

## LE PARADOU - Défends de Sousteyran

Paradou



Ancienne ligne ferroviaire Salon-Arles (©Rémi Sérange - PNR Alpilles)

*Stroll through the "paradise" that the landscapes of this end of the Alpilles offer !*

The tranquillity of the paths and roads of the Paradou commune will take you from the Défends de Sousteyran, to the superb Rochers de la Pène. These include the Tours du Castillon, a small heritage treasure of the Alpilles, as well as magnificent views of the southern foothills of the massif, including their highest point les Opies.

### Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 3 h 30

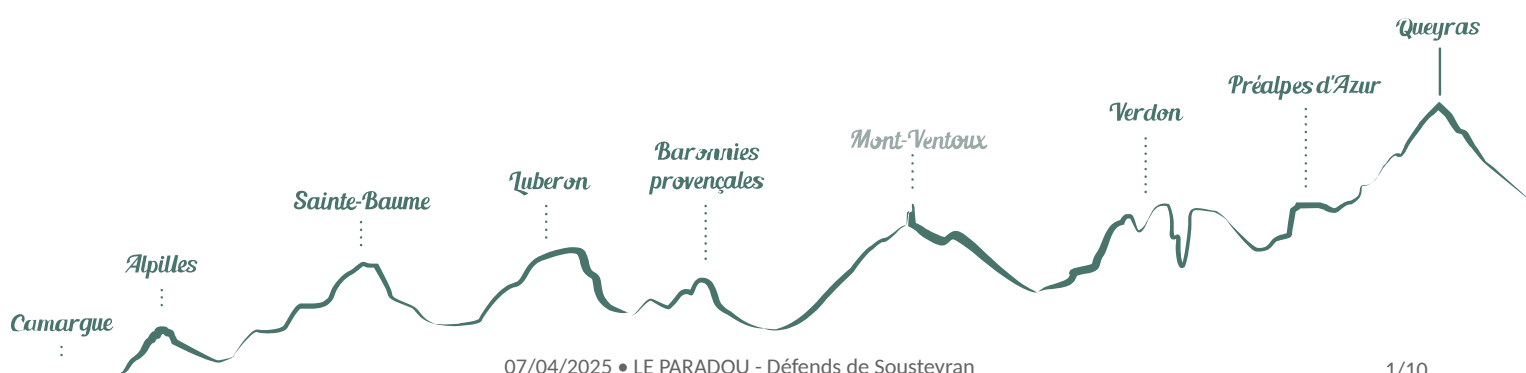
Length : 11.2 km

Trek ascent : 152 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle





Themes : Geology, Heritage and history, Local products



# Trek

Departure : Parking des écoles, Le Paradou

Arrival : Le Paradou

Markings :  GR®  Non balisé  PR  PR local

Back to the car park, turn right on the road to Saint-Roch and join the crossing with the D17. (Caution, traffic) Cross it and follow the path of Burlande, signposted PR. 500 m further, leave the first road on the left to follow the second, following the sign "Fontvieille 10.3 km". Continue for 1 km.

**1-** At the intersection, turn left, following the sign "Fontvieille 9.2". (Caution, traffic) Reversing the D17 and take the path to Constemple, signposted GR® and PR. Climb on this marked path for 800 m, to join a DFCI track.

**2-** Take this track on the left, still signposted GR® and PR, passing a barrier. Continue for 500 m until you reach an intersection. Toggle on your left and follow for 1 km this path, marked PR, to reach a channel bridge

**3-** Join the D78e road and follow it straight ahead. After turning left, continue for 1 km along this road. Pass some houses, then take the asphalt road of Pas de Loche on the right.

**4-** At the level of a small pass, turn left on a path, marked blue on the ground. Continue for 1.7 km on this blue marked path, to reach les Tours de Castillon, passing through the summit surmounted by a cross.

**5-** Just after les Tours de Castillon, turn left and join an asphalt road. Walk on its left on 400 m, then in the bend turn left the path of Crèmales and the Pène.

**6-** At the end of the road, turn right to follow the D78e. Continue straight on for 1.2 km to the center of Paradou. At the intersection with a cross, take the road on the left and reach the starting point 150 m further.



## On your path...



Old railway line (A)



Bauxite (C)



## The spotted dragon of the Alpilles (E)



An island in the middle of the plains (G)



### The territory's symbol (I)



## The village of Paradou (K)



### Canal of the Baux Valley (B)



## Bridge-canal of the Baux valley (D)



## Rocks of Pène (F)



## The Castillon Towers (H)



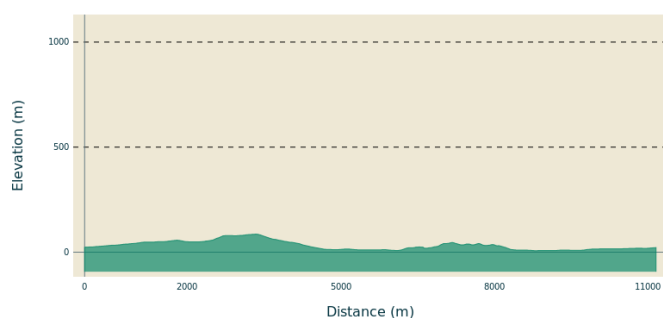
## L'Atelier Fromager des Calans (J)

# All useful information

## **AdVICES**

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

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 7 m  
Max elevation 86 m

## **Transports**

Look for public transport times on the site [www.lepilote.com](http://www.lepilote.com) in the town of Paradou.

## **Access**

2 km from Maussane-les-Alpilles by the D17

## **Advised parking**

Parking des écoles, Le Paradou

## 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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## Old railway line (A)

Started in 1868, the construction of the Arles-Salon railway line was completed in 1887. In 1900, a traffic evaluation shows that the number of passengers and goods (cereals, wine, coal) is small. Although the prosperity of the villages benefited from connection to the rail network, the line was finally closed in 1950, in a context favorable to road traffic.

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## Canal of the Baux Valley (B)

This canal, measuring 53 km long, has been the subject of a long process of reflection and design. Started in 1792, the canal will be put in water a century later, in 1914. To develop human presence and economic activity in the Alpilles, it was important that a hydraulic network irrigate the territory and allow agriculture to develop. This canal alone feeds the southern part of the massif.

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## Bauxite (C)

Bauxite, the eponymous name of Baux-de-Provence, is an aluminous and ferruginous clay agglomerate, usually red but sometimes tiger or whitish depending on the content of iron oxides and impurities. ;It was discovered in 1821 by the French geologist Pierre Berthier, who came looking for iron ore in the Alpilles. Following a global competition and local protests, its exploitation was stopped in the Alpilles.

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## Bridge-canal of the Baux valley (D)

In the Alpilles massif, numerous hydraulic structures have been built to supply all municipalities with water. The canal of the Baux valley, put in operation since July 3, 1914, passes along the southern foothills of the massif. The specificity of this environment associated with that of a canal, which must include a gentle slope allowing the good flow of water, led to the development of several canal bridges in the municipalities of Maussane-les-Alpilles and the Paradou.

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### The spotted dragon of the Alpilles (E)

Ranging from 60 to 90cm long, the Ocellated Lizard (Jewelled Lacerta) is the largest of its kind. This lizard enjoys dry, sunny places such as olive groves or unoccupied rocky areas. It is essentially characterized by its few blue spots along its flanks. Its diet consists of fruits as well as small mammals, through other insects. It is protected and the person that even manages to catch it will be fined.

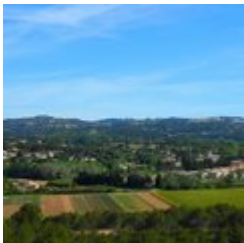
Attribution : ©Nicolas Sadaillan - Mairie de Sénas



### Rocks of Pène (F)

The rocks of the Pène, which shelter the Castillon Towers, belong to the narrow chain of "Hills" extending for 15 km from west to east, in the Alpilles massif. Traveling Fontvieille, Paradou, Maussane-les-Alpilles and Mouriès, it ends at the Caisses de Jean-Jean. The rocks of the Pène peak at 58 meters altitude south of Paradou. They have a marked southward slope and consist of calcareous beds of the Upper Cretaceous.

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### An island in the middle of the plains (G)

The Chaîne des Alpilles stretches over 30km, culminating at 498m at the top of the Opies. At the whim of peaks, cliffs, valleys and foothills, this very Mediterranean limestone massif is home to remarkable environments. The Alpilles are composed of emaciated soils of which the white limestone was formed 125 million years ago by the accumulation of microorganisms in the ocean which covered it here. It was the collision of the African and European tectonic plates that created these mountainous areas.

Attribution : ©Jason Gaydier - PNR Alpilles



### The Castillon Towers (H)

Occupied for the first time since the Iron Age, the Castillon site grew considerably in the 11th century, when the Lords of Baux made it a strategic location for the defence of their territory and a surveillance station of the communication routes. The castle, now gone, had four towers at the time. The site that you are discovering only has three today.

Attribution : ©Orlane Fougeroux



## The territory's symbol (I)

The olive tree is an iconic culture of the territory and is the symbol of the dry Mediterranean climate. Its multiple trunks are the result of a grafting near the stump following a long lasting frost in 1956. Today, olives and oils produced in the Alpilles are products recognized nationally and internationally, benefiting from the Appellation d'Origine Protégée - AOP (European quality logo attesting regional origin), which marks its uniqueness.

Attribution : ©Jason Gaydier - PNR Alpilles

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## L'Atelier Fromager des Calans (J)

L'Atelier Fromager des Calans is a small farm, specializing in the artisanal production of goat cheese. The owner, Nathalie Feurer, owns a farm of 50 dairy goats, which provide all the milk needed to make her cheese. Anchored in a local approach, it sells its products for direct sale on the farm, or at the hut "Le petit Paysan", a place of sale for independent producers in Maussane-les-Alpilles.

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## The village of Paradou (K)

Formerly known as Saint-Martin-de-Castillon, the current name "Paradou" comes, not from "Paradise" although it may seem like one to inhabitants or visitors, but the name of the old water mills of the Arcoule river which enabled weavers to "decorate" the sheets.

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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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