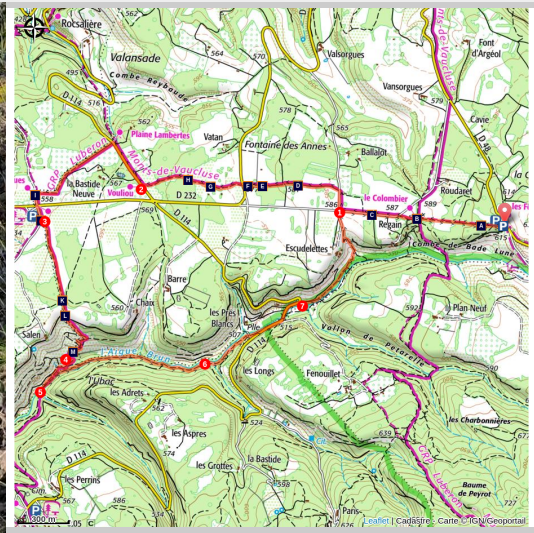


## The Claparèdes plateau

Saignon



Traces de charettes (©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon)

### *Colorful treasure in bloom and bead stripped out of season*

"This short combination of paths between fields of lavandins, oak woods, dry lawns and juniper heaths, offers a beautiful multicoloured overview of the plateau Claparèdes. In the purple of early summer, the tones of autumn burn ... It is also an opportunity to appreciate the use of fieldstone for millennia and the construction of a large number of dry stone walls and bories. "Sophie Bourlon, responsible of studies Natura 2000 to the Luberon RNP.

### Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 2 h 30

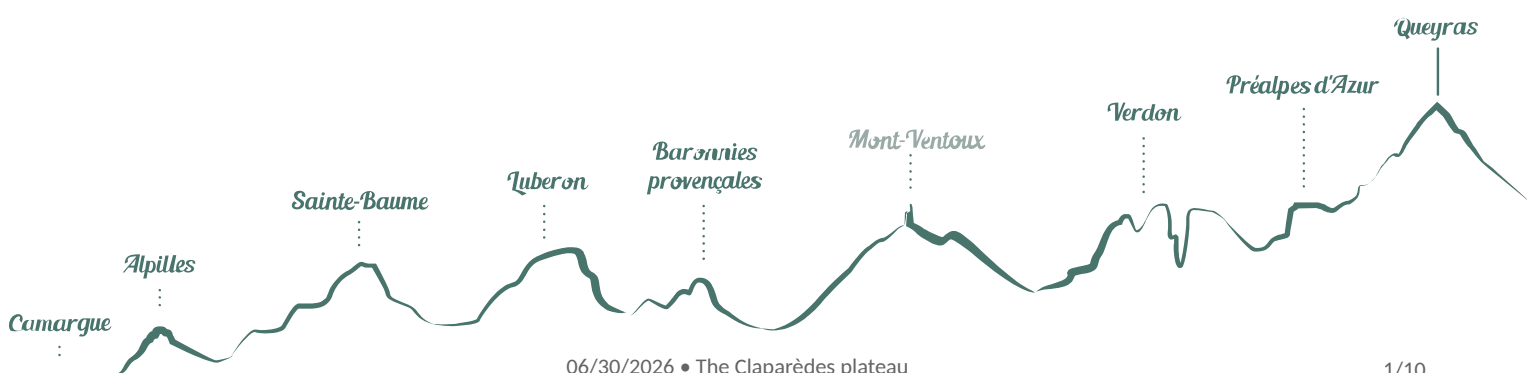
Length : 8.6 km

Trek ascent : 150 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Flora, Waters and rivers



# Trek

Departure : Barbe Blanche car park, Buoux

Arrival : Buoux

Exit the car park to the east and take the Marrenon covered road to the south.

80 m further (" Barbe Blanche " post), turn left onto the undergrowth path (follow the GRP® markings towards " Sivergues "). After a stony area, you get to an intersection.

**1-** Leave the GRP® down in front and turn twice to the left. Follow a dirt road to the north-east (not marked). Pass a bend and, at the first crossroads, turn left onto a path along the fields. A little further, continue to the right. You arrive on a track and take it to the left. Go 45 m further on the D232 and join the stop just to the right.

**2-** Leave on the path in the undergrowth to the right of the stop. Proceed to a crossroads and continue on the left. Walk along the lavender field and rush a few meters into the undergrowth Go left then continue right to reach the D114 Follow it for 350 m, then turn left on the Sivergues path (sign). Take this dirt road until you cross a road. Turn right and take this little road.

**3-** At the first crossing, turn right (GRP®) then 350 m further, in a bend (garbage container), continue in front on a dirt road and reach a crossroads of trails (post " Le Colombier ", cross iron ).

**4-** Follow the path straight ahead (PR), pass between two fields of lavender and continue straight ahead. You arrived on a small parking ("Les Fondons" post). Go left, take the D48 for 30 m and continue on the dirt road opposite (not marked). At the first crossroads, go down opposite and come back on the D48. Take it straight ahead for 500 m.

**5-** At the end of the straight line, turn on the left road and 120 m further, turn right on a path undergrowth (GR® and GRP®). Follow this path to torment, pass a very stony section and come back on the road. Take it 20m to the right and sneak onto the path on the left Go under the hedge of trees and brambles, to return to point 4 (post "Le Colombier", iron cross).

**4-** Turn right and follow the path to go one way (GRP®), then follow the road also to the first point 3 (road crossing).

**3-** turn right and advance another 100 m. Turn left and follow the dirt road (GRP®). Pass along a field of lavender and continue straight into the undergrowth. Drive on the D232, cross it (caution!) And continue the path opposite. Always go straight, pass near a big borie and reach the D114 (GRP®).

**6-** At the "Vouliou" pole, turn right and take the D114 for 300 m (GRP®). At the "Plaine Lambertes" post, turn left and rush on the narrow and stony path undergrowth (GRP®). Reach a track and turn left to return to the starting car park.

# On your path...



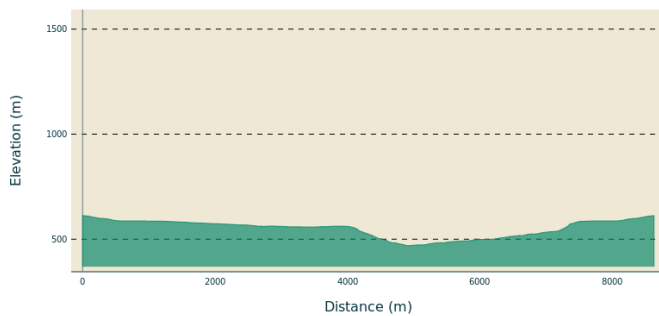
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|--|---|
|  Traces of carts (A)                |  Morenas, innkeeper but also ... (B) |
|  Ancestral Lavender (C)             |  Hard work and variable return (D)   |
|  The " star " of the bories! (E)    |  Midge attack (F)                    |
|  Patience and recycling (G)         |  Multiple Bories (H)                 |
|  Let's save the heritage trail! (I) |  The Claparèdes plateau (J)          |
|  A postcard scenery... (K)          |  "Lou Camin Salié" (L)               |
|  The Fragrant Bug Orchid (M)        |   |

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Be careful of hives and herd dogs that may be encountered on the way; make a detour, perhaps a U-turn if necessary.  
Caution when crossing roads.

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 469 m  
Max elevation 612 m

## **Access**

7 km south of Apt by the D113 and D232.

## **Advised parking**

Parking de l'Aire de Barbe Blanche, en bord de D232 entre Buoux et Saignon.

# On your path...

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## Traces of carts (A)

On this old road that connected the fields to neighboring farms but also Buoux and Auribeau, you can easily notice notches cut and worn in two successive outcrops of rock. An additional testimony of the ancestral agricultural activity taking place on the Claparèdes plateau...

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

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## Morenas, innkeeper but also ... (B)

François Morenas was the owner of the former Regain Youth Hostel, nearby. Today deceased, he is the precursor of the first paths of great hikes of Provence. On the way, you will notice traces of blue paint, remain of his markings. Creator of hiking routes since 1953, he was also a writer and a traveling filmmaker! In Saignon, every summer, in the open air, there are still screenings of old films proudly preserved by F. Morenas and his friends.

Attribution : ©DR

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## Ancestral Lavender (C)

The lavender fields adorn the Luberon landscapes, which they colour at the beginning of the summer with blue-mauve streaks. Coming from the west of the Mediterranean basin, lavender was already used by the Romans to preserve linen and perfume baths. In the dry hills of Provence, wild lavender was used since the Middle Ages for its perfume but also in the composition of drugs. It is harvested during hot weather that promotes the rise of gasoline in the flower.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

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## Hard work and variable return (D)

The yields of lavender essential oil are varied but can reach about 15 kg per hectare and 80 kg for lavandin. Some lavender producers use a mechanized harvesting system where the plant (stem and flowers) is crushed and sent to a towed dump. The fact of distilling milling modifying the quality, this technique is not adapted to obtain an essential oil of fine lavender. Finally, the most beautiful bouquets are still cut manually with the sickle.

Attribution : DR



### The " star " of the bories! (E)

The nearby borie is one of the most famous of the plateau (private, absolute respect). This type of construction requires real expertise, as much in the choice of stones as in their clever and smart assembly. To build in dry stone, so without mortar, it takes patience, a good look, and good notions of balance. A borie can weigh between 30 and 200 tons and uses 200,000 to 300,000 stones. Each of them has passed 2 or 3 times in the hands of the manufacturer!

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

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### Midge attack (F)

The midge, *Resseliella lavandulae* is an insect subservient to lavenderais. The adult emerges from the ground in winter to reproduce, then dies quickly. Females lay their eggs in anfractuosités of bark of branches. These white and pink-orange larvae are responsible for the drying of the attacked branches (silver aspect). Emerging traps often built with drums, allow to capture the adults as soon as they leave the ground.

Attribution : ©DR

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### Patience and recycling (G)

Prior to distillation, harvested beans can remain on the field for a time to dry out and lose excess water. This prefanage of about one or two days is essential for fine lavender: it avoids modifying the quality of essential oil. In stills where the vats are equipped with basket with hoist, the flowers are not mixed with water. In the neighboring fields, the lavender straw after distillation was deposited and then used as fuel.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

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### Multiple Bories (H)

The shepherds have probably built the single-celled huts and the peasants the bories of larger dimensions. It seems accepted that most of these constructions were built between the eighteenth and nineteenth century. A borie is an original construction by the unique use of stone and its technique of assembly. The covering or the vault is called corbelled; it is a technique that consists of laying the stones in sitting with passing from the top row to the bottom.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



## Let's save the heritage trail! (I)

This old rural road was brought to light in the 1970s by François and Claude Morenas, tireless pioneers of itineraries. In the 2000s, it was the Park with the help of the department that worked to safeguard it against the real estate pressure. Today it is perennial, registered in the Departmental Plan of Walk and Hiking, it benefits from the maintenance and tagging action of the Vaucluse department, but also by the supervision of volunteers, walkers or mountain bikers.

Attribution : ©Daniel Locci



## The Claparèdes plateau (J)

The name Claparèdes comes from "clapas" which means "pile of rocks" in Provençal. Many dry stone huts are on this plateau which goes from Castellet to Lacoste on about 10km. An old cereal land, the cultivation of lavender is now the most widespread on the plateau.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



## A postcard scenery... (K)

The Luberon is visible from everywhere and very present in the landscape. It is also a wonderful spur which reveals wide panoramas of Mont Ventoux and the Alps to the north from the Claparèdes plateau. Do not miss the purple mottling of the lavender from June to July. Contemporary human presence is rare but the few farms, bories, dry stone walls resulting from field stone removal are the proof of an earlier human presence.

Attribution : ©Françoise Delville - PNR Luberon



## "Lou Camin Salié" (L)

& Laquo; "Lou Camin Salié" or salt road were the roads used formerly by salt merchants with their caravans of mules from the Etang de Berre. A popular condiment at the time, you had to be cunning and clever to avoid thieves and bandits. Thus, merchants passed through less accessible but more secure paths. A former salt road, the path you are currently on came from Sivergues to reach Apt through this place called "Salen", to the left.

Attribution : ©Marie Grenouilleau - PNR Luberon



## The Fragrant Bug Orchid (M)

This small crossing of a slightly wet marl hill may be an opportunity, in the months of May and June, to discover a small vanilla-scented orchid: the aptly named Fragrant Bug Orchid (*Anacamptis coriophora subsp. fragrans*). Quite rare in France where it is found only in the southern part, it is strictly protected there. So let's carry away her scent in our memories!

Attribution : ©Laurent Michel - PNR Luberon



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