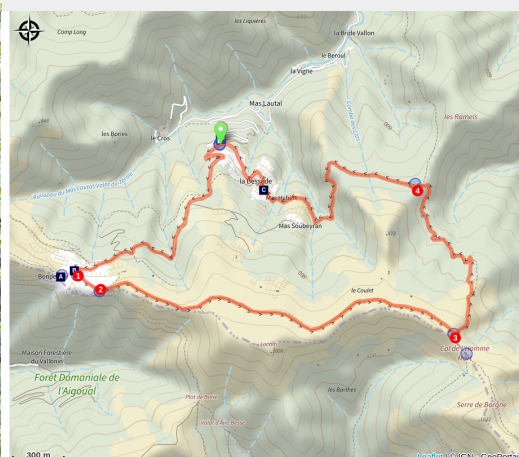


The wood pigeon

Gard



Culture du châtaignier autour du hameau (Béatrice Galzin)



Everything is beautiful up here! The meadows, the ruins, the bluish mountains. Bonperrier is a magical spot for taking a break or eating your picnic.

This path is living testimony to the history of the Cévennes. Livestock farmers continue to graze their herds here, thus shaping and maintaining these open spaces. Located on a ridge on a drovers' road, Bonperrier is a rest stop for sheep and shepherds moving up to summer pastures. The views are wide-ranging: Mont Aigoual and Mont Lozère on one side and the Hérault valley on the other, with the sea in the background !

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 3 h

Length : 7.7 km

Trek ascent : 382 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Histoire et culture, Faune et flore

Trek

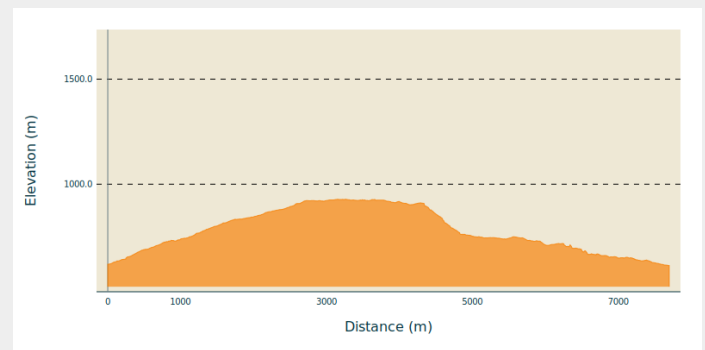
Departure : La Bessède (Les Plantiers)

Arrival : La Bessède (Les Plantiers)

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Les Plantiers

Altimetric profile



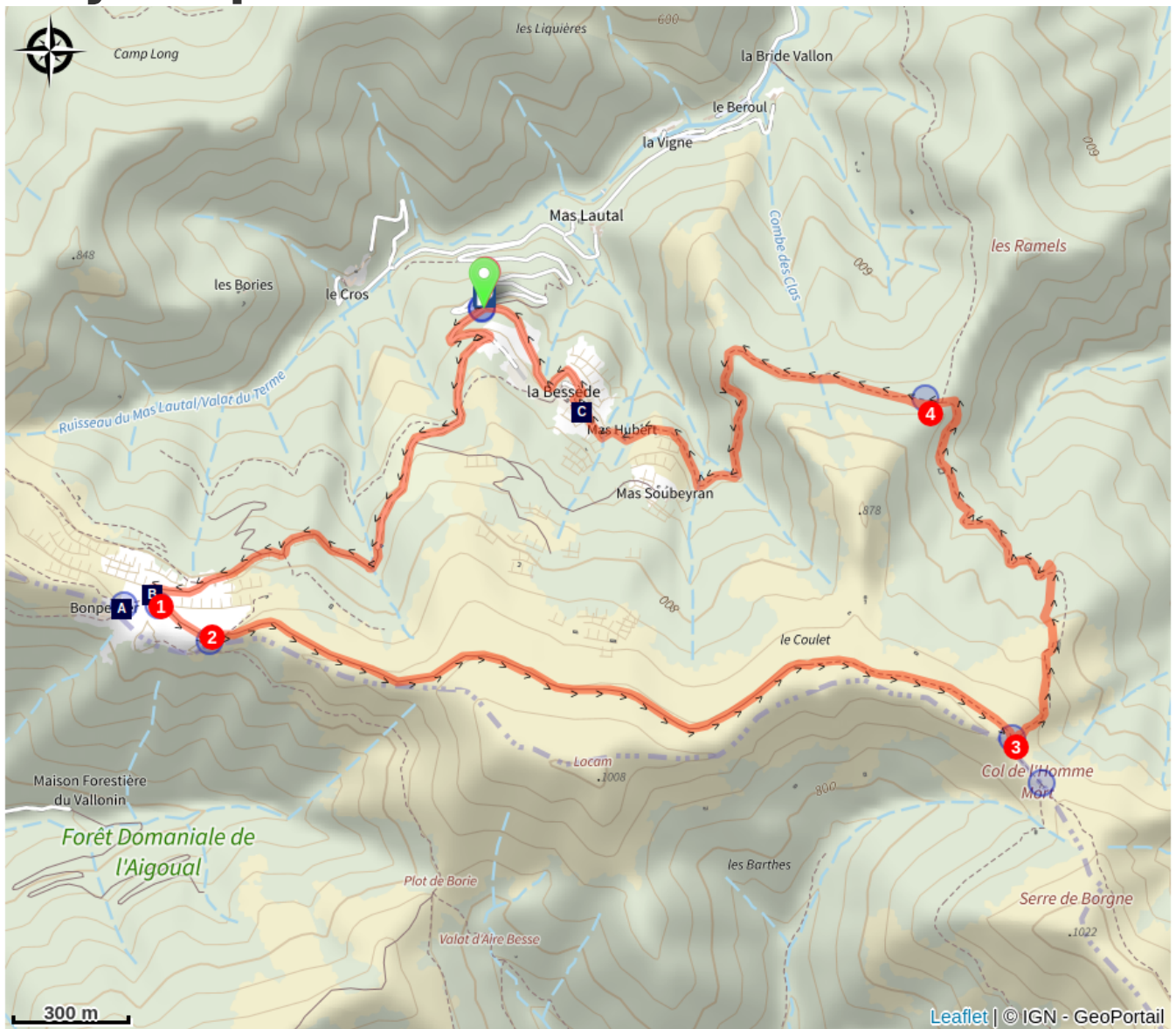
Min elevation 607 m Max elevation 926 m

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 "**La Bessède**" car park, walk towards "**Bonperrier**" on the forest track.

1. At the "**Bonperrier**" pass, turn left onto the track towards
2. "**Lacam**", then
3. "**Crouzinal**". Leave the ridge track and take the path on the left that goes steeply downhill, following the signs for
4. "**les Sagnes**" and "**La Bessède**". Return to the "**La Bessède**" car park.

On your path...



Bonperrier and its inn (A)

Common broom (B)

The hamlet of La Bessède (C)

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. Please close all gates and barriers behind you. Caution: Sheep pastures with patous (livestock guard dogs)! Seek advice on how to behave near these dogs from tourist offices and National Park information centres. Keep your dog on a leash.

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

From St-Jean du Gard towards St-André de Valborgne on the D907. After the village of Saumane, turn left onto the D20 to Les Plantiers. In Les Plantiers, take the road on the left (D20) and then, at the next crossroads, below the hamlet of Souliès, turn right onto the D20A which will take you to the hamlet of La Bessède.

Advised parking

Before you enter the hamlet

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

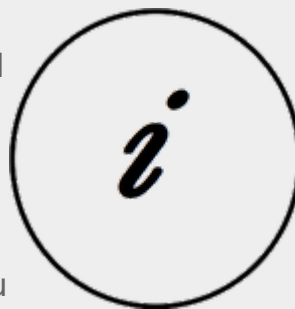
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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, Saint-André-de-Valborgne

les quais, 30940 Saint-André-de-Valborgne

standredevalborgne@sudcevennes.com

Tel : 04 66 60 32 11

<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...



Bonperrier and its inn (A)

Legend has it that up on the Bonperrier ridge, just before the Great War, there was an inn run by two families. The crossroads was a lively place of exchange. The former King's Road running north-south is also the limit between two municipalities. Ridge roads were faster, and the coaching inns located alongside them offered travellers warm and dry overnight stays as well as fresh horses so that they could pursue their journey. Postmen came with the post but also with stories from the neighbouring valleys. In June, transhumant shepherds and their flocks still stay over at Bonperrier before going on to their summer pastures the next morning. Their stopover always turns into a convivial evening even if the inn no longer exists.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Common broom (B)

Common broom dominates on the sides of the path. Not appreciated by shepherds or their sheep, this tough legume was harshly condemned by the Cévenol writer Jean-Pierre Chabrol. For him, agricultural abandonment closed the landscape of the Cévennes by making way for broom, which signals the end of a civilisation.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



The hamlet of La Bessède (C)

As you leave the woods, a vast landscape opens up near the hamlet of La Bessède. This complex of houses huddled together is typical in its isolation and dominant position. It is still inhabited. A dozen people (as compared to 80 a century ago) continue to farm sheep, in particular. Every year, several hundred sheep are sold for their meat. This explains the presence of so many makeshift watering troughs: enamelled bath tubs and chestnut trunks filled with water from nearby springs.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin