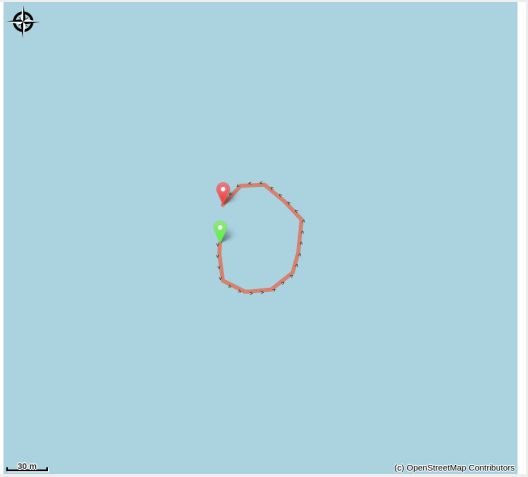
Le Saumur wreck

Côte Vermeille



Hélice de secours (Laurent Urios)



With L'Alice Robert and L'Astrée, Le Saumur is certainly one of the most beautiful wrecks of the Côte Vermeille

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

Useful information

Practice : Scuba diving

Duration : 1 h

Length : 0.2 km

Difficulty : Hard

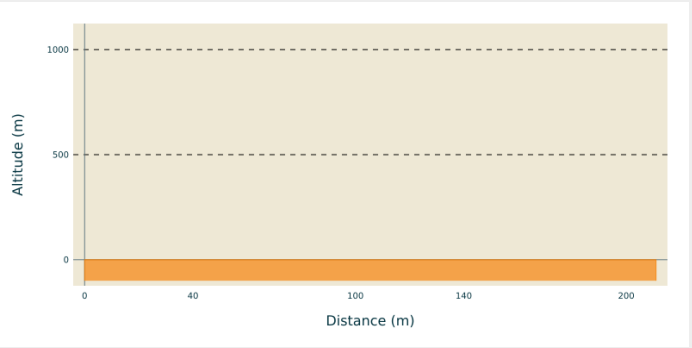
Type : Aller-retour

Themes : Epave

Trek

Departure : Port d'Argelès-sur-Mer, de Collioure, de Port-Vendres, Banyuls-sur-Mer et Cerbère
Arrival : Le Saumur Wreck
Cities : 1. PORT-VENDRES

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 0 m Max elevation 0 m

The Saumur was a French freighter built in 1920 by Forth Shipbuilding & Engineering Company at Alloa, Scotland, on behalf of the Auxiliary Shipping Company of Nantes. Weighing 2955 tons, it was 98 meters long, 13 meters wide and 7 meters deep. It was maneuvered by a crew of 30 sailors.

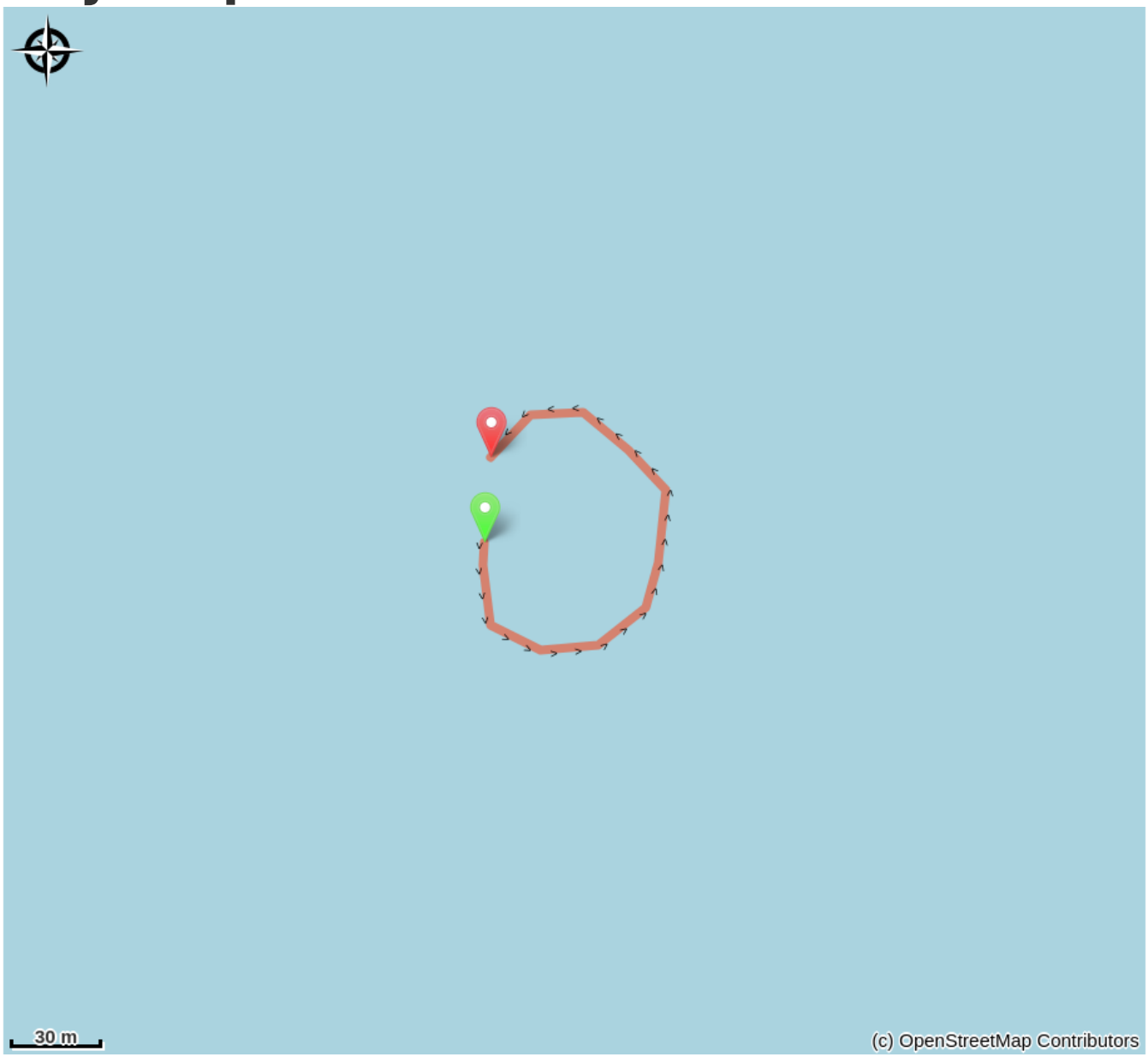
Requested by the French State in 1939 to participate in the war effort, it was placed at the disposal of the National Maritime Society and armed with a cannon. She took part in the Norwegian campaign.
On 21st December 1942, following the agreement between the Vichy regime minister Pierre Laval and the Reich Commissioner Karl Kaufmann on the secondment of part of the French merchant fleet to the German forces, the Saumur was part of ships requisitioned by the Germans. Transferred to the Italians, it was renamed Tolentino.

On May 21st , 1944, while the Saumur sailed off the coast of the Pyrenees Orientales, carrying a cargo of iron ore, she unfortunately crossed the road of the English submarine HMS Upstart. Around 18h00 on May 21st, the freighter was hit by two torpedoes at the rear and in the middle, which sunk it, now in front of Port-Vendres.

Today, the wreck is resting right on its keel on a background of 45 meters, situated: latitude 42 ° 31 '509 N and longitude 3 ° 08' 018 E. Despite the impacts of the two torpedoes at the stern and at the bow, the ship sank in one piece.

(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