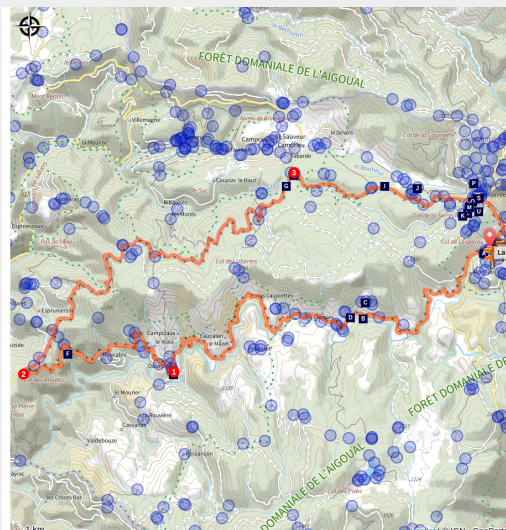


Le tour du Suquet - escapades à vélo

Gard



Montée à la Serreyrède (N Thomas)



Look out over the Dourbies, Trévezel and Bonheur valleys. Breathtaking views.

At an average altitude of 1,000 m, you will feel as though you are flying over the exceptional landscape. Peaceful downhill section to the village of Dourbies. As you cross Le Suquet mountain with its green forest, you can observe the limestone cliffs of Le Trévezel. On the regular climb to the Col de La Serreyrède pass, admire the luxurious beech forest that surrounds you. Return to Prat Peyrot.

Useful information

Practice : Cycling

Duration : 2 h 45

Length : 42.0 km

Trek ascent : 995 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Trek

Departure : L'Espérou

Arrival : Prat Peyrot

Cities : 1. Dourbies

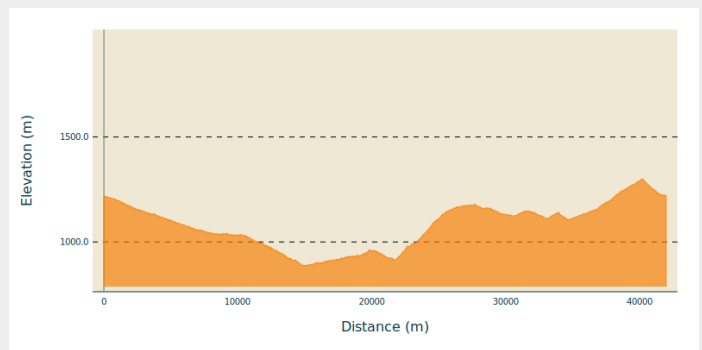
2. Trèves

3. Lanuéjols

4. Saint-Sauveur-Camprieu

5. Val-d'Aigoual

Altimetric profile

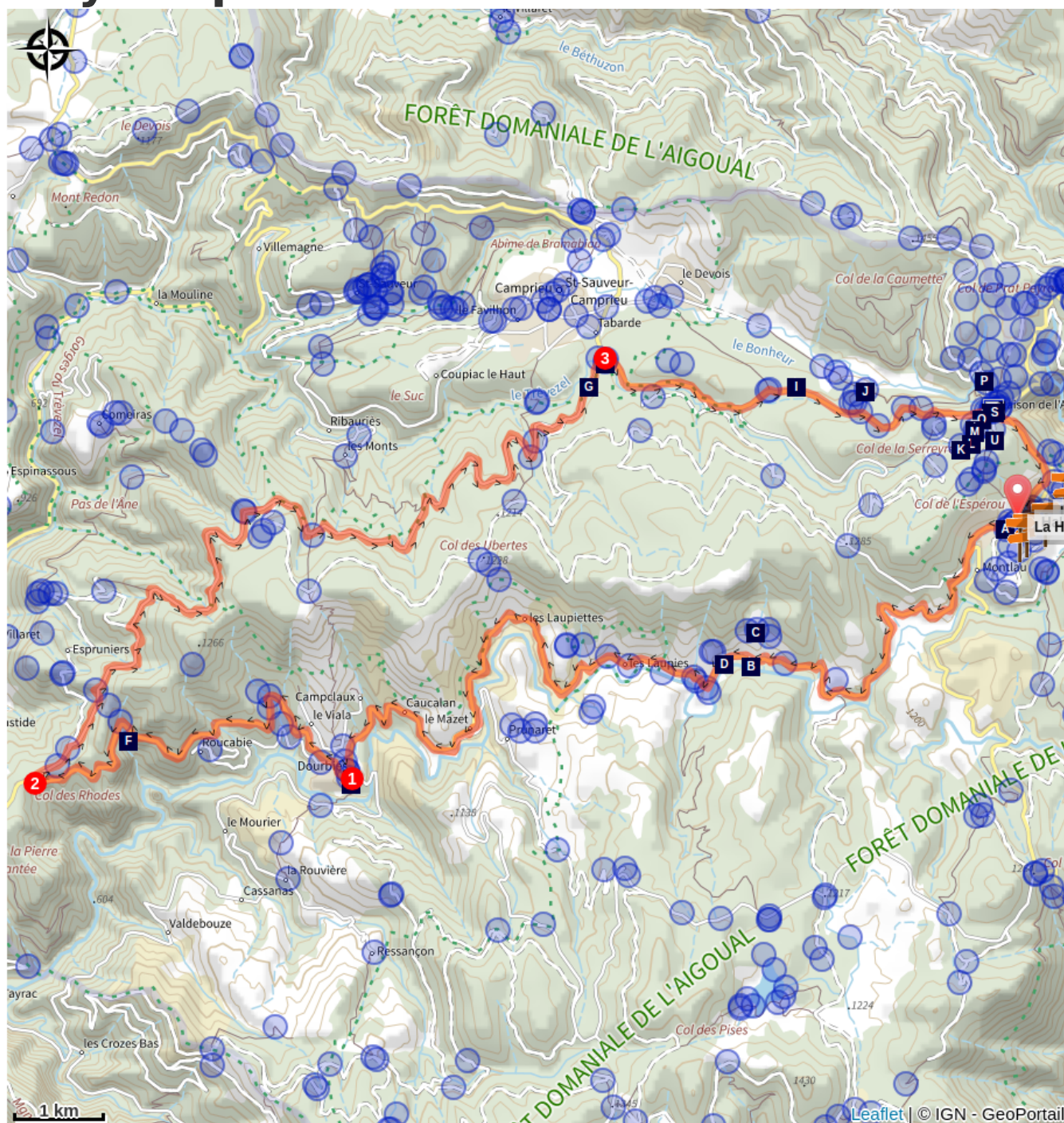


Min elevation 886 m Max elevation 1295 m

From L'Espérou, go to Dourbies on the D151.

1. After the village of Dourbies, continue on the D151 towards Trèves/Nant, until you reach the Col de Rhode pass.
2. Turn right onto the D170, towards Camprieu.
3. At Tabarde, go right on the D986, return to the Col de La Serreyrède pass, then L'Espérou.

On your path...



- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| The village of L'Espérou (A) | The Dourbie (B) |
| Malpertus (C) | The common alder (D) |
| Dourbies (E) | The Dourbies gorge (F) |
| The hidden life of the forest (G) | The Mont Aigoual forest (H) |
| The goldcrest (I) | Notre-Dame-du Bonheur (J) |
| Peat bog and acclimatisation garden (K) | Le Trévezet molière (peat bog) (L) |
| Irregular forest (M) | Productive forest (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

Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability. Respect traffic laws and other road users; stay in control of your speed and trajectory. Make sure to be seen and travel in single file when in a group. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water. Safe trip !

How to come ?

Access

From Valleraugue, take the D986 to L'Espérou and to the Col de La Serreyrède pass. At the pass, head to Prat Peyrot on the D269.

Advised parking

Prat Peyrot



Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

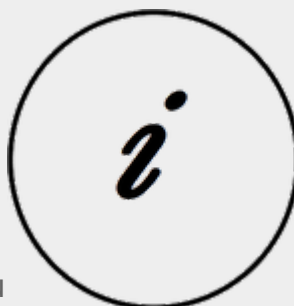
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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...



The village of L'Espérou (A)

The village of L'Espérou lies on the border of Dourbies and Valleraugue local councils. A draille (track for livestock to migrate to summer pastures with their shepherds) crosses the village. As in many villages in the Gard, the two places of worship – one Catholic, the other Protestant – are opposite each other. The village is located in a varied environment that is suitable for outdoor activities and sports.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



The Dourbie (B)

In the upper reaches of the river, a diverse and fascinating wildlife has developed despite the strong current. The clear running waters condition the presence and future of the brown trout. It cohabits with minnows, otters... You may see a white-throated dipper on a rock, or else a grey heron or wagtail on the bank. But it is in the clear waters and under rocks that a whole little aquatic world exists: molluscs, crustaceans, insect larvae, etc. They pile up quite harmoniously, dozens per square metre. Some stick to the rocks; others drift, lurk or float. It all depends on the equipment nature has provided them with: bristles, suckers, hooks, sheaths weighted with gravel...

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Malpertus (C)

The ruined hamlet of Malpertus is a splendid and moving site, with its feel of a paradise lost which one would like to restore to its former glory. The views onto the Dourbie valley are stunning. The short grass makes it easy to see far, and spot friends or enemies early. Weapons were hidden here in World War Two, stored in a rock shelter at the Roc du Salidou, just behind the buildings. The hamlet's last inhabitant left this site, inaccessible except on muleback, in the 1960s. Today it is home to diverse small fauna: birds, insects, lizards, common frogs, etc.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The common alder (D)

A wise tree lives in the sunshine with its feet in the waters of the Dourbie: the common alder. You can identify it even in winter by looking for its strobili on the ground or on its branches - female inflorescences shaped like small pinecones. The alder's tangled roots are solidly anchored in low riverbanks, thus ensuring their protection. By symbiosis between alders and a bacteria called frankia living in their root, nitrogen is fixed in the ground at about 60 to 200 kg per hectare per year! This is a bonanza for poor soils, which are quickly enriched.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Dourbies (E)

The village of Dourbies was built on a ridge to maximise the flatter soils for cultivation. Farming having declined in the valley, fields that were once cultivated have now been urbanised, and broom heath is invading more and more land.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The Dourbies gorge (F)

The path comes out on the Dourbie gorge. Opposite you, the western part of the high granite plateau of the Lingas joins up on its right with the limestone plateau called Causse de Larzac. On your right, you can see the granite dome of Saint-Guiral. Closer to you, in the vales that converge on the Dourbie, are the former crop terraces, pastureland, the village built on the riverbank at the valley's widest point and finally the chestnut orchard. You are seeing the upper limit of its range, which corresponds to its maximum altitude in this zone (800 m).

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🌿 The hidden life of the forest (G)

Trees grow upwards towards the light while mosses benefit from their shade on the ground and spread out. Like soft cushions or carpets, they hug everything that sticks out of the ground, such as old tree stumps. This soft felted surface is pleasing to see, and an undergrowth without mosses would not be worthy of the name. Legend has it that mosses show which way is north.

Wrong!

Mosses indicate a degree of moisture; they protect the soil from drying out by retaining every last drop of dew. They prepare pockets of humus for the future occupants: grasses and herbaceous plants. They also love the damp of tree trunks and can grow there, on the side that is most exposed to the prevailing rains.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



🌿 The Mont Aigoual forest (H)

“Aigoual, Forêt d’Exception”

The French Forestry Office, which manages state forests, launched a programme in 2013 called “Aigoual, Forêt d’Exception” (Aigoual: An Exceptional Forest) with the aim of highlighting the massif’s natural and cultural heritage. The Forestry Office thus tries to foreground the different aspects of its multi-faceted management: production, protection and receiving visitors. One key aspect of this approach, which complements other initiatives by local actors, is to improve visitors’ experience in the forest.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



🐾 The goldcrest (I)

As you walk through the woods, you may hear the shy zee zee of the goldcrest, which depends on conifers. But do you know where its name comes from?

Its Latin name is *Regulus regulus*, the little king. In Celtic tradition, the smallest bird is the druid of the avian world. In first-century local Celtic languages, the same word was used for ‘druid’ and ‘goldcrest’.

Another reason for this royal title is that the goldcrest, when in love, raises the black-rimmed golden feathers on his head, like a little crown.

Attribution : Bruno.Descaves



Notre-Dame-du Bonheur (J)

This Romanesque monastery was built in the 11th and 12th centuries by the rich Lord of Roquefeuil and Mandagout, with the noble intention of turning it into a “hospital for the poor”. He allowed the monks to reap the fruits and revenue of the land. In return, the villagers paid him sheep, pigs, poultry, wine and cheese. He also charged the transhumant herds on his vast estate pasture fees. The path that passed through this peatbog linked Languedoc to the Gévaudan. A snowstorm bell weighing 200 kg would ring in fog or blizzards to help merchants, peddlers, itinerant workers, farmers etc. find their way to safety. The monastery had six canons, the last of whom was forced to leave during the French Revolution. An association dedicated to preserving the Abbey of Notre-Dame du Bonheur is working to restore it.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Peat bog and acclimatisation garden (K)

Marker 4

This peat bog was a site for experiments and research by Charles Flahault. Flahault, who studied the geographical distribution of species, was interested in what was then known as acclimatisation (adaptation to local environmental conditions). He attempted to introduce 200 plants from 40 non-indigenous species to Le Trévezel peat bog, echoing the way tree species were introduced into arboretums. The peat bog's history and the way it works are described in detail on the panel (in French only).

Attribution : © Jean-Pierre Malafosse



Le Trévezel molière (peat bog) (L)

Marker 3

A peat bog is a thick layer of plant cover that has decayed little or not at all because of accumulated water, acid soils and the cold climate. This wetland has hardly changed for centuries. Once called molières, soulages, sagnes or fanga, these environments were long denigrated and “cleaned up”. Today, they are known to be well worth preserving. Peat bogs are home to a great variety of more or less specific species, such as the sundew, a little carnivorous plant.

Attribution : © Bruno Descaves

Irregular forest (M)

This tree population consists of trees of very different diameters, ages and heights. Species are mixed: mainly pine, but also beech, rowan and whitebeam. This is an irregular mature forest, a forestry dynamic that is interesting for several reasons: it creates permanent forest cover; resistance to soil erosion; better resilience against storms or parasite attacks; regular production, etc. In the small clearing to the left of the path, the sunlight now penetrating to the forest floor has made natural regeneration of beech and fir possible, ensuring the renewal of the forest.

Productive forest (N)

Marker 2

Another method of creating a durable forest cover is to plant or sow. This work is carried out either on bare soil or among existing tree stands. The Aigoual reforestation programme was a gigantic effort, requiring 900,000 days of work, the planting of 60 million conifers and 7 million deciduous trees, and sowing of 38 tonnes of seeds. Spruces and pines, which can be planted in full sunlight and grow quite quickly, were widely used. Under the forest canopy, preference was given to firs.