The Valley of the Deer

Côte Vermeille



(Frédéric Hédelin)



Megaliths, feudal ruins and exceptional views.

During this walk, you can discover megaliths and the ruins of the Querroig Tower. You will follow tracks that wind through vineyards, the terroir of Banyuls and Collioure. From the summit, you can admire the bays of Cerbère and Port-Bou and, if the weather is clear, the bay of Rosas.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 6 h 30

Length : 14.5 km

Trek ascent : 833 m

Difficulty : Hard

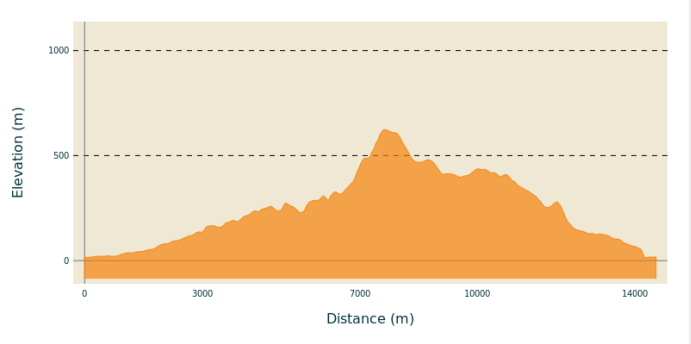
Type : Boucle

Themes : Point de vue, Histoire, Montagne

Trek

Departure : Tourist Office of Cerbère
Arrival : Tourist Office of Cerbère
Markings : PR
Cities : 1. CERBERE
2. BANYULS SUR MER

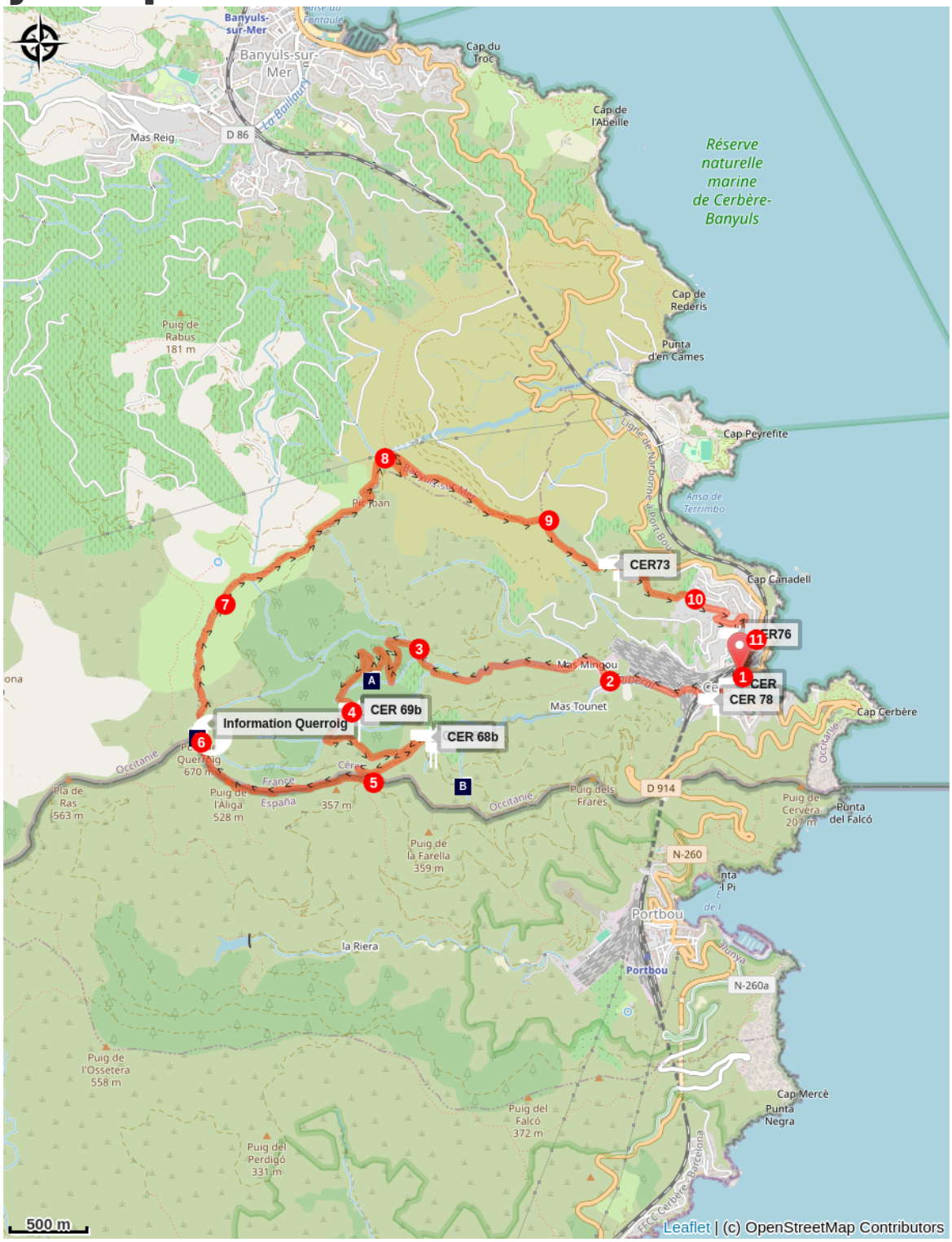
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 14 m Max elevation 624 m

1. From the Tourist Information Office go south and turn right on rue du Ribéral, then into the tunnel; take the Ribéral bed to Mas Mingou.
2. Descend to follow the river bed. At the bridge take the right path. Pass near the Transfesa site then near the kennel and continue until the end. Descend to follow the river bed.
3. When you cross the concrete ford, you enter the ONF domain, take the forest road, you will pass near the sheepfold Las Ocas and walk in the pine forest, there, observe the menhir of Sant Salvador before reaching Pla de the Vaques.
4. Take the DFCI-AL67 track to the crow's feet where you have to turn right and again right then the track to the left.
5. At the Col de la Fareilla, take the crest trail passing near the Col de la Farella dolmen (in very poor condition). Climb to Pic Querroig.
6. At Pic Querroig, you can see the ruins of the old castle and the tower. The view is exceptional. Continue your journey along the ridges.
7. Pass near the Dolmen of Coll de Les Portes, Go through the Col de Cerbère, near the watchtower.
8. At Pic Joan go to Pic Galline, between the two peaks you can see the Coma Enestepera dolmen.
9. At the Pic de la Galline, continue towards Cerbère.
10. In the subdivision, take rue Salvador Dali, rue Aristide Maillol then left and right until rue du Mas Nadal.
11. At the end, go left towards rue du Bel Horizon. Cross the railroad tracks and return to the ILO.

On your path...



The Menhir of San Salvador (A)

Dolmen du Col de la Farella (B)

Tour de Querroig (C)

All useful information

⚠ Advices

Do not stray from marked trails. Bring water, sturdy shoes, a cap or hat, sunscreen, a windbreaker, and snacks. Check the weather before heading out. Carry your waste with you.

How to come ?

Transports

Bus à 2€

Access

D 914

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

On your path...



The Menhir of San Salvador (A)

The region is rich in a large quantity of megaliths dating from the 5th to the 2nd millennium BC (Neolithic). Many dolmens and menhirs are present on the territory, especially in the low hills of the middle mountains, where the living conditions were ideal. The Menhir of San Salvador, an elegant stone planted on a recently reforested site, is almost 3 meters high and is part of this historic heritage.

Attribution : Philivelo



Dolmen du Col de la Farella (B)

This monument has lost its capstone. It is a corridor dolmen with an entrance narrowed by two closing stones. This dolmen was discovered by Pierre Abelanet in 1981. Excerpt from the book "Randonnées Mégalithiques" by Jean-Philippe Lapeyre - Balades en Pays Catalan.

Attribution : Jean-Philippe Lapeyre



Tour de Querroig (C)

The ruins of the fortress of Querroig are located at 670 meters altitude between the municipalities of Banyuls-sur-Mer, Cerbere and Portbou. The remains are those of a medieval castle built at the end of the 13th century by the Count of Ampurias and conceded in 1303 to the knight Bernat de Rabos Lord of Cerberus. Integrated into the network of signal towers of the kings of Mallorca, it was the link with southern Catalonia. This archaeological site is registered as a historical monument.

Attribution : Salvem Querroig