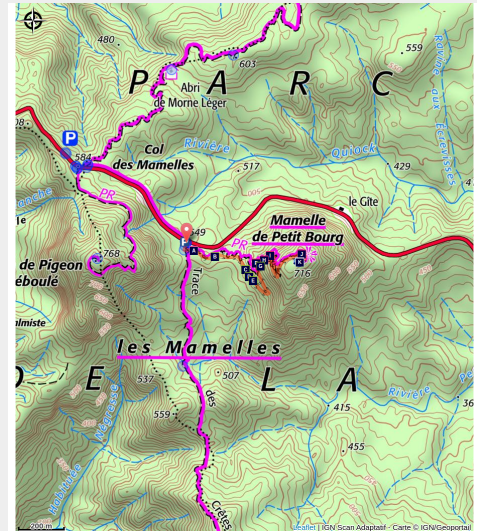


# Mamelle de Petit-Bourg

Basse-Terre Nord



Point de vue (vers le sud), à quelques mètres du sommet (C.Lesponne)



*This trail encompasses both the rainforest and mountain forest. It offers a range of viewpoints, including of le Petit and le Grand Culs-de-Sac Marins, and even Marie-Galante and la Désirade.*

New observation deck at the summit (2024).

## Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 2.5 km

Trek ascent : 161 m

Difficulty : Easy


Type : Return trip

Themes : Geology

# Trek

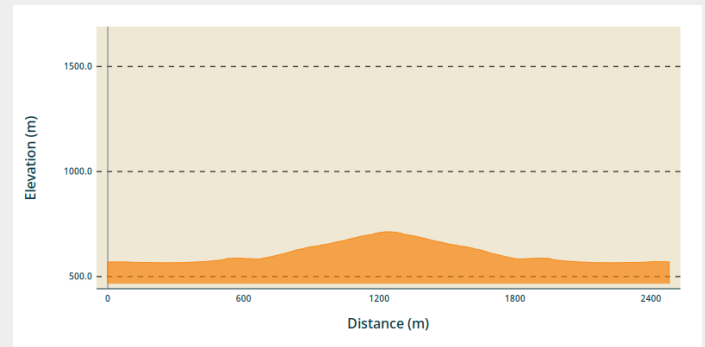
**Departure** : near Col des Mamelles, Petit-Bourg

**Arrival** : near Col des Mamelles, Petit-Bourg

**Markings** :  PR (short hike network)

**Cities** : 1. Petit-Bourg

## Altimetric profile

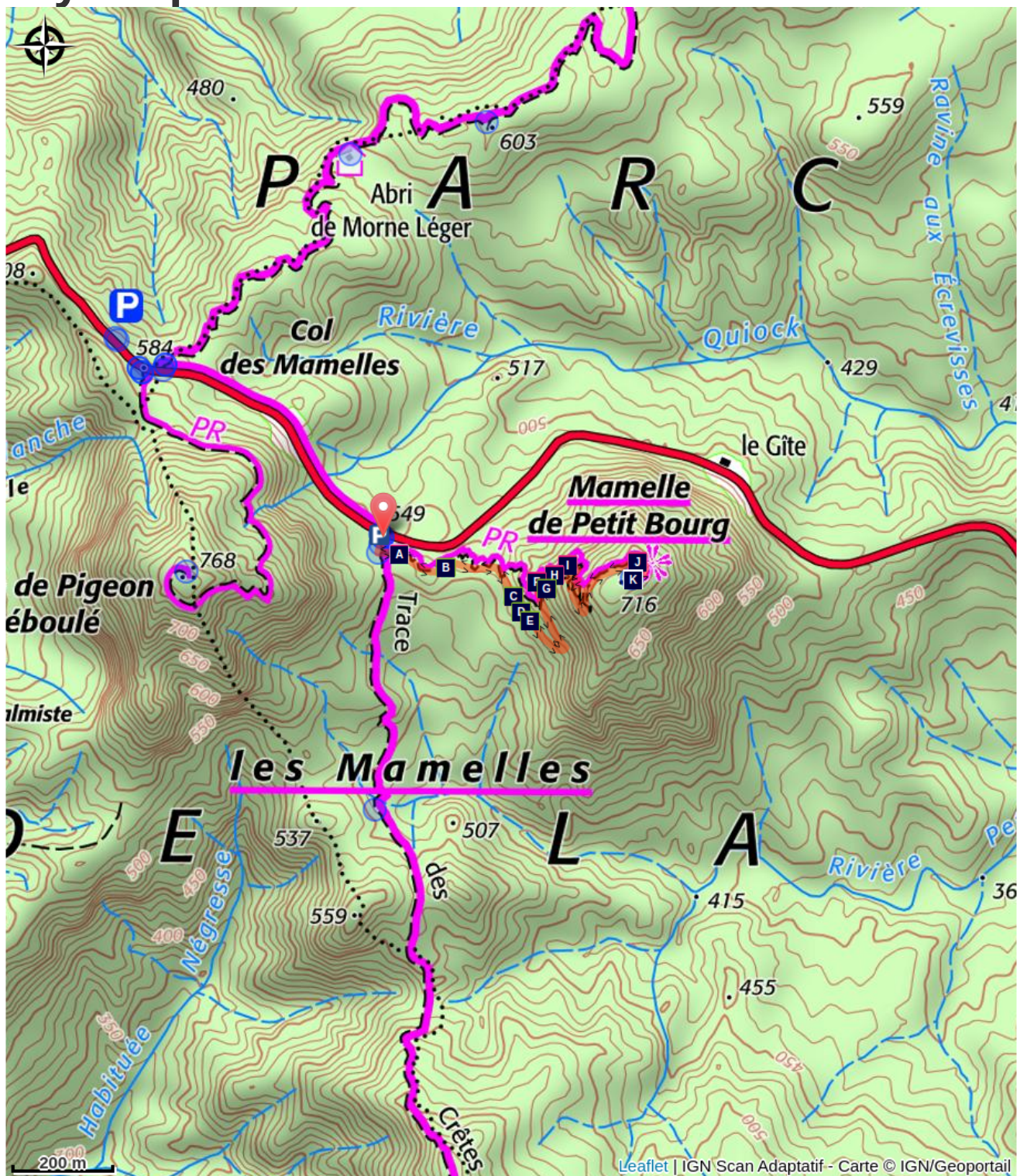


Min elevation 566 m Max elevation 713 m

## Hiking trail colour: yellow

From the parking area, take the start of the trail from Mamelle de Petit-Bourg, which is the same as the Alizés trail (G.R. section). Turn left at the intersection. Keep going on the same path, taking advantage of the many openings onto some spectacular landscape. Early in the morning you can even hear the sounds of frogs and cicadas singing. At the top of Mamelle de Petit-Bourg, soak up the atmosphere of the high forest. Then turn around and take the same path to head back down. At the intersection near the end of the trail, take a right to return to the parking area.

# On your path...



- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  How the Mamelles were formed (A)      |  The Guyanese Cicada (B)                     |
|  Bwa bandé (C)                         |  The Sierran palm (D)                        |
|  Balisiers (E)                         |  Viewpoint (F)                               |
|  Giant Philodendron (G)                |  The northern Basse Terre mountain range (H) |
|  From land to sea (I)                  |  The two Culs-de-Sac Marins (J)              |
|  The top of Mamelle de Petit-Bourg (K) |   |

# All useful information

## **Is in the midst of the park**

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.

## **Advices**

Pay attention to cars on Route RD23, as it is a major road.  
There are no litter bins on the route, so please be considerate and take your rubbish with you.  
Extra care should be taken in this natural environment, as Guadeloupe is prone to natural risks. For the benefit of all hikers, it is very important that you behave responsibly.  
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 / Petit-Bourg / Pointe-Noire : ligne 115.

---

En Guadeloupe, 2 applications pour le covoiturage :

Dépozé : <https://depoze.fr>

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

### Access

GPS coordinates of the start point : Lat : 16,17827 N - Long : 61,73176 W.

On Route de la Traversée (RD23), the parking area for the start of the trail is near to Col des Mamelles.

-> From Côte-sous-le-Vent (Bouillante / Pointe-Noire): 2 minutes after Col des Mamelles.

-> On the other side (Prise d'Eau, Petit Bourg): you will need to drive for around 4 km after Maison de la Forêt to find the start point.

You can park near the sign for the start of the trail that runs alongside Route RD23.

## Advised parking

Alongside Route RD 23, near the sign that shows the start of the trail

## Information desks

### Maison de la Forêt

RD 23 - Route de la Traversée, 97170 Petit-Bourg

[info@randoguadeloupe.gp](mailto:info@randoguadeloupe.gp)

<http://www.guadeloupe-parcnational.fr/fr/des-decouvertes/ou-sinformer/maison-de-la-foret>



## Source

Rando Guadeloupe

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

# On your path...

---

## How the Mamelles were formed (A)

While it is believed that the Mamelles were formed only relatively recently, around 1-2 million years ago, the northern chain of which they are a part include the island's ancient volcanoes.

---



## The Guyanese Cicada (B)

This cicada (*Fidicina mannifera*) was accidentally introduced in Guadeloupe and has since become an invasive species. It is recognisable for its substantial body and triangular head, with very short antennae extended from a long, straight trunk. But it is the noise that they make that is their most distinctive feature: the males attempt to court the females with their song. The sounds vary depending on the species and the particular circumstances, and are produced by a sound box consisting of a dual drum made by muscle-powered cymbals. Cicadas have effectively invented a detachable ear: when a male is silent, it listens to other cicadas, but when it sings, it relaxes his eardrum, which means that it becomes temporarily deaf and will not be disturbed by the noise that it makes.

Attribution : F.Hemery

---



## Bwa bandé (C)

*Richeria grandis* belongs to the Phyllanthaceae family. It is a large variety, distinctive for its tough leaves and reddish-brown bark that so often falls victim to rogue extraction. Also known as "bwa bandé" in Créole, it is renowned for its aphrodisiac qualities. Its wood is used as timber or in carpentry. It has very distinctive, green, grape-like fruits which form small pods and form copiously on its branches.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG

---



## The Sierran palm (D)

The Sierran Palm (*Prestoea montana*) is a member of the Arecaceae family. Despite its height, the Sierran palm is not a tree. Much like ferns, it does not have a trunk but a stipe. It can live in both hygrophilous forest, where it can reach a height of ten meters, and at altitude, where it does not grow beyond two metres.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



## ✿ Balisiers (E)

A member of the Musaceae family, *Heliconia caribaea* is a large grass that is typical of the Lesser Antilles tropical rainforest. A member of the same family as the banana trees, the plant can grow up to 5 m high. It features an inflorescence that resembles a red ear or red ear with yellow trim, or sometimes completely yellow. Its flowers are visible all year round, most notably between April and June.

Attribution : PNG



## 📍 Viewpoint (F)

Opening with views of the Caribbean Sea, la Mamelle de Pigeon and le Morne à Louis towards the west.

Attribution : PNG



## ✿ Giant Philodendron (G)

The Giant Philodendron (*Philodendron giganteum*) is an epiphytic or terrestrial species that flourishes in humid or shady areas. It grows equally well from the earth as it does on rock or in trees. It develops copious long aerial roots which are used in basketry and boasts very large, dark green leaves that are fleshy and shiny. Each leaf is supported by a large petiole measuring between 0.6 and 1.5 metres, which grows from a large yet short stem resting on trunks or rocks.

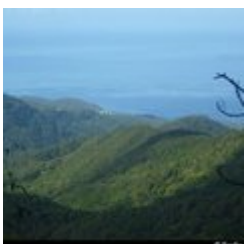
Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



## 📍 The northern Basse Terre mountain range (H)

Views of the mountain range and the northern Basse-Terre ridge.

Attribution : PNG



## 📍 From land to sea (I)

Opening onto the sea, heading from Mamelle de Pigeon and le Morne à Louis.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



## ◀ The two Culs-de-Sac Marins (J)

Opening onto both Culs-de-Sac Marins and, on a clear day, onto Marie-Galante and La Désirade.

Attribution : PNG



## ▲ The top of Mamelle de Petit-Bourg (K)

The top of the Mamelle is a tranquil and pleasant spot. Next to the sign showing information about the height (716 metres), there is a fine "Bwa bandé" (see previous point of interest).

Attribution : PNG