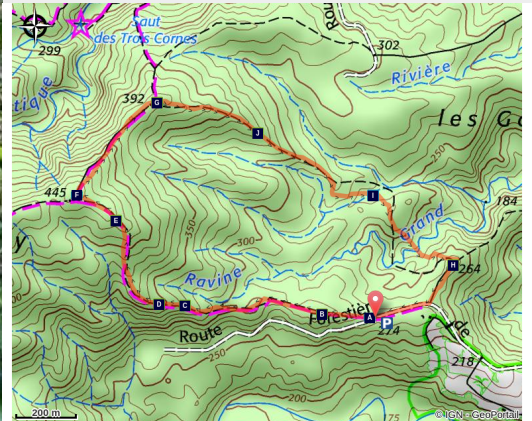


Galbas trail

Basse-Terre Nord - Sainte-Rose



vanille (AAMG)



In the Sainte-Rose hills, a chance to explore the forest on a great hiking circuit.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 2 h

Length : 3.4 km

Trek ascent : 209 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Discovery trail

Trek

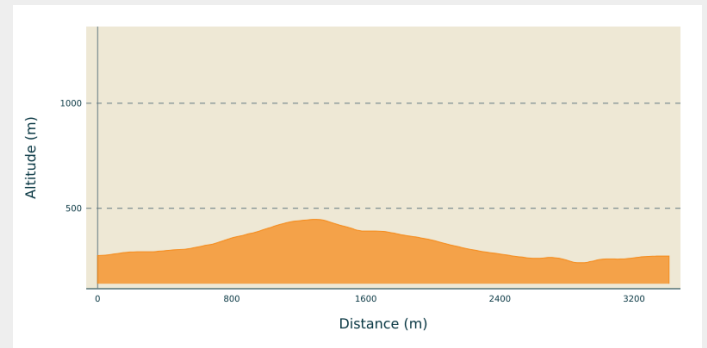
Departure : At the end of the La Muraille forest road, Sainte-Rose.

Arrival : At the end of the La Muraille forest road, Sainte-Rose.

Markings : — PR (short hike network)

Cities : 1. Sainte-Rose

Altimetric profile

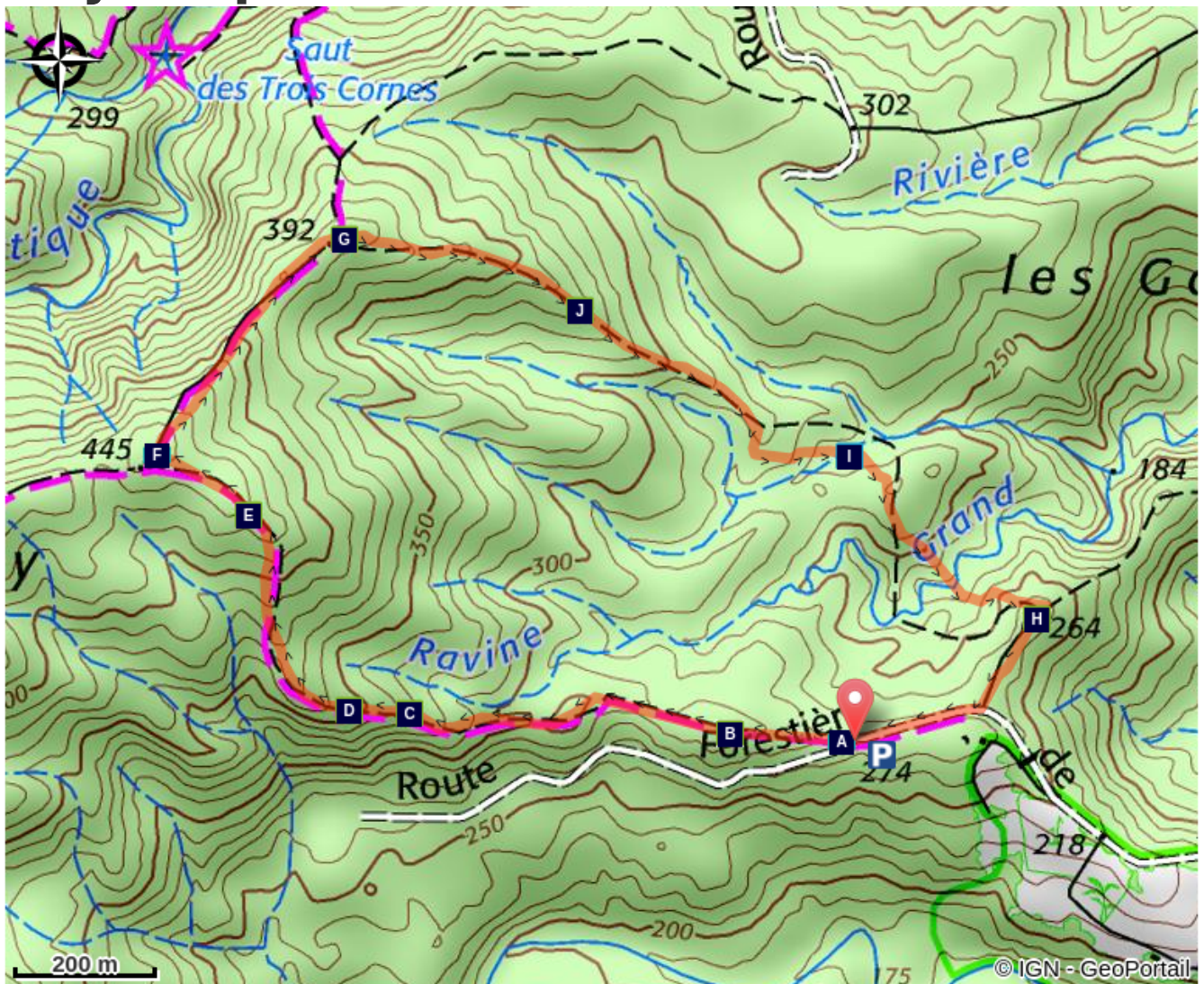


Min elevation 241 m Max elevation 447 m

Follow the gently climbing forest path after the starting panel for the "Tête Allègre" trail. After the vanilla plantation, the terrain is hilly. Then gradually the slope climbs to become very steep before the intersection with the Tête Allègre trail. Turn right at the panel, then right again at the intersection with Le Saut des Trois Cornes. Continue along the path winding its way down between the trees and several blocks of stone. Cross the gully, then walk along it. At the intersection head to the right (take care, to the left there is a forest track), walking up the little slope before going down and crossing a second gully.

Go up the slope on the earth steps, turn right, then follow the crest as far as the forest path. Turn right again to return to the starting point.

On your path...



 Starting panel (A)

 Candlewood (C)


 "Bwa Bandé" (E)


 Sierran palm (G)

 Gully (I)

 Vanilla (B)

 Haya blanca (D)

 Signpost (F)

 West Indian mahogany (H)

 Philodendron giganteum (J)

All useful information

Advices

The trail is slippery and very muddy in rainy weather. Don't begin the hike after 3 pm, since night falls quickly in the undergrowth. In this natural setting, you should be particularly careful and alert, since Guadeloupe is subject to natural risks. It is vital to act in a responsible way, so that everyone can enjoy the hike!

Please note: unsupervised car park.

How to come ?

Access

GPS starting point: 16,27685° N - Long : 61,71685° W.

In Sainte-Rose: head for the La Boucan section, at the roundabout leave the N2 and head for the "Bis" section. When you get to the crossroads, turn left towards the Domaine de Séverin and the Cadet section.

Turn left to go round the Domaine de Séverin; follow the road, then the forest path as far as the sign for the start of the trail.

Advised parking

At the side of the forest road.

Information desks

Maison du tourisme de Sainte-Rose

Place tricolore, 97115 Sainte-Rose

officedutourismest@orange.fr

Tel : 0590 20 20 48

[https://www.facebook.com/Office-de-](https://www.facebook.com/Office-de-Tourisme-de-Sainte-Rose-407285159444451/)

[Tourisme-de-Sainte-](https://www.facebook.com/Office-de-Tourisme-de-Sainte-Rose-407285159444451/)

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Source

Rando Guadeloupe

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

On your path...



Starting panel (A)

You will see the panel introducing two neighbouring trails: the Saut des Trois Cornes trail and the Tête Allègre trail. The start of the Galbas circuit is shared by both of these trails. Please note, this trail is not mentioned on the starting panel.

On the way, you will see signs guiding you along the Galbas trail.

Attribution : C.Lesponne



Vanilla (B)

There are more and more agroforestry projects, and vanilla is one of the main crops, with half of the vanilla farmers working as franchisees. The ONF authorises franchises or "concessions", which are drawn up to respect technical and environmental provisions related to forest management.

Vanilla is an orchid that likes shaded, cool and humid environments. Growing it is tricky and time-consuming. Since there are no pollinating insects in the archipelago, pollination is carried out by hand.

Attribution : PNG



Candlewood (C)

Candlewood (*Dacryodes excelsa*) can grow up to 35 metres in height. From the trunk and roots a white sap with a strong smell of resin seeps out when cut. The sap is traditionally used as incense or to light fires, since it burns very slowly, whatever the humidity level. It is believed it can chase away evil spirits.

Candlewood trunks were used by native Americans to make canoes (kanawa), and in many tropical countries today, such as Dominica, the trunks are used by coastal populations to make fishing boats. Wood pigeons are fond of the seeds from the tree.

Attribution : PNG



Haya blanca (D)

Guatteria caribaeae is a very straight tree, often with more than one trunk. It has blackish bark and dangling branches. The tree's berries are pulpy and black. The bark is used to make rope, and the wood to make ships' masts. It is still used today to make traditional sailing boats in Guadeloupe (kanot).

Attribution : AAMG_1



✿ "Bwa Bandé" (E)

Richeria grandis is known as "Bwa Bandé" locally. This is a very tall species that can be recognised with its tough leaves and reddy-brown bark. Its fruits are very specific, forming little capsules that look like green raisins. They mass together in large numbers on the branches. The "bwa-bandé" is unfortunately often the victim of illegal cuttings, since its bark is renowned as an aphrodisiac. The wood was once used to make frameworks and in carpentry

Attribution : PNG



📖 Signpost (F)

First intersection with the Boucle de Tête Allègre trail. Turn right to follow "Sofaïa" / Galbas.

Attribution : AAMG



✿ Sierran palm (G)

The Sierran palm (*Prestaea montana*) has no trunk but only a stipe, like the fern. It can live both in the hygrophile or rain forest (where it can grow up to about ten metres in height) and at high altitude (where it does not grow over two metres).

Please note: intersection towards the Trois Cornes Fall (Sofaïa). Continue to the right and begin the descent along the Galbas trail.

Attribution : AAMG



✿ West Indian mahogany (H)

The West Indian mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) is a perennial tree with a large, straight, cylindrical bole. It has little yellowish green blossom. The species was introduced into the island for its wood. The wood is much in demand in cabinet-making for its hardness and colours, which leads to over-exploitation in its native area. It appears in appendix II of the list of endangered species (Washington convention).

Attribution : PNG



Gully (I)

The Basse-Terre mountain range has a network of countless gullies which constitute drainage basins for the main rivers. The Grand Boucan gully is one of the rivers periodically supplying water to the famous Grande Rivière in Goyaves.

Attribution : AAMG



Philodendron giganteum (J)

The *Philodendron giganteum* is an epiphyte. It is easily recognisable due to its leaves resembling elephant ears and its root system, with one part securing it to the host plant and another growing down towards the ground. The roots are used as raw materials in local wickerwork. Epiphytes are plants living on other plants. In Guadeloupe, they are remarkably abundant in the thick rain forests. They attach to the trunks, branches and leaves of their hosts, forming real hanging gardens to enchant visitors. Although some of them can grow on the ground, they generally grow higher up in forests because there is more light and higher humidity levels (over 80%).

Attribution : AAMG