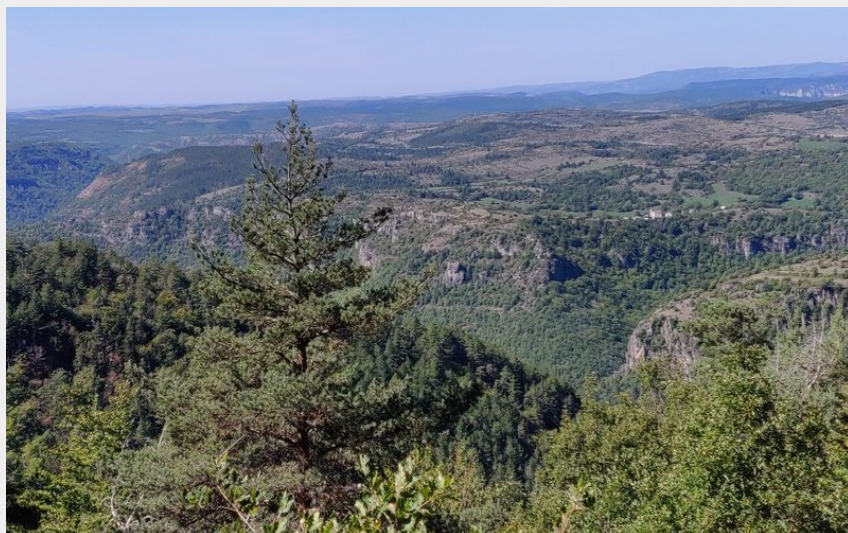
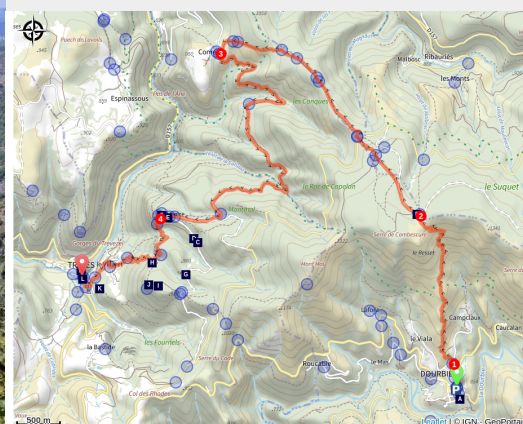


One foot in the Dourbies valley, the other in the Trévezel (day 2)

Gard



Le Causse noir et la Vallée du Trévezel (Béatrice Galzin)



A pretty climb to the Col du Suquet pass on an old cobblestoned road. All along the path, the landscapes are varied, with handsome views of Dourbies and the Trévezel river.

In the old days, this draille (drovers' road) was used for seasonal livestock migrations. At Le Suquet, you have views over the whole Lingas massif. Forests and valleys share the territory to the very summit of Mont Aigoual. In the distance, you can make out the Causse Noir plateau and, in the foreground, the limestone cliffs of the Trévezel river valley.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 8 h

Length : 14.7 km

Trek ascent : 687 m

Difficulty : Medium

Themes : Milieu naturel, Faune et flore, Architecture et village, Histoire et culture, Eau et géologie

Trek

Departure : Dourbies

Arrival : Trèves

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique — GR®

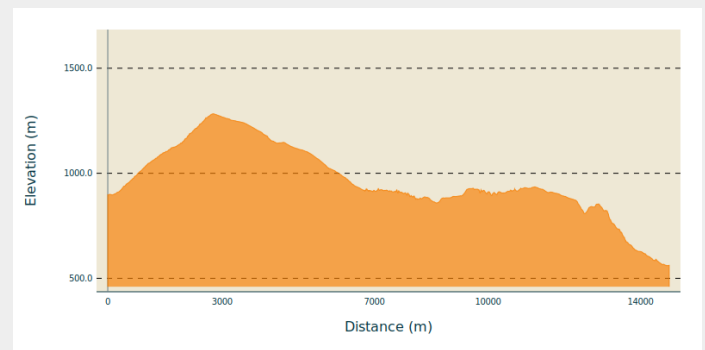
Cities : 1. Dourbies

2. Saint-Sauveur-Camprieu

3. Lanuéjols

4. Trèves

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 556 m Max elevation 1282 m

Starting from “**Dourbies - Église**”, follow “**Col du Suquet**”.

1. On the GR®66 long-distance path, follow “**La Canelle**” then “**Col du Suquet**”.
2. At “**Col du Suquet**” walk to “**Le vieux hêtre**”, “**La Roque**” and “**Comeiras**”.
3. At “**Comeiras**”, go to “**Canayères**” via “**Sapins et Séquoias**” and “**Les sapins noirs**”.
4. At “**Canayère**”, head to “**Trèves**” via “**Le valat d’Espruniers**”, “**Réservoir du Villaret**”, “**Le Villaret**” and “**La vierge**”. Return to Trèves.

On your path...



Dourbies (A)

The schist/limestone contact zone

(C)

Canayère (E)

The hamlet of Espruniers (G)

 Typical grasslands on limestone soil

(I)

Box (Buxus) (K)

Trèves (M)

Col du Suquet pass (B)

Calcifugous vegetation (D)

A recent forest (F)

Joulie Cave (H)

Open-sky geology (J)

Treves (L)

All useful information

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 any gates and barriers behind you.

Be careful, difficult descent.

How to come ?

Access

From Nant take the D341, then the D151 to the village of Dourbies.

From Meyrueis take the D986, then the D157 via the Trévezet gorge and Trèves, then the D151 to the village of Dourbies.

Advised parking

Car parks in the village

Information desks

Tourism'house and national Parc at Florac

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

info@cevennes-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 66 45 01 14

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



Tourism & national parc'house

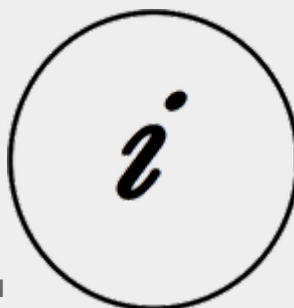
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisondeilaigoual@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



CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

<http://www.caussesaignoualcevennes.fr/>

On your path...



Dourbies (A)

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



Col du Suquet pass (B)

You are at the highest point of the hike. On the right bank of the Dourbie, the path crosses a sheer slope that is alternatively made up of zones of solid granite and other zones where it has decomposed due to weathering into coarse granitic sand. To the south, the views encompass the entire Lingas massif, a high wooded plateau overlooking, further south, the region around Le Vigan and the Languedocian plain.

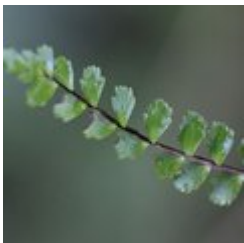
Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The schist/limestone contact zone (C)

Here, the layers of the schist outcrops are almost vertical in places. This contact between Causses and Cévennes, between the primary bedrock and the limestone layers, is due to a geological fault created by the various movements and constraints that have affected the Earth's crust. In this zone, the schist bedrock has been pushed upwards by several hundred metres along the fault line compared to the limestone plateau, although the latter is less old.

Attribution : © Yves Maccagno



Calcifugous vegetation (D)

This section of the path in the schist zone showcases calcifugous ("limestone-avoiding") vegetation, which only grows on acid soils (schist or granite): especially chestnut trees, ferns, heather and broom.

Attribution : © Valère Marsaudon



Canayère (E)

A former farm turned forester's house in 1880. In the early days of the Mont Aiguol reforestation, forestry officers lived here year-round during their missions. Forestry workers working on the replanting were allowed to use the outbuildings. Later, only one official resided here. Since 1967, no official has permanently lived here. (B. Mathieu)

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



A recent forest (F)

The stands that were planted during the large reforestation programmes of the late 19th century onwards consist of black pines, a rustic species that is well-adapted to dry limestone soils. Underground, the Causses plateaux are characterised by networks of tunnels and cavities that have been created by water movement over millions of years. Subterranean rivers are blocked by the impermeable layers of the valley floor and flow into the Trévezel instead.

Attribution : © Sud Cévennes



The hamlet of Espruniers (G)

This hamlet, which consisted of a sizeable grouping of houses, was inhabited until about 1930. You have stopped on what was probably the threshing floor for grains.

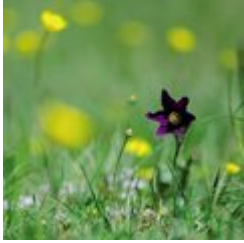
Attribution : © Fonds Flahault



Joulie Cave (H)

In March 1952, Jolly, a forestry official, showed his friend Frayssignes this cave. Deposited in it they discovered the remains of 300 humans from the Neolithic, who had been carefully laid out side by side. The cave was rapidly declared a historical monument. In the depths of the cave, a great number of bear bones was also found. This cave bear, the ancestor of our brown bear (*Ursus spelaeus*), had a skull 50 cm long! In the winter, groups of these bears would have huddled together in clay wallows at the rear of the caves. *Ursus artos* succeeded the cave bear and was succeeded in turn by the brown bear, which was hunted to extinction in the 15th century. (B. Mathieu)

Attribution : © M. Delor



Typical grasslands on limestone soil (I)

This small area of grassland is one of the rare open spaces on the Causse de Canayère. It is of interest for the preservation of certain flower species, especially the pasqueflower and several varieties of orchid. To counteract the natural progression towards more closed environments, this site is maintained by regular mowing.

Attribution : © Olivier Prohin



Open-sky geology (J)

The granite and schist (slate) that constitute the bedrock of the Cévennes and Causses were created in the Paleozoic. The bedrock was then flattened by erosion and covered by the sea, leading to limestone deposits. On the reliefs, erosion has eliminated the sedimentary top layer while in zones of subsidence, such as the Causses, the limestone deposits remained in place. Since then, waterways have cut ever deeper into the limestone, and continue to do so today.

Attribution : © Valère Marsaudon



Box (Buxus) (K)

Boxwood and humans: a long relationship! When livestock farming increased, the primeval oak forest opened up and box – which is too hard for sheep's teeth – took hold everywhere. Humans discovered one of its major qualities: broken up and scattered over the ground as a litter, it protects vegetable seedlings from drought and frost. Its leaves can make up for a lack of straw for fertilising arable land. In 1818, a decree issued by the prefect of the Gard department worried about the excessive clearing of box groves and the messy manner in which they were being uprooted, without adequate tools. Until about 1910, you might see mules laden with enormous bundles of box; then chemistry took over. (B. Mathieu)

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Treves (L)

In Antiquity, the village square was a cemetery. The name Trèves is believed to derive from the Gaulish trebo – meaning 'village' according to some sources or the Celtic water goddess according to others – or perhaps from trivium, crossroads... The track going over the Roman bridge at Le Trévezet, restored in the 18th century, was in fact an important road in Antiquity. There is another hypothesis if you consult Boissier de Sauvages' 1820 dictionary, in whose opinion Treva or Trebo are Occitan words referring to phantoms or spirits. You might well be tempted by this version once you know the history of the Pas de Joulié cave described below! (B. Mathieu)

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Trèves (M)

From Tabrî, meaning “village close to the water” in the Chasséen culture (Baume Lairoux, La Verrière, etc.), which lay on the trade route between the Gabali tribe, the coast and the Arecomici tribe. It was given a wooden bridge by the Romans, occupied first by Arian Visigoths and then by Nicene Christian Franks, and destroyed by Muslims around 730. It was revived in the Carolingian period with its Romanesque bridge, and was loyal to the Kings of France, who granted it a consuls’ charter in the 14th century and the bell on top of the church, which had remained Catholic. In the 17th century, Trèves had hemp fields, whose hempen cloth was used in the draperies in Lodève. Its blue sheep’s cheese, its galena mine and its terraces of almond trees and lentils belong to the past. Only the Pétassou (local pagan character and festival) remains (M.MOULINIER, historian).

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin