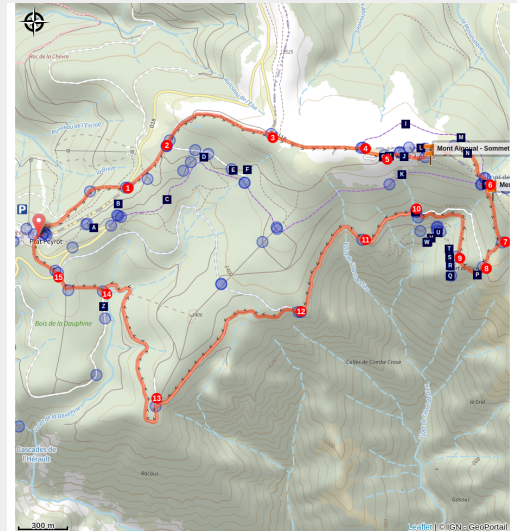


Hort de Dieu Trail

Cévennes



Arrivée sur le Mont Aigoual (Nathalie Thomas)



A trail through a diverse state-owned forest: beech and natural pinewood. Handsome panoramic views from the peak of Mont Aigoual and onto the Hérault valley. A section of the trail is shared with the discovery trail of the Hort de Dieu arboretum.

Useful information

Practice : Trail

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 9.4 km

Trek ascent : 381 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Trek

Departure : Station Prat Peyrot

Arrival : Station Prat Peyrot

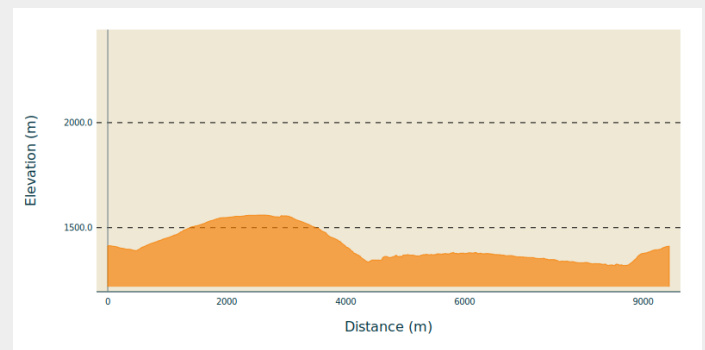
Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Meyrueis

2. Val-d'Aigoual

3. Bassurels

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1320 m Max elevation 1553 m

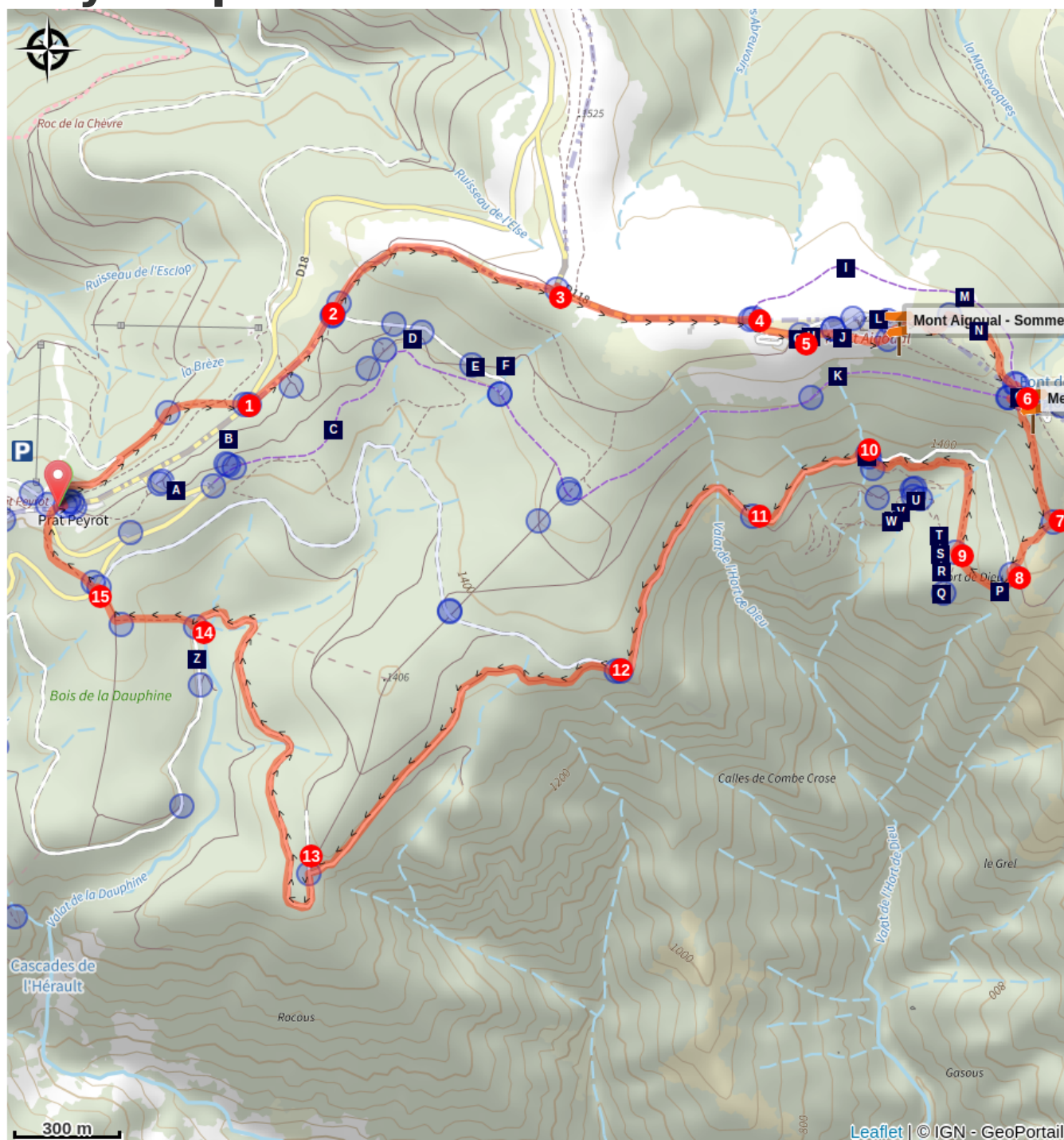
Signposts will guide you all along this route. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in **bold italics** between quotation marks :

From “**Station de Prat Peyrot**”, run to “**Sommet du Mont Aigoual**” via:

1. “**Draille de Calcadis**”,
2. “**La Drailhe**”,
3. “**Les Antennes**”,
4. “**Carrefour**”.
5. At “**Sommet**” go downhill to:
6. “**Menhir du Trépaloup**”. Continue downhill to “**L'Hort de Dieu**” via:
7. “**L'Apollon**”,
8. “**Le Grel**”,
9. “**Les Mughos**”,
10. “**L'Hort de Dieu Nord**”.
11. From “**L'Hort de Dieu**”, return to “**Station de Prat Peyrot**” via:
12. “**Le point sublime**”,
13. “**Muraille de Volpellièrre**”,
14. “**Valat de la Dauphine**”,
15. “**Stèle de C. Flahault**”.

This trail 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...



On the Verge (Yoann Crépin) (A)

Catchment Area (Xavier Rèche) (C)

 The Nests (Céline Pialot) (E)

Archeosmart (Marc Limousin) (G)

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

Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (K)

Cell (Marie Gueydon de Dives) (M)

Guardian of the Woods (Raphaël
Daynié) (B)

Leaf-Tree (Alain Bernegger) (D)

 Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (F)

Summit of Mont Aigoual (H)

Mont Aigoual weather station (J)

The meteorological observatory (L)

Short-grass prairies and heath on
the summit of Mont Aigoual (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

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. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

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>

Access

From St-Sauveur-Camprieu, take the D986 to the Col de La Serreyrède pass; then take on your left the D269 to Station de Prat Peyrot – car park.

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

Advised parking

Alti Aigoual outdoor activity centre, Prat Peyrot.

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

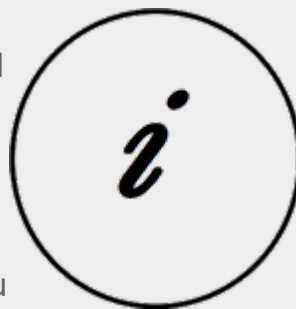
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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



CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



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



Guardian of the Woods (Raphaël Daynié) (B)

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



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



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



Archeosmart (Marc Limousin) (G)

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



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



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

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



Mont Aigoual weather station (J)

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



Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (K)

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



The meteorological observatory (L)

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



Cell (Marie Gueydon de Dives) (M)

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 Maze!



Short-grass prairies and heath on the summit of Mont Aigoual (N)

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