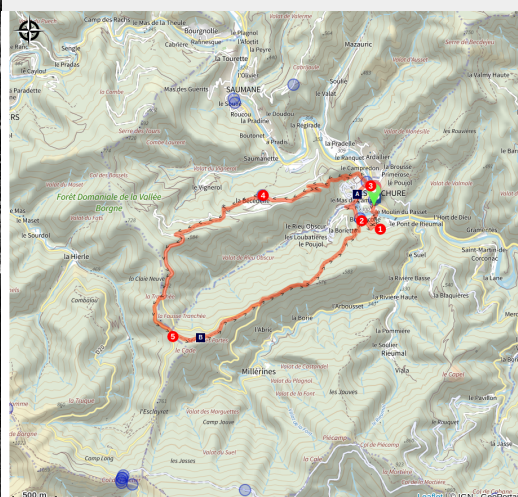


# Le Soult

Gard



Château de l'Hom (Béatrice Galzin)



Explore sites steeped in history such as the Château de L'Hom, and enjoy beautiful views of Cévenol villages and valleys.

Le Soult path, from the old French word for spring, goes deep into the woods that overlook the village of L'Estréchure. It passes close to the Liron Massif and has viewpoints at over 750 m of altitude. Fir, pine, oak and especially sweet chestnut trees make up a typical local forest.

## Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 4 h

Length : 10.1 km

Trek ascent : 577 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Architecture et village, Milieu naturel, Transports en commun

# Trek

**Departure** : L'Estréchure

**Arrival** : L'Estréchure

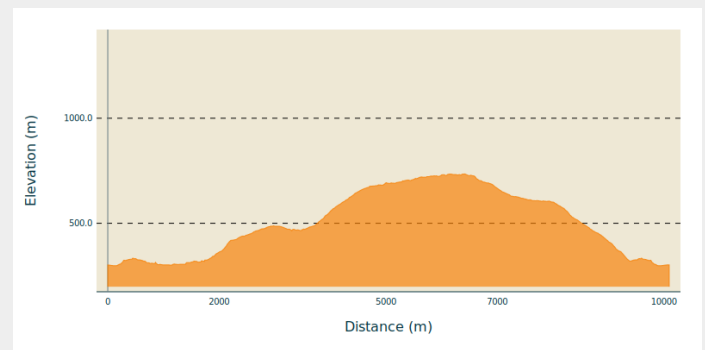
**Markings** :  Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

**Cities** : 1. L'Estréchure

2. Saumane

3. Les Plantiers

## Altimetric profile



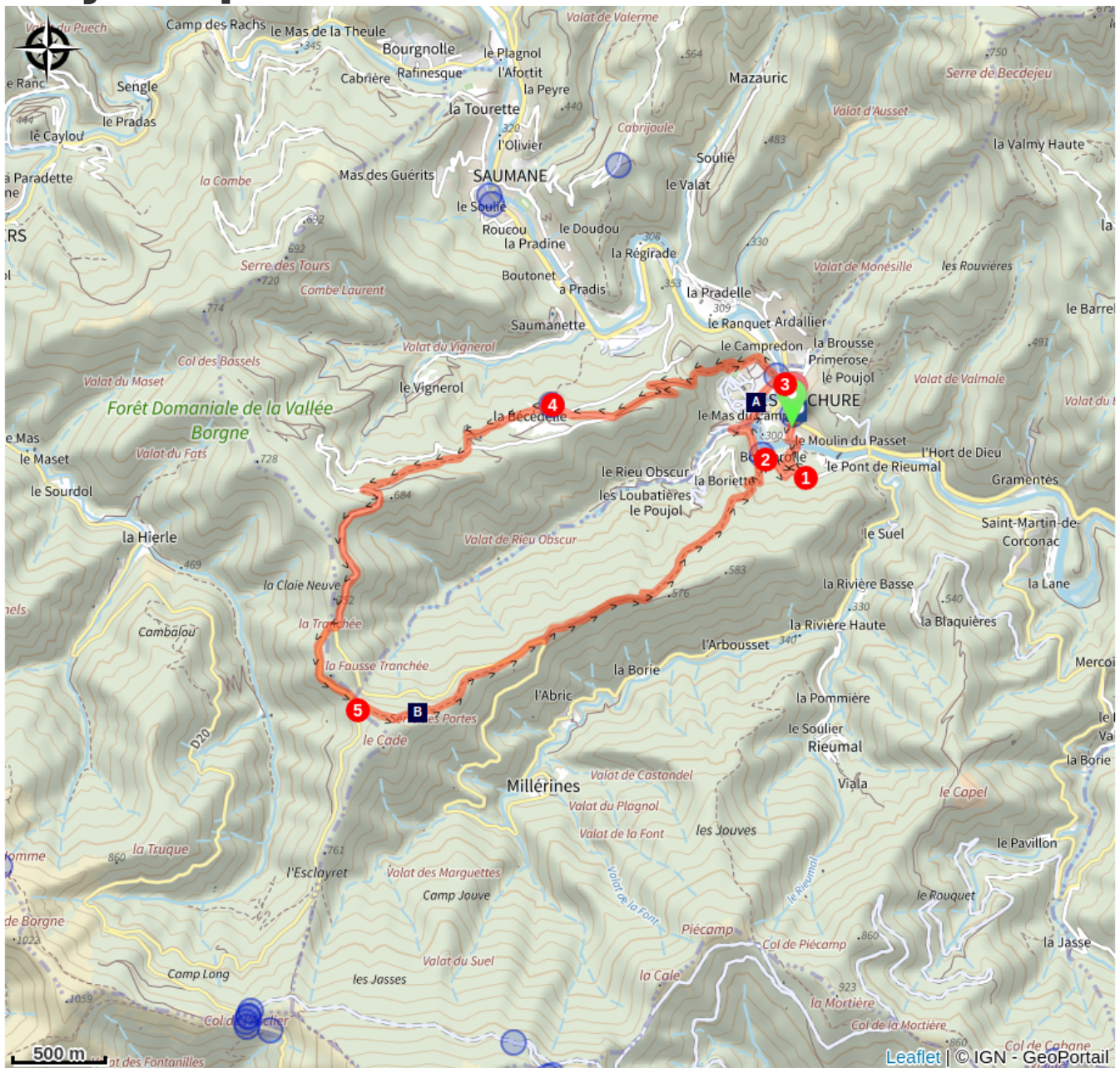
Min elevation 301 m    Max elevation 740 m

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 :

On the village square, from the signpost "**L'Estréchure**" walk towards

1. " **L'Aubarède**",
2. "**Boisserolle**". Walk around the campsite on the river bank (careful during strong rain).
3. At the signpost "**Château de L'Hom**", walk on the path that goes uphill opposite the château. The path climbs to a forestry track. Turn left onto it and go uphill on hairpin bends to a tarred road. Turn right onto the road and go downhill to the signpost
4. "**La Bécédelle**", then
5. "**L'Hermet**". At marker 730, behind the former road mender's shelter, descend towards "**L'Estréchure**" via "**Boisserolle**" (2) and "**L'Aubarède**"(1).

# On your path...



Château de L'Hom (A)



The sweet chestnut tree (B)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

**Caution: do not attempt this path after strong rain or during flooding.**

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.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

This hike is accessible by public transport.

To consult the updated schedules and plan your trip, use the route calculator below by entering **the arrival stop: L'ESTRÉCHURE - Temple.**

### Access

From St-André de Valborgne, take the D 907 towards St-Jean du Gard, through the village of Saumane. At L'Estréchure, use the car park in the village.

### Advised parking

L'Estréchure village square

## **Information desks**

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

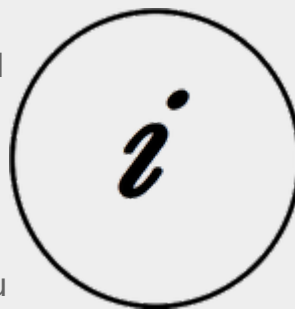
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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)



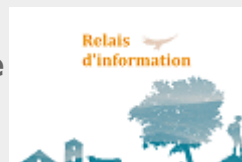
### **Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Saint-André-de-Valborgne**

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...

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## Château de L'Hom (A)

Originally, the name of L'Hom indicates that an elm tree – the tree of justice – was planted outside the building. The massive square building is first mentioned in 1405. It has had a long painful history, emblematic of the Wars of Religion. The château was home to a garrison until 1767, when it was bought a family of industrialists, the Teissonnières. In the summer of 1944, it was the HQ of the general staff of the French Forces of the Interior (united Resistance units) of the Gard and lower Lozère, under the authority of Commandant Audibert.

The association L'Enfance Ouvrière subsequently bought it to turn it into a holiday colony. It is now a campsite.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas

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## The sweet chestnut tree (B)

In the old days, chestnut groves were veritable orchards. The trees were pruned and grafted to optimise yield. Different varieties were cultivated – about a hundred have been inventoried in the Cévennes alone – for their ability to adapt to the different soils or climates and for their different uses too: as well as providing food, the sweet chestnut tree supplies rot-proof wood which is used in furniture, beams, wooden floors. People still make ganivelles, rolls of stakes connected by steel wire. Along this path you will see a lot of chestnut trees with pollard heads, which is a sign that they were regularly pruned to use the young wood.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin