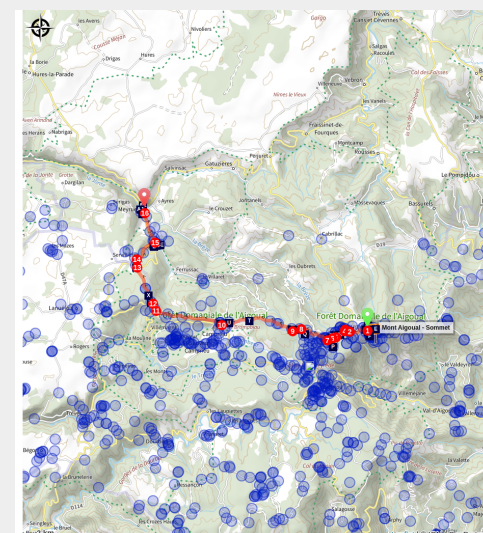


MTB 11 - Descent to Meyrueis - graded red

Gard



Chemin de crêtes (Béatrice Galzin)



One of the emblematic descents of the area, which presents no particular difficulty except for speed management. The contrast between the summit of Mont Aigoual and the “southern” bustle of Meyrueis is always striking...

Useful information

Practice : Mountain Bike

Duration : 2 h

Length : 20.0 km

Trek ascent : 260 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Itinérance

Themes : Milieu naturel,
Architecture et village, Histoire et culture, Agriculture et élevage, Eau et géologie

Trek

Departure : Summit of Mont Aigoual

Arrival : Meyrueis

Markings : ➡ VTT

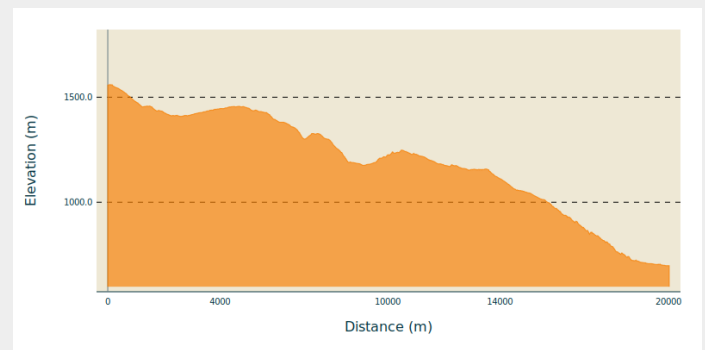
Cities : 1. Val-d'Aigoual

2. Meyrueis

3. Saint-Sauveur-Camprieu

4. Lanuéjols

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 713 m Max elevation 1553 m

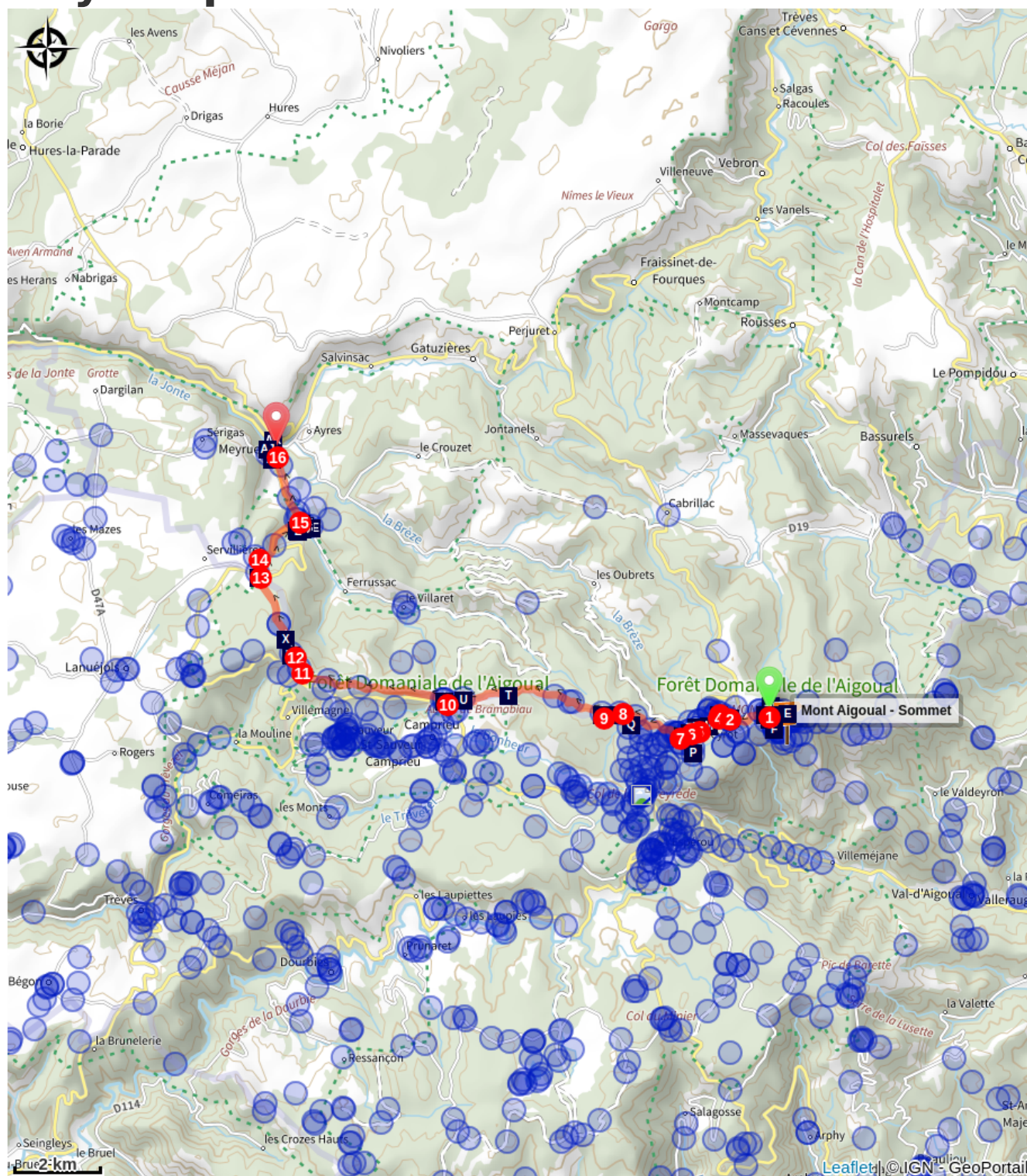
Signposts will guide you all along this route. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in **bold italics** between quotation marks:

From "**L'observatoire**" go to:

1. "**Le Sommet de l'Aigoual**", head down to the left on the **GR® 6-7-66** trail towards "**le Pontet**" via
2. "**La Source**", then
3. At "**Le Pontet**" turn left and follow "**Station de Prat Peyrot**" via
4. "**La Baraquette**",
5. "**La Sapinière**",
6. "**Balcons de l'Aigoual**",
7. At "**Station de Prat Peyrot**" take the **GR® 6** towards "**Col de la Caumette**" via
8. "**Les Fayards**", then
9. At "**Col de la Caumette**" continue on the track, , make sure you take the turn-off on the left onto the former escape lane, to reach
10. "**La Croix de Fer**". Stay on the ridge until you reach "**La Pierre Plantée**" via
11. "**Goulet**".
12. At "**La Pierre Plantée**", start the descent towards "**Meyrueis**" via
13. "**Bout de côte**" cross the road and continue on the track (the GR® 6) via
14. "**Roquedols**". Go to
15. "**Béthuzon**", reach the D 986, take the path on the other side and continue to
16. "**Meyrueis**".

This circuit 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.Nature.

On your path...



Tempus Fugit (Fiona Paterson,
Donald Buglass) (A)
The meteorological observatory (C)
Short-grass prairies and heath on
the summit of Mont Aigoual (E)
Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (G)
Archeosmart (Marc Limousin) (I)

Cell (Marie Gueydon de Dives) (B)
Mont Aigoual weather station (D)
A site for botanical experiments (F)
Summit of Mont Aigoual (H)
Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (J)



The Nests (Céline Pialot) (K)
Catchment Area (Xavier Rèche) (M)

Leaf-Tree (Alain Bernegger) (L)
Guardian of the Woods (Raphaël
Daynié) (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

NB: The starting point and arrival are not in the same place. Make sure you organise return transport for yourself. Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability. You must wear a helmet. Protective equipment is recommended. Respect other road users and stay in control of your speed and trajectory. NB: The circuit is also used by horse riders. Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water. Please close all gates and barriers behind you. No off-roading.

Caution: patous (livestock guard dogs) on Mont Aigoual! Seek advice on how to behave near these dogs from tourist offices and National Park information centres!

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, call 08 10 33 42 73 or go to www.laregion.fr

Access

From Meyrueis, take the D986 towards St-Sauveur-Camprieu. After the village, stay on the D 986 and take the road on the left towards the col de la Serreyrède pass. At the col de la Serreyrède, turn left towards mont Aigoual on the D 269, then take the D18 to the car park at the summit of Mont Aigoual.

Advised parking

Summit of Mont Aigoual

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 & national parc'house

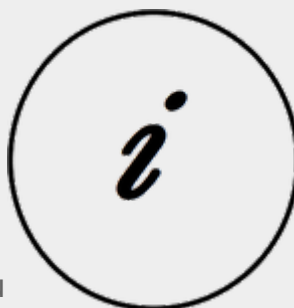
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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



CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

<http://www.causses-aigoual-cevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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



Pôle Nature Aigoual

On your path...



Tempus Fugit (Fiona Paterson, Donald Buglass) (A)

Time flies, conscience cries, death threatens, heaven invites, hell scolds, and man sleeps. Here, the effects of time and natural elements transform the wood used in the artwork; everything is an endless renewal at the same rate as the passing hours. How much time have we got left before everything is lost and it is too late to repair the damage? Nature will continue on its trajectory and efface the traces of Humanity on Earth.

Attribution : © Natacha Maltaverne



Cell (Marie Gueydon de Dives) (B)

This artwork, natural in architecture but artificial in execution, represents a passage between the interior and exterior worlds. Posing or opposing while questioning the notions of limit, porousness and opening.

This work encourages you to come inside but feel outside. To be the contemplative eye, the receiving ear, the conscience that objectifies reality.

Attribution : © Filature du Mazel



The meteorological observatory (C)

Inaugurated in 1824, the meteorological observatory was built on the initiative of Georges Fabre, one of the pioneers of the reforestation of Mont Aigoual. His work with the botanist Charles Flahault enabled the creation of the arboretum of L'Hort de Dieu. The first meteorological data were gathered by agents from the French National Water and Forestry Commission. Since 1943, the observatory has been managed by the National Meteorological Office. It is France's last mountain weather station that is inhabited year-round.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Mont Aigoual weather station (D)

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



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



A site for botanical experiments (F)

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) (G)

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



Summit of Mont Aigoual (H)

At an altitude of 1,565 m, the climate is harsh: weather conditions are the same as they would be at 2,000 m elsewhere, with only four “frost-free” months a year. Winds of above 60 kph blow on 265 days a year, and the average annual temperature is 4.8°C. Trees do not have enough time to complete their life cycle. Local plant formations are those of the montane zone: subalpine short-grass prairies.

Attribution : © Nathalie Thomas



Archeosmart (Marc Limousin) (I)

Smartphone imprints appear on the rocks: fossils of the present that will become mysterious in the future. This carved stone, like the cup-shaped marks and other rock art of the region, discloses history revealed in matter and resonates with Malraux’s phrase: “The future is a present given to us by the past”.

Attribution : © Filature du Mazel



Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (J)

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



The Nests (Céline Pialot) (K)

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



Leaf-Tree (Alain Bernegger) (L)

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 Maze!



Catchment Area (Xavier Rèche) (M)

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



Guardian of the Woods (Raphaël Daynié) (N)

The Guardian evokes a possible connection, a dream connection, in which humans consider themselves a part of nature, developing in close union with their environment. This Guardian of the Woods overlooking the Aigoual valley was built with natural materials found on site, and gently touches a tree that is still alive.

Attribution : © Filature du Mazel