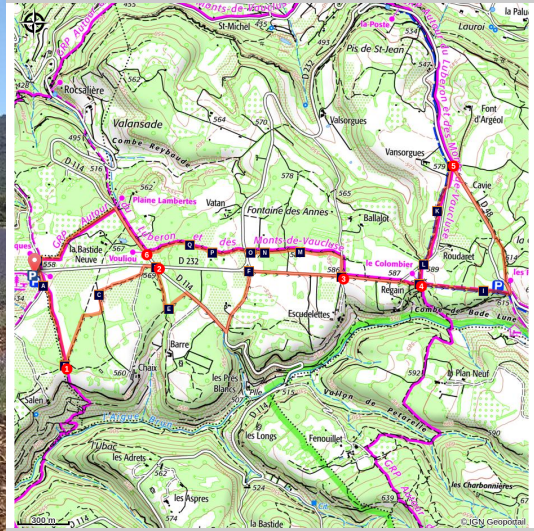


The Claparèdes plateau

Buoux



Lavandins et Grand Luberon (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 : 9.0 km

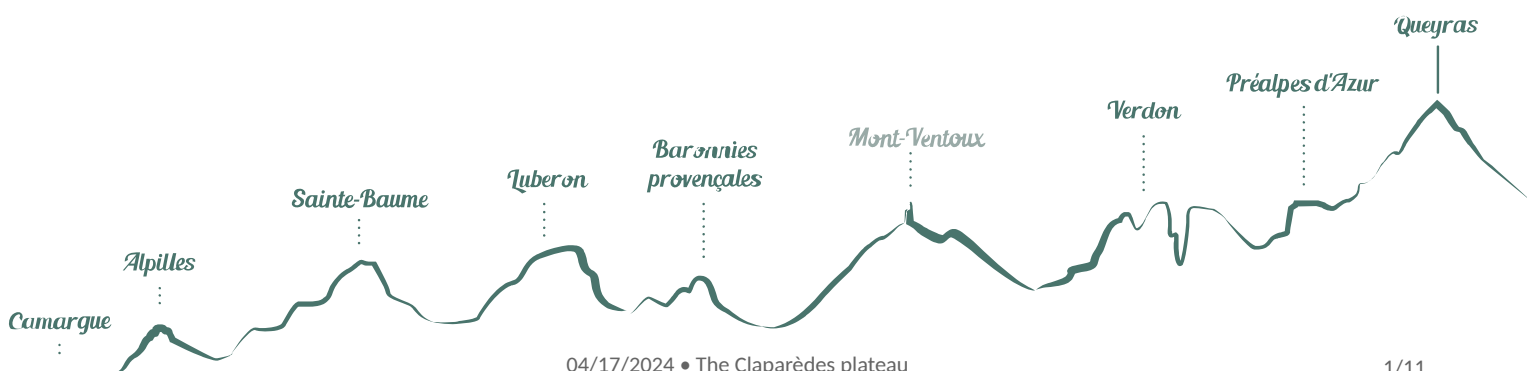
Trek ascent : 82 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Flora, Heritage and history, Know-how

Accessibility : Donkey hiking



Trek

Departure : Barbe Blanche car park, Buoux

Arrival : Buoux

Markings :  GR®  GRP®  Non balisé  PR

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.

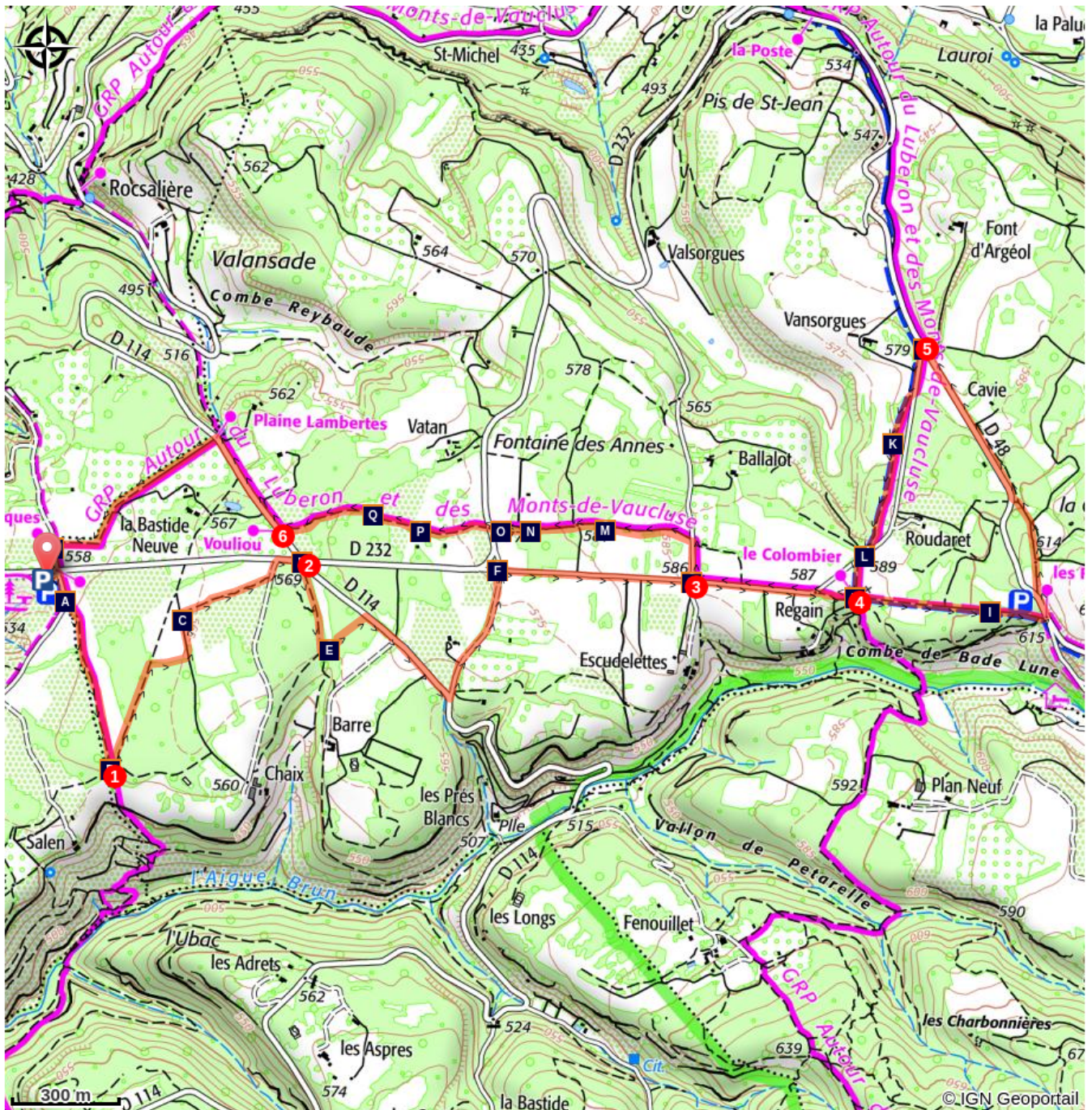
5- At the end of the straight line, turn on the left road and 120 m further, turn right on a path undergrowth (GR® and GRP®). Follow this path to torment, pass a very stony section and come back on the road. Take it 20m to the right and sneak onto the path on the left Go under the hedge of trees and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



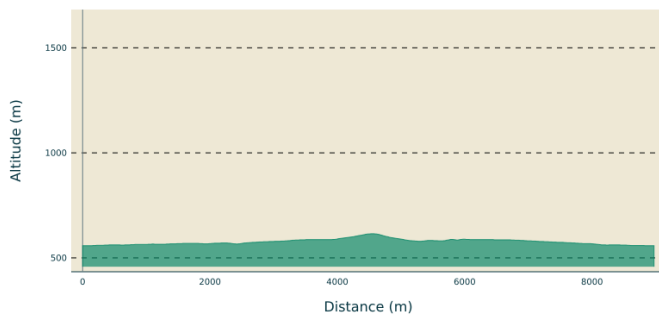
-  The Claparès plateau (A)
-  Long live the diversity, long live Life! (C)
-  A well orchestrated plantation! (E)
-  The art of distillation (G)
-  Traces of carts (I)
-  Walls murmur (K)
-  Hard work and variable return (M)
-  Midge attack (O)
-  Multiple Bories (Q)
-  A postcard scenery... (B)
-  Lavender or lavandins? (D)
-  A very popular essential oil (F)
-  Morenas, innkeeper but also ... (H)
-  Traditional building (J)
-  Ancestral Lavender (L)
-  The " star " of the bories! (N)
-  Patience and recycling (P)
-  Let's save the heritage trail! (R)

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 558 m
Max elevation 615 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.

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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<http://www.luberon-apt.fr/>

On your path...



The Claparèdes plateau (A)

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... (B)

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



Long live the diversity, long live Life! (C)

Dedicated to a traditional agro-sylvo-pastoral system, the Claparèdes plateau is divided between forests, lawns and dry crops, but also groves surrounded by hedges of old trees, including almond trees and mulberries, witnesses of a past culture. The interface and transition zones between all these ecosystems (ecotonal zones) are very favorable to a diversified fauna: birds such as the lark lulu and the sparrow zizi, but also reptiles such as the grass snake, the worm and the ocellated lizard.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



Lavender or lavandins? (D)

The aspic lavender (*Lavandula latifolia*), with broad whitish leaves, is a plant of the Mediterranean levels.. The fine lavender (*Lavandula Angustifolia*) with narrow leaves, is more mountainous (up to 1500 m altitude). It is usually the lavandin, a hybrid of the two and more productive, that is observed on the plateau of Claparèdes (do not pick!).

Attribution : ©Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



A well orchestrated plantation! (E)

The plot is prepared one year before planting: plowing, weeding. The planting is done after the big frosts. The implantation is more or less mechanized. The density of plants is 12,000 to 15,000 plants per hectare for lavender and 8,000 to 10,000 plants per hectare for lavandin. A lavender plantation remains in place for about 10 years. It is in production from the 2nd year and optimal yields in essential oil are obtained between the 4th and 6th year.

Attribution : DR



A very popular essential oil (F)

The flowery note of lavender essential oil is highly sought after by leading perfumers. Lavender is also used for various cosmetic, hygiene and beauty products. Industrial products (laundry soap, detergents, cleaning products, deodorants) are perfumed with lavandin. Its essential oil is cheaper and produced in greater quantities.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



The art of distillation (G)

Essential oils are obtained by steam distillation. The stems and flowers are carefully packed in a vase so that the steam that will cross them, can not take preferential paths. The water vapor entrains the essential oil and this gaseous mixture is recovered and then condensed. It is then dumped in a gasoline or it is decanted. The essential oil, the lighter one, rises. The distilled water flavored by traces of this oil is hydrosol.

Attribution : DR



Morenas, innkeeper but also ... (H)

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



Traces of carts (I)

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



Traditional building (J)

The large farms are the result of successive enlargements, in function of the needs of the operation. The mas in "L" shape is oriented south-east, offering protection against the mistral (which blows north-west). The openings are absent to the north and rather narrow elsewhere to protect themselves from heat in summer and cold in winter. At the bottom of the main body were the living rooms and the animals because of the heat releases. Upstairs, the bedrooms and attics.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



Walls murmur (K)

Along the path but also everywhere in the undergrowth, you will notice the many alignments of walls following the ancient stonework and dry stone retaining walls. These constructions today neglected, they formerly comforted the terraces cultivated in restanque ("bancaou" in Provençal). These walls let the runoff water while containing the earth for subsistence crops; ? essentially wheat and fodder for the animals.

Attribution : Eric Garnier - PNR Luberon



Ancestral Lavender (L)

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



Hard work and variable return (M)

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! (N)

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



Midge attack (O)

The midge, *Resseliella lavandulae* is an insect subservient to lavender. 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



Patience and recycling (P)

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



Multiple Bories (Q)

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! (R)

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



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Le projet Chemins des Parcs est financé par la Région Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur et les Parcs naturels régionaux des Alpilles, de Camargue, du Luberon, du Queyras et du Verdon.

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The Geotrek tool was funded by the European Union, the Ecrins National Park and the Mercantour National Park.

The Chemins des Parcs project is funded by the Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur Region and the regional nature parks of Alpilles, Camargue, Luberon, Queyras and the Verdon.

This project was developed in partnership with the Regional Tourism Committee, the departmental tourist development agencies, and tourist offices.

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