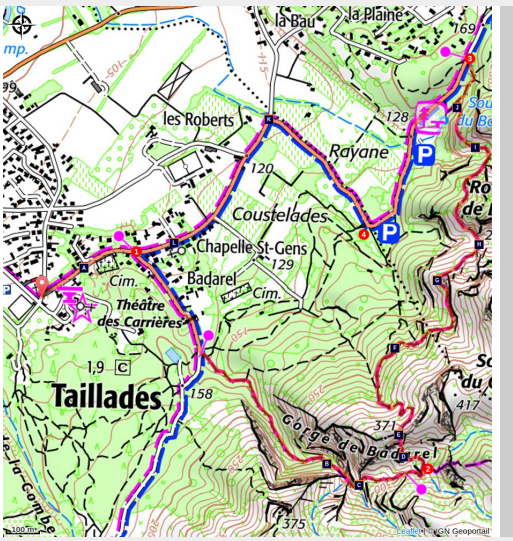
Rocks of Baude

Taillades



Rochers de Baude (©Anne-Camille Vinson - PNR Luberon)

A short but singular stroll between cliffs, balms and ledges of the west end of the Petit Luberon.

« The Petit Luberon always seduces us. You can never get too much of this diversity of spectacular and intimate landscapes imbued in history, the rich nature so rare and diverse. Cliffs, balms, peaks, forests and mixed lawns, the former presence of man, the herds on steep slopes... It is fascinating and discovering it is always with a strand of adventure. Sophie Bourlon, Research Analyst from Natura 2000 at the RNP of Luberon.

Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 2 h 30

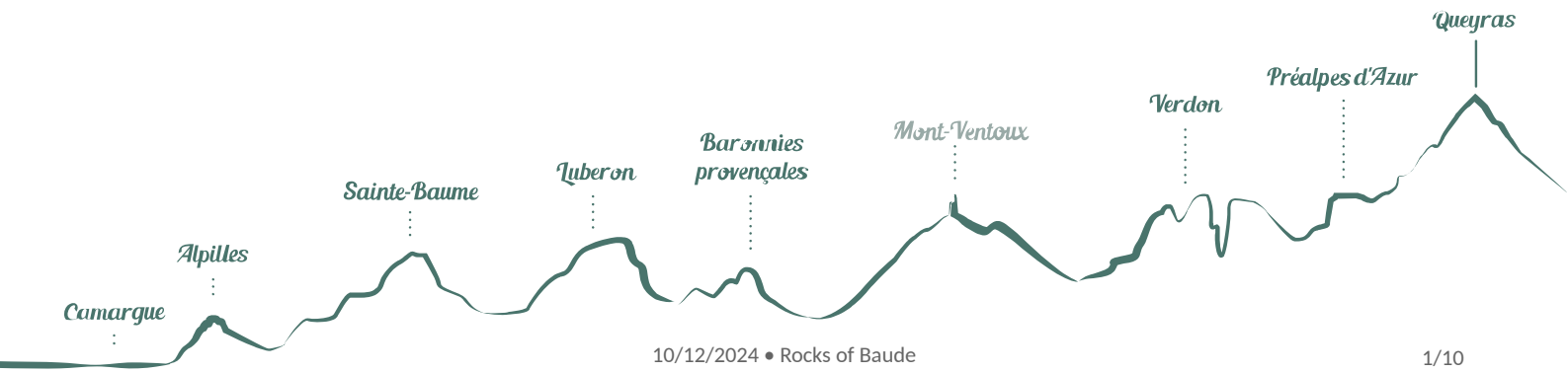
Length : 5.9 km

Trek ascent : 325 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Boucle

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Geology



Trek

Departure : Town Hall Square, Les Taillades
Arrival : Town Hall Square, Les Taillades
Markings : PR

With your back turned to the town hall, take the CHemin de Robion on the left and pass the cemetery.

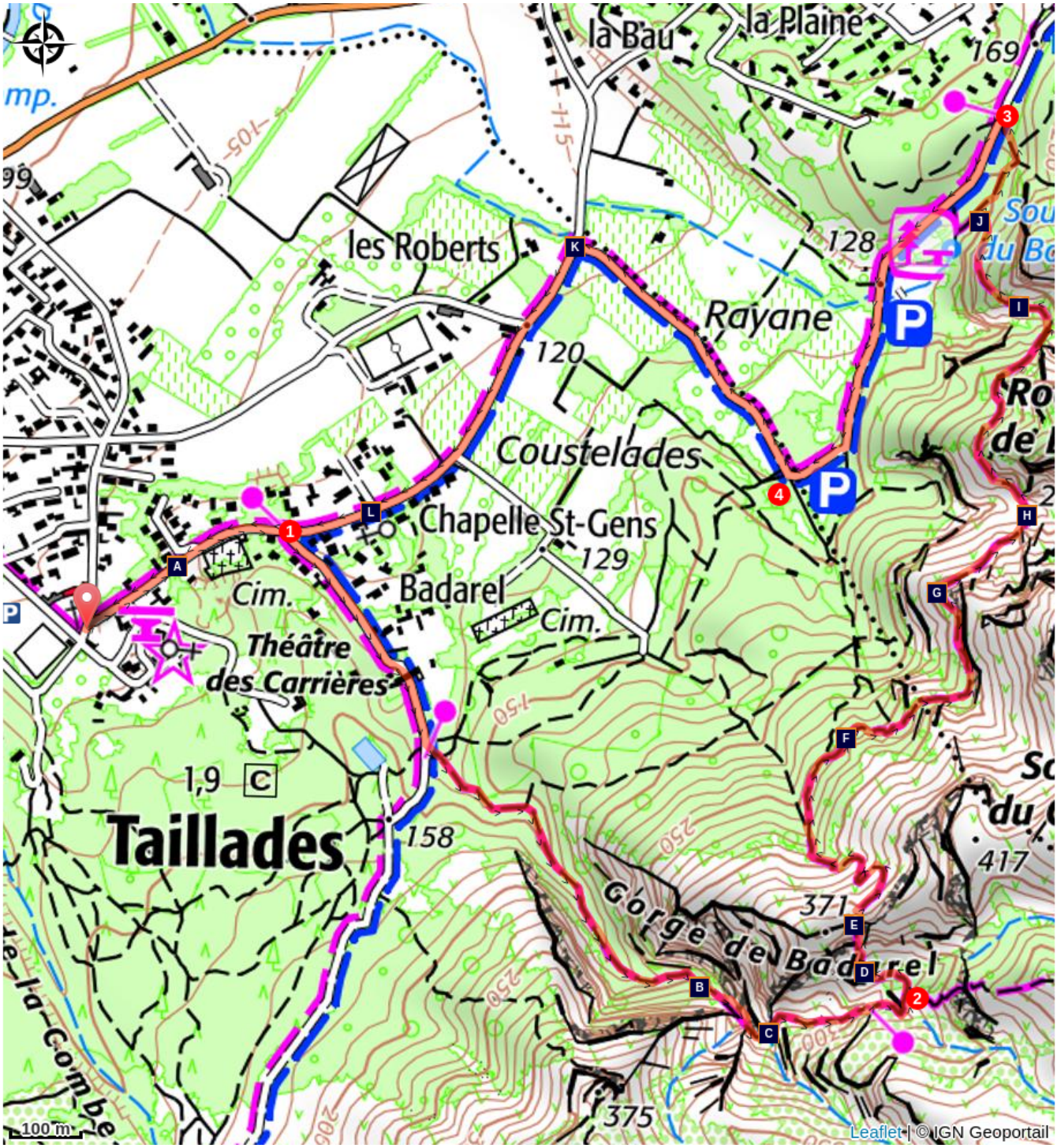
1 - At the next intersection, continue straight on the road. Pass the Saint-Gens chapel, then 400m further, turn right on the Chemin de Boulon. Turn left on the edge of the woods. When reaching the big clearing of Boulon, go up the paved road for 200m and turn right.

2 – At the pole'Boulon', go down the gravel path and at the mouth of the field and the source of Boulon, turn left and, 50m higher, climb to the right on the path (steep at the beginning). Stay on the right until you reach the foot of the cliffs. Weave through the large balms while enjoying passages of cliff ledges. After the circus of Boulon, pass below the large face of the rocks of Baude. Cross the rock shelter and climb to the breach of Castellas avoiding the steps that descend towards the foot of the massif (the marking is tricky). Cross the breach and switch to the gorges of Badarel. Careful, the trail is quite steep and stony.

3 - At the bottom of the ravine (pole:'The Castellas'), turn right and start the descent of the gorges of Badarel. Caution, it is narrow, steep, rocky and it includes a short passage with a ladder. Continue through the bottom of the valley and reach a track. Head across, then at the first houses, cross a barrier and continue until the Chemin de Robion.

4 - Turn left to return to the starting point.

On your path...



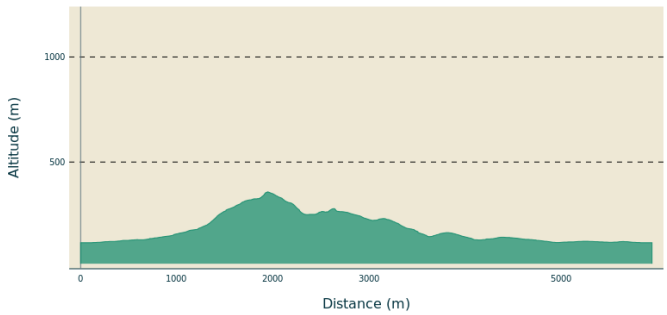
- The Taillades, a stone village (A)
- The Larkspur (C)
- Saint-Jacques, the end of the Luberon (E)
- Raptors: knowing them and protecting them (G)
- The rocks of Baude (I)
- Petit Luberon, the Mecca of biodiversity (K)
- Gorges of Badarel (B)
- Exceptional lawns on the ridges (D)
- The Harebell (F)
- The enigmatic knapweed from Baude (H)
- The springs of Boulon (J)
- the Saint Gens Chapel. (L)

All useful information

Advices

Careful! Even though the ride is classified as average thanks to its short distance, some of its passages are difficult. Vigilance on the ledges of the circus of Boulon and extreme caution in the gorges of Badarel; very rocky gravel ledge on the right-of-way of the trail, passage with a ladder. Caution with your ankles and some of the gravel descents.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 116 m
Max elevation 358 m

Access

At 5km east of Cavaillon, through the D143.

Advised parking

Saint-Ferréol parking area, nearby the town hall

Source

Luberon Géoparc mondial
UNESCO

Information desks

House of the Luberon Regional Nature Park

60, place Jean Jaurès, 84400 Apt

accueil@parcduluberon.fr
Tel : +33 (0)4 90 04 42 00
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On your path...

The Taillades, a stone village (A)

A picturesque village at the foot of the Luberon mountains, it has maintained a remarkable cultural heritage:: its church of the 18th century, the medieval Tower, the Théâtre des Carrières. In the old village, stone is used from the streets to constructions. The various dotted quarries are also the witness of a cutting stone past, hence the name of Taillades. Below, the Saint-Pierre Windmill, a former madder mill then flour mill, testifies to the industrial life of the 19th century.

Attribution : ©Françoise Delville - PNR Luberon

Gorges of Badarel (B)

"Badarel" comes from the Occitan verb "badar" which means to be wide open, meaning in a broader sense crevasse, gash, hole... The Badarel falls you have just passed were developed in 1904 on city council decision to "make the passage accessible to shearers and wool cattles... ». A metal ladder, a ramp and a rope were installed and traces of iron bars show an opening with explosives.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

The Larkspur (C)

This beautiful mountain plant is found only rarely in the southern Alps. It finds here one of the only four stations that are favourable to its development in the Luberon. Its beautiful dark blue flowers in clusters have straight spurs and do not appear until July. This plant has an impressive toxic product (delphinine) like most species belonging to the Ranunculaceae family, to which it belongs.

Attribution : ©DR-UBG

Exceptional lawns on the ridges (D)

From the traditional practice of grazing and particular constraints of the Mediterranean and Alpine climates combined, the action of the sheep in the spring associated with bush clearing includes the extension of shrubs. Luberon lawns are home to many heritage species of plants and insects. They are also hunting areas for large raptors. Scientific monitoring of rare and sensitive species are conducted on several sites.

Attribution : ©Sophie Bourlon - PNR Luberon

Saint-Jacques, the end of the Luberon (E)

In the distance, the Saint-Jacques hill emerges from the plains, overlooking the town of Cavaillon. This is actually the continuation of the Petit Luberon massif, formed by the same limestone but separated from it by a gap created there over 30 million years after two rifts caved in. One of the two is the Salon - Cavaillon - Fontaine-de-Vaucluse rift. This is a major and active rift, with an important role in the geological history of Provence.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

The Harebell (F)

This plant of the Alps has developed in Provence a particular subspecies equipped with strong rhizomes which can penetrate cracks in the rock. During blossoming, its tufts have a multitude of blue flowers bells which, by dangling, clearly stand out in the white limestone walls.

Attribution : ©Laurent Michel - PNR Luberon

Raptors: knowing them and protecting them (G)

The Luberon massif is home to a remarkable diversity of preying birds. They breed annually, nest in the cliffs (Grand Duke, Golden Eagle, Egyptian Vulture ...) or in the forest (Short-toed snake eagle) and hunt in the grass and the scrublands. they are regularly monitored by naturalists, and their environment is preserved by a prefectural decree for biotope protection.

Attribution : ©PNR Luberon

The enigmatic knapweed from Baude (H)

On the heights of the circus of Baude, Georges Guende, an experienced botanist who worked in the Luberon Regional Nature Park for over 40 years, identified in 2013 a beautiful and robust knapweed,; the enigmatic "knapweed from Baude", which could be an ecotype of the Centaurea stoebe located on the nearby ridges of the Luberon. An ecotype is a subspecies created by the selection in a particular habitat and which has genetically adjusted to this habitat.

Attribution : ©Georges Guende - PNR Luberon

The rocks of Baude (I)

The rocks of Baude are made of thick limestone beds eroded on several levels, in rock shelters (balms). This limestone was formed about 130 million years ago in a warm, shallow sea, as in the Bahamas today. Many organic debris (shells, corals, etc.) have accumulated over huge layers to form the so-called Urgonian limestone. They occupy most of the Petit Luberon and most of the Vaucluse mountains.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

The springs of Boulon (J)

At the foot of the rock, the crack from where the spring of Boulon flows is hidden. It hardly ever flows (a few days per year), but the flow can go up to 50L/ s. The water comes from the limestone massif of the Petit Luberon which is a karstic topography: It is characterized by forms of dissolution which can be superficial (lapies) and underground (caves) and which promotes the water flow. Rainwater penetrates the surface and sinks into the massive through to more or less wide cracks before exiting here.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

Petit Luberon, the Mecca of biodiversity (K)

Le Petit Luberon is part of the European Natura 2000 network like 8 other sites of the Luberon Park. Special efforts for the protection and management aimed at preserving the quality of the ecosystem and their remarkable biodiversity. A decree for the biotope protection since 1990 preserves the tranquillity of raptors by banning the practice of rock climbing and aerial sports (Ultralight aviation, paragliding, delta plane) as well as wildlife photography.

Attribution : ©Sophie Bourlon - PNR Luberon

the Saint Gens Chapel. (L)

Built in the late 19th century, this single-nave building seems to have never been blessed. Abandoned in the middle of the 20th century, it was renovated into an exhibition space dedicated to the history of the stone and the quarry tools and cutters. It owes its patronage to Bornarel Gens, a saint of the Monteux region of the 12th century whose miracles would have made him a rainmaker.».

Attribution : ©Jérémie Haye - PNR Luberon

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Ce projet partenarial rassemble également le Comité Régional du Tourisme, les agences départementales de développement touristique, les offices de tourisme et les syndicats d'initiative.

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