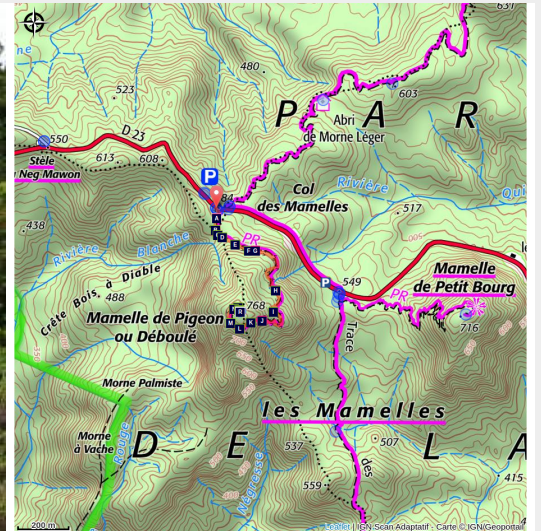


# Mamelle de Pigeon

Basse-Terre Nord



Départ du sentier de la Mamelle de Pigeon (PNG)



*A hike that encompasses both the rainforest and mountain forest. Botany lovers will love this trail, while the panorama at the top is spectacular.*

## Useful information

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Practice : Walking

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Duration : 1 h 45

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Length : 2.1 km

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Trek ascent : 161 m

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Difficulty : Easy

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Type : Return trip

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Themes : Geology

# Trek

**Departure** : Col des Mamelles, Petit-Bourg

**Arrival** : Col des Mamelles, Petit-Bourg

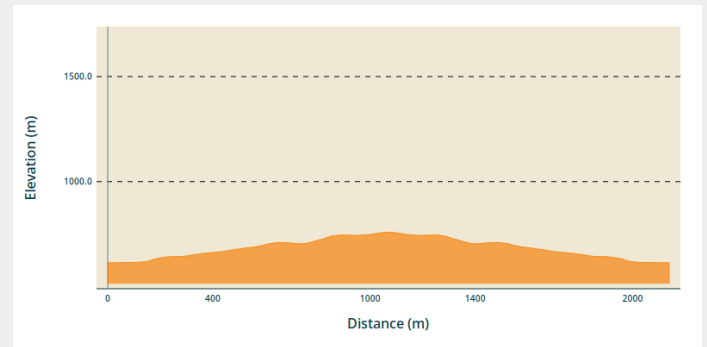
**Markings** : — PR (short hike network)

**Cities** : 1. Pointe-Noire

2. Bouillante

3. Petit-Bourg

## Altimetric profile



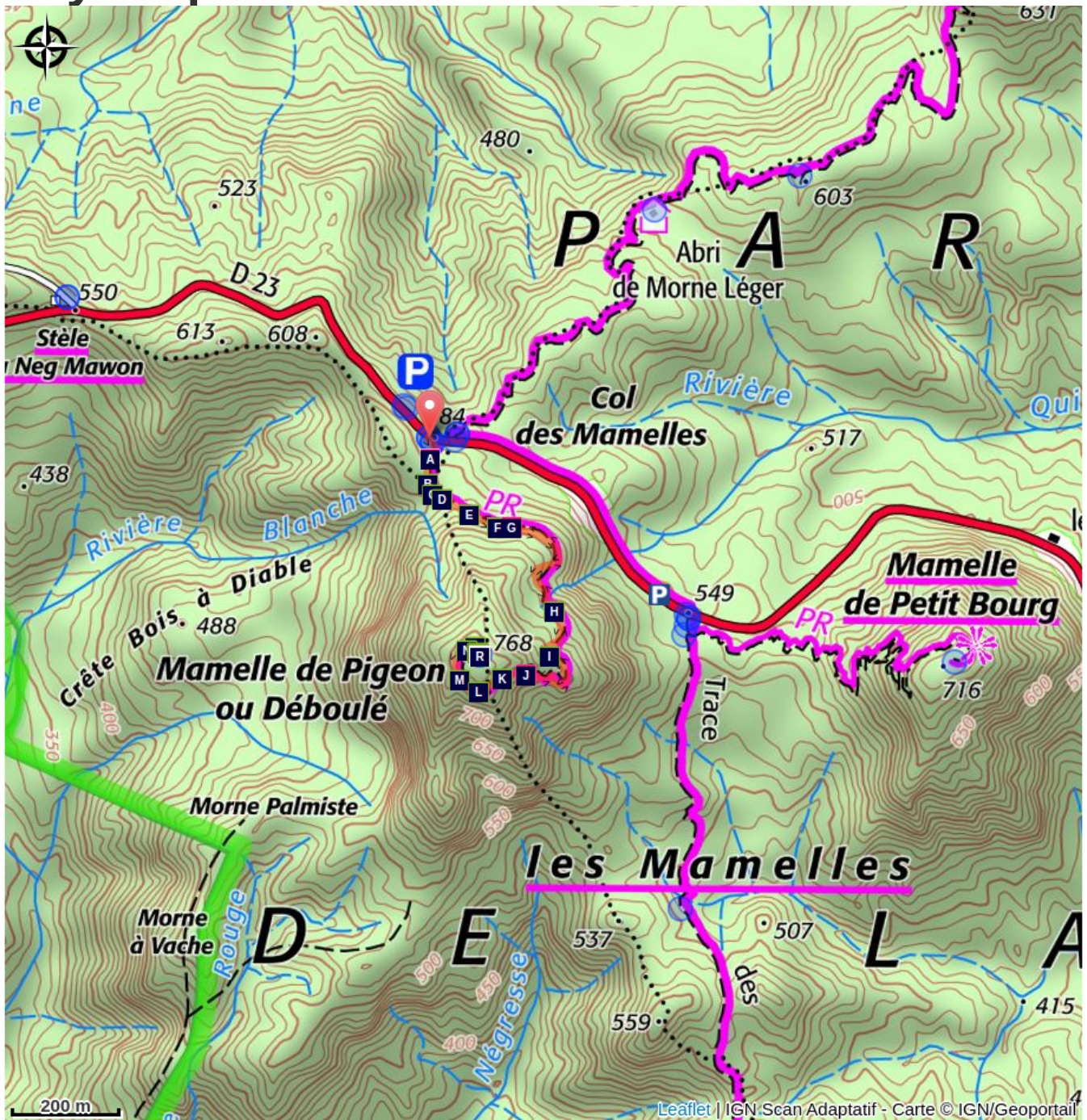
Min elevation 614 m Max elevation 759 m

















## Hiking trail colour: yellow

Starting from the parking area of Col des Mamelles, cross the road and read the National Park information boards at the start of the trail. Start by climbing the paved stairway that leads into the forest.

After walking for 10 minutes, the cobblestones give way to a slippery trail. Keep on the same path until you reach the summit, where you can admire a panorama from the promontory. Take the same route back to return to Col des Mamelles.

# On your path...



- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  How the Mamelles were formed ... (A) |  The Sierran palm (B)    |
|  Clusia mangle (C)                    |  The Yucca Plum Pine (D) |
|  Utricularia alpina (E)               |  Ailes à mouche (F)      |
|  Viewpoint (G)                        |  Giant Philodendron (H)  |
|  Miconia mirabilis (I)                |  Viewpoint (J)           |
|  Glomeropitcairnia penduliflora (K)   |  Clubmosses (L)          |
|  Antillean crested hummingbird (M)    |  "Bwa bandé" (N)         |
|  Charianthus alpinus (O)              |  Palicourea crocea (P)   |
|  Dicranopteris pectinata (Q)          |  Summit (R)              |

# All useful information

## **Is in the midst of the park**

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.

## **Advices**

As Guadeloupe is prone to natural risks, extra care should be taken in this natural environment. For the benefit of all hikers, responsible behaviour is very important. Pay attention to cars on Route RD23, as it is a major road. Warning : the parking area is unsupervised.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

Le conseil régional assure le réseau de transport interurbain avec des lignes de bus qui desservent tout l'archipel, par secteur géographique.

Voir : <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/les-actions-regionales/transport-interurbain/#>

-> Pointe à Pitre / Baie-Mahault / Petit-Bourg / Pointe-Noire : ligne 115.

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En Guadeloupe, 2 applications pour le covoiturage :

Déposé : <https://depoze.fr>

KAROS : <https://www.karos.fr>

### Access

GPS coordinates of the start point : Lat : 16,18147 N - Long : 61,73631 W.

On Route de la Traversée (RD 23), the parking area for the start of the trail is located at Col des Mamelles.

-> If coming from Côte-sous-le-Vent (Bouillante / Pointe-Noire): stop at the parking area at Col des Mamelles.

-> On the other side (Prise d'Eau, Petit Bourg): you will need to drive for around 5 km after Maison de la Forêt to find the parking area.

### Advised parking

Parking area Col des Mamelles, Petit-Bourg

## **Information desks**

### **Maison de la Forêt**

RD 23 - Route de la Traversée, 97170 Petit-Bourg

[info@randoguadeloupe.gp](mailto:info@randoguadeloupe.gp)

<http://www.guadeloupe-parcnational.fr/fr/des-decouvertes/ou-sinformer/maison-de-la-foret>



## **Source**

Rando Guadeloupe

<https://www.randoguadeloupe.gp/>

# On your path...

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## How the Mamelles were formed ... (A)

While it is believed that the Mamelles were formed only relatively recently, between around 1-2 million years ago, the northern chain of which they are a part include the island's ancient volcanoes.

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## The Sierran palm (B)

*Prestaea montana* is a member of the Arecaceae family. Despite its height, the Sierran palm is not a tree. Much like ferns, it does not have a trunk but a stipe. It can live in both hygrophilous forest, where it can reach a height of ten meters, and at altitude, where it grows no taller than two metres.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG

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## Clusia mangle (C)

Native to the Lesser Antilles, *Clusia mangle* belongs to the Clusiaceae family. It thrives at 800 metres above sea level, with strong winds and constant humidity. It is a shrub with leathery, fleshy and shiny leaves. The fruits (between 10-20mm) resemble large yellow-greenish olives.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG

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## The Yucca Plum Pine (D)

A member of the Podocarpaceae family, *Podocarpus coriaceus* is also known as the Yucca Plum Pine. Closely related to conifers, it is an average-sized tree, measuring around 10-16 metres. It has leathery leaves that resemble an oleander's: they are dark green on top, span between 6 and 15 cm and have virtually no petiole. While its flowers are discreet, its brown-coloured seeds in their floral buds are particularly eye-catching. It has a thin layer of bark. This species is found throughout the West Indies and flowers mainly in December and January.

Attribution : PNG



## ✿ Utricularia alpina (E)

*Utricularia alpina* is a terrestrial or epiphytic plant. It is found amid the upper layers of hygrophilous or transitional forests, or on formations at altitude. It is a carnivorous plant with small snares - stomach-like contraptions - hidden amongst its roots which help it to digest all kinds of tiny insects. Flowering mainly occurs between January and August.

Attribution : PNG



## ✿ Ailes à mouche (F)

A member of the Cyclantaceae family, the French common name of *Asplundia rigida* translates literally as "fly wings" on account of its similarity with the insect. A typical plant of hygrophilous (moisture-loving) forest undergrowth, there are three species of *Asplundia*: two terrestrial and one epiphytic and lianescent (vines climbing from aerial routes).

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



## 📍 Viewpoint (G)

Pleasant open views of the north of Basse Terre.

Attribution : PNG



## ✿ Giant Philodendron (H)

The Giant Philodendron (*Philodendron giganteum*) is an epiphytic or terrestrial species that flourishes in humid or shady areas. It grows equally well from the earth as it does on rock or in trees. It develops many very long aerial routes, which are used in basketry. It has large, dark green leaves that are fleshy and shiny to the eye. Each leaf is supported by a large petiole (between 0.6 and 1.5 metres), which grows from a large, yet short stem resting on trunks or rocks.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



## ✿ Miconia mirabilis (I)

*Miconia mirabilis* features a fluted trunk and white bark. As it is a light-loving tree, this pioneer has hard wood that is distinctive of open areas. It is often found on paths alongside tree ferns or trumpet trees.

Attribution : PNG



## 📍 Viewpoint (J)

Viewpoint

Attribution : PNG



## ✿ Glomeropitcairnia penduliflora (K)

Commonly known in Creole as "Zanana mawon", *Glomeropitcairnia penduliflora* is a member of the Bromeliaceae family. It is a tropical grass, epiphyte on tree branches, or terrestrial. It has straight, tough and thick leaves which, arranged in the format of rosettes, take in substantial levels of water and are even home to some frogs. It features a floral scape in the middle.

Attribution : PNG



## ✿ Clubmosses (L)

There are numerous species in the *Lycopodium* genus. Botanically speaking, they are similar to ferns and spikemosses. As pioneer plants, the clubmosses are the first to develop after volcanic eruptions. Thanks to the abundant spores that are produced in their small and densely-packed refracted ears, found at the ends of the branches, they can multiply freely.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



## 🐦 Antillean crested hummingbird (M)

The Antillean crested hummingbird (*Orthorhyncus cristatus*), also known as "Foufou" in Créole, is a small bird of around 8 cm, with iridescent green plumage and a blackish breast. This hummingbird is sexually dimorphic, a trait that can be witnessed by the crest on the male's head. Feeding mainly on nectar, it helps to pollinate plants by moving from flower to flower.

Attribution : F. Hemery



## ✿ "Bwa bandé" (N)

*Richeria grandis* belongs to the Phyllanthaceae family. It is a large variety, distinctive for its tough leaves and reddish-brown bark that so often falls victim to rogue extraction. Also known as "bwa bandé" in Créole, it is renowned for its aphrodisiac qualities. Its wood is used as timber or in carpentry. It has very distinctive, green, grape-like fruits which form small pods and form copiously on its branches.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



## ✿ Chorizanthe alpinus (O)

*Chorizanthe alpinus* is a member of the Melastomataceae family and endemic to the Lesser Antilles. Ranging from 1-2 metres tall, its leaves - made up of five basal veins - are particularly eye-catching, while its flowers regularly attract hummingbirds.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



## ✿ Palicourea crocea (P)

A member of the Rubiaceae family, *Palicourea crocea* is a shrub that can grow between 2-4 metres tall but that only reaches 50cm at altitude. The common local name for this plant, Foufou, derives from the name of the hummingbirds that are attracted to its large and colourful inflorescences.

Attribution : Nadia Liagre / PNG



## ✿ Dicranopteris pectinata (Q)

*Dicranopteris pectinata* belongs to the Gleicheniaceae family. It is a pioneer species that thrives in an open and sunny environment. It tends to colonise landslide areas, the edges of forest roads and rivers and, more generally, any surfaces that have been severely stripped back in wet areas. Its network of underground roots plays a key role in consolidating the topsoil.

Attribution : PNG



## ▲ Summit (R)

Courtesy of the landscaped promontory, the summit offers some extensive views of the area.

The earth is carpeted with ferns (*Dicranopteris pectinata*).

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG