

Orgon Waterfalls

Gard



Vue depuis les cascades d'Orgon (nathalie.thomas)



This trail will let you explore several rivers and waterfalls, in particular the Orgon waterfalls in the depths of the wild and rugged Coudoulous valley. NB: After the waterfalls, there is a fairly steep downhill section.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 8.9 km

Trek ascent : 454 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Boucle

Themes : Histoire et culture, Faune et flore

Trek

Departure : Orgon waterfalls (Arphy)

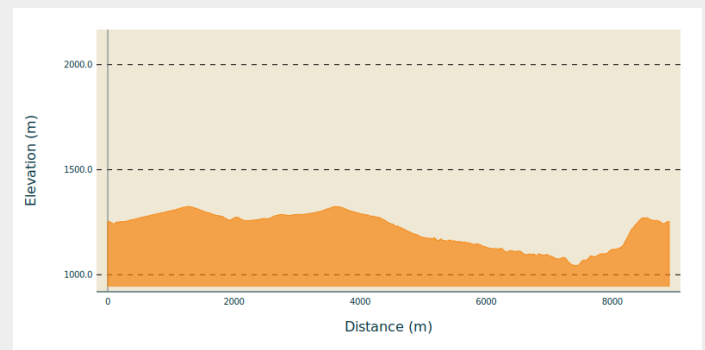
Arrival : Orgon waterfalls (Arphy)

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Arphy

2. Val-d'Aigoual

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1033 m Max elevation 1322 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:

Starting at

1. "**Cascades d'Orgon**", walk towards "**Cap de Côte**", then :
2. "**Les Abéouradous**",
3. "**Valat de l'Abreuvoir**",
4. "**La Draille**". From here, a detour is possible to the André Chamson monument (there-and-back)).
5. At "**Cap de Côte**", return to "**Cascades d'Orgon**" via
6. "**Orgon trial**".

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

On your path...



- Head counts (A)
-  The saga of the mouflon (C)
- André Chamson (1900-1983) (E)

- The origins of the mouflon (B)
- Managing the species (D)
-  What is a mouflon? (F)

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

Be careful, steep and slippery path on the climb before the Orgon waterfalls.

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 good shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers after yourself.

How to come ?

Access

From L'Espérou towards Cascades d'Orgon on D 548a and on D 548

Advised parking

Above the Cascades d'Orgon



Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

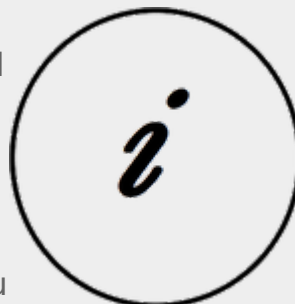
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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

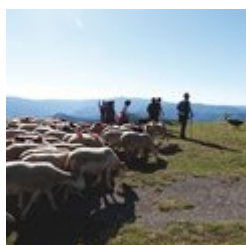
On your path...



Head counts (A)

There are two methods for counting mouflons. “Relative abundance indices” estimate variations in the population. In May, observers position themselves in fixed spots at day's end and record the number of animals they see in 20 minutes. Head counts “by combined observation from a hide and from stalking” are used at the end of winter. Observers move through thickets where mouflons shelter. The groups of animals they disturb escape towards fixed observers, who count them. The mouflon population is currently estimated at around 200. Local actors and inhabitants are very involved in the monitoring and counting operations.

Attribution : © Gaël Karczewski



The origins of the mouflon (B)

Marker 6

L'Abeuradou is located on a draille, a drovers' road for shepherds and their flocks to move between the plains of Languedoc and summer pastures on the southern Massif Central. The name L'Abeuradou indicates that it is a spot where the flocks drink and rest before continuing their long hike. Today's domestic sheep is descended from the mouflon. Since being introduced to the slopes of Mont Aigoual, the mouflon has thus been rubbing shoulders with its cousin, which grazes here in summer. Their cohabitation does not seem to be a problem for the livestock farmers.

Attribution : © Olivier Prohin



The saga of the mouflon (C)

Marker 2

Twenty-three mouflons were introduced to this mountain range in 1954. They roamed the ridge rimmed by heath that you can see in front and to the right of you. Since introduction, the population has slowly grown on the Cevenol slopes. In 1999, the Gard Departmental Hunters' Federation in tandem with the Office National des Forêts, the Cévennes National Park, farmers and hunters took over the management and monitoring of the species. Since then, the population has grown steadily in the Aigoual area, and has recently started to settle other districts as well.

Attribution : © Gaël Karczewski



Managing the species (D)

Marker 5

The Cévennes National Park is unusual for a national park in that hunting is allowed in its central zone. In the absence of large predators, hunting is considered compatible with maintaining a good natural balance. Local mouflons are subject to a compulsory hunting plan, which estimates the numbers to be culled every year. There is regular monitoring to check population levels. Knowing that a mouflon group grows by about 25% a year, it is possible to calculate the number of animals that can be culled without compromising the future of the herd.

Attribution : © Régis Descamps



André Chamson (1900-1983) (E)

In his works, André Chamson constructed an imaginary Cévennes park. His writings bear witness to his love for the area and his attachment to his Huguenot ancestors. A nationally renowned writer, he was elected to the Académie française in 1956. His final works see time and death become more powerful than work or human faith.



What is a mouflon? (F)

Marker 1

The mouflon is a ruminant mammal related to the domestic sheep. Its staple diet is herbaceous plants, which it finds in open spaces such as heaths. It also feeds on about a hundred other plants (ferns, mosses, mushrooms, etc.). The horns of the male (ram) are spiral-shaped and grow continuously, which makes it possible to estimate its age. The female (ewe) rarely has horns. The mouflon's life expectancy is around 14 years. Being an excellent climber, it can easily escape to steep areas in case of danger. These rocky zones also help limit the growth of its hooves through wear.

Attribution : © Chantal Daquo