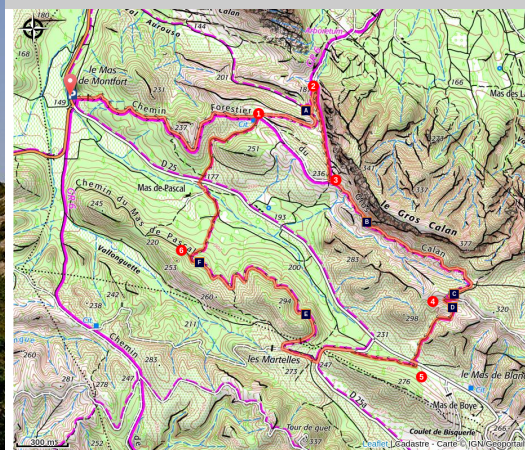


EYGALIERES - Stroll of the Gros Calan

Eygalières



Vers les Calans (©Anne-Catherine Privat-Madelin - PNR Alpilles)

Come take a walk on the meandering paths to discover the geology of Calans and its biodiversity!

& Laquo; This walk is a total delight in spring. With family or friends, it offers unseen landscape views even for those who know the Alpilles. The mountain pass reveals far away, a picturesque view of the old Eygalières. This trail is a gentle stroll in a joyful atmosphere when, from the end of March, the hilltop pasture becomes covered with flowers, bursting with colour. Anne-Catherine Privat-Madelin, Assignment Manager for Planning Urbanism Landscape Alpilles RNP.

Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 3 h

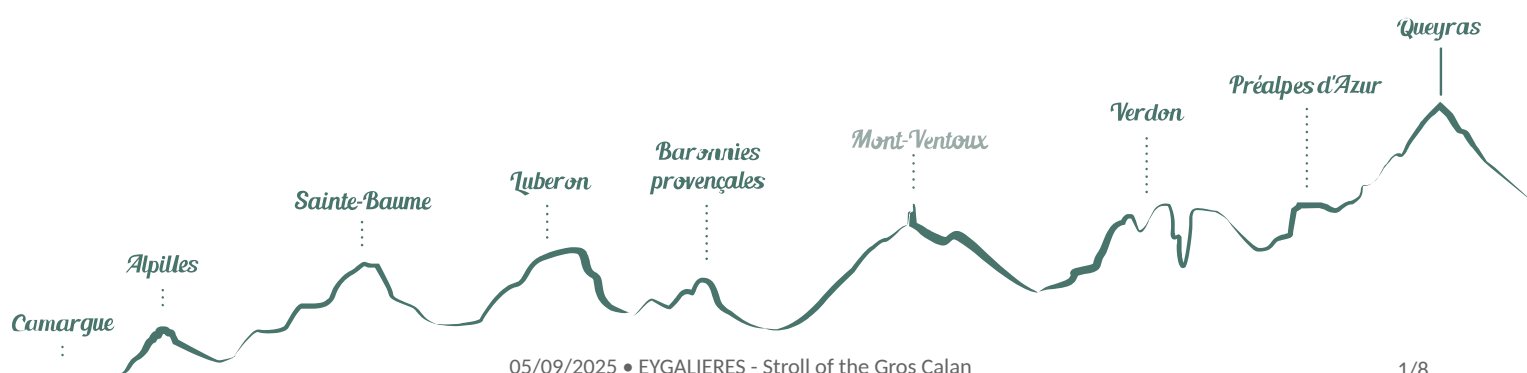
Length : 10.1 km

Trek ascent : 284 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Farming and pastoralism,
Fauna, Geology



Trek

Departure : Car park at the crossroads between the D24 and the D25, Eygalieres.

Arrival : Car park at the crossroads between the D24 and the D25, Eygalieres.

Markings :  GR®  PR

From the car park, start the hike at the mountain pass cycling milestone AL 120, by following the path marked GR® (red and white).

1 - At the first crossroad with the buried cistern to the right, continue on the left and leave the paths that go to the right and straight. At the next junction, after the curve, turn left on the meandering path.

2 - At the crossroads, veer to the right and take the little path to head to the Gros Calan mountain range.

3 - At the direction sign Stroll of the Gros Calan & Raquo;, turn left and walk along the mountain on the stony path. In the curve, continue on the path, leaving the small track going to the left.

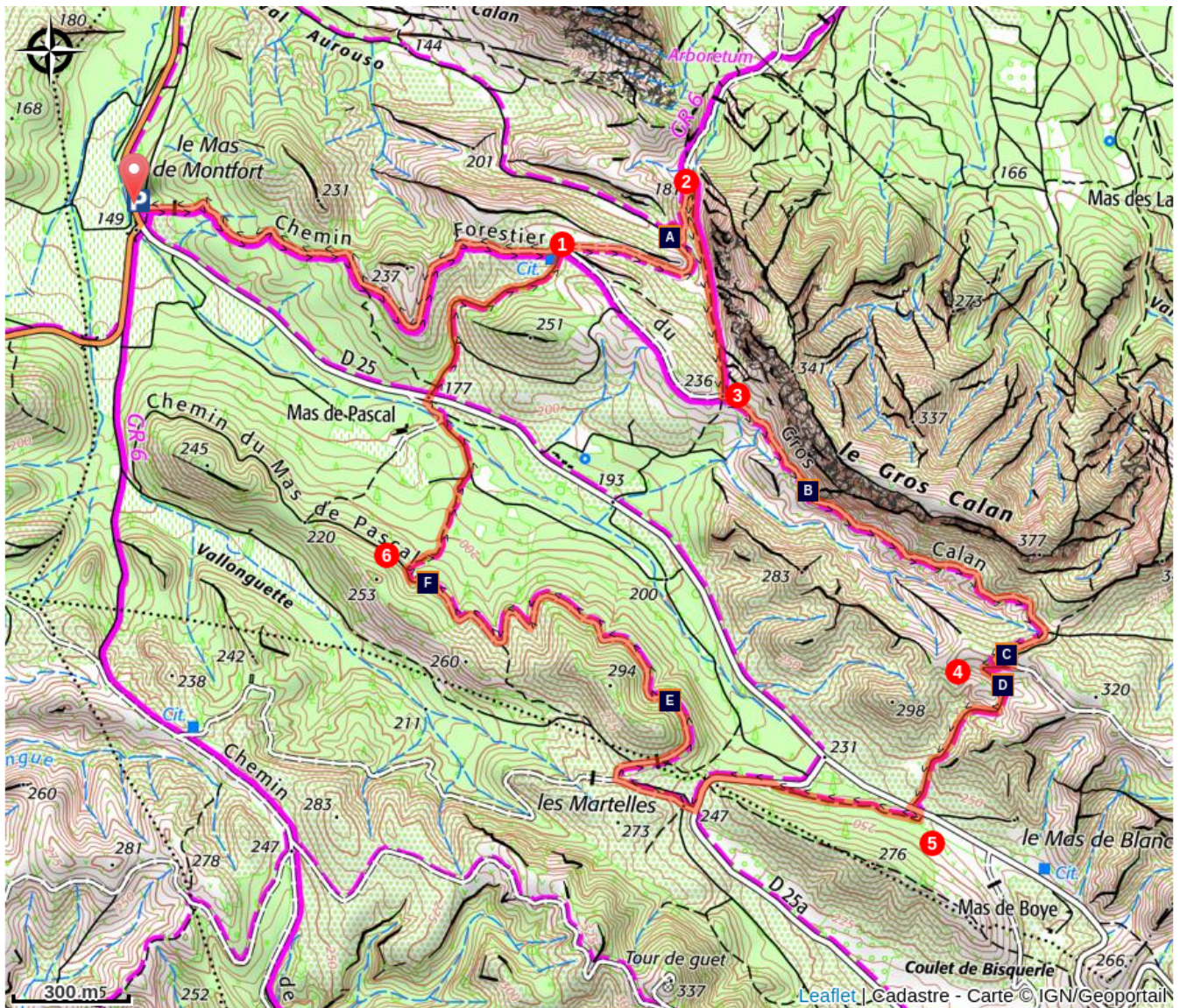
4 - After passing the green cistern in the hairpin bend, take an immediate right on the trail which slopes gently to the concrete cistern and follow it to the junction with the D25.

5 - Cross the main road and take the path on the right in the pine forest. Then follow the road for 350m. (!) Look out for cars in the 90° turn. ! Leave the road after the turn to take the wide path that starts on the right. Continue for 200m to climb, at the junction, the path continuing to the hillock.

6 - After following the switchback path, go onto the small track which plunges down to the right path. It leads to a new path. Ignore the different paths that start from either side to reach the D25, which you will need to cross again. then climb the main trail after crossing the gate.

1 - Back at the first intersection, go to the right on the first part of the hike followed and end the stroll.

On your path...



View of Eygalières (A)



An island in the middle of nowhere (C)



Short-toed snake eagle (E)



Calans (B)



View of the top of the Opies (D)



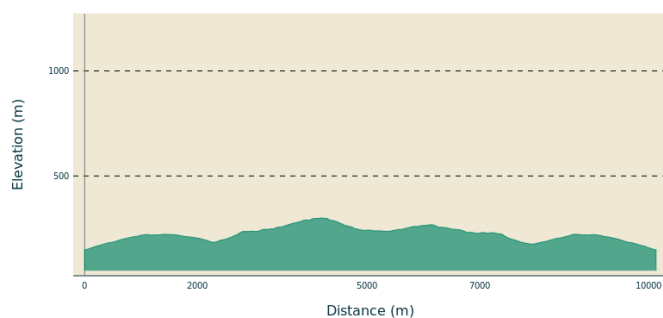
The Dartford warbler (F)

All useful information

Advices

Remain vigilant when passing close to the road.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 149 m

Max elevation 300 m

Access

Coming from Eygalières, the starting point is on the left when arriving at the crossroads between the D24 and the D25.

Advised parking

Car park at the crossroads between the D24 and the D25, Eygalières

Information desks

House of the Alpilles Regional Nature Park



2, boulevard Marceau, 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

contact@parc-alpilles.fr

Tel : +33 (0)4 90 90 44 00

<http://www.parc-alpilles.fr/>

OTI Alpilles-en-Provence

Place Jean Jaurès, 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

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Tel : +33 (0)4 90 92 05 22

<http://www.alpillesenprovence.com>

On your path...



View of Eygalières (A)

The village of Eygalières as well as the ruins of the castle at its summit, are the last vestiges of the *castrum of Aigueria*, of which the first writings date back to the 13th century. The village was originally built on a small rocky ridge, allowing its inhabitants to protect themselves against possible attacks, before expanding on the surroundings. The name of Eygalières is closely linked to water, as indicates its Latin name "*Aquilaria*" or in Provençal "*Eigaliero*".

Attribution : ©Anne-Catherine Privat-Madelin - PNR Alpilles



Calans (B)

A Calan is a hard limestone escarpment formed between 160 and 90 million years BC. These cliffs are the remains of an ocean presence in distress. Indeed, the Tethys ocean was here during the Jurassic period, the same period that saw the water level decrease. It was then that massifs such as the Alpilles ridges or as the calans were formed. Here, you can distinguish the Gros and Petit Calan because of their size.

Attribution : ©Jason Gaydier - PNR Alpilles



An island in the middle of nowhere (C)

From this viewpoint, you will have the chance to make a brief stop and admire the beauty of the Alpilles. On your right you have the Gros Calan and the Chaîne des Alpilles in the distance. These massifs are the result of tectonic plate movements and the action of the formerly present ocean millions of years ago. Today they are home to flora and fauna that are now the wealth of these places.

Attribution : ©Jason Gaydier - PNR Alpilles



View of the top of the Opies (D)

If you look up, you will see the Opies massif. This massif, a bit away from the Alpilles, is characterized by a series of ridges where the highest point is located in the territory of the Park: the Opies, at 498m of altitude. From the lookout tower which symbolizes the summit, you can see up to the Alpine peaks! Nevertheless and despite its imposing presence, this massif is fragile and it is advisable to roam other peaks capable of receiving visitors.

Attribution : ©Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles



Short-toed snake eagle (E)

Returning from the Sahara for the summer period, the short-toed snake eagle Jean-in-the-blank, *Circaetus gallicus*, is a raptor with a wingspan of 1.80 m and he can weigh up to 2 kilos. He has the top of the brown wings and the white underside. Its body is dotted with colorful spots, colour and density depending on the individual (between light beige and dark brown). It hovers for a long time in the manner of vultures to hunt its prey, mainly reptiles!

Attribution : ©Bruno Berthémy



The Dartford warbler (F)

If you see the Kermes oak trees around you, keep an eye out, and the right one! As you could probably see the Dartford Warbler, characterized by its eye circled in red, fond of Kermes oaks. This species has little adaptability, making it dependent on the Mediterranean natural environment and vegetation of low altitude and high density. An insect-eating bird, it also seems to feed on plant material during the harshest season. Do not disturb it!

Attribution : ©Aurélien Audevard - LPO



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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

*Tours et détours dans les Parcs naturels régionaux
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