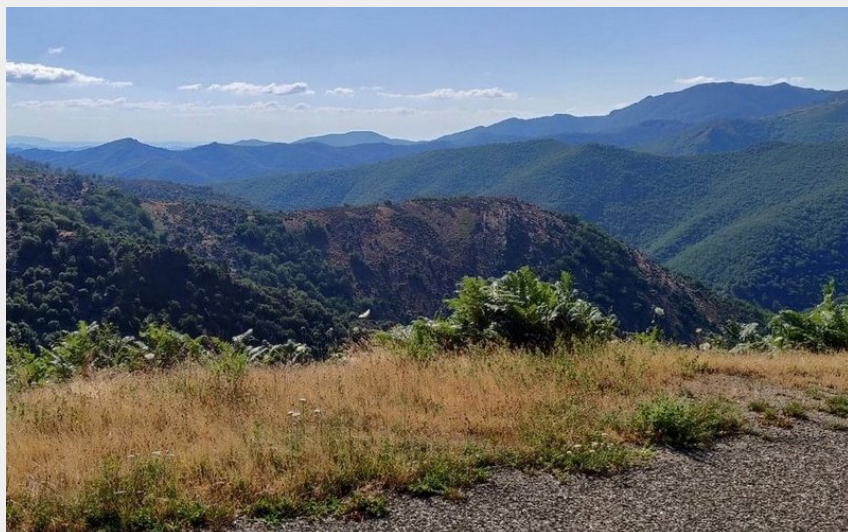
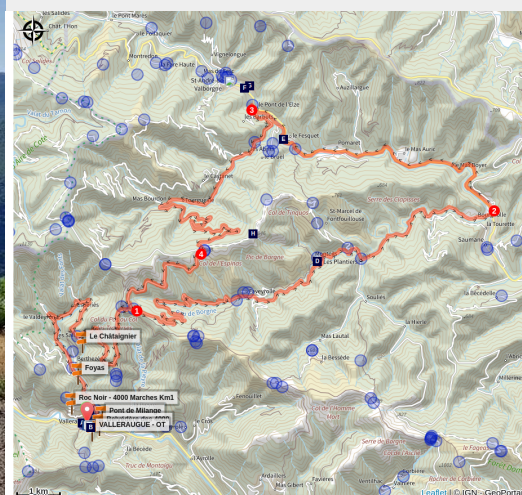


The sources of the Borgne

Gard



Au col de l'Espinasse (Béatrice Galzin)



Visit the western slope of Mont Aigoual on authentic small roads.

The mountain relief appears in shades of blue. Often Mont Ventoux can be seen in the distance, sometimes even the Alps.

Useful information

Practice : Cycling

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 57.0 km

Trek ascent : 1824 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Boucle

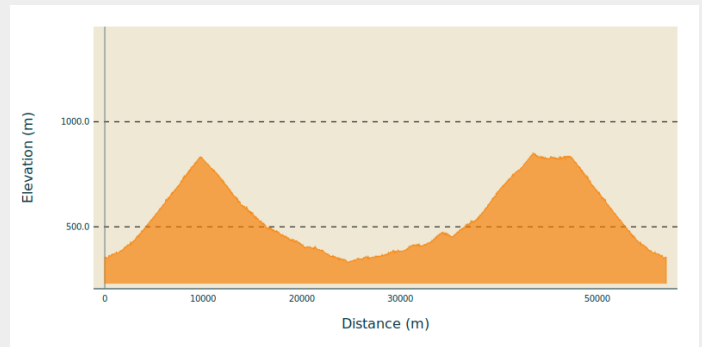
Trek

Departure : Valleraugue

Arrival : Valleraugue

Cities : 1. Val-d'Aigoual
2. Les Plantiers
3. Saumane
4. Saint-André-de-Valborgne

Altimetric profile

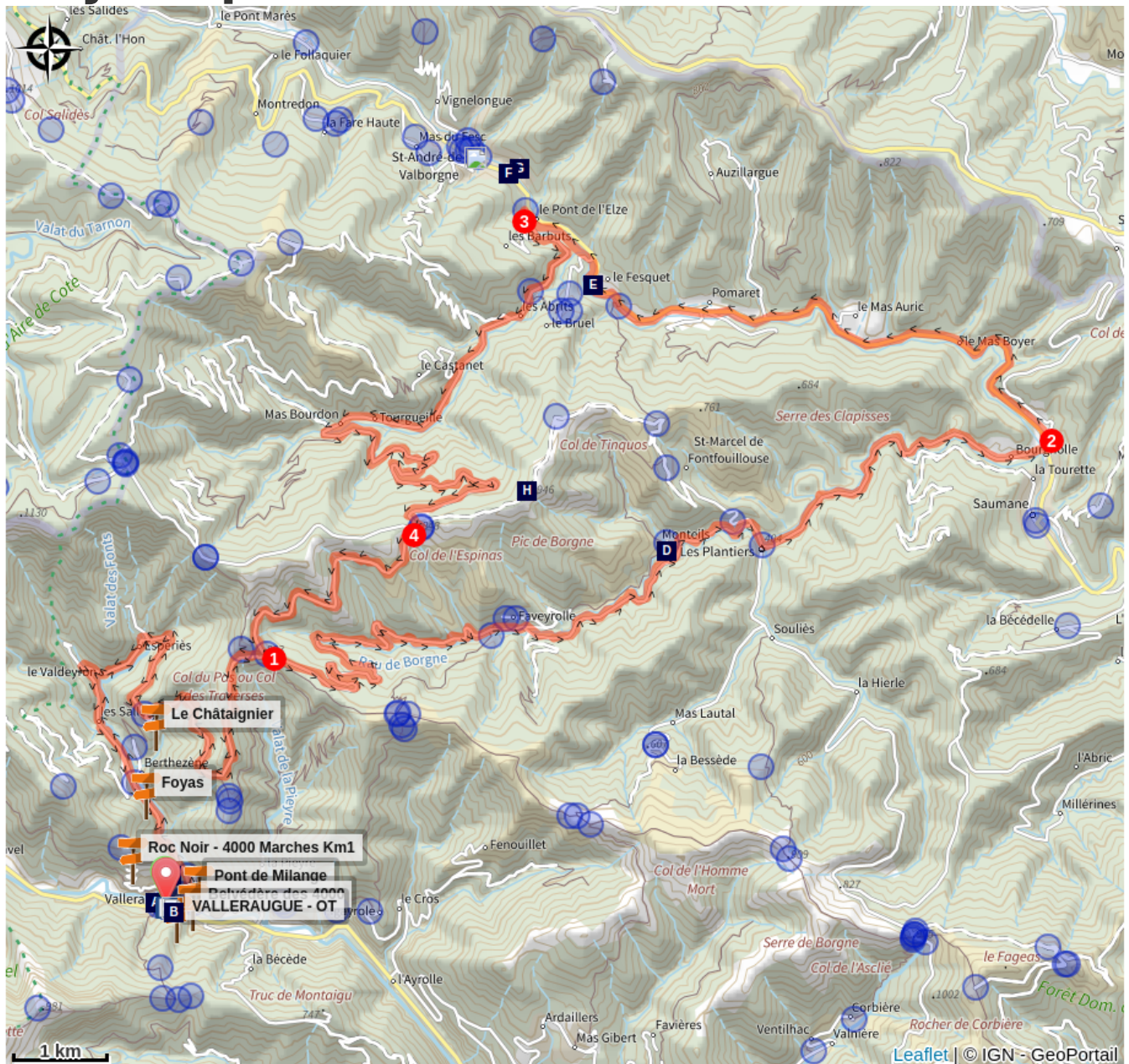


Min elevation 330 m Max elevation 861 m

From Valleraugue, head towards Les Plantiers on the D10 to the Col du Pas pass.

1. At Col du Pas, take the D193 towards Les Plantiers via Faveyrolles, Monteils. Continue on the D20 to the bridge at Bourgnolle.
2. At the bridge, climb to St-André de Valborgne on the D907.
3. Before you reach St-André de Valborgne, take the D10 towards Valleraugue via Les Abrits and the Col de l'Espinass pass.
4. Continue on the D10 to Valleraugue.

On your path...



Valleraugue (A)

Mediterranean level (C)

Cévenol housing (E)

Electrified... (G)

1703 (B)

The keep of Monteils castle (D)



Fish and other animals... (F)



Look up! (H)

All useful information

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 Le Vigan, drive towards Montpellier on the D999; at Le Pont d'Hérault, head to Valleraugue on the D986.

Advised parking

Car park at the tourism office

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

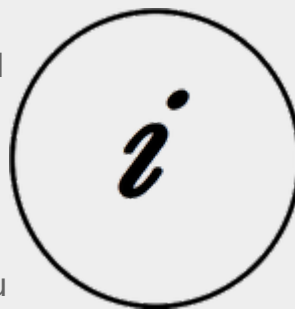
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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>



Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Valleraugue

7 quartier des Horts, 30570 Valleraugue

valleraugue@sudcevennes.com

Tel : 04 67 64 82 15

<https://www.sudcevennes.com>



Source



Pôle Nature Aigoual

On your path...



Valleraugue (A)

Valleraugue is believed to derive from "vallis eraugia", the Hérault valley. With its 7,834 hectares, the town extends from the Hérault valley to the summit of Mont Aigoual. Valleraugue is located on an important transportation route between the garrigues and the uplands, and once had up to 4,192 inhabitants (1851). Just over a century ago, in 1907, Abbot Fesquet wrote in his monograph on the village: "The population has been reduced to 2,500 souls. There was a time when it was difficult to find lodgings, says a 1773 town council deliberation. Nowadays, accommodation is plentiful...". In the 2007 census, the population was 1,081.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



1703 (B)

In Valleraugue, exporting chestnuts in times of famine or trouble was forbidden by law. In 1703, however, during the Camisard War, an official decree ordered the inhabitants to transport their chestnuts and cereals to other villages. This was to deprive the insurgents, who were supported by the locals, of provisions. The goods were guarded, and the inhabitants only kept two weeks' worth in reserve.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Mediterranean level (C)

To begin with, the path is in the holm-oak altitudinal zone. Holm oaks tend to grow on the Mediterranean side of the watershed, where they are plentiful up to an altitude of about 500 m. Here, they have been eradicated to create crop terraces. On the either side of the path, which runs between high walls and has steps that give access to gardens, you can still see these terraces, now invaded by or planted with conifers. Like the holm oak, the tree heath and strawberry trees that are also present are typically Mediterranean species. Plants in this zone are xerophile, meaning that they thrive in dry environments. They are well-adapted because their small and glazed leaves limit water evaporation.

Attribution : © Yves Maccagno



The keep of Montels castle (D)

The castle to which this tower belonged was once part of the La Fare barony. It occupied a platform of about 400 m²; the ditch which used to protect its northwestern side has been filled in. The first three stories of this remarkable rectangular keep, which covers an area of 70 m² on the ground, remain. They are built out of handsome schist dimension stones and have resisted due to the sturdiness of the thick walls, which are solid stone throughout. An enclosed courtyard once surrounded the keep. The stones from the castle and its surrounding wall were reused to build the hamlet's houses.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Cévenol housing (E)

Houses normally occupied the centre of the cultivated area. Built from schist, they were tall and narrow to save the level ground for crops. When houses needed expanding, people either added another storey to existing buildings or built a new wing parallel to the contour lines. Hamlets were always constructed near water sources and often at mid-slope because the valley floors are susceptible to brutal flooding as well as difficult to access. Good exposure to sunlight was not a decisive factor in choosing sites.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Fish and other animals... (F)

On the river banks, a pretty white, grey and black bird paces up and down looking for insects, bopping its long tail up and down: the white wagtail. The more colourful grey wagtail is often seen alongside it. The white-throated dipper resembles a blackbird with a big white stain on its breast. It often disappears underwater to hunt insect larvae. Trout, which like the same prey, also live in the Gardon, where they keep anglers happy.

Attribution : © Régis Descamps



Electrified... (G)

The village's inhabitants had access to electricity as early as 1919. The inconspicuous little hut on the opposite bank sheltered a little turbine supplied with water by a béal (irrigation channel). It was built by a villager, Mr Teston, and produced enough electricity for one lightbulb per household.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



Look up! (H)

In the forest, Dartford warblers (black, burgundy belly) accompany your efforts by chirping from the top of broom bushes. You might also come across their cousin, the much more colourful Eastern subalpine warbler (orange belly), or else a Northern wheatear.

The ridges are home to two rare bird species, protected in both France and the European Union: the red-backed shrike and the Eurasian eagle-owl. Other interesting protected species, such as the Eleonora's falcon and the common rock thrush, may also be observed here.

Attribution : Descamps régis