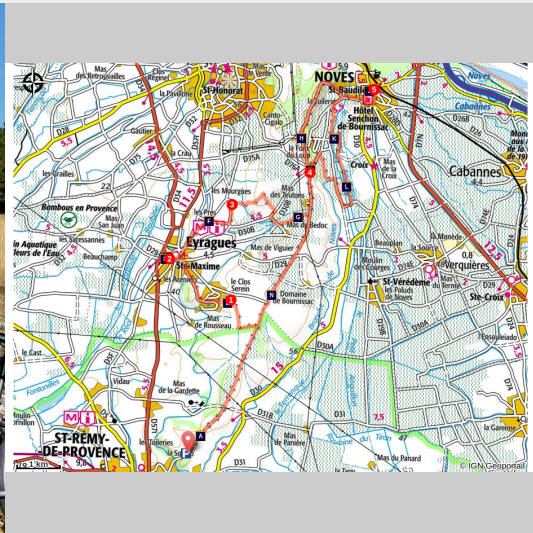


# SAINT REMY DE PROVENCE - Pèr draio e pèr Camin in mountain bike



Saint-Rémy-de-Provence



Paysage de la Petite Crau (Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles)

*By drailles and by paths, follow the tracks of the transhumance of the Alpilles shepherds and their flocks!*

Across the Petite Crau plateau, north of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, discover one of the transhumance routes, called "La Routo" in Provençal, which allowed herds to walk to the pastures. For a long time, the east lowland of Petite Crau was covered with swamps, thus obliging to pass by this plateau to connect the village of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence to that of Noves, while passing by Eyragues.

## Useful information

Practice : MOUNTAIN BIKE

Duration : 4 h

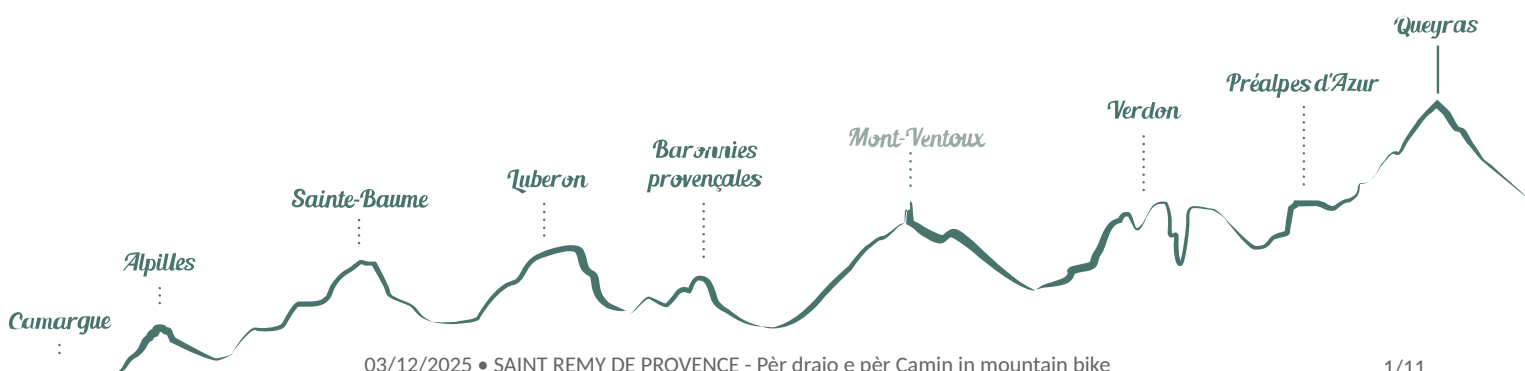
Length : 32.3 km

Trek ascent : 233 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle




Themes : Farming and pastoralism,  
Heritage and history, Local products



# Trek

Departure : Petite Crau car park, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

Arrival : Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

Markings :  Non balisé  PR  PR local

Back to the car park, take the path on the left, follow it for 3.5 km and pass a panel of communal decree. At the next intersection, turn left. Go right on the white gravel path and follow it to the road.

**1-** Turn left, pass the water tower and in the bend turn on the 2nd street on the left. Go down to the roundabout. Take the 2nd exit and take the avenue on the left. Turn left and cross the Liberation and Saint-Paul squares to reach the Bergerie.

**2-** Retrace your steps and take a right on the street just before the pharmacy. At the intersection, stay left and continue to the canal. Follow it on the right. At the end of the road, turn right. Turn left and pass the Roumanille manade.

**3-** Climb the path to the right and pass the canal. Once the hill is completed, switch on the path to the right. Take the road on the right, then turn left on the path of Mas de Bedoc. At the intersection, turn left on the path. At the end, turn left on a road. Follow it until you reach the D30b.

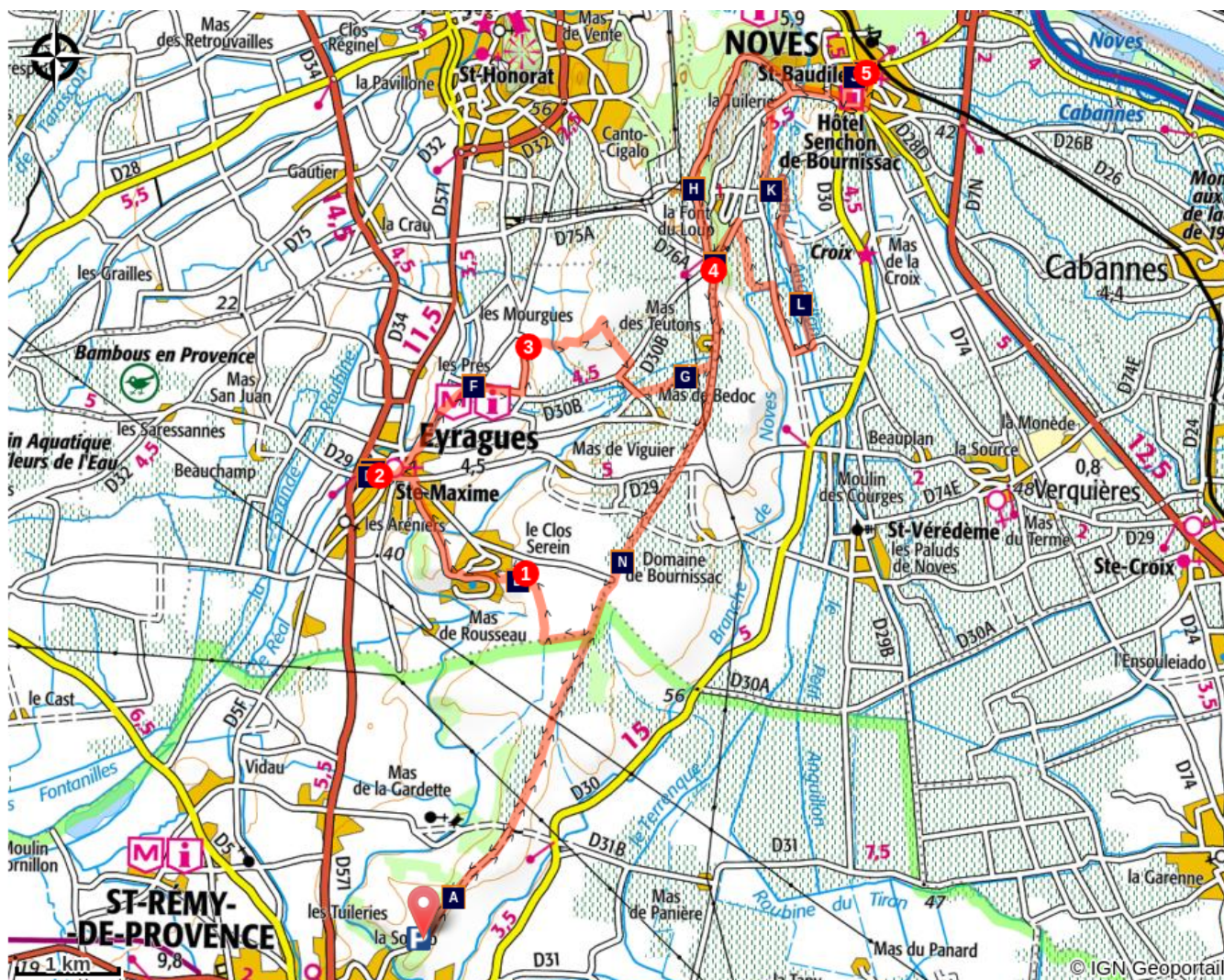
**4-** Continue towards Noves. After 300 m follow the Abeies path on the left, then the Crêtes path. At the end, take on the left the D30b to join Noves and the D30. Turn to the left. Follow the direction Châteaurenard and pass three roundabouts. After the 3rd, go left the medieval gate.








**5-** Just after, turn right, join the Pagnel square and continue Paul Auran street. At the end, turn right, then direct left. Take the D30b on the right. 1 km further, take a path on the left (n°941). At the end, turn left, cross the river and turn right (Mas Vert). Follow this path for 2 km.





**6-** Follow the road to the right. Go The river and at the intersection, take to the right. After 700 m, fork left on the Chicard de Pouvarel draille. Borrow the 1st road on the right. Go up the road on the left and join point 4. Follow the path of Transhumance on the left. Continue straight for 7.5 km to return to the starting point.



# On your path...



-  Coussoul of the Petite Crau (A)
-  The Bastide (C)
-  The poets park (E)
-  Vines and olive groves (G)
-  Saint-Baudile church (I)
-  The Anguillon (K)
-  Notre-Dame-de-Vacquières (M)

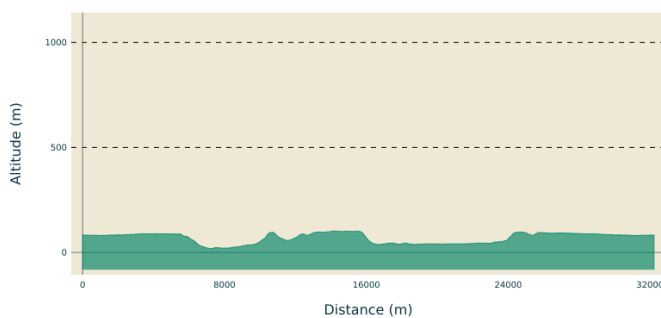
-  Remains of pastoralism (B)
-  The sheepfold (D)
-  Saint-Véran Cross (F)
-  Abeiè path (H)
-  Lagnel Square (J)
-  The apple tree (L)
-  La Petite Crau (N)

# All useful information

## **AdVICES**

For your safety, and for the preservation of forest areas, access to natural areas is regulated from June to September. Information during the summer period on 08 11 20 13 13 (price of a local call), on [www.bouches-du-rhone.pref.gouv.fr](http://www.bouches-du-rhone.pref.gouv.fr), or on the free application MYPROVENCE ENVIE DE BALADE (available on the App Store and Android Market).

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 18 m  
Max elevation 102 m

## **Transports**

.Look for public transport times on the site [www.lepilote.com](http://www.lepilote.com) in the town of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

## **Access**

24 km south of Arles, by the D571 then the D34.

## **Advised parking**

Parking de la Petite Crau, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

## Information desks

House of the Alpilles Regional Nature Park



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

[contact@parc-alpilles.fr](mailto: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

[saintremy@alpillesenprovence.com](mailto:saintremy@alpillesenprovence.com)

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

<http://www.alpillesenprovence.com>

# On your path...

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## Coussoul of the Petite Crau (A)

The coussoul is a steppe-style pastoral lawn, whose rough vegetation grows on very fine soil. This soil covers pebbles from the old bed of the Durance. Less than a meter deep, there is a layer of pebbles, cemented naturally by a crust of mineral salts, called "pudding". Within the Petite Crau, it is possible to find spaces of coussouls well preserved, giving it an exceptional ecological richness.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles

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## Remains of pastoralism (B)

La Petite Crau is a land of pastoralism. The extensive grazing of goats and sheep is a guarantor of biodiversity, preventing the encroachment and closing of environments, and at the same time contributing to the fight against fire. Herds appreciate the vegetation of the coussouls, as evidenced by this old sheepfold, now in ruins. ;

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles

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## The Bastide (C)

Inaugurated in 2006 by the association "Testimony and Heritage", the Heritage Museum exhibits everyday objects given by the inhabitants of the village of Eyragues who do not wish to see the disappearance of local heritage. There are stories about village life, paintings, furniture, traditional costumes and agricultural tools and crafts.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles

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## The sheepfold (D)

Built in 1920 by Jean-Ferdinand Michel, the sheepfold testifies to the pastoral life of the village of Eyragues. This sheepfold was home to a herd, which numbered up to 300 animals. The grandson of Jean-Ferdinand Michel practiced transhumance until 1985, and the sheepfold was used to keep a few heads until 1993. Today, the building has been rehabilitated in multi-purpose room by the municipality of Eyragues.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles





### The poets park (E)

With this park the city of Eyragues pays homage to seven poets, whose works have allowed the maintenance of the Provençal language. There is a statue of Frédéric Mistral and the busts of Joseph Roumanille, Théodore Aubanel, Jean Brunet, Anselme Mathieu, Paul Giéra and Alphonse Tavan. In the background stands the Bastide, mansion, which houses a meeting room and the Heritage Museum.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles



### Saint-Véran Cross (F)

Saint-Véran is the patron saint of shepherds and transhumance. North of Eyguières, there was once a chapel dedicated to him and a cross, still existing. Saint-Véran, bishop of Cavaillon, protector of the flocks, is known since the 11th century. for having chased the Tarasque, who decimated the herds in the valley of the Durance.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles



### Vines and olive groves (G)

As in the Alpilles, the farmers of Eyragues offer a range of local diversified products, with among others the wine, the olives and their oils which represent a consequent part of the production. The plantations of vines and olive trees are thus structuring elements of the territory, offering agricultural landscapes open on the different neighboring massifs.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles



### Abeiè path (H)

The route of the transhumance passed by the Abeiè path, Provençal name given to the transhumant herds. The width of the path was adapted to let them pass. In Noves, this path is called "Grande Draille". After the 2nd World War, there were 10,000 ewes, just on Noves, grazed during the year on the hill of Rougadou and on the flanks of Petite Crau.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles



### Saint-Baudile church (I)

The construction of a church dedicated to Saint Baudile was ordered in the 10th century, so as to enlarge an already existing chapel. Saint Baudile was a Roman legionnaire converted to Christianity, who suffered martyrdom in 300 AD in Nîmes. Since then, he has become the patron saint of the Noves village. This Romanesque church occupies the site of an ancient place of worship, which was in the center of a Roman villa. ;

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles

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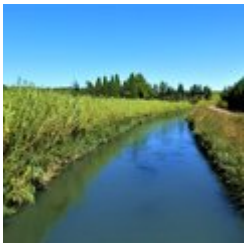


### Lagnel Square (J)

It is on the Lagnel square that a part of the transhumant herds passed the night while waiting to cross the Durance, to leave towards the mountain pastures. Noves remained for a long time anchored in pastoralism and cereal crops: each inhabitant had a few sheep and each house had a sheepfold to shelter them. It is only from the nineteenth century, that the activity of the town is moving towards market gardening and fruit trees.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles

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### The Anguillon (K)

The Anguillon is a river of 20 km, which has its source in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, at the foot of the Alpilles. It flows from south to north, to go to the Durance, near Châteaurenard. This river has played an important role over the centuries, providing the commune of Noves a refuelling point for livestock transhumance, but also the water needed for irrigation of vegetables and fruit trees.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles

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### The apple tree (L)

In the 19th century, the Noves'economy leaves in small side of the pastoralism, to turn to the gardening and the culture of fruit trees. Since then, the south lowland of the village, where the Anguillon River flows, has specialized in apples production. Along this stream, there are many farms that produce mainly Golden and Gala varieties.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles

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### Notre-Dame-de-Vacquières (M)

In the 15th century, several farmhouses and sheepfolds were built in this area to accommodate herds of more than 1000 animals. Then came the construction of Notre-Dame-de-Vacquieres chapel and its hermitage. This chapel is located near a source to which one attributes healing virtues, and a jas: a sheepfold allowing herds to shelter during the wintering period. From there, the flocks came down to drink in Anguillon.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles

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### La Petite Crau (N)

La Petite Crau presents an ecosystem close to its big sister, the Crau, lowland located south of the Alpilles. The landscape is characterized by hedges, groves and old trees surrounding still some natural meadows, typical of the coussouls. More and more plots are being cultivated today, the presence of herds is essential to maintain their ecosystem, because pasture is the only way to enhance the pastoral lawns of the coussouls of Petite Crau.

Attribution : Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles



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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.

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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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.

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[www.cheminsdesparcs.fr](http://www.cheminsdesparcs.fr)

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