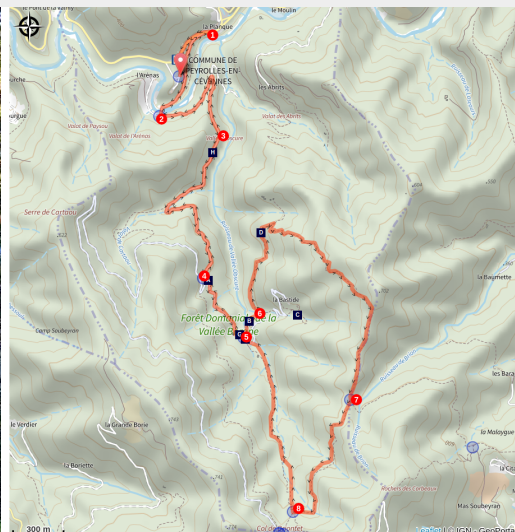


Valescure

CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes - Terres solidaires



Sur la petite route (Béatrice Galzin)



This is one of the least frequented of all the Cévenol valleys! Also one of the best preserved, it invites you to explore, contemplate and recharge your batteries... Learn how to merge into its peacefulness.

A hike in a peaceful little valley that looks wild at first but has been shaped by human action. Explore a formerly bustling dwelling place, a heritage built stone by stone. The many low walls around the ruins of La Faysolle bear witness to the active life of the hamlet, where many families lived. The oven, clède and spring enabled them to exist in autarky. From the ridges, wide views open up over the landscapes of the surrounding mountains.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 4 h

Length : 11.9 km

Trek ascent : 710 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Boucle

Themes : Histoire et culture, Faune et flore, Eau et géologie, Transports en commun

Trek

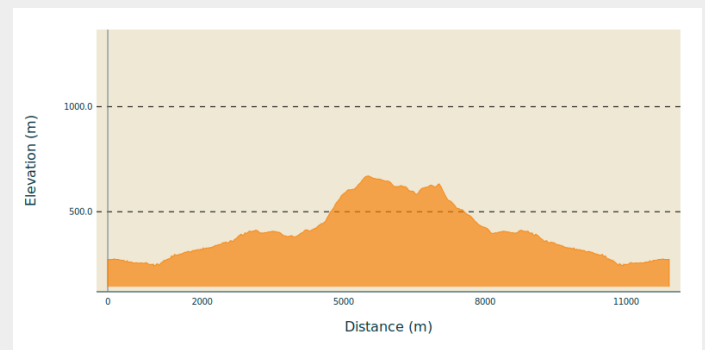
Departure : Car park in bend in the road at La Planque - Peyrolles

Arrival : Car park in bend in the road at La Planque - Peyrolles

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Peyrolles
2. Saint-Jean-du-Gard

Altimetric profile



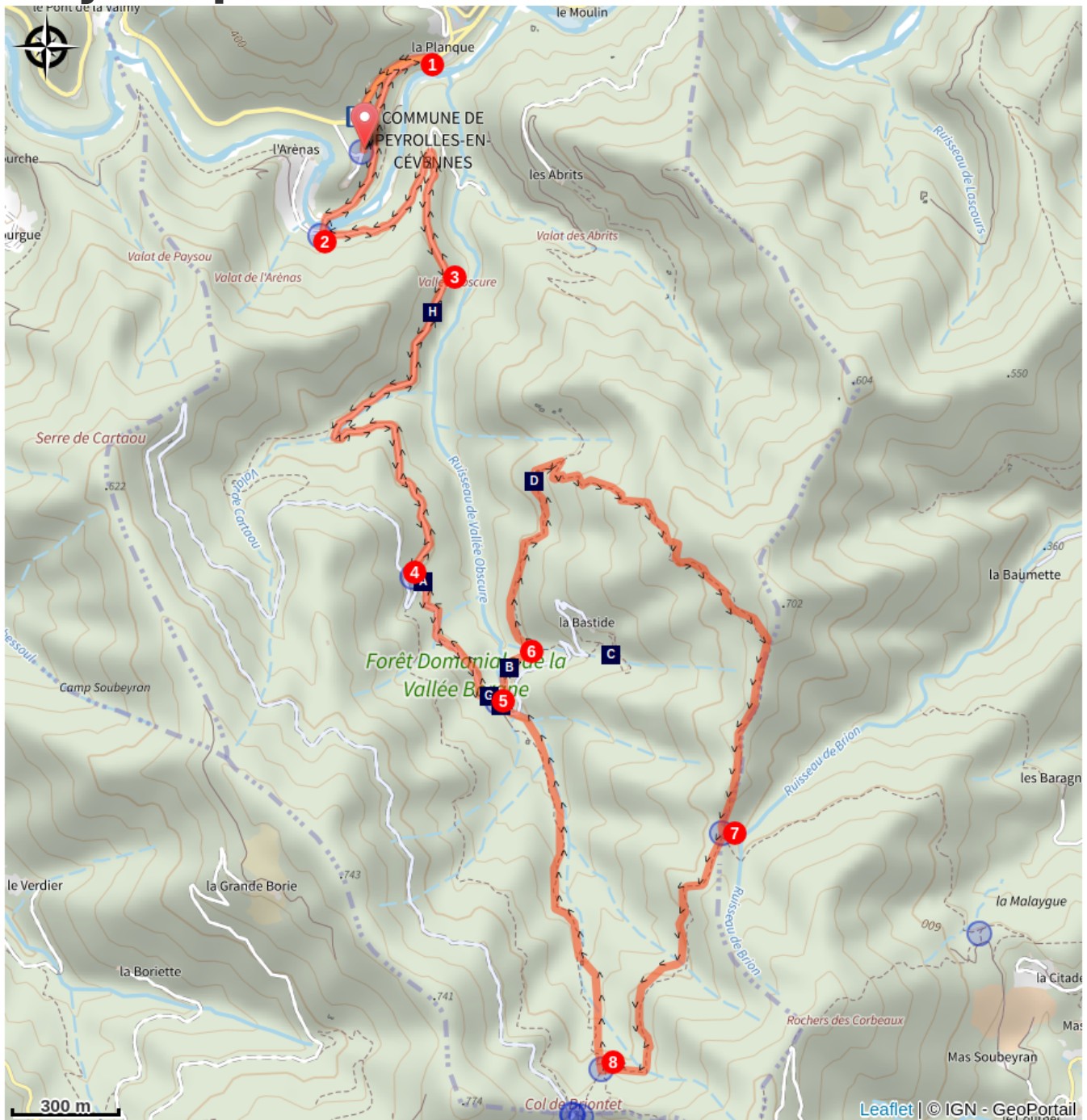
Min elevation 242 m Max elevation 670 m

Signposts will guide you all along this route, as well as yellow painted waymarks. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in **bold italics** between quotation marks :

Starting from the car park "**PEYROLLES - Serre de Clayrac**", turn right onto the D road and, 200m.

1. At "**La Planque**", turn left downhill onto the small road towards
2. "**Pont de l'Arénas**", then continue along the road towards
3. "**Vallée Obscure**" and
4. "**Château de Vallée Obscure**". Take the path on the left below the château, then continue to
5. "**La Jasse**", then turn left towards
6. "**Le Gué**". From there, continue left and climb the steep path — carefully follow the yellow waymarks through the woodland. Once on the ridge, turn right to reach
7. "**La Jasse d'Almiras**". Follow the ridge to
8. "**La Rouvière**", then descend towards "**Le Gué**" (5) and "**Château de Vallée Obscure**" (4). Continue along the small road to "**Pont de l'Arénas**" (2), then turn left towards "**La Planque**" (1) to return to the main road and the starting car park.

On your path...



Château de Valescure (A)
 Past - present (C)
 Vital arteries (E)
 A preserved valley (G)

A stream under surveillance (B)
 The ruins of La Fayssolle (D)
 Precious reserves (F)
 Hydraulic heritage (H)

All useful information

Advices

Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability : **the descent after the ruins of La Faysolle is steep - this walk is reserved for experienced hikers.** Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water. Please close all gates and barriers behind you. **Caution : it is best not to attempt this walk during heavy rain.**

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 the lio Occitanie app or visit : <https://www.mestrajets.lio.laregion.fr>

Access

From St-Jean du Gard on the D907 towards Florac through the Vallée Borgne, park at "La Planque" 800m further on, just after the bus shelter on the left.

Advised parking

Virage de la Planque

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

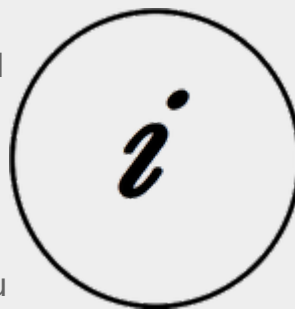
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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)



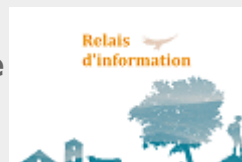
Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Saint-André-de-Valborgne

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...



Château de Valescure (A)

The Château de Valescure, a private property owned by the French Forestry Office (ONF) since 1922, must have been built in the 15th century by Bertrand de Valescure, whose descendants were ennobled and distinguished themselves during the French Wars of Religion. They held the seigneurie of Valescure until 1618, when by alliance it became the Tourtoulon family's, which held it until the French Revolution. Long empty, in 1941 the château came back to life when it became an advance post of the Chantiers de jeunesse (a paramilitary youth institution of the Vichy regime). Later in the Second World War, Resistance fighters found refuge here. In 1985, the ONF began renting it out.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin

A stream under surveillance (B)

The governmental research organisation CNRS has installed a hydrometric station here that measures the stream's water levels and flow rate. You can easily see the graduated vertical scale. This is complemented by a pressure probe connected to a data recording centre. This monitoring equipment is part of a series of stations in the Vallée Borgne. The data they record have shown the important role played by tancats (cf. Precious reserves) in regulating water flow. They also confirm how effective the various measures are that have been taken to rehabilitate these structures and maintain riverbank vegetation.

Past - present (C)

Locals have built a great number of structures along valats (streams in steep-sided Cevenol valleys) to control them. The structures bear witness to their hard work and to local culture, and represent a precious hydraulic heritage. To help preserve it, from 2003 to 2006, the "Ressource en eau" programme restored and rehabilitated over 400 tancats, dry-stone barriers that slow down river flow, retain the sediment it carries and form small crop terraces. Moreover, in dry periods, the water stored behind each tancat (where it can only move slowly through the sediment), is returned to the river gradually and thus regulates its flow rate.



The ruins of La Fayssolle (D)

The departmental archives preserve the historical traces of Mas de Fayssolle in a marriage act from 20 November 1554. Notary records mention the wedding of Jeanne Mercoiret with Antoine Pascal.

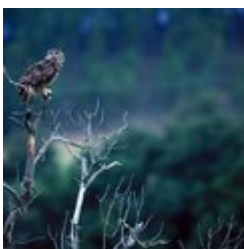
Attribution : Nathalie Thomas

Vital arteries (E)

Besals or béals are channels that have been built to carry and distribute water where it is needed: plots of cultivated land, gardens, mills, etc. They were usually created and maintained collectively. The distribution of water to the various users was controlled by small sluice gates (esclafidors). These were opened and closed at precise times of day, which were decided according to customary law – and could be subject to disputes and legal proceedings.

Precious reserves (F)

To store water, especially during dry periods, locals have dug and built a great number of gorgas. These reservoirs supplied gardens, fields and mills. They were fed by springs or streams, whose water was diverted by a paissièira and then transported by a besal (béal).



A preserved valley (G)

The Vallée Obscure, a natural zone of ecological, faunal and floral interest, has a significant heritage of rare species, such as the nightjar, little owl, bee-eater, raven and honey buzzard... As for flora, almost ten varieties of orchids have been identified. In spring, snapdragon is common on the rocky slopes. In the valley, there are also Atlas cedars and tall thujas, planted by the ONF in the 1950s.

Attribution : Descamps R



Hydraulic heritage (H)

In the valley of Valescure, an integration project for the unemployed and socially disadvantaged restored over 450 hydraulic engineering structures, supervised by various institutional and scientific partners. This project helps you understand the importance of hydraulic dams in the Cévennes: tancats (small thresholds or dams built across the waterway to recover any sediment carried by rainwater runoff), païssières (thresholds, little dams), béals (irrigation channels), trancats (rainwater drains carved into the rock or constructed uphill of buildings to channel rainwater and protect the buildings).

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin