

# The Puechs

CA Alès Agglomération



Le Gardon de Mialet (nathalie.thomas)

Immerse yourself in a history as you walk from the banks of the river Gardon to Mas Soubeyran, a museum of French Protestantism. You will be able to enjoy far-reaching views onto the Puechs, Mont Aigoual, Mont Liron and, on clear days, even the Alps.

## Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 4 h 30

Length : 11.7 km

Trek ascent : 391 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Architecture et village, Histoire et culture, Transports en commun

# Trek

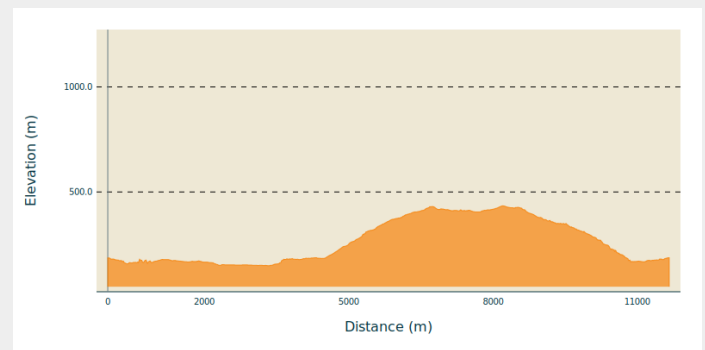
**Departure** : Mialet

**Arrival** : Mialet

**Markings** : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

**Cities** : 1. Mialet

## Altimetric profile



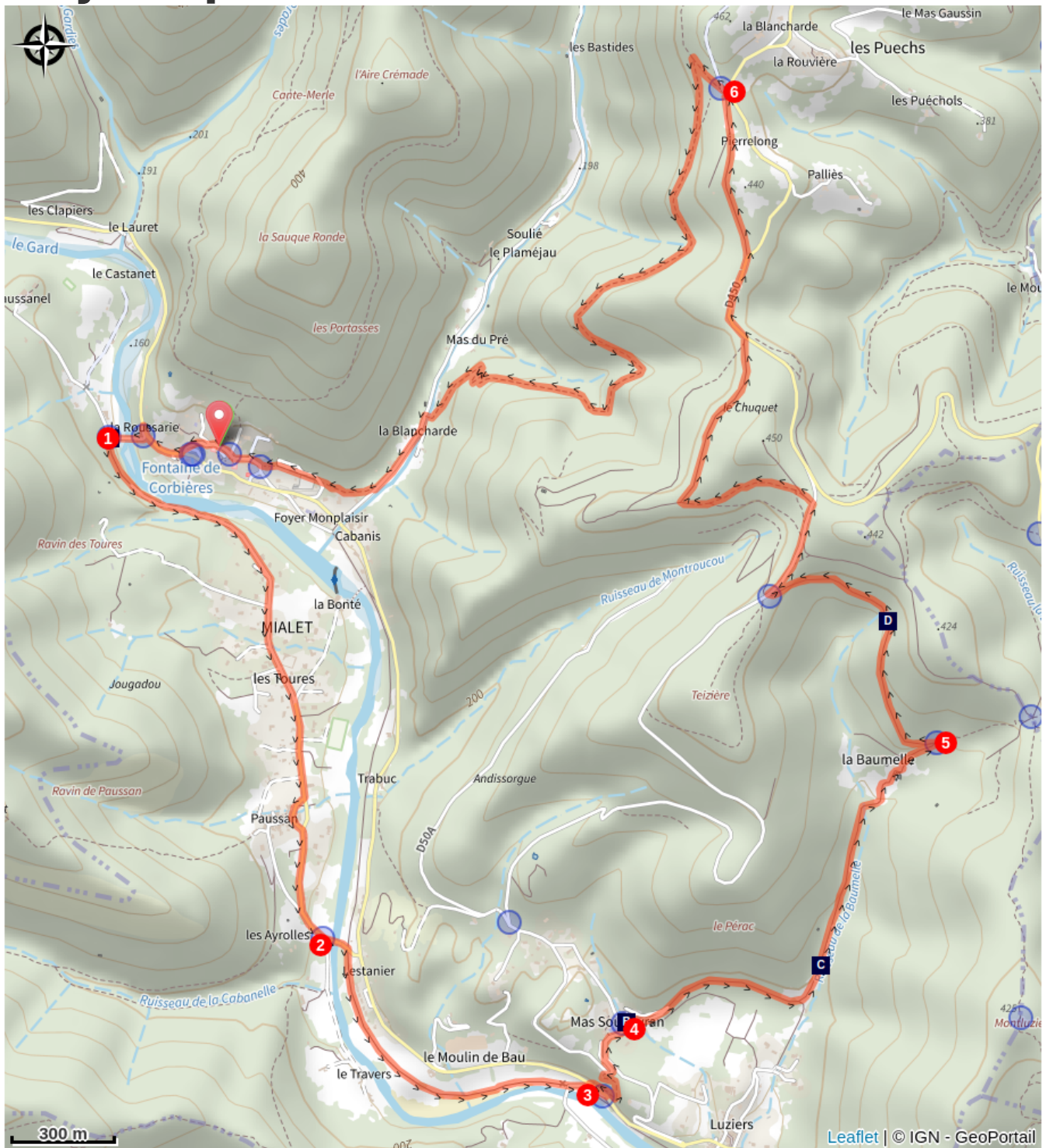
Min elevation 152 m    Max elevation 431 m

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

From the car park "**Mialet**", turn right onto the D 50, cross the Pont des Camisards bridge.

1. At "**Pont des Camisards**" turn left towards
2. "**Le Travès**". Then head for Mas Soubeyran via:
3. " **La Rouquette**".
4. At "**Mialet-Mas Soubeyran**", take the path on the right to reach La Baumelle gully, which leads to the mas (farm) of the same name. Walk past the mas on its right.
5. At "**La Baumelle**" continue on the track to join up with the road. Turn right onto the road and after 250 m turn left on a path towards La Rouvière.
6. At "**La Rouvière**", turn left onto a fire road (DFCI) and take a path on the left that goes downhill into Roquefeuille gully. Cross the bridge, take the road on the left and then a small path on the right that will lead you back to Mialet.

# On your path...



The Pont des Camisards (A)  
Mill (C)

Mas Soubeyran (B)  
Hellebore (D)

# 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 solid shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers after yourself.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

Cette randonnée est accessible en transports en commun.

Pour consulter les horaires actualisés et planifier votre trajet, utilisez le calculateur d'itinéraires ci-dessous en renseignant l'**arrêt d'arrivée : MIALET**

### Access

From Anduze, take the D 129 towards G  n  rargues, then the D 50 to Mialet

### Advised parking

In front of the cemetery

## **Information desks**

### **Tourism office C  vennes Tourisme, Saint-Jean-du-Gard**

Maison rouge, 30270 Saint-Jean-du-Gard

[contact@cevennes-tourisme.fr](mailto:contact@cevennes-tourisme.fr)

Tel : 04 66 85 32 11

<https://www.cevennes-tourisme.fr/>



## **Source**

CA Al  s Agglom  ration

## On your path...

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### The Pont des Camisards (A)

Legend has it that this humpback bridge was built from 1702 to 1704 by Jean Cavalier, a leader of the Protestant Camisard uprising against the Catholic King. And a legend is all it is. It was constructed a decade later, from 1714 to 1718, when Louis XIV's Intendant, a Monsieur de Basville, decided to develop the road network in the Cévennes. The diocese of Alès was responsible for funding a large share of the construction, and the inhabitants of Mialet were forced to participate through work or paying taxes. In 1976, it became a listed monument. (Nelly Bernard)

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

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### Mas Soubeyran (B)

The idea for a “Museum of the Wilderness” goes back to 1880, when the Société de l'histoire du protestantisme français launched a subscription to buy the birthplace of the Camisard leader Roland (real name: Pierre Laporte). [...] In 1910, the Musée du Désert was created as a memorial site to trace the history of Protestantism from 1685 to 1789 and its fight against the French regime's intolerance. [...] It is intended to bear witness to the past and promote awareness of the spiritual and cultural heritage that shaped the Cévenol mentality. Every first Sunday in September, almost 20,000 people gather in the shade of the oaks at Mas Soubeyran to hold a Protestant service – the so-called Gathering in the Wilderness. (Nelly Bernard)

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## Mill (C)

Very old mills for producing oil, wool and flour border the Valat de Baumelle gully. Note the mill pond (Occitan: gorga) at the edge of the path and backing onto the mill. The inhabitants of Luziers laid out their vegetable plots on the many terraces you can still see on either side of the path. The uppermost terraces – the “dry gardens” – were reserved for crops needing little water: broad beans, lentils, peas, etc. Other vegetables were planted on terraces that lay closer to the waterway. They were irrigated using a system of terracotta pipes connected to small basins. (Nelly Bernard)

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## Hellebore (D)

Alongside the paths grows a plant whose name, at least, is known to all those who remember La Fontaine's fable of the Hare and the Tortoise: “Pray take, your senses to restore / A grain or two of hellebore”. Hellebore, also known as dungwort, is toxic – but it does not cure madness as popular belief had it. This member of the buttercup family is evergreen and can be identified in winter by its pale green leaves, which are spear-shaped and palmately lobed. [...] Its pale green flower stalk has bracts and dies after flowering; it appears in February to March. It is embellished with five greenish petals with a red edge and ten petals of a rather unpleasant nectary shape. Shepherds hung it in sheepfolds and used it to treat abscesses and sheep scab. (Nelly Bernard)

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