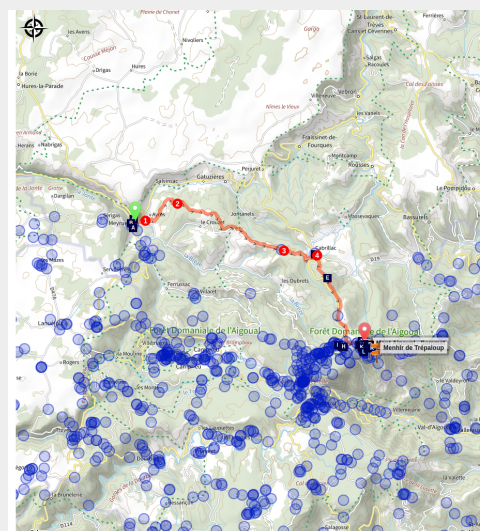


From Meyrueis to the summit of Mont Aigoual (Day 1)

Cévennes



La descente du plo du Four (© Nathalie Thomas)



A day for hiking to the top of Mont Aigoual via Cabrillac, through forests of crooked beeches and the Aigoual grasslands with their many colours in spring.

From Puech Pouchut along the ridges of Peyremoula, you have handsome vistas onto the Causse Méjean plateau and the Brèze valley. There is a steep hike through the forest after the hamlet of Cabrillac before the grasslands of the summit of Mont Aigoual come into view!

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 6 h

Length : 19.5 km

Trek ascent : 1051 m

Difficulty : Medium

Themes : Milieu naturel, Faune et flore, Architecture et village, Histoire et culture, Agriculture et élevage, Eau et géologie, Causses et Cévennes / UNESCO

Trek

Departure : Meyrueis

Arrival : Mont Aigoual

Markings :  GR®

Cities : 1. Meyrueis

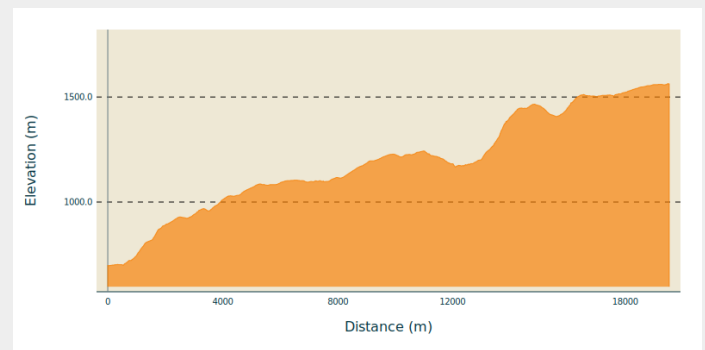
2. Gatuzières

3. Rousses

4. Bassurels

5. Val-d'Aigoual

Altimetric profile

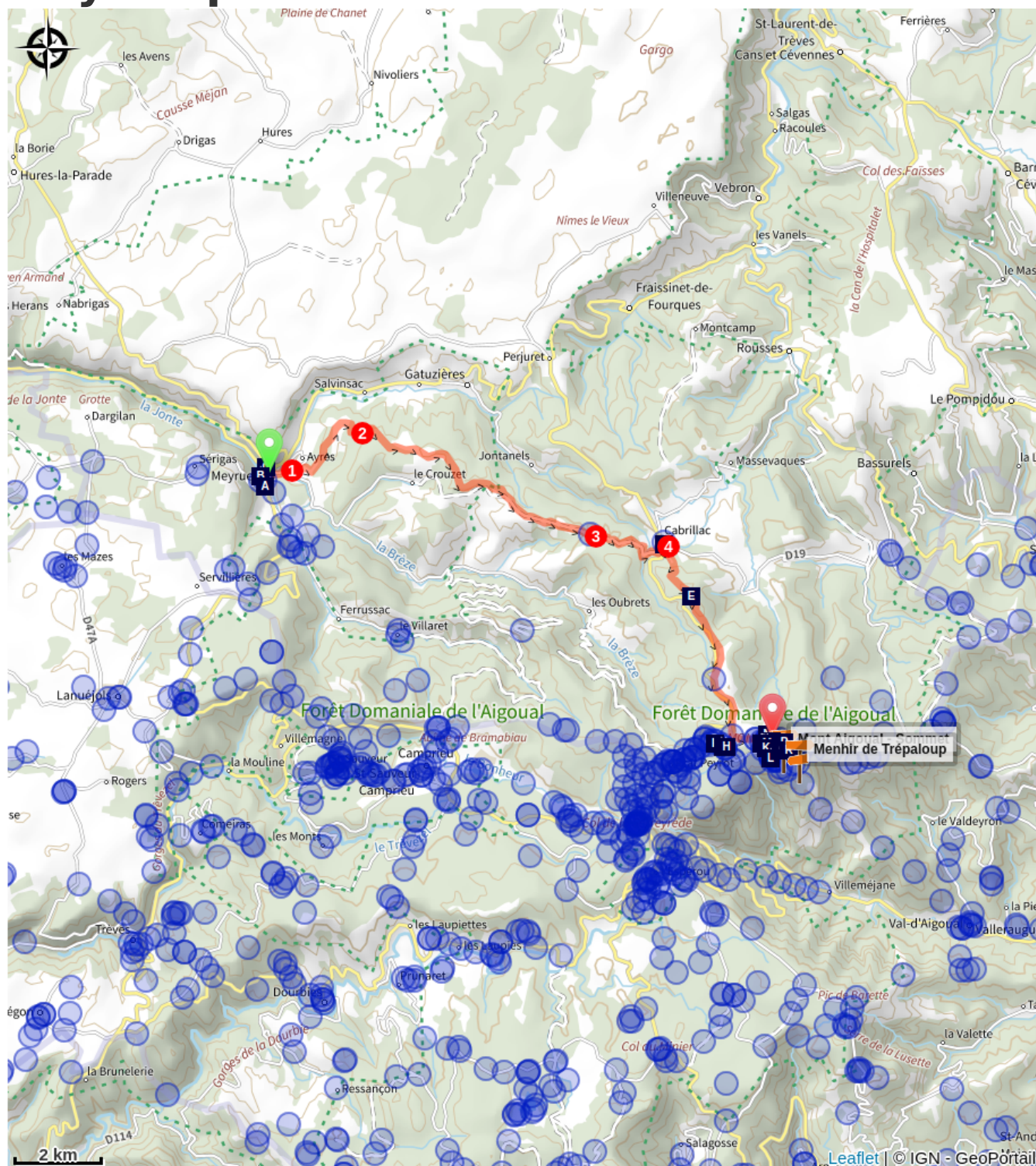


Min elevation 717 m Max elevation 1559 m

From Place Sully walk towards Les Ayres on the RD 57.

1. Pass the Le Jardin des Cévennes campsite on the right and go uphill towards the Village de Vacances (holiday village). After the reservoir, you enter the woods (waymarked GR®66).
2. The track goes steadily uphill to the Col del Bès pass (GR®66).
3. The path descends into the Jonte valley and crosses a bridge before reaching the hamlet of Cabrillac (GR®66).
4. In Cabrillac you leave the GR®66 long-distance hiking path for the GR®60, heading for the top of Mont Aigoual. Steep climb for 2 km, to Serre Ploumat. The path overlooks the RD 18 road. When you reach the RD 118 take it to the summit of Mont Aigoual.

On your path...



The village of Meyrueis (A)

Terrace (C)

The Aubrac drovers' road (E)

 The Nests (Céline Pialot) (G)

Archeosmart (Marc Limousin) (I)

Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (K)

Mont Aigoual weather station (M)

Castle rock (B)

Cabrillac (D)

Leaf-Tree (Alain Bernegger) (F)

 Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (H)

Summit of Mont Aigoual (J)

A site for botanical experiments (L)

Tempus Fugit (Fiona Paterson,
Donald Buglass) (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.

How to come ?

Transports

Place Sully

July and August: Bus line "Meyrueis-Millau"

https://lio.laregion.fr/IMG/pdf/oc-1903-fhbus-48-257-3v_bd_04_.pdf

Daily year-round line: different timetables in term time than in 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

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...



The village of Meyrueis (A)

The geographical location of Meyrueis is remarkable, nestled between the Aigoual massif, the causse Noir and the causse Méjean. Here the Camin Ferrat crosses the Jonte river. Pilgrims and transhumant flocks of sheep stopped in the village before continuing their journey. Many merchants came to its large fairs. Stroll through the lanes and relive the flourishing past of the belle époque. From the prosperous bourgeois residences to the marketplaces, everything still speaks of the past! Sheep's wool from the plateaux was woven here, silk was spun. There was intense economic activity. In the 17th century, Meyrueis became a centre for hat-making. By 1860, 17 milliners were busy making hats for Languedoc and Provence, beautiful and exceptionally high-quality hats made from felted wool and silk bourette. Discontinued as of about 1920, this activity left room for tourism, which today animates the village.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



Castle rock (B)

According to a non-verifiable claim from the 17th century, the Roman general Caius Marius had a castrum built on the rock overlooking the village, in 101 BC. However, the first written sources to mention the village date from the 11th c. and refer to the castle, home to the Bermont family. The castle then passed successively into the hands of the Anduze, Roquefeuil and Armagnac families, before falling to Jeanne d'Albret, Queen of Navarre.

Attribution : © Nathalie Thomas



Terrace (C)

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



Cabrillac (D)

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



The Aubrac drovers' road (E)

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



Leaf-Tree (Alain Bernegger) (F)

Leaf-Trees use a veined structure to create a visual resonance between the tree and the leaf. The change of scale works like an inverted echo of this fractal structure. And as winter comes, the eternal summer of the Leaf-Trees confronts the winter of the bare branches.

Attribution : © Filature du Mazel



The Nests (Céline Pialot) (G)

Little by little, the bird makes its nest, its cosy nest, baby cocoon, wasps' nest...

Like a bird, the artist has gathered materials offered by nature and has arranged them to build three nests, three refuges, three circles that reference perfection and invite meditation.

Attribution : © E. Fréget



Pôle Nature 4 Saisons (H)

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



Archeosmart (Marc Limousin) (I)

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



Summit of Mont Aigoual (J)

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



Seated (Marie-Hélène Richard) (K)

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



A site for botanical experiments (L)

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



Mont Aigoual weather station (M)

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



Tempus Fugit (Fiona Paterson, Donald Buglass) (N)

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