

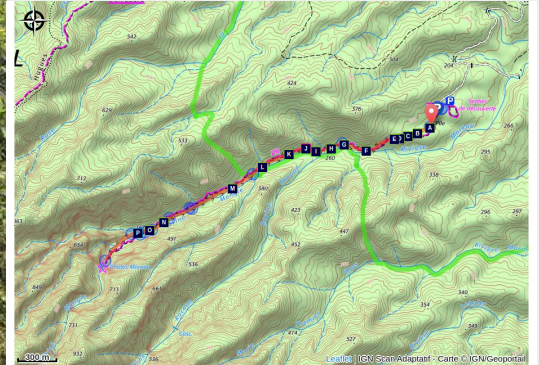
Moreau waterfalls

Basse-Terre Sud



SENTIER INTERDIT / VOIR INFORMATIONS

Chutes Moreau (N.Liagre - PNG)



Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 4 h

Length : 6.0 km

Trek ascent : 313 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Return trip

Themes : River and waterfall

Water and humidity are ubiquitous throughout this trail, offering lush vegetation dominated by chestnut trees and gommiers. The view on reaching the Chutes Moreau is breathtaking.

In 1825, Boyer-Peyreleau wrote: "Goyave is a town with the most beautiful rivers in the colony: fine and clear, not designed to allow boats to pass in its waters, but for pastoral nymphs to bathe their feet".

Trek

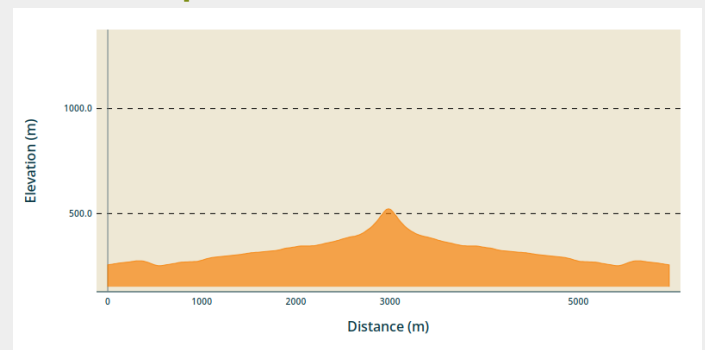
Departure : Moreau (end of the forest road),
Goyave parking area

Arrival : Moreau (end of the forest road),
Goyave parking area

Markings : — PR (short hike network)

Cities : 1. Goyave

Altimetric profile

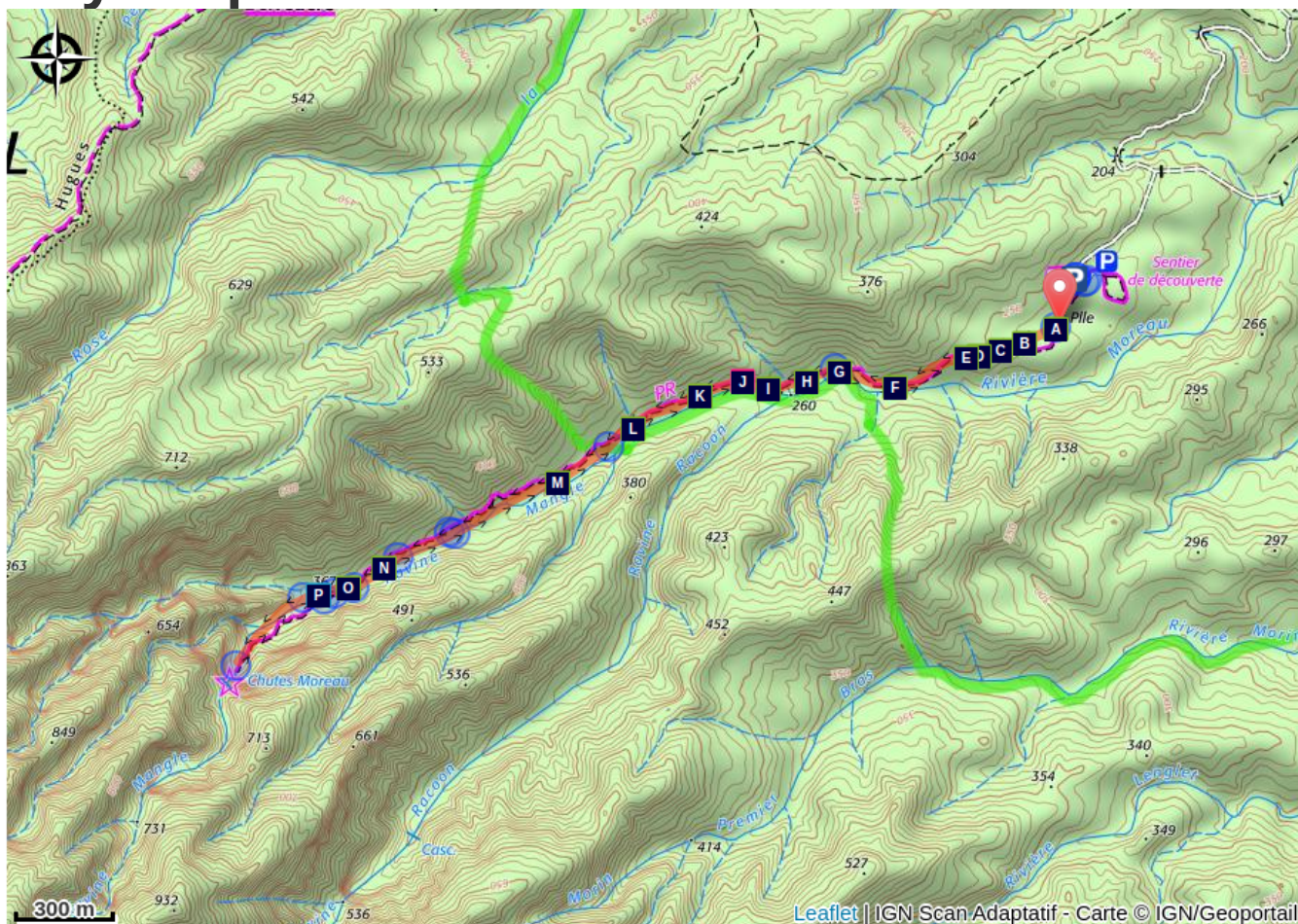










Min elevation 252 m Max elevation 523 m









Hiking trail colour: yellow

The start of the trail leading to the Chutes Moreau is at the bottom of the car park, after the information boards for the National Park. Go past the small bridge and start to climb the stairs, the trail then heads off to the right. Muddy and covered with uneven roots in the soil, the path is slippery. There are no obvious intersections on this hike. Just follow the trail and be careful not to lose the way. You will need to cross the river a number of times throughout the trail, so make sure that you return to the path each time. Much of the trail is made up of crossings (cairns and small piles of stones are arranged on both sides of the river and act as helpful landmarks), but sometimes you enter the river to return to the same bank and then come out further on. The entrance to the National Park is marked by signs with the park's colours. During the last 30 minutes of walking, there are some quite steep walls towards the end of the trail that lead to the foot of the Chutes Moreau. With the aid of some ropes, they are set up in such a way that you should be able to cross them relatively easily.

On your path...



-  Miconia mirabilis (A)
-  The Sierran palm (C)
-  The Gommier (E)
-  Chimarrhis cymosa (G)
-  Sloaena massoni (I)
-  "Bwa bandé" (K)
-  Mountain guava (M)
-  Wall of giant Asplundia rigida (O)

-  Caribbean elaenia (B)
-  Mangrove cuckoo (D)
-  The station of royal ferns (F)
-  Termite mounds (H)
-  Ravine Racoon (J)
-  Acomat boucan (L)
-  Cirique crab (N)
-  Small waterfall (P)

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

Forbidden path, since march 2019. Read the [prohibition order](#).

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.

Extra care should be taken in this natural environment, as Guadeloupe is prone to natural risks. For the benefit of all hikers, responsible behaviour is requested.
Please note : the parking and swimming areas are not supervised.

How to come ?

Transports

En Guadeloupe, 2 applications pour le covoiturage :

Déposé : <https://depoze.fr>

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

Access

GPS coordinates of the start point : Lat : 16,11745 N - Long : 61,62737 W.

On Route RN1 to Goyave, do not follow signs to "Bois Sec/Bonfils/Moreau", but head towards "Douville/Chutes Moreau", on Route C7.

The road gradually gets narrower and becomes a forest track. Follow the road uphill for 8 km. Park at the end of the road in the area provided.

Advised parking

Moreau (end of the forest road), Goyave parking area

Accessibility

At the parking area at the start, 400 metres of wooden decking has been put down by the National Forestry Board, which suggests an informative circular trail accessible to persons of reduced mobility and the visually impaired, with the aid of Braille signs.

Decking currently out of service.

Information desks

Headquarters of the National Park of Guadeloupe

Montéran, 97120 Saint-Claude

info@randoguadeloupe.gp

Tel : 0590 41 55 55

<http://www.guadeloupe-parcnational.fr/fr/des-decouvertes/ou-sinformer/siege-de-saint-claude>



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...



✿ Miconia mirabilis (A)

Miconia mirabilis has a fluted trunk with 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 : Emilie Savy / PNG



🐦 Caribbean elaenia (B)

Most noticeable for the contrast between its olive green head and whiteish belly, the Caribbean elaenia (*Elaenia martinica*) feeds on fruit and insects. It is a regular visitor to all natural environments in the Lesser Antilles.

Attribution : F. Hemery



✿ The Sierran palm (C)

The Sierran Palm (*Prestoea montana*) is a member of the Arecaceae family. Despite its size, it is in fact a palm tree. 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 metres, and at altitude, where it does not grow beyond two metres.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



🐦 Mangrove cuckoo (D)

Measuring 28-31 cm, the Mangrove cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) is recognisable for the black patch over one eye, for its long, layered tail and for its beak, which curves downwards.

Attribution : PNG



✿ The Gommier (E)

The Gommier (*Daryodes excelsa*) can grow up to 35m high. 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 to start fires, because it burns slowly regardless of the surrounding humidity. It is reported 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 make fishing vessels. Its green seeds are popular with pigeons.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



✿ The station of royal ferns (F)

A member of the Osmondaceae family, *Osmunda regalis* is found along river banks and in the undergrowth. It forms a layer of vegetation, providing a felt-like to feel to the places that it inhabits.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



✿ Chimarrhis cymosa (G)

Chimarrhis cymosa belongs to the Rubiaceae family. It has yellow-orange coloured, very hard wood. Its straight trunk is covered in a clear and smooth bark. Its leaves are light green, wide and long. Flowering occurs between April and May and between October and November, when the top of the tree is covered in white flowers. Given the robustness of the wood, which does not suffer attacks by insects, it was used to make the flooring of traditional Creole houses.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



✿ Termite mounds (H)

Termites (*Nasutiterme costalis*) belong to the class of insects. Termites fashion termite mounds at the foot of the tree that they have been feeding on. Either fixed in the ground or aerial, these structures can be hung on a tree trunk. Termites use it as a nest, where they live in a colony.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



✿ Sloanea massoni (I)

Sloanea massoni, the large-leaved chestnut tree, has leaves measuring around 60 centimetres. It boasts some impressive buttresses and its fruits are themselves in the shape of chestnut husks.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



🏞️ Ravine Racoon (J)

Views of Ravine Racoon.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



✿ "Bwa bandé" (K)

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



✿ Acomat boucan (L)

Sloanea caribaea belongs to the Elaeocarpaceae family. It is an extremely large tree that can reach up to 40 metres in height. It is the most spectacular tree in the *Sloanea* genus. It has an exposed trunk and magnificent buttresses. Its bark is reddish-brown and tends to flake off in thin strips when the tree ages. Formerly, visitors to the forest would make use of its enormous buttresses to shelter their fires and to smoke meat. We now know that lighting fires among the roots is not conducive to the well-being of trees.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



✿ Mountain guava (M)

Eugenia pseudopsidium, also known as the mountain guava, belongs to the family of Myrtaceae.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



Cirique crab (N)

The cirique crab is average in size. It has an oval and flattened carapace. Adults are yellow and chocolate coloured, while juveniles are darker: black with orange claws.

An omnivore that feeds on seeds, fruits and organic waste, this crab can also occasionally hunt prey its own size.

It lives in the rivers of tropical forests, often at altitude. It digs shallow holes in river banks for shelter. It is the only crab from our rivers which completes its life cycle solely in freshwater.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



Wall of giant *Asplundia rigida* (O)

A member of the Cyclantaceae family, *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



Small waterfall (P)

There is a small waterfall visible near the trail.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG