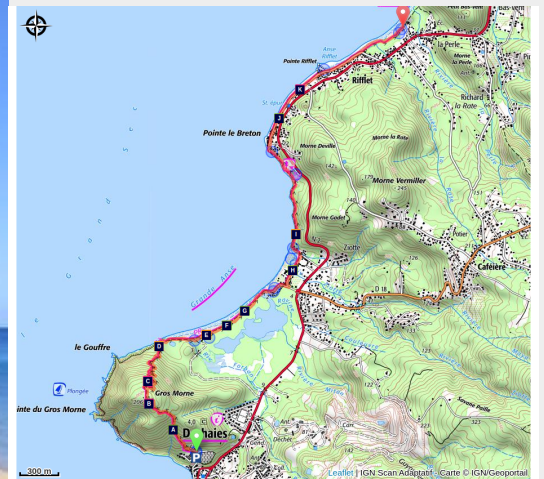


Deshaies coastline

Basse-Terre Nord



Gros Morne vu depuis Grande Anse



Discover the coastline and dry forest of the north of Basse Terre. A walk where history and ecology merge, from the Gros Morne to the beaches, following an old colonial road.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 5.8 km

Trek ascent : 197 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Cross

Themes : Coastline and cliff, Cultural and architectural heritage, Relaxation area

Trek

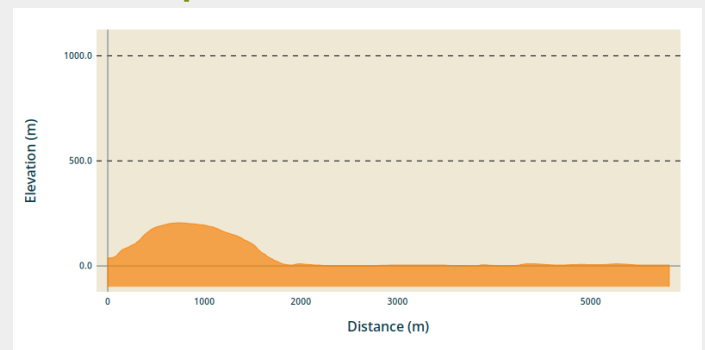
Departure : Deshaies, in the village: at the bottom of Gros Morne (near the cemetery).

Arrival : Deshaies, La Perle beach.

Markings : 🚶 Coastal trail 🟡 PR (short hike network)

Cities : 1. Deshaies

Altimetric profile



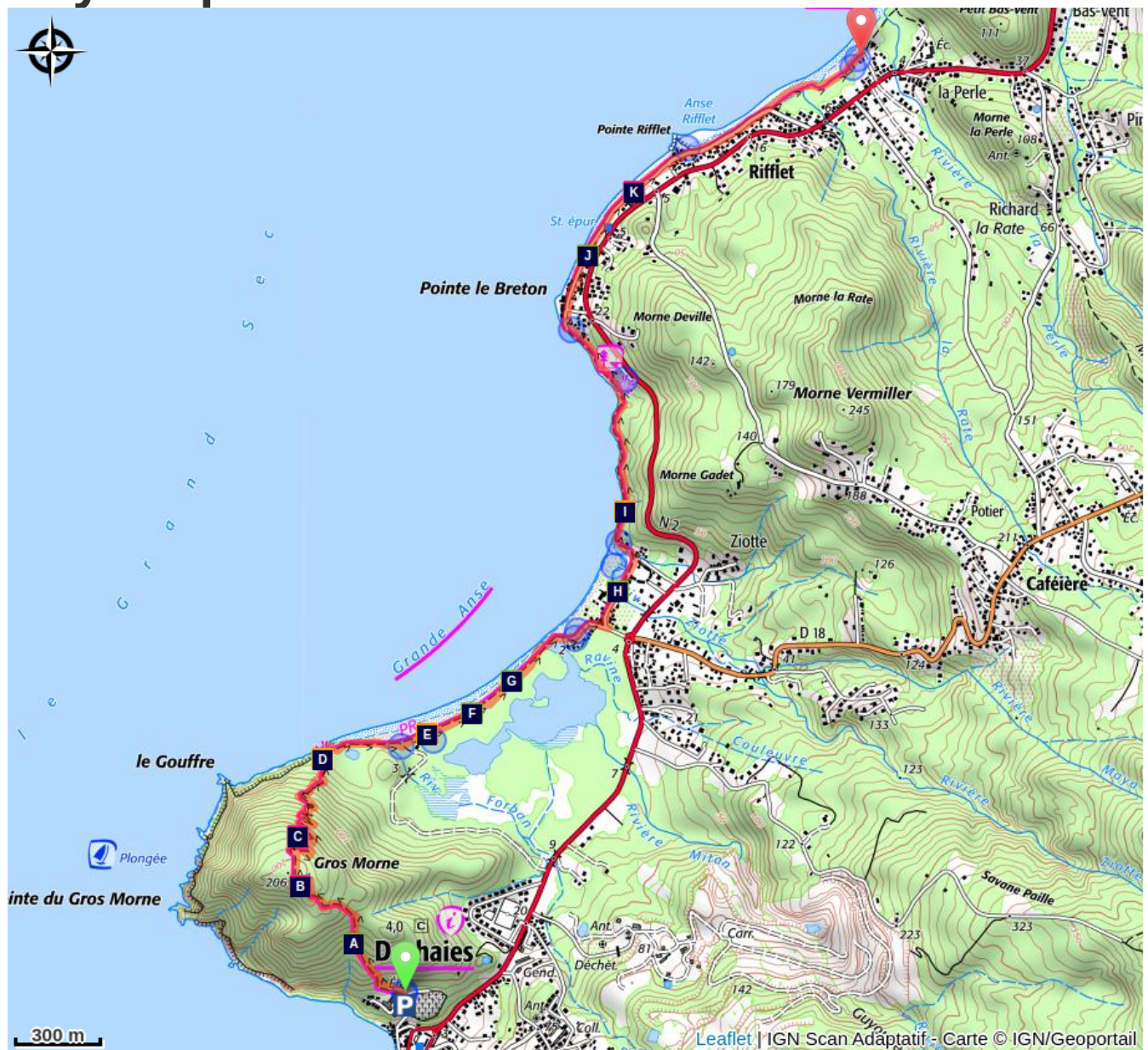
Min elevation 1 m Max elevation 205 m

Hiking trail colour: yellow

The hike begins near to the Bethsy school, behind the sports field. Cross a small concrete bridge and start your walk into the forest. The trail climbs steadily to the top of Gros Morne. Then start your descent north: the path winds down, passes by the battery of canons and ends up at the backshore of Grande Anse de Deshaies. Follow the shady path by the beach and then come out onto the beach itself. Go past the mouth of the Mitan river. Go up the beach, cross the large parking area next to the restaurants and head onto the marked trail that leads north and goes past houses and cottages. Continue on the coastal path until Pointe Le Breton. The trail ends here, so take the small seafront path towards "Rifflet". Walk along the back shore until you reach La Perle beach and then head for the parking area. There are showers available on the beach.

N.B. As this is a circular trail, make sure to leave your vehicle at the start point.

On your path...



-  Tendacayou (A)
-  Second viewpoint (C)
-  Carbet (E)
-  Bursera simaruba (G)
-  Old walls (I)
-  Viewpoint (K)
-  First viewpoint (B)
-  Battery of canons (D)
-  Guadeloupe woodpecker (F)
-  The West Indian Mahogany (H)
-  Gossypium (J)

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. The northern Basse Terre coastline includes some nesting sites for sea turtles. Please treat the beaches with due consideration !

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 / Lamentin / Sainte-Rose / Deshaies : lignes 103-104.

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

En Guadeloupe, 2 applications pour le covoiturage :

Déposé : <https://depoze.fr>

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

Access

GPS coordinates of the start point : Lat : 16,30959 N - Long : 61,79440 W.

At Deshaies : in the town, go to the bottom of Gros Morne. Walk in the direction of the cemetery and Bethsy school. The hike starts from behind the school.

Advised parking

At the start : Deshaies, parking next to the cemetery and at Bethsy school. At the end: Deshaies, La Perle beach.

Accessibility

Advice

05/2025 : affaissement majeur sur le chemin littoral, au niveau de la Pointe du Vieux-Fort (ouest de Clugny), entre Deshaies et Sainte-Rose.

Un balisage temporaire a été installé. La plus grande prudence est recommandée.

Information desks

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/>



Syndicat d'initiative de Deshaies

rue de la Liberté, 97126 Deshaies

sideshaies@wanadoo.fr

Tel : 05 90 68 01 48

<http://www.villededeshaies.fr/>



Source

Rando Guadeloupe

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

On your path...



Tendacayou (A)

Acaia muricata is also known as Tendacayou because of the extreme hardness of the wood. Its small white flowers produce plenty of honey.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



First viewpoint (B)

Near the summit of Gros Morne, fine views to the south, with la Pointe Batterie and l'Anse de Deshaies below.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Second viewpoint (C)

On starting your descent, there are splendid views of Grande Anse bay to the north.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Battery of canons (D)

A battery of canons was once placed here to protect Grande Anse bay. For almost a whole century, Guadeloupe was a battleground for violent clashes between the French and English. A few years ago, this location was equipped with tables, allowing walkers a chance for a break after climbing Gros Morne.

Attribution : A.Ferchal / PNG



Carbets (E)

At the back of Grande Anse beach, some traditional carbet shelters are available for a well-deserved break.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Guadeloupe woodpecker (F)

The only endemic bird species to the country, the Guadeloupe woodpecker measures 26-28 cm. Its beak is long and slender and, in the male, is longer than the head, unlike in females. It is adorned with black plumage, has a blood-red throat and belly and blue/black back. It can be seen quite frequently on tree trunks, which it hammers into with its powerful beak (hence its Creole name of "Toto bwa"). It moves over short distances in rippling, gliding movements. The Guadeloupe woodpecker is included on the list of endangered species.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Bursera simaruba (G)

Bursera simaruba is easy to spot, on account of its reddish bark that comes off in scraps. Its bark is green and smooth underneath.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



The West Indian Mahogany (H)

The West Indian Mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*) is a robust species native to Ispagnola. This dry forest tree was initially planted as an ornamental feature for houses, but then spread elsewhere. Despite the wood being of extraordinary quality, it grew too slowly to be used in reforestation. When degraded forests needed to be revived and enriched, foresters turned to this tree for the task.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Old walls (I)

The trail runs along the coast until Pointe Le Breton. You can still see the remnants of the old colonial road, including wall sections which have fallen into disuse but are still visible on the roadside.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Gossypium (J)

Gossypium is a generic name for all plants that produce cotton, whether in the wild or grown specifically for the purpose. There are different uses for the various parts of cotton plants: the fibrous hairs (cotton), which vary in size depending on the species and variety, the shorter fibres (linters), and the olive and protein-rich seeds. Other species are used as ornamental plants.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Viewpoint (K)

From the seafront to "Rifflet", a magnificent view of l'îlet Kahouanne, classified as a central part of the National Park.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG