

I'Îlet Macou trail



(PNG)

The Îlet Macou is a significant place of pilgrimage thanks to the presence of the Chapel of Notre Dame de la Garde, where people come to pray.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 30 min

Length : 0.6 km

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Return trip

Themes : Cultural and architectural heritage, Discovery trail

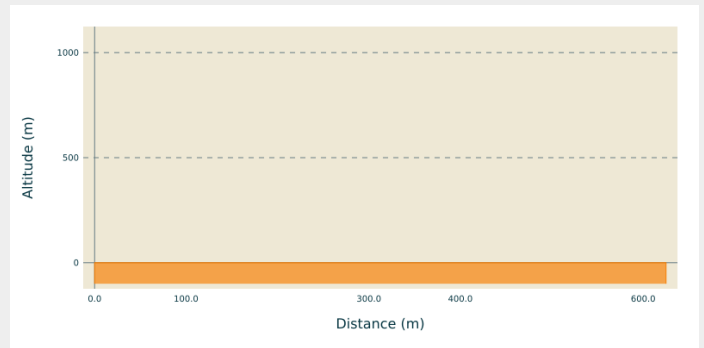
Trek

Departure : the Îlet Macou pontoon

Arrival : the Îlet Macou pontoon

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

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 0 m Max elevation 0 m



Access by sea only (boat, kayak, etc).

Starting from the pontoon, follow the trail which leads into the forest. Cross the forest and the more sparsely vegetated area. Go to the end of the islet (chapel).

Return by the same route up to the starting point at the pontoon.

On your path...



-  Vegetation on the islet (A)
-  Chapelle (C)

-  Coastal erosion (B)

All useful information

Advices

The Macou coastline has many sea turtle nesting sites. Please respect these beaches !

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.

How to come ?

Access

Starting point : Lat : 16,34910°N - Long : 61,52726°W.

Access by sea only (boat, kayak, etc).

Information desks

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Source

Rando Guadeloupe

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

On your path...



Vegetation on the islet (A)

The Islet has been cleared over a good part of its area to allow the planting of a coconut grove. The natural vegetation of this islet is otherwise mainly composed of species able to withstand the changing general conditions, and likely to adapt to the variations in salinity in particular. In this way, a row of red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) precedes a forest area full of white mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), gray mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*), and buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*). Succeeding this band of mangrove, the Catalpa (*Thespesia populnea*) comprises the bulk of the woodland, on soils which are most often dewatered. [Source: *Espaces remarquables du littoral - Egis Eau 2012*]

Attribution : PNG



Coastal erosion (B)

Until last century, the islet was connected to the mainland and even a few years ago, a strip of sand almost 10 metres wide was present between the shoreline and the chapel. The erosion of the banks is tangible proof of the fragility of the environment.

Attribution : PNG



Chapelle (C)

A small chapel once graced the end of the islet. Since the passage of hurricane Hugo in 1989, a permanent chapel has been erected: Notre Dame de Macou is much used by its regulars. It is littered with empty conch shells, left there by passing fishermen.

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