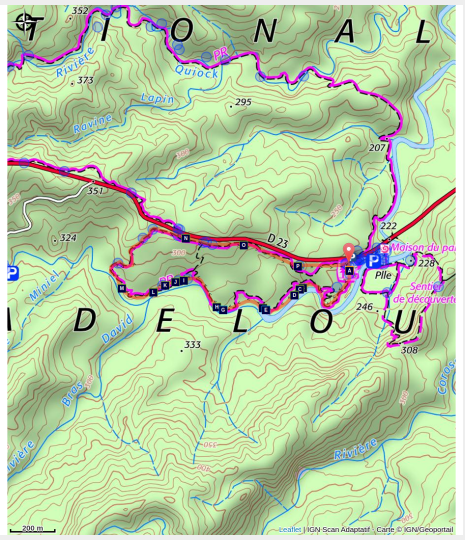
Stream trail

Basse-Terre Nord



Libellule Argia concinna ("zing-zing") (Fabien Salles / PNG)



A rainforest path along the water's edge. The morning light is reflected in the river and brings the leaves of the trees to life.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 2 h

Length : 2.8 km

Trek ascent : 82 m

Difficulty : Easy

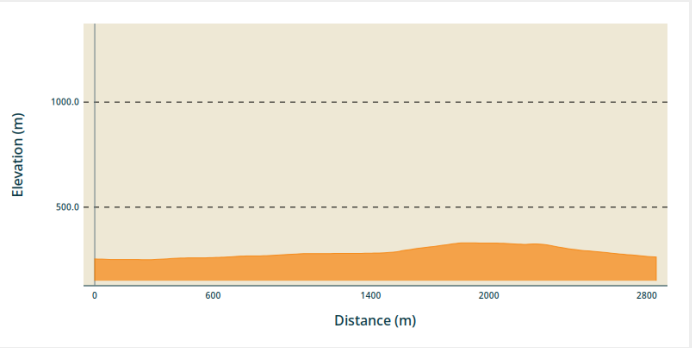
Type : Loop

Themes : Relaxation area, River and waterfall

Trek

Departure : Maison de la Forêt, Petit-Bourg
Arrival : Maison de la Forêt, Petit-Bourg
Markings : PR (short hike network)
Cities : 1. Petit-Bourg

Altimetric profile

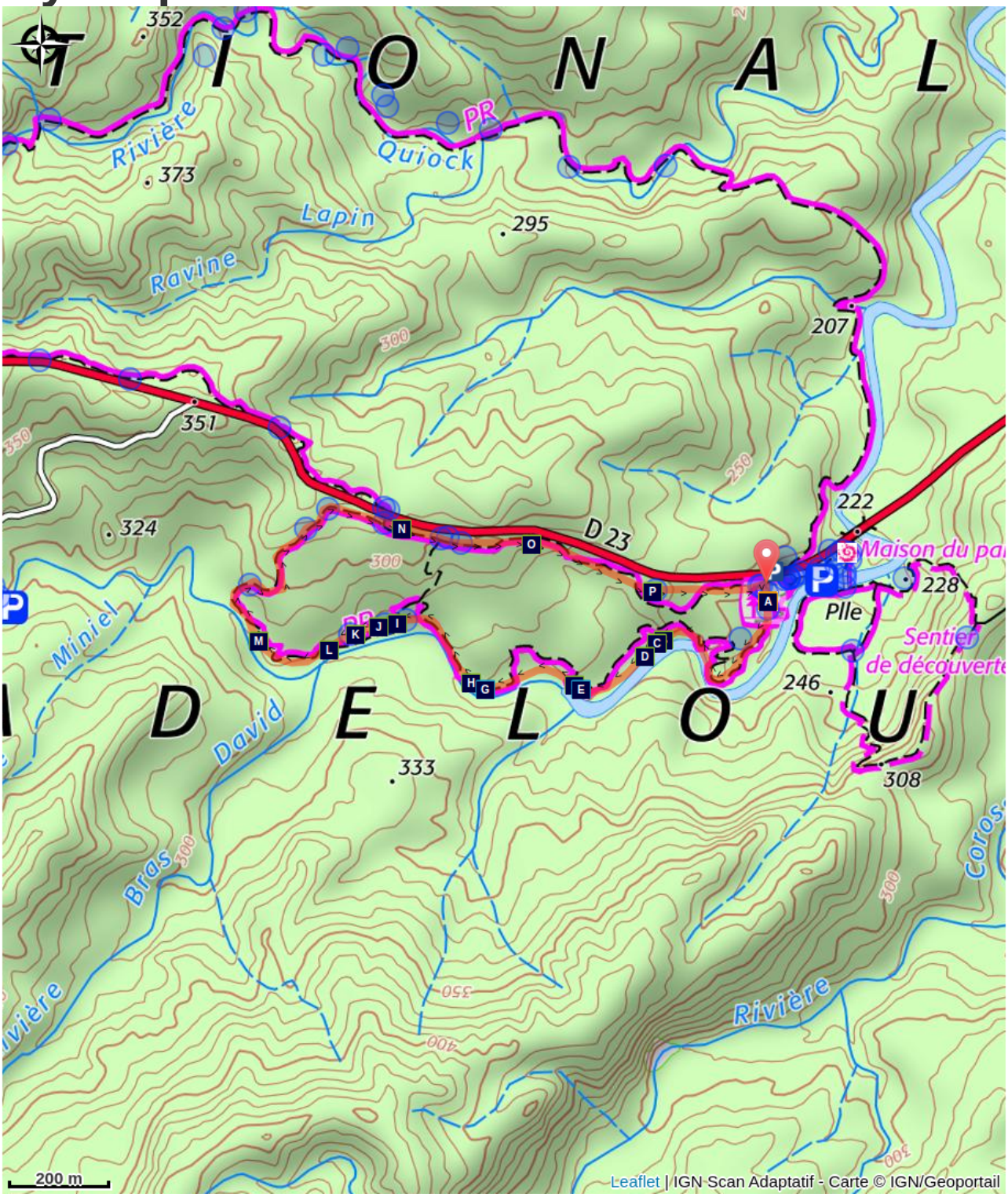


Min elevation 250 m Max elevation 330 m

Hiking trail colour: yellow

From the upper parking area of Maison de la Forêt, take the path that goes down towards the Bras David river. Walk through the picnic area. Walk up alongside the river to the right and find the start of the "Trace des Ruisseaux" (Trail of Streams) which heads into the forest. Go past the hut, carrying straight on. A few trails rejoin the picturesque pools on the left. At the next intersection, stay on the left-hand path: the large, circular trail (there is a shortcut on the right through the small loop). Keep going, the trail joins the start point along the road towards the Pins Caraïbes. At the intersection, turn left to return directly to the parking area or right to return to the huts and river below. When you arrive, you may wish to visit the Maison de la Forêt (see opening hours).

On your path...



- Picnic area (A)
- Gommier (B)
- Tree fern (C)
- Symphonia globulifera (D)
- Access to a pool (E)
- Tapura latifolia (F)
- Access to a pool (G)
- Amanoa caribeae (H)
- Balisiers (I)
- Phyllanthus mimosoides (J)
- Guatteria caribeae (K)
- Miconia mirabilis (L)

- Psychotria urbaniana (M)
- "Ailes à mouche" (O)
- West Indian Mahogany (N)
- Mapou baril (P)

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 : 16,17600 N - Long : 61,69280 W.

From Bouillante or Petit-Bourg: take Route de la Traversée (RD23). Stop at one of the Maison de la Forêt parking areas.

Advised parking

Parking (top) at Maison de la Forêt, Petit-Bourg

Accessibility

Forest House: building and restrooms accessible to people with reduced mobility.

Bras David Picnic Area - Forest House (Route de la Traversée (RD23): reserved parking, facilities to facilitate walking and wheelchair access (access ramp), and a shelter reserved for people with disabilities.

Corossol Picnic Area (at the end of the Corossol forest road, 1 km from the RD23): reserved parking, facilities to facilitate walking and wheelchair access (access ramp, renovated in July 2023), and two shelters reserved for people with disabilities.

Advice

09/2023: The Maison de la Forêt (Forest House) is offering a new exhibition highlighting the natural, cultural and landscape heritage of this emblematic forest for Guadeloupe.

Information desks

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

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...



Picnic area (A)

The picnic area is set up with huts and barbecue grills. The swimming area is easily accessible.



Gommier (B)

The Gommier *(Dacryodes excelsa)* can grow up to 35 metres tall. When they are damaged, its white trunk and roots exude a white resin with a pungent turpentine smell, which is traditionally used as incense or as kindle-wood, because it burns slowly regardless of the surrounding humidity. It is said that the tree has the ability to cast out spirits. It is strictly forbidden to remove any plant parts from the National Park.
Its trunk was used by American Indians to make their canoes (kanawa), and is still used today by coastal people from many tropical countries, such as Dominique, to craft fishing vessels. The tree's seeds are a favourite food among pigeons.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



Tree fern (C)

A member of the Cyatheaceae family, Cyathea sp. includes six species, the biggest of which (C. Arborea) can grow beyond 18 metres. Contrary to what the name suggests, tree ferns are not actually trees. The young leaves have the distinctive shape of a cross, while the black trunk is lined with petiole remnants. The fibrous material at the base of the stipe can be used to make sculptures and containers.

Attribution : PNG



Symphonia globulifera (D)

A member of the Clusiaceae family, *Symphonia globulifera* is a tree that is often found in the rainforest or in swampy forest areas. Reaching up to 25-30 metres in height, it has stilt roots and a yellowish latex trunk. Its flowers are notable for their bright red petals, with oval fruits that resemble nutmeg and that are yellow when ripe. It wood was used as timber for houses and its latex resin was used to make boats.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



Access to a pool (E)

Fine clear water pool on the Bras David river.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



Tapura latifolia (F)

A member of the Melastomaceae family, *Tapura latifolia* is a small tree with a fluted trunk that seldom grows beyond 20 metres. Its leaves feature five main lengthways veins that run perpendicular to its many secondary veins.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



Access to a pool (G)

Access to a large pool on the Bras David river.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



Amanoa caribeae (H)

A member of the Euphorbiacieae family, *Amanoa caribeae* is endemic to the Lesser Antilles. It is a large tree with a trunk that rests straight on its buttresses, depending on the terrain. The most distinctive features of this species are its reddish bark and roots at the base of the trunk. Its leaves vary in shape: sometimes they are whole, sometimes pointed, while its flowers form small clusters. The hard wood of this tree was used in carpentry or joinery.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



Balisiers (I)

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 : Fabien Salles / PNG



Phyllanthus mimosoides (J)

Phyllanthus mimosoides, a member of the Euphorbiacieae family, resembles a small tree fern. Set on the same level, its compound leaves are in fact branches made up of small, simple leaves. Lower down, they have tiny white flowers on their axils.

Attribution : PNG



Guatteria caribeae (K)

Guatteria caribeae is a very straight tree in the Annonaceae family that often has multiple trunks. It has dark bark and hanging branches, producing dark and plump berries.
Its bark was used to make ropes and its wood to make masts for boats. It is still used to make traditional sailing boats (kanot).

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



Miconia mirabilis (L)

Miconia mirablis is a hardwood tree with white bark and a fluted trunk.
As is so distinctive of pioneer plants, it loves light. It is often found on paths alongside tree ferns or trumpet trees.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



Psychotria urbaniana (M)

Psychotria urbaniana belongs to the Rubiaceae family.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



West Indian Mahogany (N)

A member of the Meliaceae family, *Swietennia macrophylla* is a perennial tree with a straight, cylindrical bole. It has small, yellow-green flowers. This species was introduced in order to produce timber. Because of its hardness and colouration, the wood is highly prized by cabinet makers, which has resulted in it being over-exploited in its native area. It is listed in Appendix II of the threatened species covered by the Washington Convention.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



"Ailes à mouche" (O)

A member of the Cyclantaceae family, the local name for *Asplundia rigida* can be translated literally as "fly wings" on account of its similarity with the insect. A typical species of moist forest undergrowth, there are three species in the Asplundia genus. Two terrestrial and one epiphytic and lianescent (vines climbing from aerial routes).

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



Mapou baril (P)

Sterculia caribea, known in Créole as Mapou baril, is endemic to the Lesser Antilles. The leaves of this plant can differ depending on its age. Its flowers appear in the form of a bunch of small yellow and pink bells. It produces quite distinctive fruits that cluster together in groups of four or five in woody follicles: they are lined on the inside with dark red urticating bristles.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG