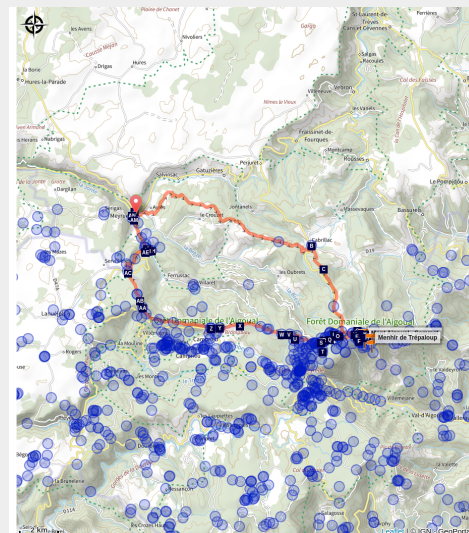


# From Meyrueis to the summit of Mont Aigoual.

Cévennes



La cité de Meyrueis (© Nathalie Thomas)



Two days of hiking from Meyrueis – a market town located between the Causses plateaux and the Aigoual massif – will take you to the top of Mont Aigoual, where the Mediterranean and Atlantic weather systems meet and where there are extraordinary views over the Cévennes and from the Alps to the Pyrénées.

You leave Meyrueis, a market town built at the confluence of three rivers, to immerse yourself in a beech forest with some rather crooked trees that alternates with upland grasslands. As well as the vista from the summit, this hike also offers panoramic views onto the Causses plateaux and the Brèze and Bèthuzon valleys.

## Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 2 days

Length : 39.6 km

Trek ascent : 1316 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Itinérance

Themes : Milieu naturel, Faune et flore, Architecture et village, Histoire et culture, Agriculture et élevage, Eau et géologie, Transports en commun

# Trek

**Departure** : Meyrueis

**Arrival** : Meyrueis

**Markings** :  GR®

**Cities** : 1. Meyrueis

2. Gatuzières

3. Rousses

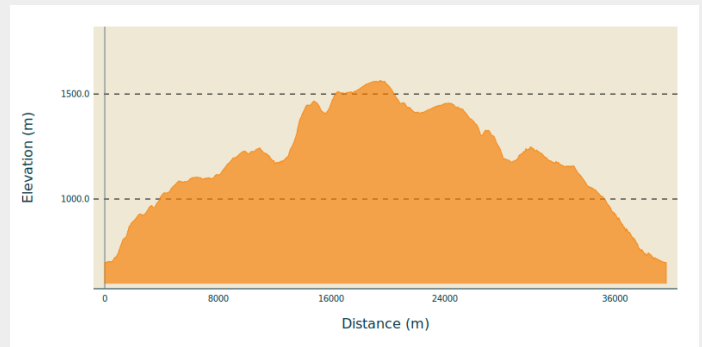
4. Bassurels

5. Val-d'Aigoual

6. Saint-Sauveur-Camprieu

7. Lanuéjols

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 717 m Max elevation 1559 m

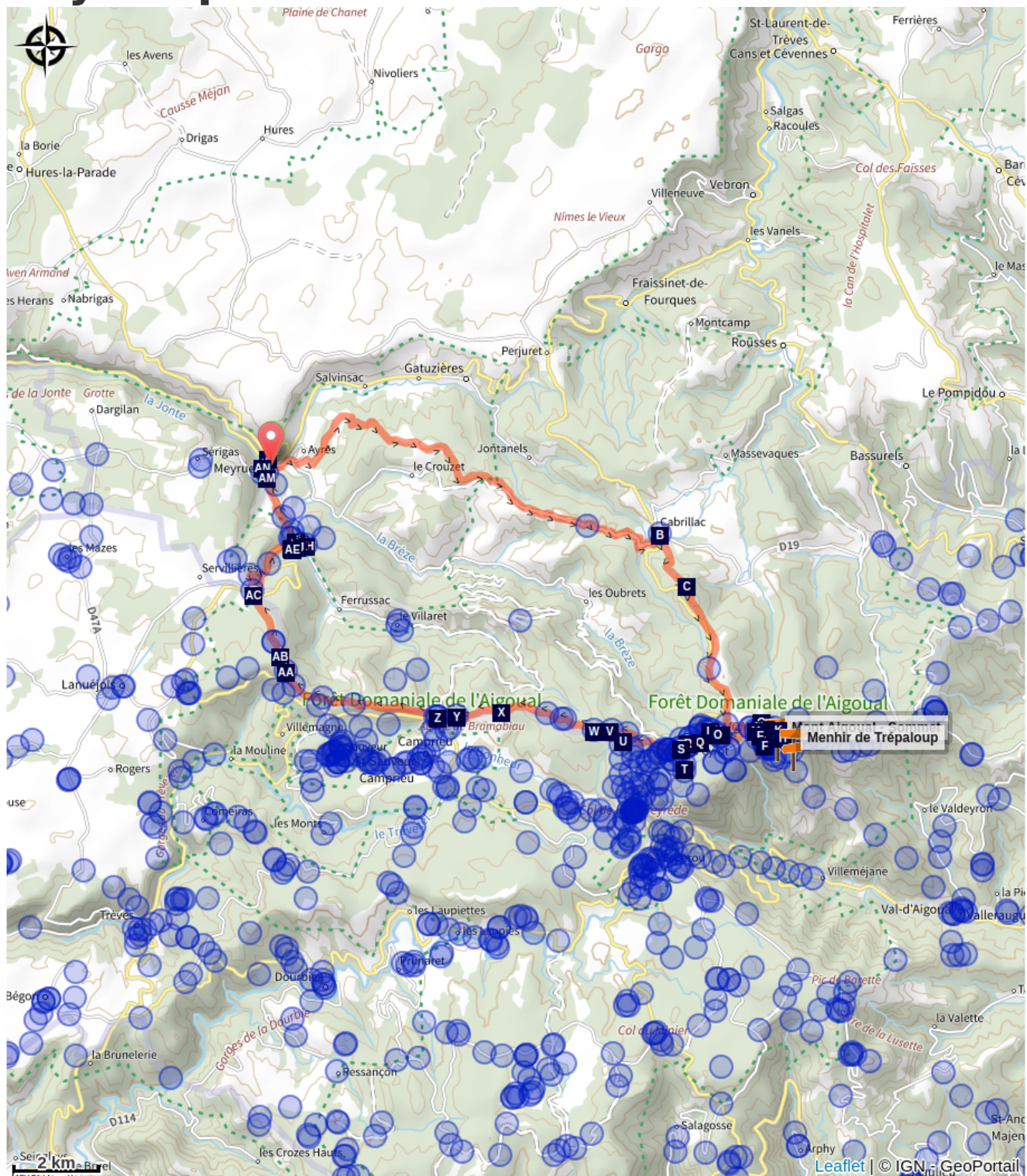
- **Day 1**: 19 km. Starting from Meyrueis, follow the GR®66 long-distance hiking trail to Cabrillac. At that hamlet, leave the GR®66 for the GR®60, which climbs to the top of Mont Aigoual via Le Plo du Four.

- **Day 2**: 20 km. From Mont Aigoual, head back down on the GR®6 to the Prat Peyrot resort, then continue always along the GR®6 towards Meyrueis via La croix de fer and Bout de Côte.

## Stages :

1. From Meyrueis to the summit of Mont Aigoual (Day 1)  
19.5 km / 1051 m D+ / 6 h
2. From Meyrueis to the summit of Mont Aigoual (Day 2).  
20.1 km / 261 m D+ / 6 h

# On your path...



Terrace (A)  
 The Aubrac drovers' road (C)  
 Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (E)  
 Tempus Fugit (Fiona Paterson,  
 Donald Buglass) (G)  
 Cell (Marie Gueydon de Dives) (I)

Cabrillac (B)  
 Summit of Mont Aigoual (D)  
 A site for botanical experiments (F)  
 The evolution of plant life (H)  
 The meteorological observatory (J)

Short-grass prairies and heath on  
the summit of Mont Aigoual (K)  
Archeosmart (Marc Limousin) (M)

Mont Aigoual weather station (L)



Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (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

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 sturdy shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

Caution: patous (livestock guard dogs)! Seek advice on how to behave near these dogs from tourist offices and National Park information centres.

## How to come ?

### Transports

#### Place Sully

#### **Bus line "Meyrueis-Millau"** July and August

[https://lio.laregion.fr/IMG/pdf/oc-1903-fhbus-48-257-3v\\_bd\\_04\\_.pdf](https://lio.laregion.fr/IMG/pdf/oc-1903-fhbus-48-257-3v_bd_04_.pdf)

Daily year-round. Different timetables for term time or school holidays:

Line 215 Autocars Causse + 33 (0)6 65 61 24 16

### Access

Meyrueis, via the Jonte gorge on the RD 996.

### Advised parking

Champ de Mars or André Chamson car parks

## **Information desks**

### **Tourism'house and national Parc at Florac**

Place de l'ancienne gare, N106, 48400  
Florac-trois-rivières

[info@cevennes-parcnational.fr](mailto:info@cevennes-parcnational.fr)

Tel : 04 66 45 01 14

<https://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com>



## **Source**

Maison du tourisme et du Parc national, Florac

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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

# On your path...

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## Terrace (A)

Throughout the climb, you will see abandoned former crop terraces. A few grapevines have persisted since local wine-growing came to an end. They bear witness to the fact that the slopes around these hamlets and villages were once cultivated and planted with fruit trees and vines. Terraces like these were the only way for the valley's inhabitants to have flat areas with deep soil suitable for growing.

Attribution : © Nathalie Thomas

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## Cabrillac (B)

Cabrillac was located at the crossroads of the grande draille d'Aubrac (Aubrac drovers' road) and the road from Meyrueis to Florac and St Jean du Gard. The village had about a hundred inhabitants in the 20th century and was an important and inevitable place of transit. Two fairs were held every year: one during the migration to the summer pastures in May; the other in September, during the return. For some shepherds, this was the occasion to sell the lambs that had spent the summer on the Aubrac plateau.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

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## The Aubrac drovers' road (C)

From Cabrillac, we follow the Aubrac drovers' road, which started near Ganges (Hérault) to lead flocks onto the Aubrac pastures, a distance of 110 km. If you climb to the top of Mont Aigoual (2 hrs), you can visit the meteorological observatory and meet transhumant flocks. Be careful of the patous (livestock guardians).

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

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## Summit of Mont Aigoual (D)

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

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## Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (E)

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

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## A site for botanical experiments (F)

### Marker 1

L'Hort de Dieu is located at an altitude of 1,300 m and shaped by an extreme climate. This site with its exceptional assets is a favoured study and experimentation zone for botanists. The tree collection is just over 100 years old, and some of the specimens are declining because of old age or else because they are not well-adapted to this mountain range. Today, there are 75 species left of the 140 that have been tested over the past century. To safeguard the interest of this heritage site, the Office National des Forêts and the Cévennes National Park are currently reflecting on renewing the collection.

Attribution : © Gaël Karczewski



## Tempus Fugit (Fiona Paterson, Donald Buglass) (G)

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



## The evolution of plant life (H)

At the pass stands a schist menhir (standing stone). To the north, in Trépaloup ravine, hewn flint implements bear witness to a human presence in the region since prehistoric times. Palynological analyses (studies of pollen fossilised in peatbogs) have allowed scientists to piece together the plant life on Mont Aigoual from 8,000 to 5,000 BC. Pine predominated, accompanied by birch and hazelnut. Then pine populations gradually diminished. The damp climate warmed up, favouring the spread of oak and hazelnut. Finally, the increased damp and cloud cover at altitude allowed fir and beech to develop. From the end of the first century BC, the substantial percentage of grasses shows that forest had receded in favour of pasture and prairies. This was the start of the great deforestation.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



## Cell (Marie Gueydon de Dives) (I)

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 Mazel



## The meteorological observatory (J)

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

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

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

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## Mont Aigoual weather station (L)

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

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## Archeosmart (Marc Limousin) (M)

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



## Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (N)

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