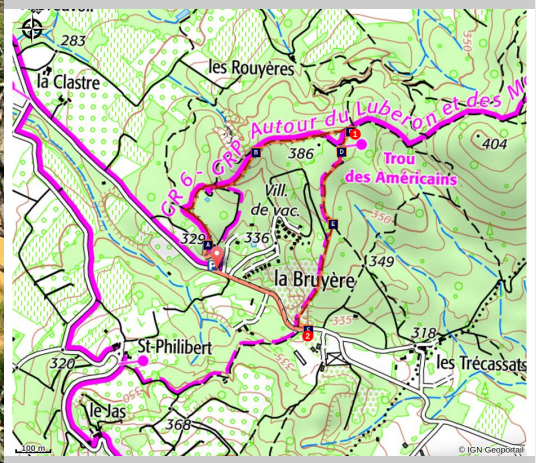
La Bruyère, the sensitive area!

Villars



Mare du Trou des Américains (Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon)

Short stroll through a massif classified as a sensitive natural area, rich in species rare and discreet.

"A special place to discover some symbolic species like Pelobates Cultripes toads or bats. The hill of La Bruyère is a real reservoir of biodiversity." Mathieu Berson, Natura 2000 Market researcher at the Luberon RNP.

Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 45 min

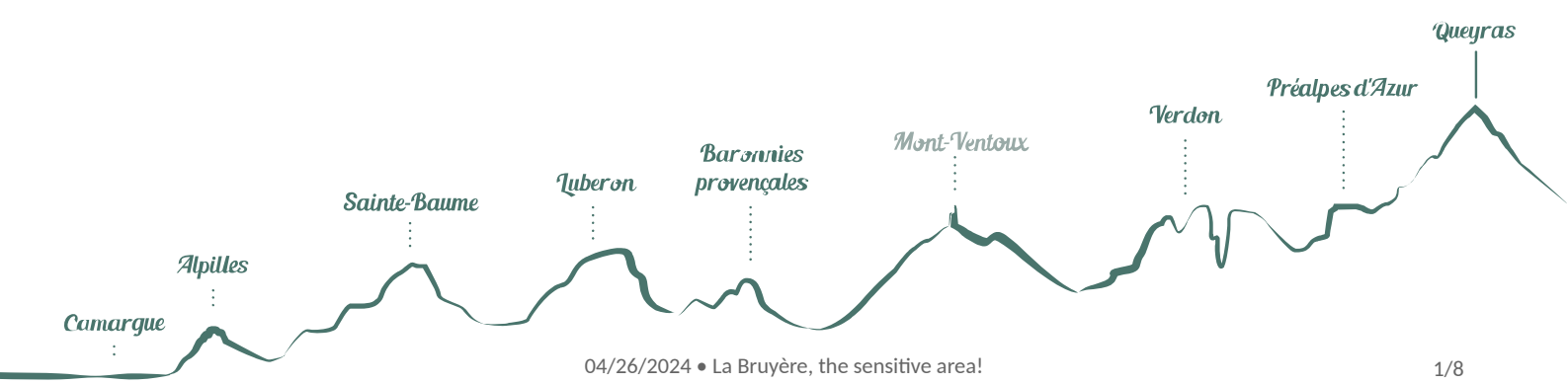
Length : 1.9 km

Trek ascent : 67 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Fauna, Flora



Trek

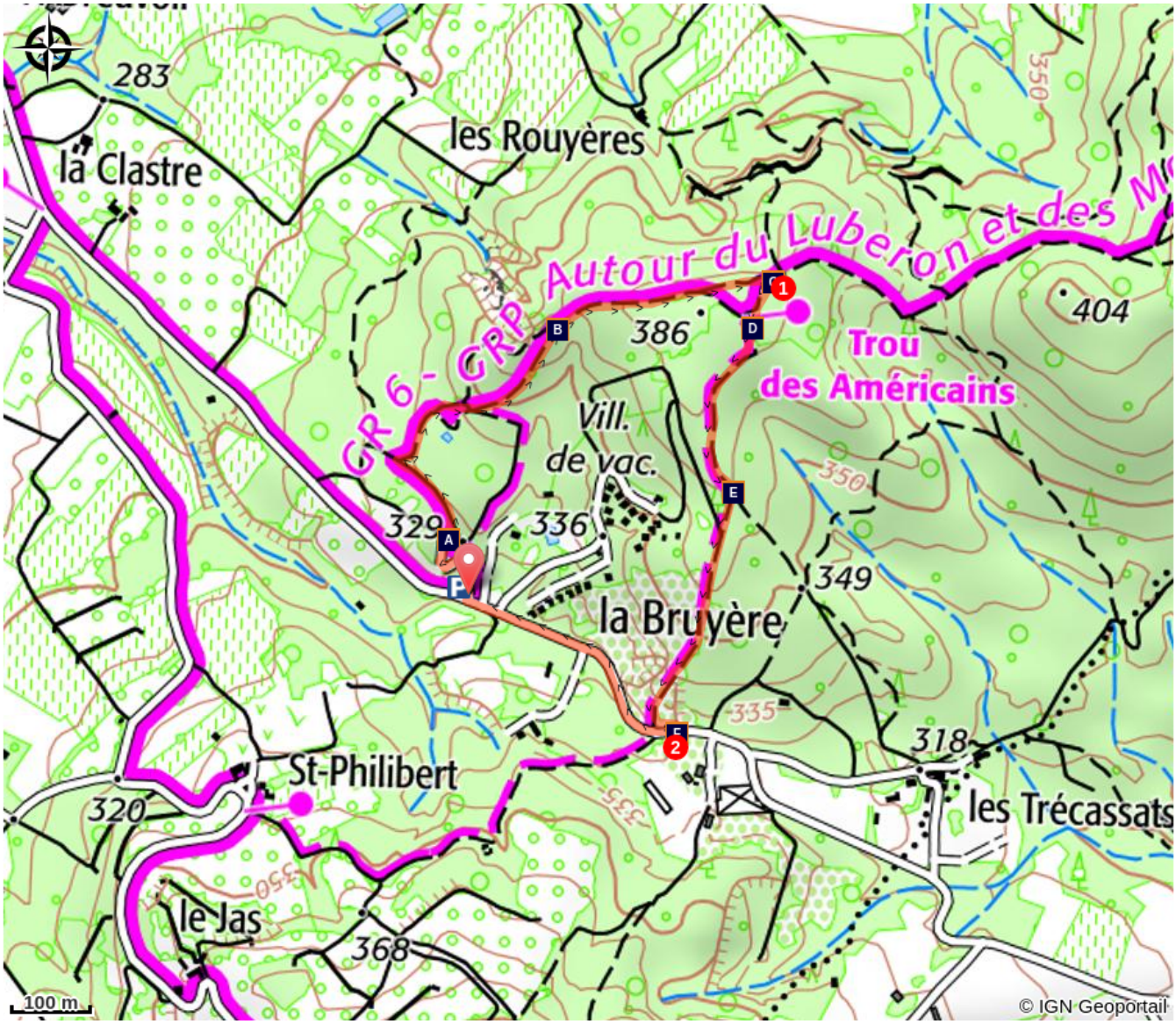
Departure : Car park of La Bruyère, Villars
Arrival : Car park of La Bruyère, Villars
Markings : GR® PR PR local

Once on the small bucolic car park of La Bruyère, pass behind the information panel on the ENS (sensitive natural area) and take the path going slightly left. At the first intersection, turn right and climb gently through the trail (GR). Continue to the top of the hill. Leave a track to the right and reach the crossroads ''Trou des Américains'' (sign-post).

1 - Take a sharp right on the path that winds in the heather and reach the water hole (interpretation panels). Continue beyond the copper red path. Don't miss the path below going to the right. Continue straight downhill. Directly below the road, head left then come out to the right on the pavement.

2 Take the road to the right, let the PR to the left and continue straight. Pass the entrance of the holiday center and climb the right track to return to the starting point.

On your path...



ENS de La Bruyère (A)

This path is of gold, ochre and vermilion ... (B)

La Bruyère hill (C)

Trou des Américains pond (D)

An original flora (E)

Forests as guides... (F)

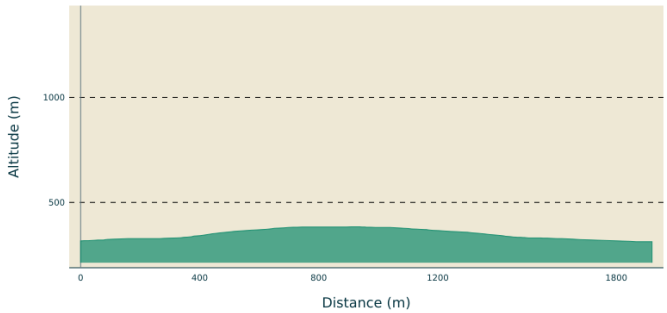
All useful information

Advices

Make sure to stay on the paths and trails; the site of La Bruyère is very sensitive to erosion, trampling and disturbance of species. Refrain from any picking (flora, ochre).

This environmentally sensitive area (ESA) is an exceptional territory, open to all under everyone's responsibility. Thank you for respecting this.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 313 m
Max elevation 384 m

Access

At 9km North of Apt by the D900, D943, D111 and VC des Trécassats.

Advised parking

Car park of La Bruyere, 1.5km East of Villars towards Les Trécassats (road sign before the holiday center).

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
https://www.parcduluberon.fr/

OTI Pays d'Apt Luberon
788 avenue Victor Hugo, 84400 Apt

oti@paysapt-luberon.fr
Tel : +33 (0)4 90 74 03 18
http://www.luberon-apt.fr/

On your path...

ENS de La Bruyère (A)

The hill of La Bruyère received the departmental label sensitive natural area (SNA) in 2005. In this context, several plots were purchased by the Luberon Regional Park and the Conservatory of natural areas in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, in a natural heritage preservation objective. These courses are open to the public only on marked trails and within siliceous preservation of this unique island.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

This path is of gold, ochre and vermilion ... (B)

This route, This route, away from the Calavon, flowing between the massifs of the Monts-de-Vaucluse to the north and Luberon to the south, enters the wooded hill of La Bruyère rising above this agricultural valley dominated by vineyards. It includes ochreous soils and cliffs quite colourful, hidden in part by a woodland takeover. This vegetation is used to sandy soils which are a minority in this limestone Provence.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

La Bruyère hill (C)

Like a siliceous island in the middle of a limestone ocean, the hill of La Bruyère (listed and labelled as an environmentally sensitive area) contains a flock of siliceous (silica-loving), acid-loving (likes acid soils) and psammophile (preferring sand) plants. You can come across many species of amphibians (like the Western Spadefoot), birds (such as the European Bee-eater) and bats (like the Greater or the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, the Common Bent-wing Bat).

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon

Trou des Américains pond (D)

This wetland is rooted in the ochre activity of the site and served to store the water used for washing the ochre. This is one of the best preserved ponds of the Luberon Regional Nature Park which is a part of the known breeding sites of Western Spadefoot (or Spanish Spadefoot Toad). This rare and vulnerable species in France is considered near threatened globally. With "spades" in its hind feet, it hides in the sand until it rains!

Attribution : ©David Tatin

An original flora (E)

Associated with a Mediterranean climate, the distinctive geology of the hill of La Bruyère, consisting of ochre and sandstone of the Cretaceous, enables a very specific and diverse flora to thrive. The vegetation here is composed of a Holm oak associated with a Scots pine and typical species of Heath,: Common heather, Laurel-leaved rock rose, Broom heather. These species are very different from those in neighbouring massifs.

Attribution : DR-Floréalpes

Forests as guides... (F)

The maintenance and development of woodlands and deciduous hedges is very important for bats. These areas serve as their hunting grounds and above all, as reference points. Some species are able to make a 5km detour to reach two places a kilometre apart only because they prefer to follow a straight line of hedges rather than to cross an open space.

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - 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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This project was developed in partnership with the Regional Tourism Committee, the departmental tourist development agencies, and tourist offices.

www.cheminsdesparcs.fr

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