

Col d'Elze

CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes - Terres solidaires



Valleraugue (nathalie.thomas)



The ascent is a little challenging, but once at the pass you will be rewarded by magnificent views over the Hérault valley and the Pic de Barette, which has some handsome holm oaks.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 2 h

Length : 3.8 km

Trek ascent : 361 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Histoire et culture, Faune et flore, Transports en commun

Trek

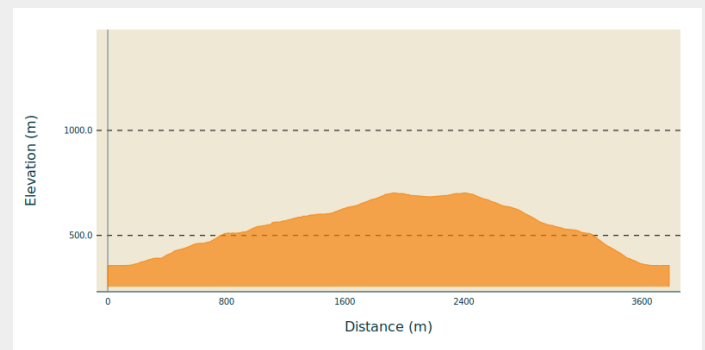
Departure : Valleraugue tourist office

Arrival : Valleraugue tourist office

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Val-d'Aigoual

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 353 m Max elevation 695 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:

Start at the "**Valleraugue-Office de Tourisme**", head towards

1. "**Cagnel**",
2. "**Les Caralouzes**" and then towards
3. "**Col d'Elze**" (GR62c). At the Col d'Elze pass, go back down via the same route to
4. "**Les Caralouzes**", where you take the other way down, towards "**Valleraugue-Office du tourisme**".

This walk is taken from the guidebook **Massif de l'Aigoual**, published by the communauté de communes Causses Aigoual Cévennes as part of the collection Espaces naturels gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

On your path...



Mediterranean level (A)
The Col de l'Elze (C)

Valleraugue (B)
1703 (D)

All useful information

Advices

Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water, wear sturdy shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Transports

liO is the regional public transport service of the region Occitanie/ Pyrénées - Méditerranée. It facilitates everyone's movements by prioritising public transport. For more information, call 08 10 33 42 73 or go to www.laregion.fr

Access

From Le Pont de l'Hérault or L'Espérou on the RD 986.

Advised parking

Tourist office

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

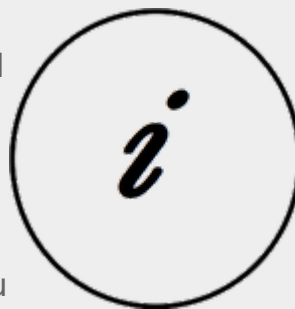
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maison delaigoual@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)



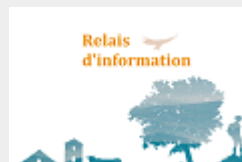
Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Valleraugue

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.caussesaignoualcevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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



Pôle Nature Aigoual

On your path...



Mediterranean level (A)

To begin with, the path is in the holm-oak altitudinal zone. Holm oaks tend to grow on the Mediterranean side of the watershed, where they are plentiful up to an altitude of about 500 m. Here, they have been eradicated to create crop terraces. On the either side of the path, which runs between high walls and has steps that give access to gardens, you can still see these terraces, now invaded by or planted with conifers. Like the holm oak, the tree heath and strawberry trees that are also present are typically Mediterranean species. Plants in this zone are xerophile, meaning that they thrive in dry environments. They are well-adapted because their small and glazed leaves limit water evaporation.

Attribution : © Yves Maccagno



Valleraugue (B)

Valleraugue is believed to derive from "vallis eraugia", the Hérault valley. With its 7,834 hectares, the town extends from the Hérault valley to the summit of Mont Aigoual. Valleraugue is located on an important transportation route between the garrigues and the uplands, and once had up to 4,192 inhabitants (1851). Just over a century ago, in 1907, Abbot Fesquet wrote in his monograph on the village: "The population has been reduced to 2,500 souls. There was a time when it was difficult to find lodgings, says a 1773 town council deliberation. Nowadays, accommodation is plentiful...". In the 2007 census, the population was 1,081.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The Col de l'Elze (C)

The Col de l'Elze pass is a large open space that still has several handsome holm oaks (elze in Occitan). They are rather squat, probably due to the wind. This was once an area where cereals – rye and wheat – were grown. It is now pastureland, with associated flora and insect life. Sheep have prevented shrubs from invading. There are magnificent views to the north onto Mont Aigoual and its foothills, and to the southeast onto the Taleyrac valley and the hills of Sumènes. If you get to the top of the hillock, 300 m to the east, very early in the morning or in the late afternoon, you may see mouflon on Le Montet, to the southwest.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



1703 (D)

In Valleraugue, exporting chestnuts in times of famine or trouble was forbidden by law. In 1703, however, during the Camisard War, an official decree ordered the inhabitants to transport their chestnuts and cereals to other villages. This was to deprive the insurgents, who were supported by the locals, of provisions. The goods were guarded, and the inhabitants only kept two weeks' worth in reserve.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas