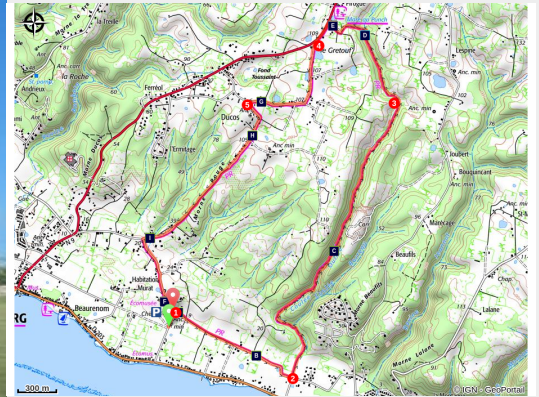


Murat trail

Marie-Galante - Grand-Bourg



L'Habitation Murat (CG971)



This loop invites you to explore part of the historical heritage of Marie-Galante, with the Murat residence and the 'Mare au Punch'. You will also discover the unique ambience of the Coulée Ouliée, comparable to the damp freshness of the forest of Basse-Terre.

This trail allows you to explore rural landscapes typical of the "Grande Galette", through the canefields, Creoles gardens and their neighbouring houses, with pools scattered over the planted meadows, grazed by cattle and goats.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 3 h

Length : 8.9 km

Trek ascent : 153 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Cultural and architectural heritage, Pond and wetland, The Slave Route

Trek

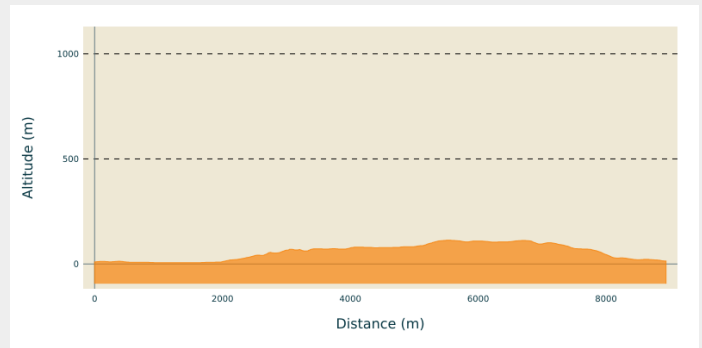
Departure : Habitation Murat

Arrival : Habitation Murat

Markings : — PR (short hike network)

Cities : 1. Grand-Bourg

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 6 m Max elevation 113 m

Coming out of the Murat residence (ecomuseum, medicinal garden), take the road on the left, which runs along the fence, and arrive at a stony path.

Take the right turn (Point 1) through the sugar cane fields. When you reach a former mill,

veer a little to the left and continue straight on, ignoring a track on the right, then another on the left. After a pool, reach a crossing.

Fork left (Point 2), ignoring the road on the right: go along a grassy path between the pastures and the undergrowth. Leave the poincianas on the right and turn sharp left. Go into the forest and follow the trail on the left, which meanders in and out of the half-light of the tall trees in the creek bed, the Coulée Ouliée (notice the huge buttress roots of the fig trees leaning against the limestone blocks). Go past a clearing, along the edge under the mango trees, and then back into the undergrowth once more, by going straight ahead.

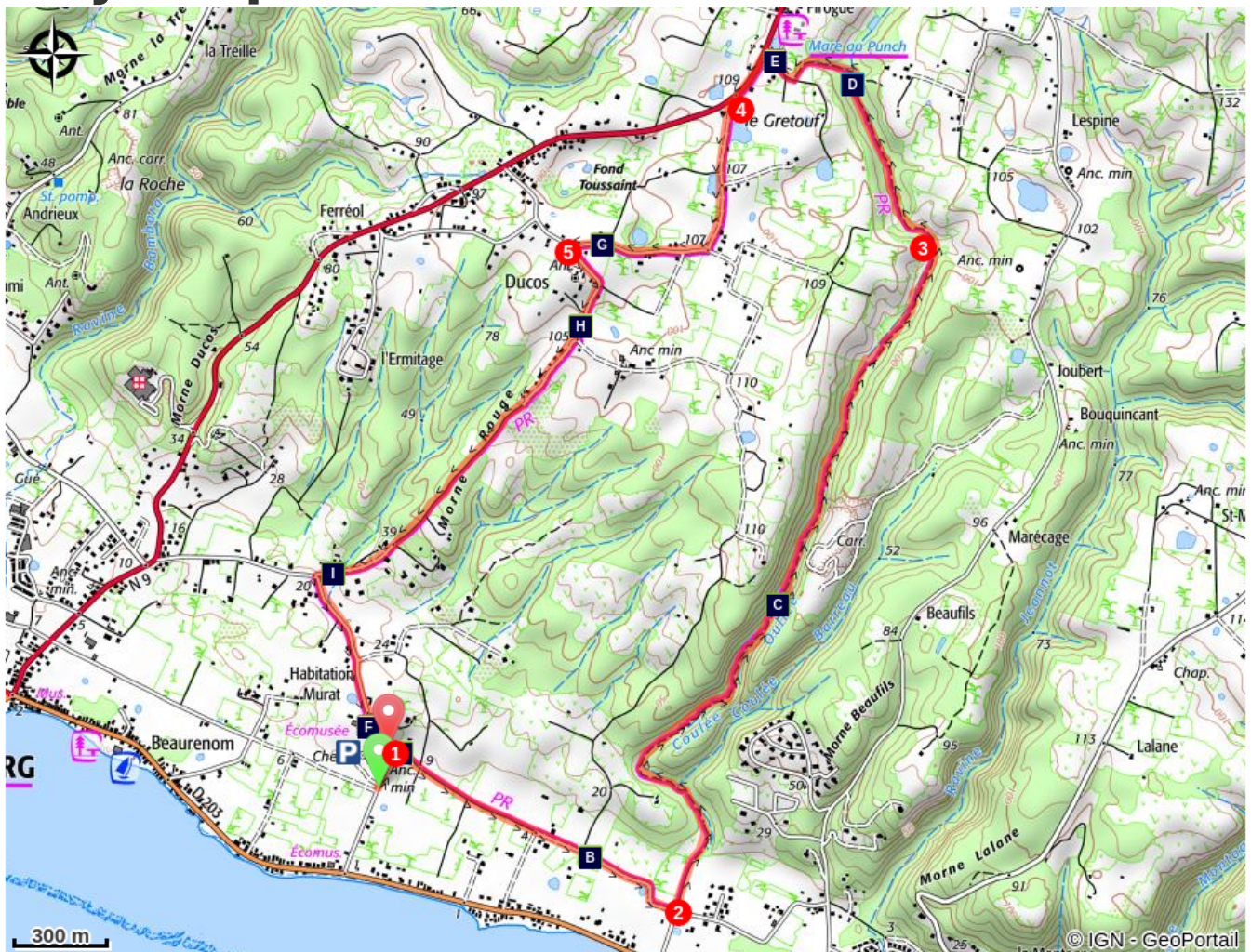
Shortly after coming out of the wood, turn left (Point 3). The trail climbs through the acacias and pastures. At the top of the hill, bear right and join the RN 9 beside the Mare au Punch (the ruins of the old Pirogue sugar refinery are located on the other side of the road). Carry on along the road on the left for 200 metres.





Continue to the left (Point 4) on a stony path. At the crossing, turn right and go back on to a road. Head to the left towards Ducos (Point 5).

After the bend, carry straight on; the road turns into a stony path, the Chemin de Morne Rouge, which goes downhill towards the coastline (in clear weather, there is a viewpoint of the island of Dominique to the left and the Saintes archipelago to the right; you can also see the coral reef).

Come out on to a road; follow it to the left and reach a crossing. Turn right, to return to the starting point.

On your path...



-  View over a meadow (A)
-  Bay rum tree (C)
-  Route de l'Esclave : Mare au Punch (E)
-  Example of a pleasure garden (G)
-  Chacha (Devil bean) (I)
-  'Pak a kochon' (B)
-  The Coulée Ouliée (D)
-  Route de l'Esclave : Murat residence (F)
-  View over an enclosed meadow. (H)

All useful information

Advices

In the event of heavy rain, access to the Coulée Ouliée may be dangerous: the waters of the ravine may rise rapidly, and there is a risk of slipping on muddy ground.

How to come ?

Transports

Grand-Bourg vers Capesterre : station de bus au parking de la gare maritime de Grand-Bourg.

Capesterre vers Grand-Bourg : station de bus en face de la mairie de Capesterre.

Access

Starting point : Lat : 15,87745°N - Long : 61,29890°W.

From Grand-Bourg, take the DR 203 towards Capesterre and follow the sign for Habitation Murat.

Advised parking

Parking in the Murat residence

Information desks

Office du tourisme intercommunal de Marie-Galante

rue Pierre Leroy, ancien Palais de justice,
97112 Grand-Bourg (Marie-Galante)

info@ot-mariegalante.com

Tel : 05 90 97 56 51

<http://www.ot-mariegalante.com/>



Source

Rando Guadeloupe

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

On your path...



View over a meadow (A)

Typical scene of the Marie-Galante countryside, with cattle tied up not far from a pool (a natural drinking trough) with a field of sugar cane in the background.

Attribution : CG971



'Pak a kochon' (B)

Pens for rearing pigs.

Attribution : CD 971



Bay rum tree (C)

A specimen of the bay rum tree, *Pimenta racemosa*, perched on a rocky outcrop.

The Coulée Ouliée

The many stones littering this ravine testify to the power of the floods of heavy rain.

Attribution : CD 971



The Coulée Ouliée (D)

The many stones littering this ravine testify to the power of the floods of heavy rain.

Attribution : CD 971



Route de l'Esclave : Mare au Punch (E)

The tradition connected with this place is linked to the tragic events which occurred on 24 and 25 June 1849, on the occasion of the first legislative elections in the West Indies. The serious electoral incidents which occurred at Marie-Galante led to the results of the legislative elections of the whole of Guadeloupe being declared invalid by the National Assembly.

The opposition between the supporters of Schoelcher and Perrinon (Republican) denouncing the fraud, and the enforcement of the law, caused between 50 and 100 deaths. Many arrests were made, giving rise to convictions, some very heavy, during the trial which took place in 1850.

At these events, former slaves who had been freed reportedly looted and burned the Pirogue residence and then spilled all the rum and the sugar from the estate into the nearby pool - the Mare au Punch. Three days and three nights of celebrations followed !

Attribution : © CG 971



Route de l'Esclave : Murat residence (F)

The founder of this sugar works was probably Antoine Luce, a notary from the Champagne area, who came to Marie-Galante in 1657. By 1665, the residence already owned eleven slaves aged from nine to 36. In 1807, Dominique Murat, who was born in Aquitaine and was the husband of a Creole from Marie-Galante, bought the property and added new buildings. The sugar farm, now known as Bellevue La Plaine, became an important producing unit.

In 1807, 114 slaves were involved, and this number tripled over two decades, since by 1839 there were 307 (175 women, 132 men), which made it one of the largest 'workshops' in Guadeloupe a few years before the abolition of slavery. With the help of European and mixed-race craftsmen, the 'talented slaves' - workmen, masons and carpenters - worked on the construction of buildings whose remains, radically restored in the 1960s when there was a suggestion of building a hotel, can still be seen today. The residence contains all the usual buildings of a sugar-works: one or more mills (here there was one animal mill and one windmill), the sugar-works itself and its outbuildings, the slave quarters. The quality of the dressed stone masonry, the crest on the windmill, which bears the master's name and initials and the date of construction (1814), reflect undeniable expertise.

The originality of the dwelling is not the contrast between the 'big house', where the master lived, and the hundred long-disappeared thatched 'cases' mounted on wooden poles, where most of the slaves lived in 1839, but in the Neo-classical architecture of the Murat's house.

If the design was undoubtedly due to the family, the knowledge of contemporary architectural styles is clear in the freed master-masons or the master carpenters, many of whom had learned their trade as slaves.

Attribution : © CG 971



Example of a pleasure garden (G)

Only a trained eye can interpret the hidden messages in this colourful plantation.

Attribution : CD 971



View over an enclosed meadow. (H)

Rustic landscape illustrating a most bucolic and pleasant way of life.

Attribution : CG971



Chacha (Devil bean) (I)

Crotalaria retusa, is locally called chacha (bell), or rattle from the sound obtained by shaking the seeds contained in the pods produced by this legume.

Attribution : CG971