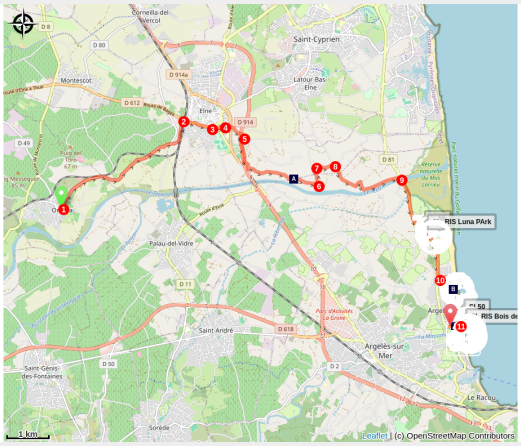
[Connection] Ortaffa-Argelès

Illibéris



(OTI)



A rural link between the beautiful heritage of our communes and the coast, in particular the Mas Larrieu nature reserve, passing through the countryside.

In the towns along the route, as well as on the journey itself, a rich heritage awaits you. The unique bell tower of Ortaffa, the cloister and cathedral of Elne, and the Terrus Museum. On the way to the Mas Larrieu Nature Reserve, you'll find the Saint Eugénie de Tresmals Chapel.

Useful information

Practice : Cycling

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 16.7 km

Trek ascent : 74 m

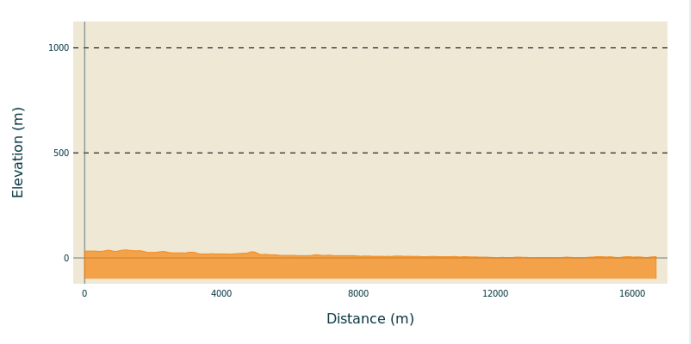
Difficulty : Easy

Type : Traversée

Trek

Departure : Ortaffa Town Hall
Arrival : Tourist Office of Argelès-sur-mer
Cities : 1. ORTAFFA
2. ELNE
3. ARGELES SUR MER

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1 m Max elevation 38 m

1. Take the D40 towards Elne.

2. Turn right at Route de Bages.

3. In Elne, turn right onto Rue du Salita and then take the first left onto Rue d'Oran. Cross Avenue Paul Reig.

4. At the roundabout, take the second exit, Chemin de la mer.

5. Turn right onto Chemin Sainte-Eugénie.

6. Continue on Chemin Sainte Eugénie.

7. Turn right onto Chemin de la Mer.

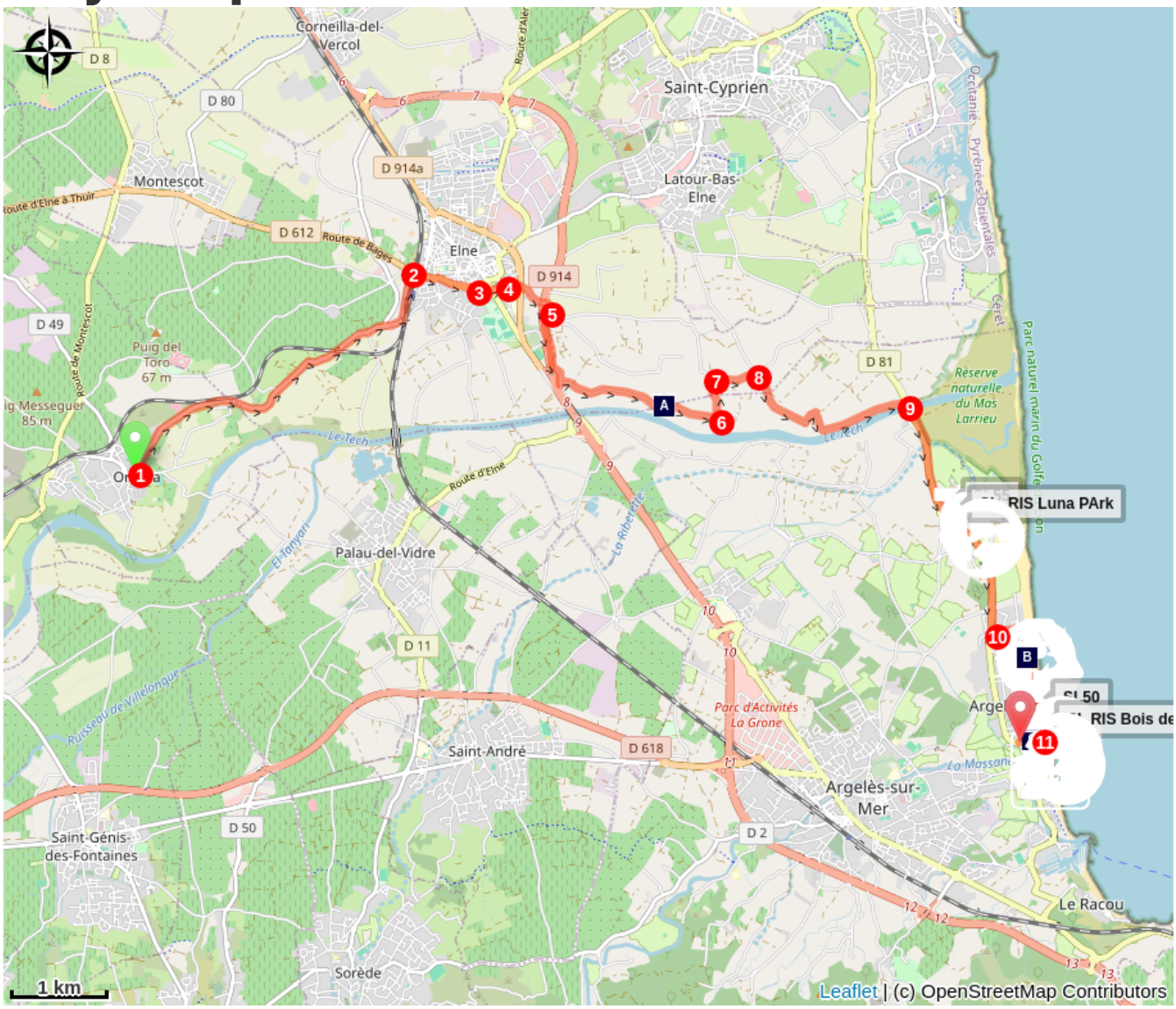
8. Turn right and follow the Tech to the D81.

9. Turn right to cross the bridge and continue towards Argelès-sur-mer on the EV8, which runs alongside the D81.

10. Turn left and follow the seafront.

11. Turn right towards the Tourist Office

On your path...



Chapel of Sainte-Eugénie-de-Tresmals (A)

The Camp Monolith (B)

Pine Wood (C)

All useful information

⚠ Advices

Make sure you obey the highway code.

How to come ?

Transports

Bus 1€

Access

D40

Advised parking

Ortaffa town hall 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

Réserve Naturelle du Mas Larrieu

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, Decembre

Réserve Naturelle du Mas Larrieu

On your path...



Chapel of Sainte-Eugénie-de-Tresmals (A)

A small building in the middle of the fields, mentions of Sainte-Eugénie date back to 951, 1067, and 1145. It served as a parish church until 1347 and remained a place of worship until the French Revolution. Afterward, it was decommissioned and repurposed as an agricultural building, particularly as a "casot" (a small storage hut). The architecture of the vault in the current structure dates back to the 12th century. The building consists of a single nave covered with a broken barrel vault with a doubleaux (a supporting arch) and a semi-circular apse.

Attribution : Elisabeth Coste



The Camp Monolith (B)

The monolith at the camp marks the southern entrance to the Argelès-sur-Mer camp, which was opened in early February 1939 to intern some of the refugees who had fled Spain during "La Retirada." Over 100,000 refugees, including women and children, passed through the camp until summer 1939, all sleeping directly on the sand in makeshift shelters. The camp was reorganized and reopened following the declaration of war in September 1939. After France's defeat in June 1940, the camp became more international, with refugees from Northern and Eastern Europe, including foreign Jews, and the return of Spanish workers. The Vichy government used it as one of the main camps in southern France, interning French nomads there in the autumn of 1940.

People from over fifty nationalities lived together behind the barbed wire at Argelès. These "undesirables" were confined on a beach where living conditions were extremely harsh, with high mortality rates, particularly among infants. In 1941, the Ministry of the Interior transferred most of the internees to the Rivesaltes camp and deported some Spaniards and international brigadiers to camps in Algeria. By June 1942, with only a hospital remaining, the Argelès-sur-Mer camp was converted into a French Youth Work Camp before closing permanently in November. Erected in 1999, this monolith pays tribute to all the refugees who passed through the camp.

Attribution : Mémorial du camp d'Argelès



Pine Wood (C)

If you're looking for a place to relax in the shade of maritime pines, this is the perfect spot. You'll also find picnic facilities just a few meters from the beach shopping alleys.

Attribution : Stephane Ferrer