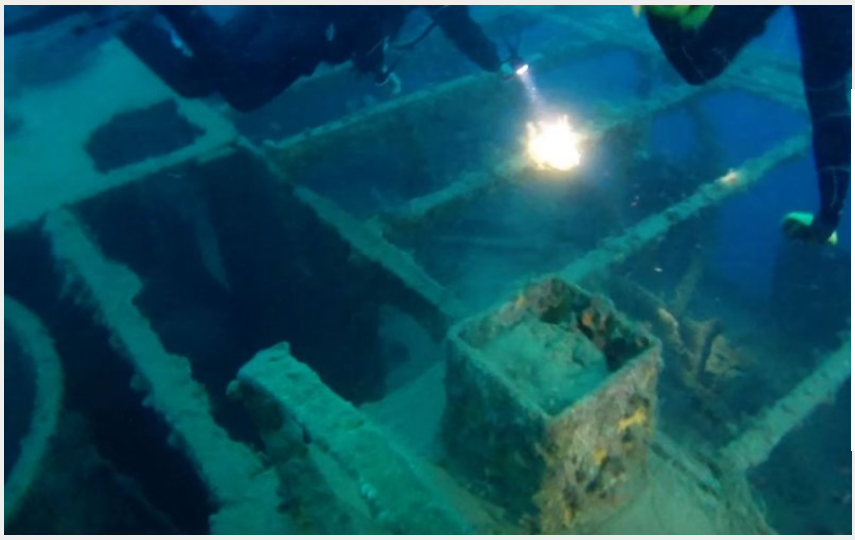
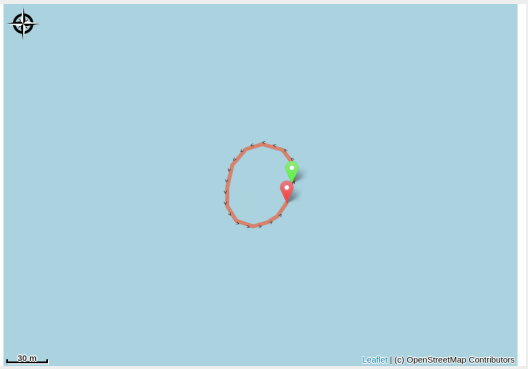
The Wreck l'Astrée

Côte Vermeille



(Sebastien Cas)



All the diving clubs on the Côte Vermeille suggest this wreck as an excursion

Like the « Alice Robert » and the « Saumur », the « Astrée » is the most visited wreck of the Vermeille Coast. It is also inhabited by a very rich fauna

Useful information

Practice : Scuba diving

Duration : 1 h

Length : 0.2 km

Difficulty : Hard

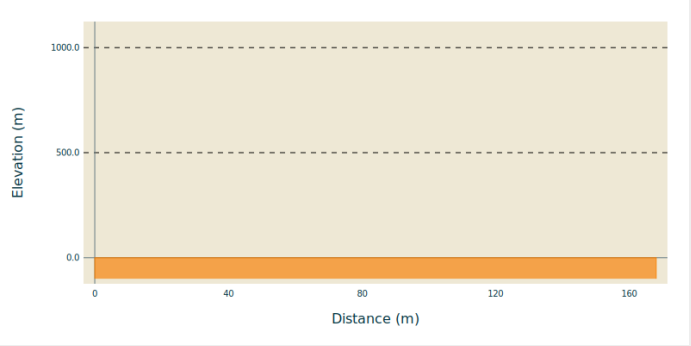
Type : Aller-retour

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Epave

Trek

Departure : Port d'Argelès-sur-Mer, de Collioure, de Port-Vendres, Banyuls-sur-Mer et Cerbère
Arrival : l’Astrée wreck
Cities : 1. PORT-VENDRES

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 0 m Max elevation 0 m

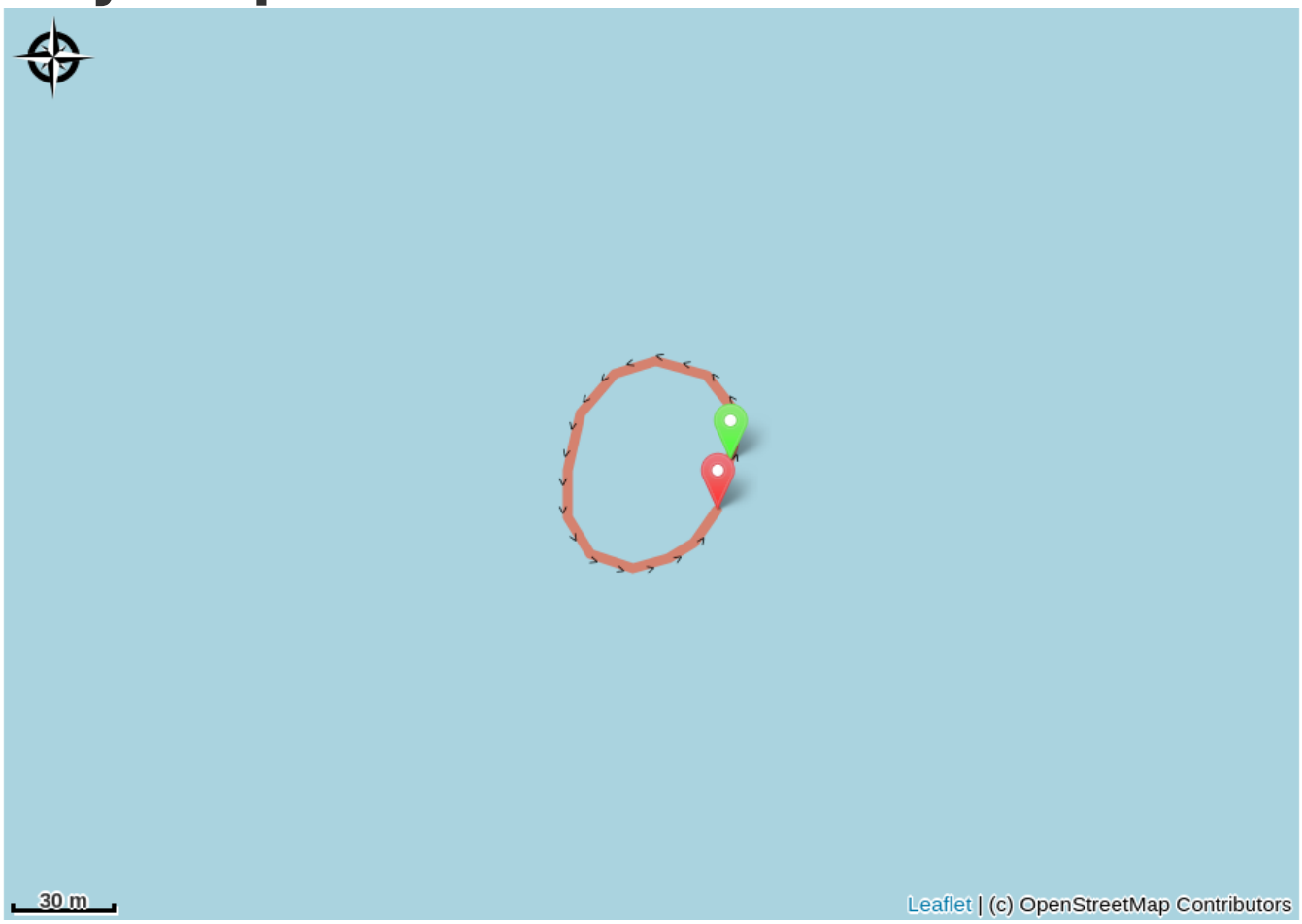
Built in 1921 in England, the Astrée was a steel steamboat cargo ship transporting coal. By her original name Belbro, belonging to the Halifax Shipping Corporation based in Hull.
She measured 87 meters long by 13 meters wide and 5.4 meters deep draft. Weighing 2171 tons and powered by a steam engine.

In 1939, the ship came under the control of the National Maritime Society as part of the war effort and was used to transport heavy goods (coal, ore) in the Western Mediterranean (Oran) and the Atlantic (Casablanca). On board, the crew was composed of 26 sailors, including two gunners charged with protecting the ship against enemy planes.

On December 5, 1942, l’Astrée was requisitioned by the Germans, and on May 1, 1944, returning from Egypt, it was torpedoed near Port-Vendres by an English submarine. Local witnesses say that the freighter, recognizable by its large black chimney, had passed Port-Vendres along the coast towards the north, when it was hit by a huge explosion. She was hit by a torpedo in the starboard bow. The submarine that fired the torpedo remained invisible, certainly ambushed near the very jagged coast in this region. After being seriously hit, the cargo ship turned back to reach Port-Vendres before the next day, but she did not arrive in time and sank after only a few minutes. The German batteries of Cap Béar, alerted, had bombarded at random hoping to flush out the submarine. But it had already fled without difficulty. No one knows what happened to the Astrée's crew and whether they escaped the sinking.

(Fortunes de Mer et Epaves dans le Parc Naturel du Golfe du Lion 1850-2018 par Laurent Urios, Hervé Levano, Patrick Strazzera)

On your path...



All useful information

⚠ Advices

Go safe and be supervised by professional scuba diving from all the ports of the Côte Vermeille.

Argelès-sur-Mer:
Argelès Plongée: 06 78 48 76 30 / 06 83 89 96 90 - Résidence Santa Maria Rue des Matelots
Aquatile Plongée: 06 16 51 31 06 - Résidence Atalaya 2 Place Magellan
Archipel Plongée: 04 68 95 71 03 / 06 25 59 35 77 - 8 Résidence les Villégiales
La Sirène Plongée : 04 68 81 60 58 – Camping la Sirène, route de Taxo
Collioure:
CIP Collioure: 04 68 82 07 16 - 24 Rue Ravin du Coma Xeric
Port-Vendres:
Paradis des bulles: 06 70 55 69 18 - Quai Fanal
Tech of Plongée: 06 58 55 41 04 -2 Quai Fanal
CAP Port-Vendres: 04 34 12 09 27 - 4 rue Jules Ferry
Scuba Passion: 06 07 56 03 73 - Plage des Tamarins Route de la Jetée
Banyuls-sur-Mer:
Rédéris Plongée: 04 68 88 31 66 - Quai A Port Parking Méditerranée
AquaBlue Plongée: 04 68 88 17 35 - 5 Quai Georges Petit
Plongée Bleue: 07 85 75 67 45- 10 quai Georges Petit
Cerbère:
Aloès Plongée: 06 33 33 18 44 - Résidence les Aloes Cap Peyrefite
Plongée Cap Cerbère: 04 68 88 41 00 - Route d'Espagne

Environmental sensitive areas

Along your trek, you will go through sensitive areas related to the presence of a specific species or environment. In these areas, an appropriate behaviour allows to contribute to their preservation. For detailed information, specific forms are accessible for each area.

Zone Natura 2000 Directive Habitat

Sensitivity period:

Zone Natura 2000 Directive Oiseaux

Zone Natura 2000 Directive Oiseaux

Sensitivity period:

Zone Natura 2000 Directive oiseaux