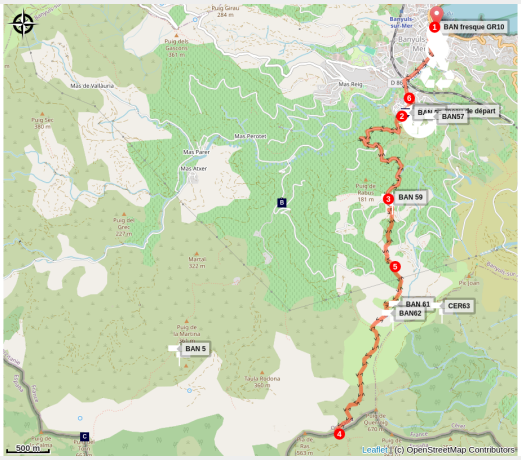
"Sentier Walter Benjamin"

Côte Vermeille

(Frédéric Hédelin)



On the trail of Walter Benjamin, writer-philosopher fleeing the Vichy regime in 1940.

A quite sporty hike in the footsteps of Walter Benjamin and Lisza Fittko as they fled the Nazis. Stunning views.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 6 h

Length : 15.2 km

Trek ascent : 810 m

Difficulty : Hard

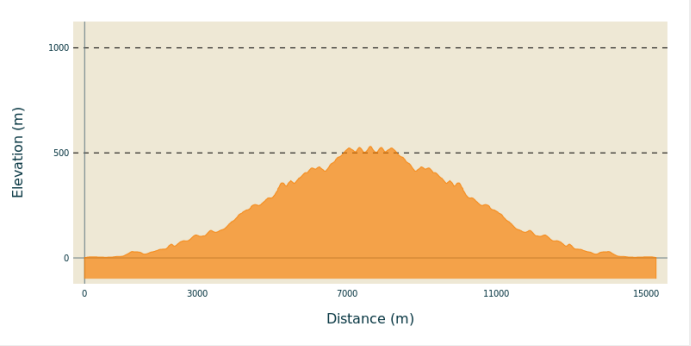
Type : Aller-retour

Themes : Point de vue, Histoire, Montagne

Trek

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

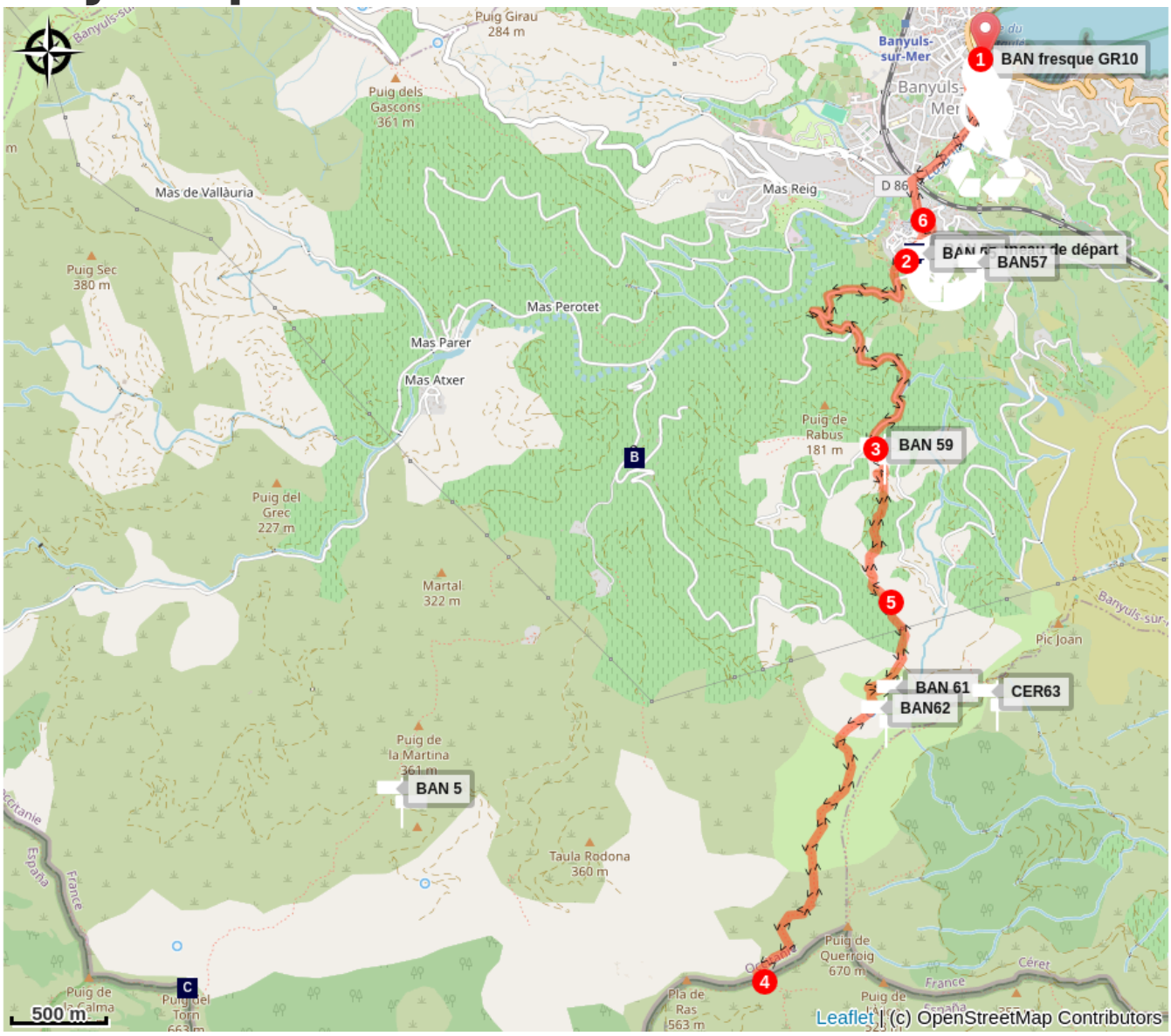
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1 m Max elevation 531 m

1. From the Banyuls-sur-Mer Tourist Office, pass by the town hall then turn left onto General de Gaulle Avenue. Pass under the railway bridge and immediately turn left to reach Puig del Mas via Pierre de Marca Avenue until you reach Place Abel Pages on the left. (Note at the starting point, the monument dedicated to Walter Benjamin and Lisza Fittko).
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 route for 500 meters. The trail follows the ridges of the massif. Pass by the base of an electric pylon and take the rocky path that crosses several scree slopes towards Col de Rumpissar at 538 meters above sea level. (The circuit continues to Port-Bou on the GR92, it takes an additional 1 to 1.5 hours, with the possibility of returning by train from Port-Bou).
4. By turning left, it is possible to follow the hiking trail to "Saute Montagne" which leads to the Tower of Querroig at 672 meters above sea level and offers an exceptional 360° panorama.
5. To descend, retrace your steps from Col de Rumpissar.
6. Once you reach the "La Colline des Oliviers" housing estate, take Pierre de Marca Avenue back to the Tourist Office.

On your path...



Lisa and Hans Fittko Memorial (A)

Musée Maillol (B)

Torn's Peak (C)

All useful information

⚠ Advices

Prepare water, a hat or cap, hiking shoes, a windbreaker, and waterproof clothing outside of summer months. Respect nature, carry out trash, and stay on marked trails. Check the weather forecast before departure.

How to come ?

Transports

Bus 2€

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