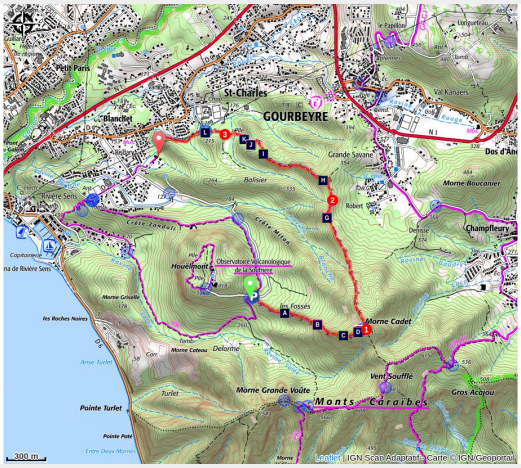
Morne Cadet / St Jean Bosco

Basse-Terre Sud

Point de vue (PNG)



Morne Cadet is one of the gateways leading to the Monts Caraïbes. At an altitude of 681 metres, it offers a remarkable view over the south of Basse-Terre.

Climbing the sometimes steep slopes, you will see a wonderful parade of flora and fauna of surprising diversity in an untamed and relaxing atmosphere.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 3 h

Length : 4.2 km

Trek ascent : 387 m

Difficulty : Medium

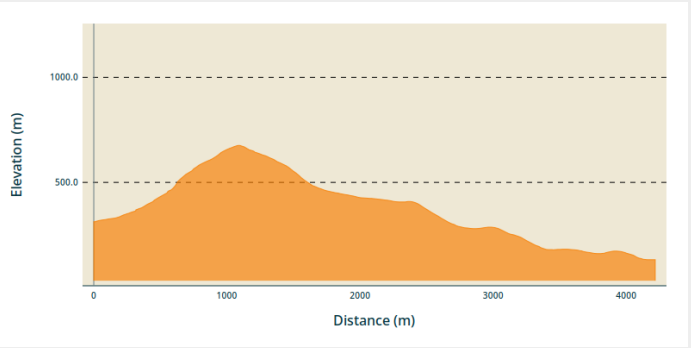
Type : Cross

Themes : Geology

Trek

Departure : Route du Houelmont, at the ONF sign, turn left. The trail begins 10m below.
Arrival : Habitation Bisdary, on the D38.
Markings : PR (short hike network)
Cities : 1. Gourbeyre

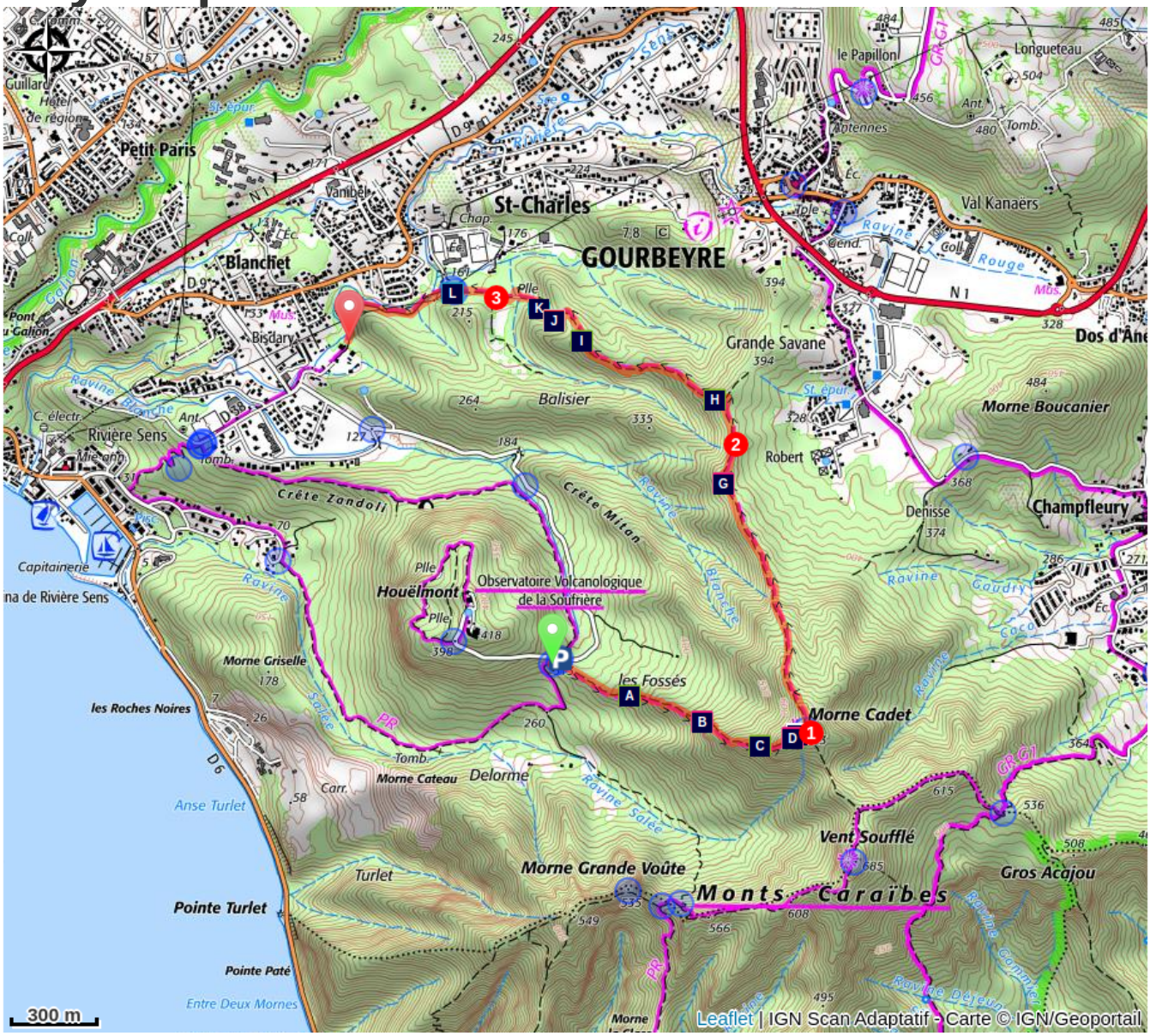
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 132 m Max elevation 676 m

The start of the trail is shown by a wooden marker. There is a steep slope for a few yards at the start of the trail, which then levels out. There are two intersections a few yards apart with a cross sign. Take the trail to the right with yellow markings. In the last part of the ascension, the path is narrow, slippery and steep. The markings are sometimes on the ground and sometimes on trees. After the summit (point 1), continue for a few yards, then go to the left to begin the descent. The slope gradually becomes steeper.
There are two intersections 1.5 km after the summit (point 2). Follow the yellow markings to the left along the crest.
Lastly, there is a 3rd intersection, to the left (point 3; direction marker). Take the path going down to the left towards Saint Jean Bosco. Then continue straight ahead until you arrive at the Habitation Bisdary from the rear.

On your path...



- Forest sanctuary (A)
- Bats (C)
- Morne Cadet summit (E)
- Soufrière panorama (G)
- Prickly Yellow (I)
- Site panel (K)
- View over Saint-Charles (B)
- Panorama from Cadet (D)
- Vent Soufflé intersection (F)
- Specific variety (H)
- Saint Jean Bosco (J)
- River Sens (L)

All useful information

Advices

In rainy or wet weather, the level for the trail rises from average to difficult. The slopes become particularly muddy and slippery.
Take care when leaving the forest for Saint Jean Bosco, because the grass makes it hard to spot the trail.

How to come ?

Transports

En Guadeloupe, 2 applications pour le covoiturage :
Dépozé : https://depoze.fr
KAROS : https://www.karos.fr

Access

GPS starting point: Lat: 15.97882°N - Long: 61.70044°W.

In Gourbeyre, Blanchet section, follow the D38 towards the Soufrière Volcanological Observatory; go up to the ONF panel for the Houëlmont forest.

Information desks

Office du tourisme intercommunal du Sud Basse-Terre
46 rue Paul Baudot, 97100 Basse-Terre
otisbt@hotmail.fr
Tel : 05 90 86 05 81
https://www.facebook.com/ot.sudbasseterre/

Source

Rando Guadeloupe

https://www.randoguadeloupe.gp/

On your path...

Forest sanctuary (A)

Just look at the wealth of flowers at the site! The Monts Caraïbes mountains have a series of 3 different forest types: xerophile forest (semi-deciduous); mesophile forest (evergreen) and ombrophile forest.
This area with high levels of candlewood marks a transition and entrance to the mesophile forest.

Attribution : AAMG

View over Saint-Charles (B)

One of the few panoramas during the ascension, giving a glimpse of the view from the summit.

Attribution : AAMG

Bats (C)

It is not unusual in this area to hear the monotonous chant of the bat. Bats are the only mammal species native to Guadeloupe, with 14 species. The species potentially found on Monts Caraïbes include:
- the strictly endemic species in Basse Terre, the Guadeloupe big brown bat, *Eptesicus guadeloupensis*.
- 3 sub-endemic species: the Guadeloupe big-eyed bat, *Chiroderma improvisum* (Basse-Terre and Montserrat); the Dominican myotis, *Myotis dominicensis* (Basse-Terre and Dominica) and Thomas's yellow-shouldered bat, (Basse-Terre and Montserrat).

Attribution : PNG

Panorama from Cadet (D)

An exceptional view over the areas of Gourbeyre, Basse-Terre and Saint-Claude towards the north. To the south, a view over Morne Grande Voûte, separated from Morne Cadet by the Salée Ravine.

Attribution : AAMG

Morne Cadet summit (E)

Information panel at the summit, altitude 681m.

Attribution : PNG

Vent Soufflé intersection (F)

Intersection towards Morne Vent Soufflé.
Please note, there are no signs at this point.

Soufrière panorama (G)

View over the Grande Savane and Valkanaërs districts, as well as the Soufrière.

Attribution : AAMG

Specific variety (H)

Ylang-ylang, *Cananga odorata*, is well known for its highly fragrant flowers, which are distilled to produce a very popular essential oil. The fragrance is released in wet and cool weather.

Attribution : AAMG

Prickly Yellow (I)

The prickly yellow (*Zanthoxylum caribaeum*) is a medium-sized tree, which can exceptionally grow up to 20 metres in height. It has a very prickly trunk and branches, and very rough, cracked and blackish bark.
Its wood is much in demand in the region, especially to make handles for farm tools.

Attribution : AAMG

Saint Jean Bosco (J)

Saint Jean Bosco is an education centre working on behalf of young people in difficulties since 1935.
Take care when leaving the forest, because it is hard to spot the trail due to the grass.

Attribution : PNG

Site panel (K)

Information panel at the Coastal Conservatory.
Arriving from Morne Cadet, cross the road and continue on the trail opposite.

Attribution : AAMG

River Sens (L)

The River Sens takes its source on the slopes of the Palmiste plateau in Gourbeyre. It is then joined by the Ravine Rouge and the Ravine Blanche, before reaching its mouth at the beginning of the Rivières Sens section. These gullies were an opportunity to set up Habitations (residences) in the Monts Caraïbes, including the Habitation Bisdary.