

Quiock river circular trail

Basse-Terre Nord



vue sur la rivière ... (Fabien Salles / PNG)



A circular trail that winds its way through rainforest, river and lush vegetation, making for a unique setting at La Traversée.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 5 h

Length : 7.1 km

Trek ascent : 276 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Loop

Themes : Relaxation area, River and waterfall

Trek

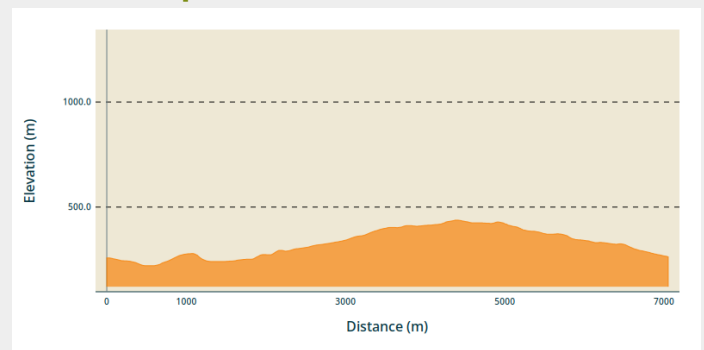
Departure : Maison de la Forêt, Petit-Bourg

Arrival : Maison de la Forêt, Petit-Bourg

Markings : — PR (short hike network)

Cities : 1. Petit-Bourg

Altimetric profile

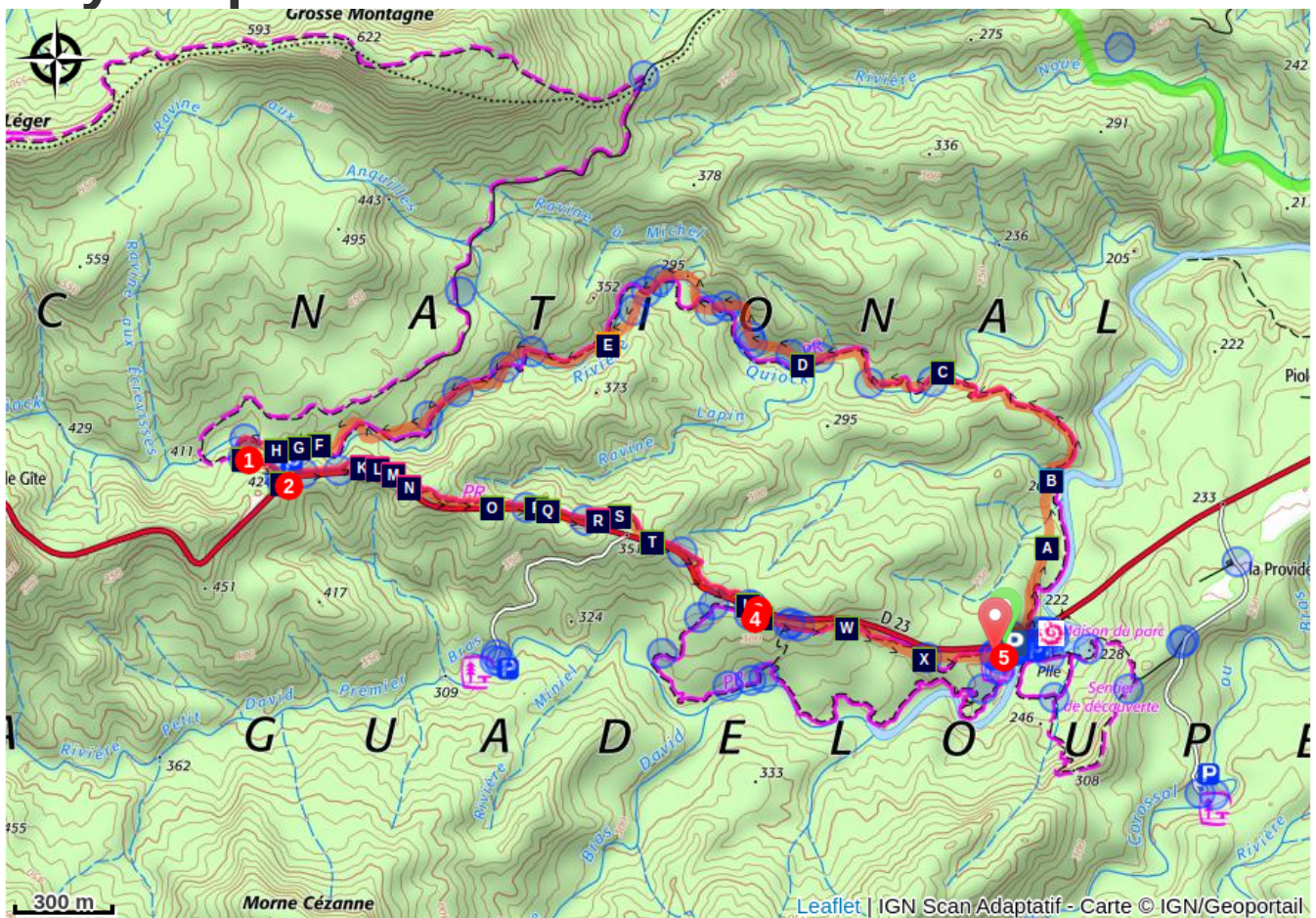


























Min elevation 221 m Max elevation 438 m

Hiking trail colour: yellow

Leaving your car at the top, start from Maison de la Forêt, cross the road and take the path signposted as "Trace Rivière Quiock" (Quiock River Trail). The trail is often muddy, with slippery and surface roots. After a short walk, the Bras David river will come into view. As you stay on the same path, the trail leaves the river bank of Bras David and heads up towards the plateau. At no point does the trail separate off clearly, but there are numerous river crossings. Each time you cross the river, make sure you return to the path (signposted in yellow) on the other side. At the last river crossing, follow the path and do not take the old staircase, which is in a state of disrepair. The path heads back up, with steps in the ground. When you get to a wider and grassy track (Point 1), turn left. After around 10 minutes, you come out onto Route RD23 (Point 2). Follow the road down for around 40 metres, and then take the new forest track that runs parallel to it on the left. Keep going on the track, following the yellow arrows that point the way to the exits on the roadside/entrance to the forest. Once you reach the opening onto the RD23 (Point 3), cross the road carefully. Then take the stream section opposite (Point 4) to return to Maison de la Forêt (Point 5).

On your path...



- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  The Gommier (A) |  View of the waterfall (B) |
|  The Sierran palm (C) |  Argia concinna (D) |
|  A lagoon full of mullets (E) |  Bwa rouj carapate (F) |
|  Tapura latifolia (G) |  "Bwa Bandé" (H) |
|  Miconia mirabilis (I) |  Pumpwood (J) |
|  Viewpoint (K) |  Viewpoint (L) |
|  Viewpoint (M) |  Viewpoint (N) |
|  Bamboo (O) |  "Monkey paws" (P) |
|  Giant Philodendron (Q) |  Viewpoint (R) |
|  "Cheveux d'ange" (S) |  Caribbean pine (T) |
|  Amid the forkedferns ... (U) |  West Indian Mahogany (V) |
|  "Ailes à mouche" (W) |  Mapou baril (X) |

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

Caution: River crossings. The route can be dangerous in wet conditions. Do not attempt it if it has rained the day before or if bad weather is forecast. If the water level rises, do not attempt to cross the river; wait until it recedes.

Pay attention to cars on Route RD23, as it is a major road.

Extra care should be taken in this natural environment, as Guadeloupe is prone to natural risks. For the benefit of all hikers, it is very important that you behave responsibly.

Please note : the parking and swimming areas are not supervised.

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.

En Guadeloupe, 2 applications pour le covoiturage :

Déposé : <https://depoze.fr>

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

Access

GPS coordinates of the start point : Lat : 16,17600 N - Long : 61,69280 W.

From Bouillante or Petit-Bourg : take Route de la Traversée (RD 23). Leave your car in one of the parking areas at Maison de la Forêt.

Advised parking

Parking (top) at Maison de la Forêt, Petit-Bourg

Accessibility

Advice

09/2023 : la Maison de la Forêt est réouverte au public, avec une toute nouvelle exposition mettant en valeur les patrimoines naturel, culturel et paysager de cette forêt emblématique pour la Guadeloupe.

Information desks

Maison de la Forêt

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

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...



✿ The Gommier (A)

The Gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*) can grow up to 35 metres tall. When they are damaged, its white trunk and roots exude a white resin with a pungent turpentine smell, which is traditionally used as incense or as kindle-wood, because it burns slowly regardless of the surrounding humidity. It is said that the tree has the ability to cast out spirits. It is strictly forbidden to take away any plant parts from the National Park. Its trunk was used by American Indians to make their canoes (kanawa), and is still used today by coastal people from many tropical countries, such as Dominique, to craft fishing vessels. The tree's seeds are a favoured food with pigeons.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



💧 View of the waterfall (B)

View of a small, freshwater waterfall on the Bras David river, below the trail.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



✿ The Sierran palm (C)

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 does not grow beyond two metres.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



🦋 Argia concinna (D)

Argia concinna, known commonly in French as "The Blue Damsel" for its beautiful colours, is endemic to the Lesser Antilles.

Attribution : F.Salles - PNG



🇪🇺 A lagoon full of mullets (E)

A perfect spot for a picnic. Here, you can see mullets. The mountain mullet (*Agonostomus monticola*) has a dark, greenish-brown back and a white front. Its fins are pigmented yellow. It is a carnivorous fish, hunting insects, shrimp but also fruit.

N.B. Fishing is prohibited at the National Park.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



🌿 Bwa rouj carapate (F)

A member of the Euphorbiaceae family, *Amanoa caribaea* is endemic to the Lesser Antilles. It is a large tree with a trunk that rests straight on its buttresses, depending on the terrain. The most distinctive feature of this species is its reddish bark and roots at the foot of the trunk. Its leaves vary in shape: sometimes they are whole, sometimes pointed. Its flowers form small clusters, while its very hard wood was used as timber or in carpentry.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



🌿 Tapura latifolia (G)

Tapura lotifolia is a member of the Melastomaceae family. With a fluted trunk, this tree rarely grows taller than 20 metres. Its leaves feature five main veins that run perpendicular to its many secondary veins.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



🌿 "Bwa Bandé" (H)

Richeria grandis, known in créole as "Bwa bandé", 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. It is renowned for its aphrodisiac properties. Its wood is used as timber or in carpentry. It has very distinctive, green grape-like fruits which form small pods and appear copiously on its branches.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



✿ Miconia mirabilis (I)

Miconia mirabilis is a hardwood tree with white bark and fluted trunk. As is so distinctive of pioneer plants, it loves light. It is often found on paths alongside tree ferns or trumpet trees.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



✿ Pumpwood (J)

Most common in light, windfall area or at roadsides, the Pumpwood (*Cecropia shreberiana*) consists of a straight, hollow trunk with white bark and few branches. Here, you cannot miss it when you leave the forest and when you arrive at the intersection with the road. Its webbed leaves are white underneath and highly distinctive. They are green on top and form in clusters at the ends of branches. The Pumpwood flowers all year round. In traditional medicine, its leaves are made into a decoction which is used as a diuretic. It also acts as a tonic, anti-asthmatic and cardiac stimulant. Its latex can be used to treat bruises and surface wounds. The sap from its folded leaves is used to treat bronchitis.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



📍 Viewpoint (K)

First viewpoint from the track running alongside Route RD23.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



📍 Viewpoint (L)

Second viewpoint from the track running parallel to Route RD23: view to the west looking towards Mamelle de Petit-Bourg.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



📍 Viewpoint (M)

Third viewpoint from the track running parallel to Route RD23: view to the west looking towards Mamelle de Petit-Bourg.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Viewpoint (N)

Fourth viewpoint from the track running parallel to Route RD23: view to the west towards Mamelle de Petit-Bourg and overlooking the east/south-east side of the ridges.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Bamboo (O)

Bamboo is an invasive species in Guadeloupe, having colonised roadsides and riverbanks. Recommendations have been made for bamboo growth to be controlled, or even eradicated, in certain areas. It is very difficult to control this species, however, as doing so requires careful planning and the use of techniques that do not damage local species.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



"Monkey paws" (P)

Marcgravia umbellata is more commonly known as "Monkey paws". This epiphytic plant clings to trees in order to access the light. Once it reaches the tree tops, the vine separates from the trunk. The stem then shoots a sort of flagellum downwards that takes root in the ground, before the cycle begins again.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Giant Philodendron (Q)

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 copious 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 measuring between 0.6 and 1.5 metres, which grows from a large yet short stem resting on trunks or rocks.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



Viewpoint (R)

Viewpoint towards the north (Grosse Montagne), from the track running parallel to Route RD23.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



✿ "Cheveux d'ange" (S)

These lichens are known as cheveux d'ange, which translates from French as "Angel's hair". They use other plants as support.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



✿ Caribbean pine (T)

The Caribbean pine (*Pinus caribaea*) is a member of the Pinaceae family. Now considered an invasive species in Guadeloupe, this tree was introduced so that its wood could be used as timber. It has noticeably cracked, reddish-brown bark. The inner bark is highly resinous. It has a slender top which is shaped like a rounded pyramid.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



✿ Amid the forkedferns ... (U)

Dicranopteris pectinata is a member of the Gleicheniaceae family. It is a pioneer species that is so typical of open and sunny areas. It colonises landslide areas, the edges of forest roads, river banks and, generally, any surfaces that have been severely stripped back in wet areas. This fern's network of underground roots plays a key role in consolidating the topsoil.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



✿ West Indian Mahogany (V)

A member of the Meliaceae family, *Swietenia macrophylla* is a perennial tree with a straight, cylindrical bole. It has small, yellow-green flowers. This species was introduced in order to produce timber. Because of its hardness and colouration, the wood is highly prized by cabinet makers, which has resulted in it being over-exploited in its native area. It is listed in Appendix II of the threatened species covered by the Washington Convention.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



✿ "Ailes à mouche" (W)

A member of the Cyclantaceae family, the local name for *Asplundia rigida* can be translated literally as "fly wings" on account of its similarity with the insect. A typical species of moist forest undergrowth, there are three species in the *Asplundia* genus. Two terrestrial and one epiphytic and lianescent (vines climbing from aerial routes).

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



✿ Mapou baril (X)

Sterculia caribea, known in Créole as Mapou baril, is endemic to the Lesser Antilles. The leaves of this plant can differ depending on its age. Its flowers appear in the form of a bunch of small yellow and pink bells. It produces quite distinctive fruits that cluster together in groups of four or five in woody follicles: they are lined on the inside with dark red urticating bristles.

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