

Trace des Ruisseaux

Basse-Terre Nord - Petit-Bourg



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

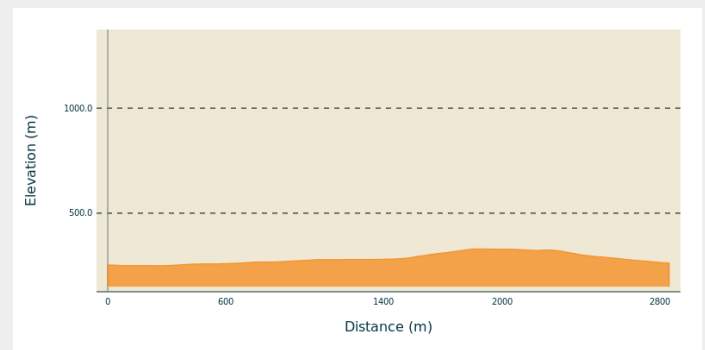
Departure : Maison de la Forêt, Petit-Bourg

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)
-  Tree fern (C)
-  Access to a pool (E)
-  Access to a pool (G)
-  Balisiers (I)
-  Guatteria caribeeae (K)

-  Gommier (B)
-  Symphonia globulifera (D)
-  Tapura latifolia (F)
-  Amanoa caribeeae (H)
-  Phyllanthus mimosoides (J)
-  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

Aire de pique-nique de Bras David - Maison de la Forêt (route de la Traversée (RD23) : stationnements réservés, aménagements pour faciliter la marche et le roulage des fauteuils (rampe d'accès) et un carbet réservé pour les personnes en situation de handicap.

Aire de pique-nique de Corossol (au bout de la route forestière de Corossol, 1km à partir de la RD23) : stationnements réservés, aménagements pour faciliter la marche et le roulage des fauteuils (rampe d'accès, rénovée en juillet 2023) et deux carbets réservés pour les personnes en situation de handicap.

Advice

09/2023 : la Maison de la Forêt est réouverte au public, avec une toute nouvelle exposition mettant en valeur les patrimoines naturel, culturel et paysager de cette forêt emblématique pour la 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.

Attribution : Elodie Noël / PNG



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. Its 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.

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💧 Access to a pool (G)

Access to a large pool on the Bras David river.

Attribution : Céline Lesponne / PNG



✿ Amanoa caribaea (H)

A member of the Euphorbiaceae family, *Amanoa caribaea* 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.

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✿ Phyllanthus mimosoides (J)

Phyllanthus mimosoides, a member of the Euphorbiaceae 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 caribaea (K)

Guatteria caribaea 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 mirabilis 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.

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✿ West Indian Mahogany (N)

A member of the Meliaceae family, *Swietenia 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.

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