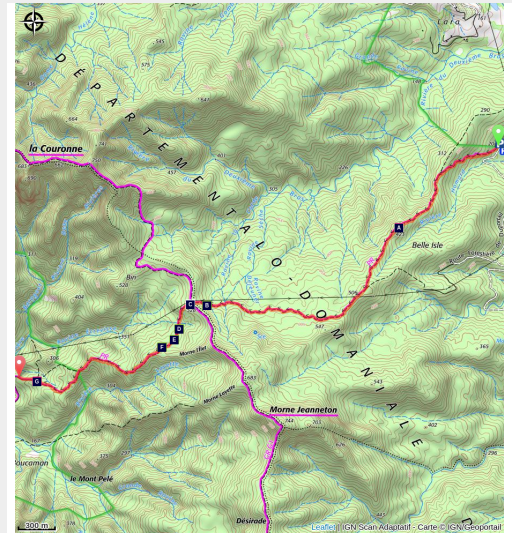


The Smugglers trail

Basse-Terre Nord



vue sur La Couronne (Céline Lesponne / PNG)



Crossing the massif from east to west on a trail steeped in history. You will be walking in the footsteps of rum and tobacco smugglers from the 19th century.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 5.6 km

Trek ascent : 385 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Cross

Themes : Cultural and architectural heritage

Trek

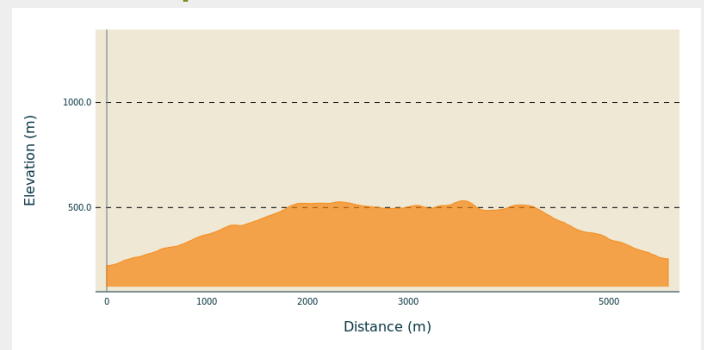
Departure : Sainte-Rose, forest road of Duportail, starting from the information boards.

Arrival : Pointe-Noire, end of Route RD17 (Les Plaines / Notre-Dame des Larmes)

Markings : — PR (short hike network)

Cities : 1. Sainte-Rose
2. Pointe-Noire

Altimetric profile

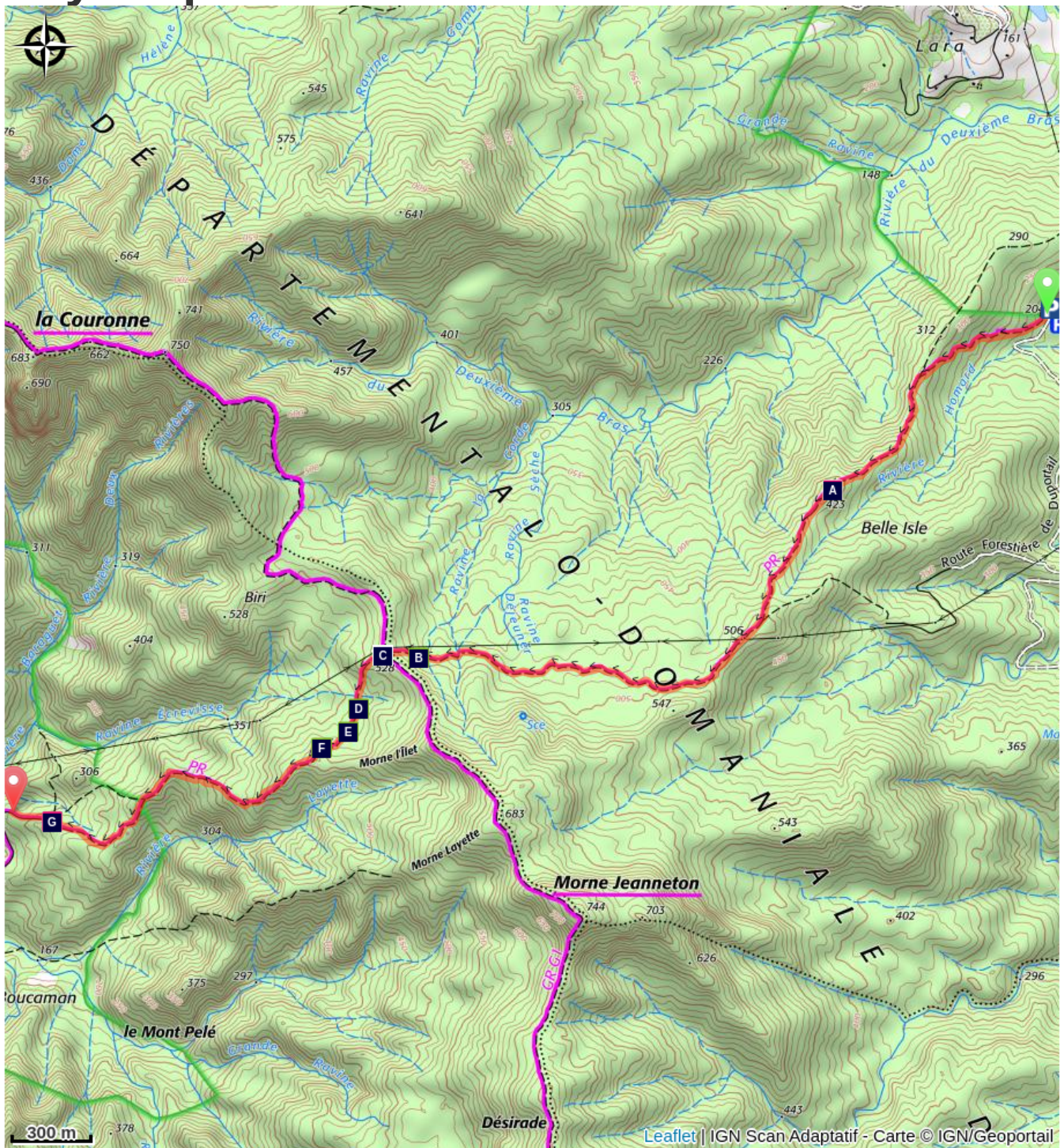




Min elevation 223 m Max elevation 532 m

Hiking trail colour: yellow

Take the forest path, behind the National Forestry Office hiking information boards. Climb steadily until you reach the high-voltage line for the first time. Keep going through the forest. The trail gets flatter and winds its way through the rainforest near by some remarkable trees, such as chewstick and chestnut trees. Cross some small ravines and then reach the summit (here you cross a power line for a second time). Intersection with the Alizés trail (GR G1, north/south of Basse Terre). Keep going, heading in the direction of "Contrebandiers / Les Plaines" and begin your descent towards the west. Come out onto the concrete road and then keep going until the final sign. N.B. As this is a circular trail, make sure to leave your vehicle at the start point.

On your path...



-  Large rock formations (A)
-  Intersection at the top (C)
-  Chewstick tree (E)
-  Viewpoint (G)
-  Tree ferns (B)
-  Bwa rouj carapate (D)
-  The Gommier (F)

All useful information

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. Warning : the parking 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/#>

-> Deshaies / Pointe-Noire / Bouillante / Vieux-Habitants / Baillif / Basse-Terre : ligne 113.

-> 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 : 16,25081 N - Long : 61,70589 W.

On Route RN2, between Lamentin and Sainte-Rose : at the roundabout of the La Boucan bridge, turn towards "Bonne Mère". Then reach the crossroads with "Cadet". At the crossroads, turn left and keep going towards "Bone" and then "Duportail". Proceed on the Duportail forest road until you reach the signs that show the start of the hike.

Advised parking

Start point: Ste Rose forest road Duportail, next to the information boards. End point: Pte Noire "Les Plaines", end of RD17.

i Information desks

Office du tourisme de Pointe-Noire
entrée de la Vallée des Plaines - RD 17,
97116 Pointe-Noire

odtpointenoire@gmail.com

Tel : 05 90 99 92 43

<https://www.pointenoirevisit.com>



Office du tourisme intercommunal du Nord Basse-Terre

le bourg, 97126 Deshaies

contact@nordbasseterre.fr

Tel : 05 90 21 41 09 / 0590 01 01 06

<https://nordbasseterre.fr/>



Source

Rando Guadeloupe

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

On your path...



Large rock formations (A)

Large rock formations with a distinctive shape. Water, the primary erosion agent, works mechanically on the rocks, producing a polishing effect.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Tree ferns (B)

Phyllanthus mimosoides, a member of the Euphorbiaceae family, resembles a small tree fern. Set on the same level, its compound leaves are in fact branches made up of small, simple leaves. Lower down, they have tiny white flowers on their axils.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Intersection at the top (C)

Intersection between the Smugglers Trail (east/west) and the Alizés trail "GR G1" (south/north), beneath the power line.

Attribution : C.Lesponne



Bwa rouj carapate (D)

A member of the Euphorbiaceae family, *Amanoa caribaeae* 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



✿ Chewstick tree (E)

Symphonia globulifera, also commonly known as the chewstick tree, belongs to the Clusiaceae family. The tree grows in thick, humid and swampy forests. Reaching up to 25-30 metres in height, it has stilt roots and a yellow latex trunk. Its flowers are formed of bright red petals, while its fruits resemble nutmeg, are oval in shape and yellow when ripe. Its wood was one used as timber for houses and resin for boats.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



✿ The Gommier (F)

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. 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 : Céline Lesponne / PNG



◀ Viewpoint (G)

Views north of "La Couronne" (663 m) and le Piton Guyonneau (750 m).

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG