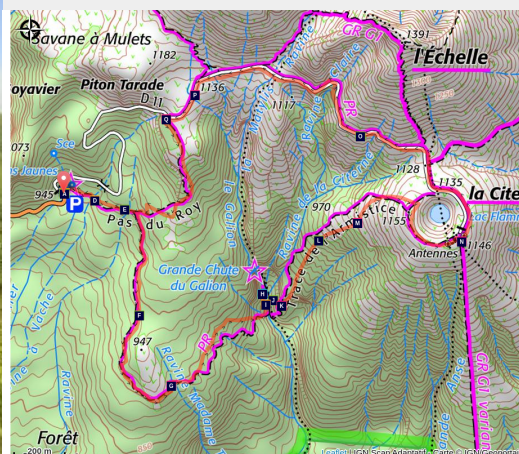


# Galion / Armistice circuit

Basse-Terre Sud - Saint-Claude



vue depuis le sommet de La Citerne (Fabien Salles / PNG)



*A sporting route, which passes through La Chute du Galion to La Citerne, by La Trace de l'Armistice trail.*

## Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 6.2 km

Trek ascent : 427 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Loop

Themes : Geology, River and waterfall

# Trek

**Departure** : Bains Jaunes, Saint-Claude

**Arrival** : Bains Jaunes, Saint-Claude

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

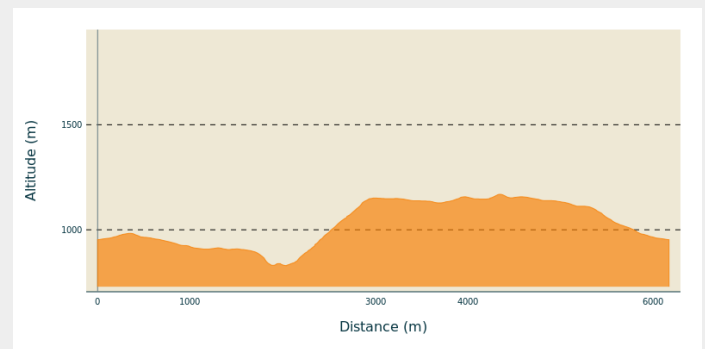
**Cities** : 1. Saint-Claude

2. Gourbeyre

3. Trois-Rivieres

4. Capesterre-Belle-Eau

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 829 m    Max elevation 1169 m

## Hiking markup: yellow.

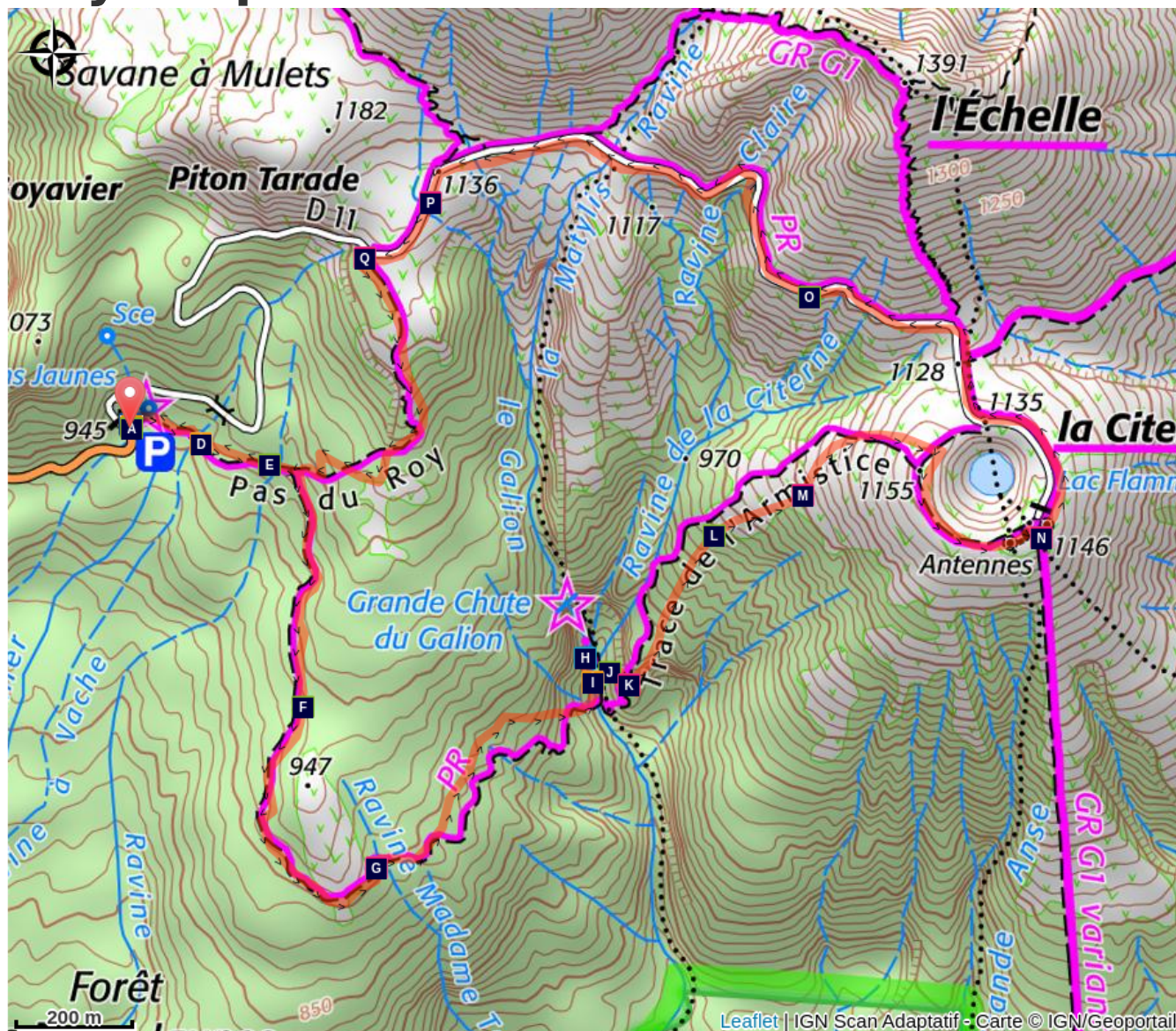
From the parking area of Bains Jaunes, take the paved trail (Le Pas du Roy). At the intersection, leave the access to La Soufriere on the left and turn right in the direction of La Chute du Galion waterfall. Continue straight on the road that crosses several gullies.

On arriving at the Galion river, cross it and join the trail on the other side. Possibility to turn left to go to the foot of the waterfall; use the ropes on the last few metres to climb the rock. Then return to the previous intersection. Otherwise (or later) at the junction, follow the signs to the "Citerne par L'Armistice" going straight. Take the trail that goes up. Enjoy waterfall viewpoint, and continue the steep climb through the mud and roots.

On arrival at the dome, stay on the trail and walk around the Citerne on the right. After enjoying the view (on clear days), take the direction to Savane à Mulets on the concrete road. At Savane à Mulets, go down the road for about 200 metres and then turn left towards Le Pas du Roy then on to Bains Jaunes. Jump in the hot pool at the parking area for a relaxing break !



# On your path...



- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Shortleaf fig (A)                   |  Acomat boucan (B)               |
|  Les Bains Jaunes (C)                |  Le Pas du Roy (D)               |
|  The frogs of Guadeloupe (E)         |  Chewstick tree (F)              |
|  Viewpoint of La Soufrière (G)       |  La Chute du Galion (H)          |
|  La Trace de l'Armistice (I)         |  The Yucca Plum Pine (J)         |
|  Viewpoint of La Chute du Galion (K) |  Clusia mangle (L)               |
|  Débouché de l'Armistice (M)         |  Viewpoint of Le Grand Etang (N) |
|  Charianthus alpinus (O)             |  Viewpoint of La Soufrière (P)   |
|  Views of Baillif (Q)                |   |

# 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**

As Guadeloupe is prone to natural risks, extra care should be taken in this natural environment. For the benefit of all hikers, responsible behaviour is very important.

Please note : the parking and swimming areas are not supervised. Make sure you adhere to any rules issued by the Regional Health Agency concerning hot baths.

## **How to come ?**

### Access

GPS coordinates of the start point : Lat : 16,03459 N - Long : 61,6701 W.

Go through the town of Saint-Claude, passing the post office and the university. Continue uphill on Route RD11, passing through the picnic area of Beausoleil. Keep going until the end of the road and park at the Bains Jaunes parking area, using one of the spaces provided. (The Savane à Mulets parking area and main access road are closed to traffic because of potential landslide risk).

### Advised parking

Parking area "Bains Jaunes", Saint-Claude

## **Information desks**

### **Headquarters of the National Park of Guadeloupe**

Montéran, 97120 Saint-Claude

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

Tel : 0590 41 55 55

<http://www.guadeloupe-parcnational.fr/fr/des-decouvertes/ou-sinformer/siege-de-saint-claude>



## **Source**

Rando Guadeloupe

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



# On your path...

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## ✿ Shortleaf fig (A)

The shortleaf fig tree (*Ficus citrifolia*) is a member of the Moraceae family. It is quite a unique tree: as an epiphyte, it has the ability to grow on competing trees. Its aerial roots develop by dropping downwards and then branching out as the tree grows. It can strangle competing trees and kill them. The shortleaf fig can grow both on the ground and on buildings.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG

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## ✿ Acomat boucan (B)

The Acomat boucan (*Sloanea caribaea*) belongs to the Elaeocarpaceae family. It is an extremely large tree that can grow up to 40 metres tall. It is the most spectacular tree in the Sloanea genus. It has an exposed trunk and magnificent buttresses, with reddish-brown bark that starts to peel off into thin strips when the tree starts to age. Formerly, visitors to the forest would make use of its enormous buttresses to shelter their fires and to smoke meat. It has since been established that lighting fires among the roots is not conducive to the well-being of trees.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG

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## 🏠 Les Bains Jaunes (C)

Set amid the forest of the same name, the site of Les Bains Jaunes has long been a popular destination. The first dwellings here were the ajoupa of the Igneri people, followed by mouina of the Carib Indians.

Many years later, it became an important stopping-off point on the road to La Soufrière. In the late nineteenth century, the soldiers from Saint-Claude built a convalescent home and shooting range. Around 1910, the famous Mountaineers Club erected a makeshift shelter and later, in 1947, the Renaissance association built their own shelter, designed for hikers and swimmers. That building was later to become the Maison du Volcan, which has since closed. It is thanks to the soldiers of the Marine Infantry, who were sent to Bains Jaunes in order to "acclimatise themselves", that a stone lagoon - still in place today - was built in 1887.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG

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## Le Pas du Roy (D)

"Lest we forget that we owe the current path of Le Pas du Roy to the battalion commander, Mr. Legot. He replaced the old path that was originally mapped out by Mr. Rollin in January 1885 to guide the Count and Countess of Bardy to La Soufrière." Gérard Werter, "Coureur des Bois".

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



## The frogs of Guadeloupe (E)

There are two endemic species of frog in Basse-Terre: Hylode de Barlagne (*Eleutherodactylus barlagnei*) and Hylode de Pinchon (*Eleutherodactylus pinchoni*), and if you listen carefully you might just hear them ribbiting at Pas du Roy. Both species are dark in colour and measure 2-3 centimetres in length. But, the most common species in Guadeloupe is the Martinique Robber Frog (*Eleutherodactylus martinicensis*).

Attribution : Guy Van-Laere / PNG



## Chewstick tree (F)

*Symphonia globulifera*, also commonly known as the chewstick tree, belongs to the Clusiaceae family. The tree grows in thick, humid and swampy forests. Reaching up to 25-30 metres in height, it has stilt roots and a yellow latex trunk. Its flowers are formed of bright red petals, while its fruits resemble nutmeg, are oval in shape and yellow when ripe. Its wood was one used as timber for houses and resin for boats.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



## Viewpoint of La Soufrière (G)

Viewpoint of La Soufrière, amid the treetops.

Attribution : PNG



## 💧 La Chute du Galion (H)

Carved into the lava of the volcano, La Chute du Galion waterfall gushes forth from a height of 40 metres. The water at the source of the Galion is heated by the volcano, whose sulphur deposits account for its orange colour, but returns to a normal temperature by the time it reaches the bottom.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG

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## 🕒 La Trace de l'Armistice (I)

This trail was named by walkers from the Mountaineers Club. The club tried it out for the first time on Armistice Day (11 November 1953), which commemorates the end of the First World War in 1918.

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## 🌿 The Yucca Plum Pine (J)

*Podocarpus coriaceus* is also commonly known as the Yucca Plum Pine. It is a member of the Podocarpaceae family. Closely related to conifers, it is an average-sized tree, measuring around 10-16 metres. Its leaves – dark green on top – have a leathery quality that is reminiscent of the common oleander. They have a span of 6-15 cm with no discernible stalk. While its flowers are discreet, its brown-coloured seeds in their red floral buds are particularly eye-catching. It has a thin layer of bark. This species is found throughout the West Indies and flowers mainly in December and January.

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## 📖 Viewpoint of La Chute du Galion (K)

A gap in the vegetation provides stunning views of La Chute du Galion waterfall.

Attribution : PNG





### ✿ Clusia mangle (L)

The Clusia mangle is endemic to Guadeloupe. It thrives at 800 metres above sea level where winds are strong and humidity is constant. It is a shrub with leathery, fleshy and shiny leaves. Its fruits resemble large, yellow olives.

Attribution : Fabien Salles / PNG



### 📍 Débouché de l'Armistice (M)

A viewpoint towards La Soufrière and Le Nez Cassé where the high forest opens out, before reaching the summit of La Citerne.

Attribution : PNG

### 📍 Viewpoint of Le Grand Etang (N)

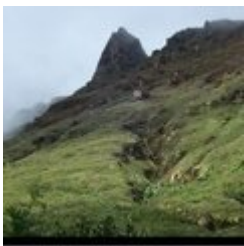
Looking south-east down towards Le Grand Etang, crossing the relay antennas towards the high voltage line.



### ✿ Charianthus alpinus (O)

From the Melastomataceae family, *Charianthus alpinus*, commonly known in French as mountain fuchsia, is endemic to the Lesser Antilles. It measures between 1-2 metres in height. Its leaves are made up of five base veins and of particular interest are the fuchsia flowers, which attract hummingbirds.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG



### 📍 Viewpoint of La Soufrière (P)

From the old car park of Savane à Mulets, views of La Soufrière to the north and, on a clear day, of Les Saintes to the south.

Attribution : PNG



## Views of Baillif (Q)

Views of Baillif to the west and Piton Tarade to the north-west.

Attribution : Emilie Savy / PNG