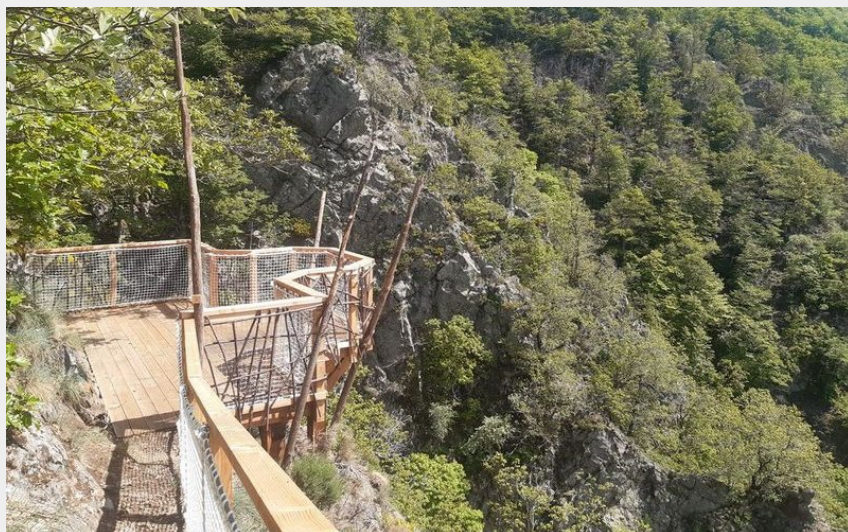
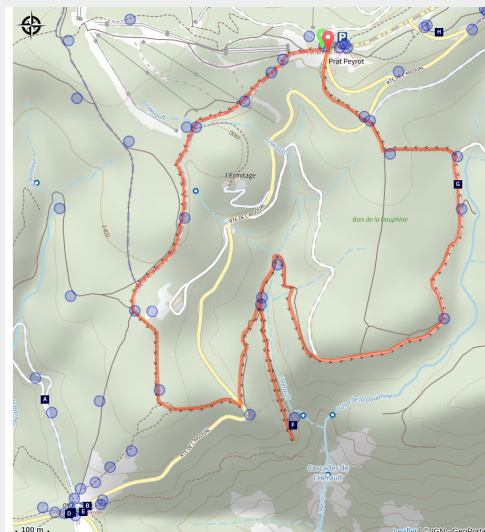


# The Hérault waterfalls - long

Cévennes



Belvédère sur les cascades de l'Hérault (Régis Descamps)



A path exploring the first kilometres of the River Hérault, before its waters rush down the steep slopes to the Mediterranean.

From the spring of the river Hérault (Prat Peyrot), this path winds through the forest on the steep southern slopes of Mont Aigoual. Dotted with varied texts on fauna, flora and forest management, referred to in the leaflet, it makes its way to a spectacular viewpoint over the Hérault waterfalls.

## Useful information

Practice : Sentiers de découverte

Duration : 2 h

Length : 5.4 km

Trek ascent : 207 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Faune et flore, Eau et géologie

# Trek

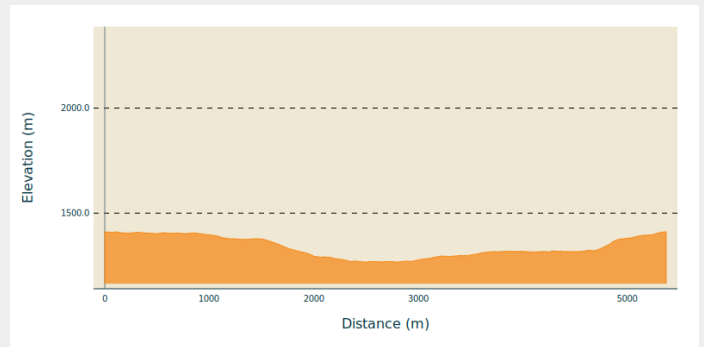
**Departure** : AltiAigoual resort (Prat Peyrot)

**Arrival** : AltiAigoual resort (Prat Peyrot)

**Markings** : 🌀 Découverte PNC

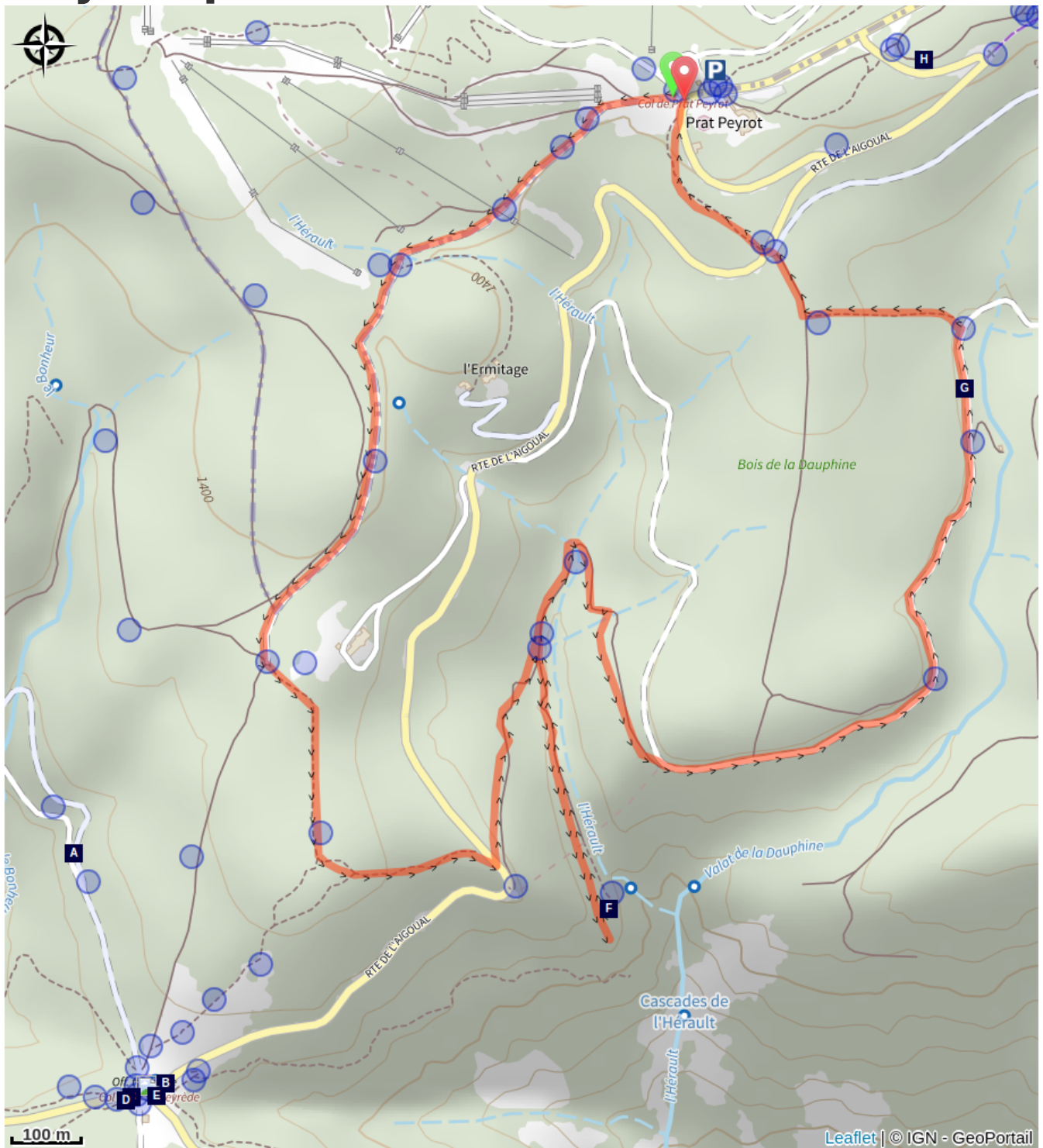
**Cities** : 1. Meyrueis  
2. Val-d'Aigoual

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1246 m    Max elevation 1412 m

# On your path...



Boreal owl (A)

La Serreyrède (C)

The watershed (E)

River capture (G)

Climate frontier (B)

The association "Terres  
d'Aigoual" (D)

Two waterfalls... Find the Héroult!  
(F)

On the Verge (Yoann Crépin) (H)

# 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

Narrow and craggy path – firm shoes are essential.  
Do not leave the path as this environment is unstable and very delicate. Horse-riding or mountain-biking are not allowed on or adapted to discovery trails.

## 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 [www.lio.laregion.fr](http://www.lio.laregion.fr)

### Access

Starting at Part Peyrot: D48 from Le Vigan via the Col de la Serreyrède pass or else D18 from Lozère via the Col du Perjuret pass

### Advised parking

Prat Peyrot

## **Information desks**

### **Tourism & national parc'house**

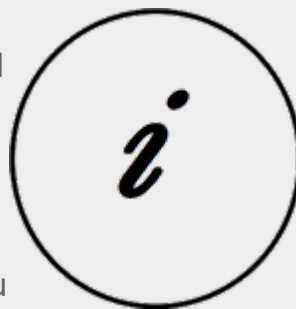
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisondeiaigoual@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.caussesaignoualcevennes.fr/>

# On your path...

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## Boreal owl (A)

Abandoned woodpecker chambers are a boon for small mammals and other birds, such as the boreal owl, which has come from Nordic countries to settle here at altitudes of 800 m. Very discreet, it confines itself to the depths of our forested mountain ranges. It can be identified in March by its sonorous and gentle call. To maintain the species, the Cévennes National Park and the French forestry office protect trees with nesting chambers and old-growth forests from being logged.

Attribution : Gaël.Karczewski

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## Climate frontier (B)

The pass is also a climate frontier. The Atlantic side is predominantly exposed to the west wind and receives rainfall that is fairly regularly spread over the year. The Mediterranean side, however, is drier and hotter and constitutes a massive barrier to the occasional southeast wind (the marin), thus forcing its humid air to rise suddenly. This makes the clouds' water content condense, which can give rise to so-called Cevenol episodes: heavy rainfall (600 mm in 24 hrs) causing catastrophic floods. The Aigoual, Mount Aigoual is the rainy (A. Bernard), is well-named! After Savoie, it is the rainiest place in France.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

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## La Serreyrède (C)

Before 1861, the house at the Col de la Serreyrède was inhabited by two families of farmers. They owned some livestock and had a vegetable garden, whose terraces you can still see above the La Caumette track. From 1861 on, the farm was inhabited by a forest ranger. It was only bought by the state body Eaux et Forêts in 1883, to be turned into a forester's house. It became one of Georges Fabre's headquarters during the reforestation of the Aigoual massif. The Cévennes National Park, tourism office and Terres d'Aigoual growers have now joined forces to revive La Serreyrède with the help of the Communauté de Communes Causses Aigoual Cévennes - Terres solidaires.

Attribution : © Office National de la Forêt



## The association "Terres d'Aigoual" (D)

The Cévennes National Park rents out part of the building to the association, enabling local farmers to sell their products directly to the public. The association brings together farmers who wish to promote what they produce and share their know-how. They also enjoy sharing their vision of farming- high quality produce and products,

- human-sized farms,
- mutual aid.

Come and discover their products!

Attribution : © Nathalie Thomas



## The watershed (E)

The current relief creates a frontier between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean: depending on the slope, water runs towards either the Ocean or the Sea. This is due to the uplift of the Cévenol sill, brought about by geological activity along the Cévennes fault, which borders draw the northern limit of the Languedoc region. This natural sill marks the geographical border between the northwest slope – verdant, not too steep – and the southeast slope, which falls away abruptly in the Languedoc and continues to be subject to powerful erosion.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



## Two waterfalls... Find the Hérault! (F)

Faced with these two threads of rivers, geographers hesitated between flow rate and length, and finally designated the waterway below you the Hérault while the waterfall opposite you was named the Dauphine. Two remarkable plants can be seen here: orpine (*Hylotelephium telephium*) with its succulent leaves, a food source for the larvae of a butterfly that is in strong decline all over the Massif central: the Apollo (which may be seen from mid-July to mid-August); and Prost saxifrage, which forms regular cushions that are easy to recognise. They enable it better to store what little water is available. It is a plant endemic to the Cévennes.

Attribution : Mario Kleszczewski



## River capture (G)

Violent precipitation and the steep gradient of Mediterranean torrents cause regressive (i.e. upstream) erosion of the valleys through which they flow. This erosion can invert the sense of flow and thus “capture” for the Mediterranean a waterway that had, until then, flowed into the Atlantic. One example is the Hérault with its waterfalls, the capture being located at the falls. The Hérault and the Dauphine brook used to flow via L'Espérou into the Dourbie... River pebbles found around the village by geologists attest to the existence of a waterway in the past.

Attribution : Arnaud.Bouissou



## On the Verge (Yoann Crépin) (H)

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 Maze!