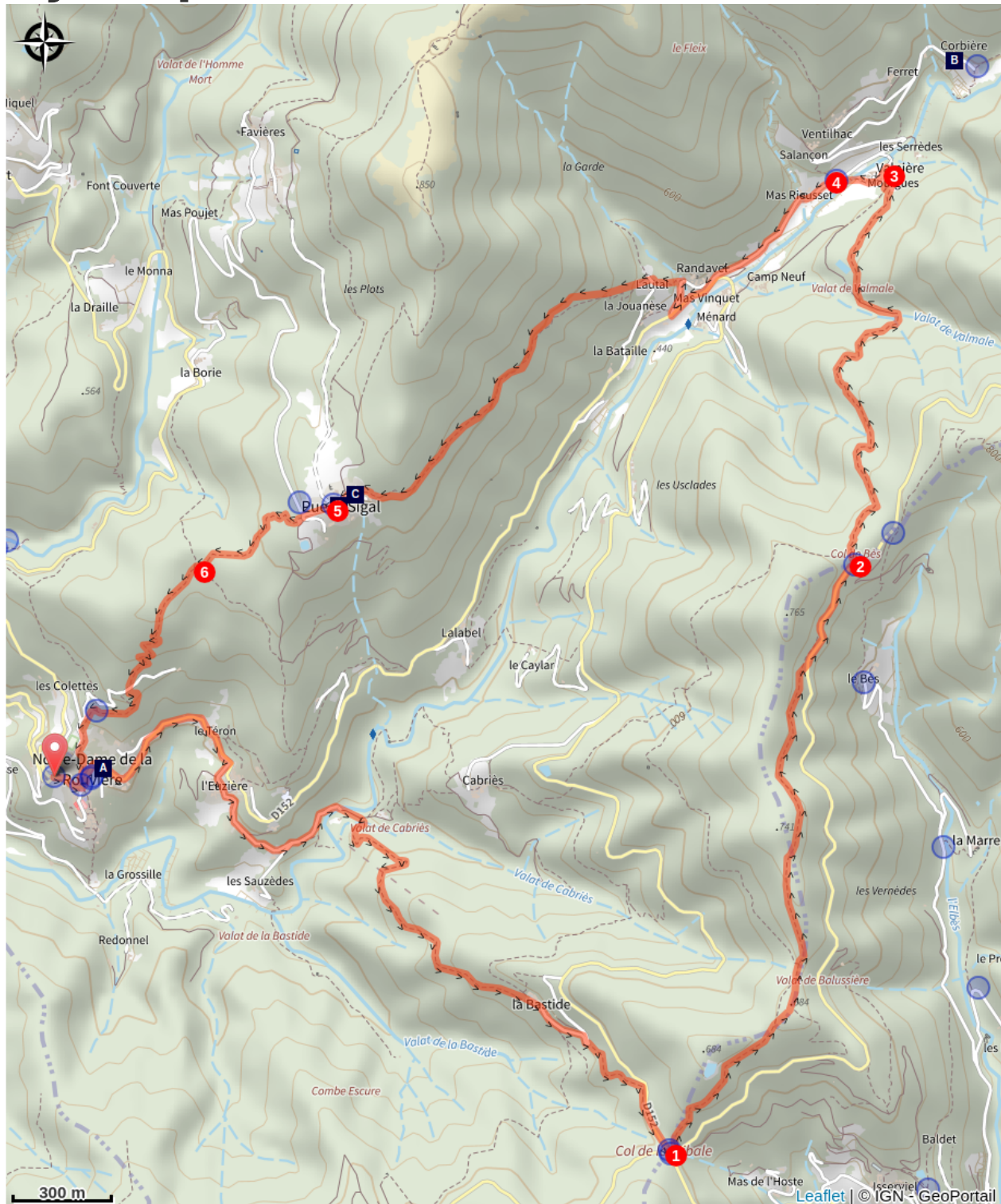
Min elevation 356 m Max elevation 730 m

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

From the the car park "Notre Dame de La Rouvière", , walk towards

1. "**Col de la Tribale**" along the D152, at the start. At the Col, take the path on the left to "**col de Bès**".
2. At "**col de Bès**", in the gap across the ridge, go to "**Mas de Mourgues**".
3. At "**Mas de Mourgues**", head to "**Valnières**".
4. At "**Valnières**", continue along the GR®6b trail toward "Puech Sigal".
5. At "**Puech Sigal**", continue toward "**Orlut**".
6. At "**Orlut**" head down toward "**Notre Dame de La Rouvière**". Return to the parking area.

On your path...



Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière (A)
Belvédère of Le Puech Sigal (C)



The downy or pubescent oak (B)
Puech Sigal (D)

All useful information

Advices

Before committing yourself to a circuit, 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. For more information, go to the lio Occitanie app or visit : <https://www.mestrajets.lio.laregion.fr>

(in term time)

Access

At the bridge over the Hérault river, take the D986 towards Valleraugue, then the D323 to Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière.

Advised parking

As you enter the village

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

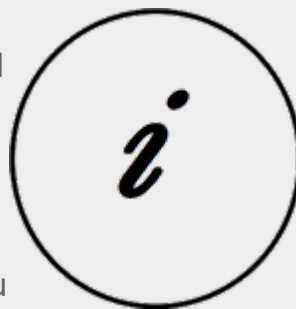
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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)



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.causses-aigoual-cevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière (A)

Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière (from rovière, an area planted with English oaks) is one of the few villages in the Protestant Cévennes that remained entirely Catholic during the Camisard War, despite acts of intimidation. In the early 17th century, a Huguenot leader, the Duke of Rohan, wanted to force Catholic communities to convert to Protestantism. He rounded up the notables of Saint-Martial, Saint-André-de-Majencoules and Notre-Dame-de-la-Rouvière to make them renounce their faith. Terrified, they accepted the Duke's proposal but only on condition of a pact of "recobre" (redemption). The duke, unaware of the meaning of the word, signed the treaty.

After the Peace of Nîmes, the three communities thus returned to the bosom of the Catholic Church in accordance with the condition that they had imposed. (Ici en Cévennes, joint publication with the state school in Notre Dame de la Rouvière, 1994)

Attribution : Michel Monnot



The downy or pubescent oak (B)

Before the pass, you can see a downy oak wood below the path, with some good-sized specimens. This tree is native to low and intermediate altitudes; from the 9th century onwards, sweet chestnuts were planted in its stead. And yet it provides high-quality wood, resists fire and drought due to its deep roots, and shelters a large number of insect and herbaceous plant species (700 different plant and animal species, including 490 of beetles that live in wood).

Attribution : Yves Maccagno



Belvédère of Le Puech Sigal (C)

From the Puech Sigal belvedere, you have amazing views over the upper Hérault valley. The fact that the name Sigal is close to séguéla, Occitan for rye, suggests that rye was grown here. There are believed to have been Benedictine monks in the area. The cobblestoned path (calade) leading via the great drovers' road to the Col de l'Homme Mort pass makes this hypothesis plausible...

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Puech Sigal (D)

At Puech Sigal (from the Occitan for “rye”), the land has been farmed since the Middle Ages. Some believe that there were local Benedictine monks at the time. Certainly, many areas were cleared and enhanced by monks during that period. This sunny belvedere gives superb views onto the Aigoual massif and the upper Hérault valley. Around the edge of this hamlet with its granite houses are vegetable gardens, meadows and orchards, giving the site the feel of an island amidst a sea of holm oaks and chestnut trees.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas