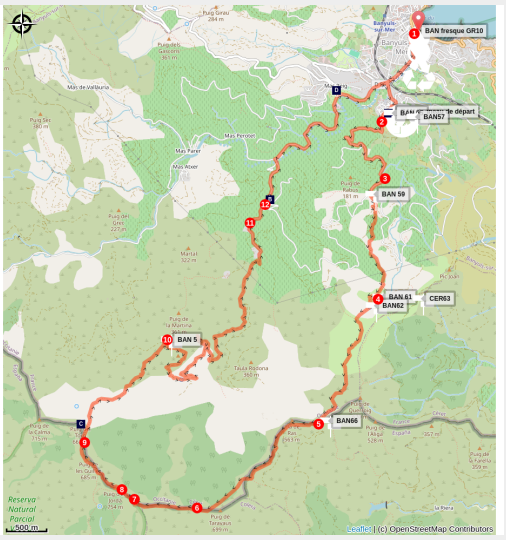
The loop of freedom

Côte Vermeille



Vue de la Tour de Querroig (Frédéric Hédelin)



Fantastic hike along the ridges of Banyuls, following the footsteps of those who fled France from 1940 to 1945 in search of freedom

A la conquête des crêtes de Banyuls-sur-Mer, aux panoramas exceptionnels, sur les pas des exilés de la seconde guerre mondiale et des républicains espagnols qui fuyait le régime de Franco. Le Musée Aristide Maillol est situé sur l'itinéraire .

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 9 h

Length : 23.4 km

Trek ascent : 1110 m

Difficulty : Hard

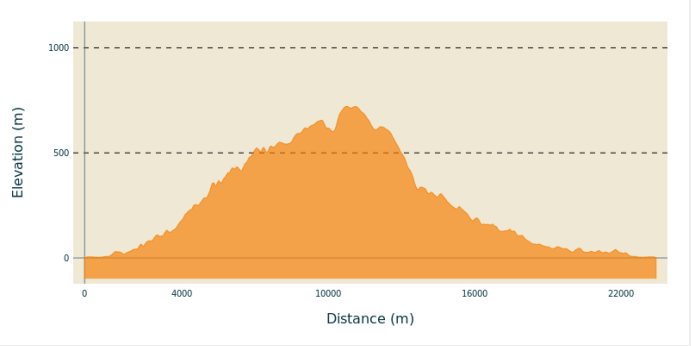
Type : Boucle

Themes : Point de vue, Sommet, Histoire, Art

Trek

Departure : Tourist Office of Banyuls-sur-Mer
Arrival : Tourist Office of Banyuls-sur-Mer
Markings : PR
Cities : 1. BANYULS SUR MER

Altimetric profile

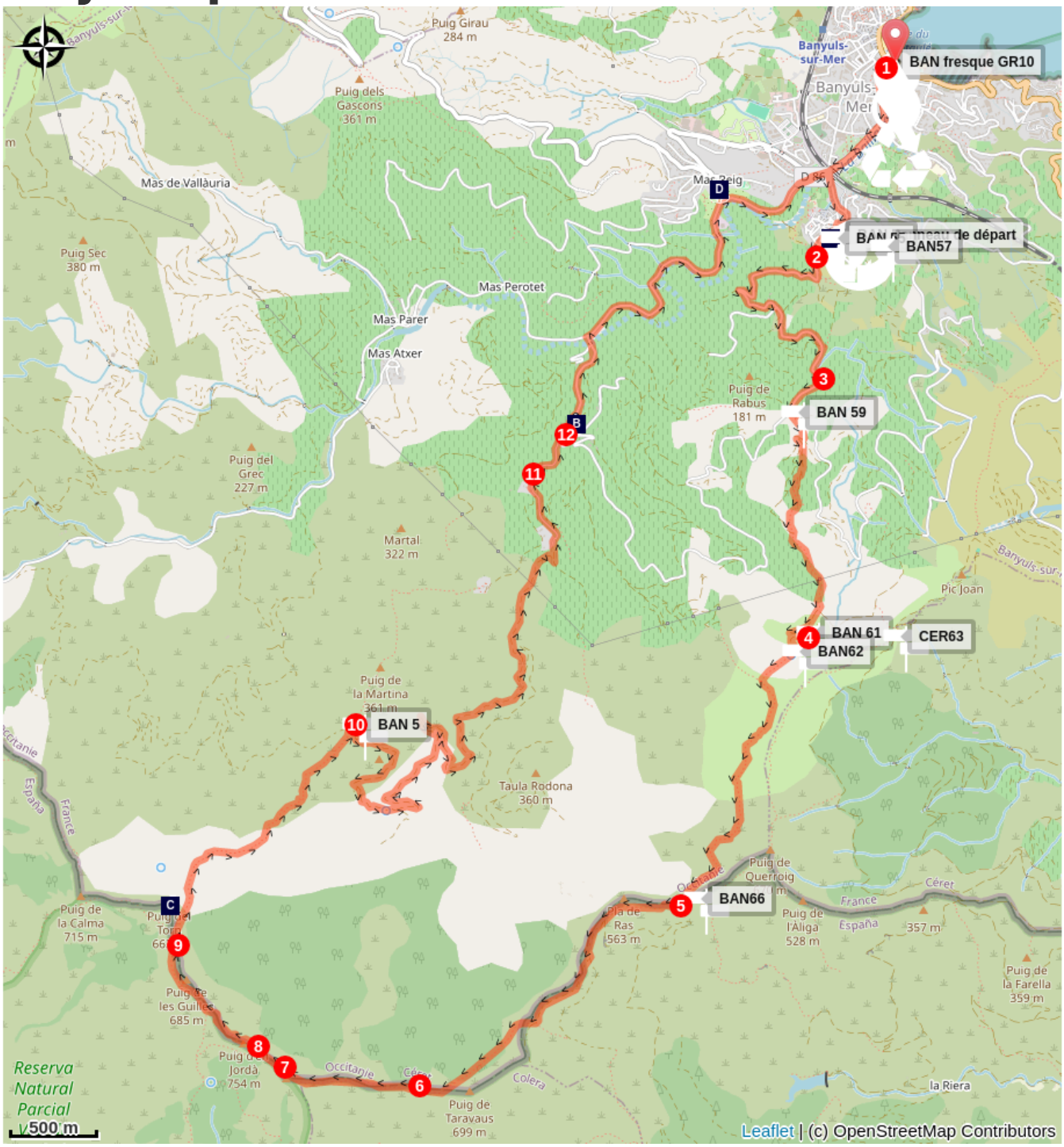


Min elevation 1 m Max elevation 721 m

Departure from the Banyuls-sur-Mer Tourist Office.

1. Go up Avenue du Général de Gaulle towards Puig del Mas, then cross the river "La Baillaury" via the bridge. Continue on Avenue Pierre de Marca until you reach Place Abel Pages on the left.
2. From the parking lot, continue towards the dirt track that leads to a path through the vineyards near Mas Guillaume. Continue on a paved road and turn left towards Col del Bast.
3. At the pass, take the path that rises to the right and follow the trail for 500 meters. The trail follows the ridges of the massif. Pass under an electrical pylon and take the rocky path that crosses several scree slopes towards Col de Rumpissar at 538 meters above sea level.
4. Turn left and take the path that ascends towards the Tour de Querroig at 672 meters above sea level, which offers you an exceptional 360° panorama.
5. At "Col de Rumpissa", head towards Pla del Ras,
6. "Col des Empedrats",
7. "Col de Teixo",
8. "Puig d'en Jorda"
9. At "Col d'en Torn", turn right towards "Col de la Martina".
10. At "Col de la Martina", descend onto the track that crosses Reg de la Roubine, then at the track junction, go straight, pass through a ford and another. There, the road becomes paved.
11. Pass by "Mas Xatard".
12. Arrival at the Aristide Maillol Museum. Cross the property and take the paved road that crosses the river "la Ballaury".
13. Turn right from the museum parking lot onto a narrow road. Continue on the road to "Col de Banyuls" then "avenue du Général de Gaulle". At the end, turn right towards the Tourist Office."

On your path...



Lisa and Hans Fittko Memorial (A)
Torn's Peak (C)

Musée Maillol (B)
Mediterranean Garden (D)

All useful information

⚠ Advices

Follow the yellow markings. Bring water, snacks, a cap or hat, a windbreaker, and optionally a waterproof garment. Do not stray from the marked trails. Respect nature. Carry out any waste. Check the weather before leaving.

How to come ?

Transports

Bus 2€
Think about carpooling.

Access

D914

Advised parking

Free market car park (except on Thursdays and Sundays, market days) and Baillaury car park"

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...



Lisa and Hans Fittko Memorial (A)

Lisa Fittko, born Elizabeth Eckstein, was a resistance fighter, writer, and socialist activist, born on August 23, 1909, in Austria-Hungary, and passed away on March 12, 2005, in Chicago. She authored two memoirs about the war in Europe.

An anti-fascist activist, she sought to escape to Spain and made her way to Banyuls-sur-Mer, where she helped establish the "F" network (for Fittko), a passage route to Spain that operated until the spring of 1941. This network saved several hundred people, including the philosopher Walter Benjamin, who reached Port Bou. Unfortunately, Benjamin took his own life there. A beautiful memorial dedicated to him is located next to the Port-Bou cemetery.

Attribution : Elisabeth Coste



Musée Maillol (B)

Aristide Maillol did his first work at Banyuls-sur-Mer. The sculptures of female bodies with generous curves, which have been a great success, have been imagined and created here, in his house "La Métairie". Died in 1944, it is in the garden of his house that he rests today, it’s a museum open to the public. We can see his tomb (free access) adorned with the statue of the artist "The Mediterranean".!

Attribution : Wikipedia



Torn's Peak (C)

Peak located at 664 meters altitude.

Attribution : CCACVI



Mediterranean Garden (D)

The south-facing, shell-like configuration of this garden, sheltered from the Tramontane wind, creates a mild microclimate that favors a diverse Mediterranean flora and fauna. Today, the site hosts over 500 plant species. Numerous insects and birds complement this rich flora, creating an exceptional garden—a perfect playground for naturalists and photographers alike!

Attribution : CCACVI