

Hike

16 l'Albère Trail

L'ALBÈRE

L'Albère is a town that has retained its character and traditions. The houses are widely dispersed, twenty farmhouses spread out over a vast territory. Hikers who go up will see one of the largest dolmens in the region, Na Christiana. At the peak of the summit Saint Christophe there is a roman chapel restored a few years ago, where the view is magnificent. Starting from Saint Martin hikers will come across another Romanesque church (private), then use the pilgrims trail of the Middle Ages towards the Col Furcat. If taking the GR®10, passing by the crest, they climb up to col de l'Ullat, they can eat and stay at the chalet. Walkers can travel by car to the Col de l'Ullat and have a meal at the chalet.

SENTIER DE L'ALBÈRE

The trail first leads you to the Dolmen 'Na Cristiana'. Dating from the Neolithic period (3500 - 3000 BC) it is known to be one of the best preserved and largest dolmen in the Pyrénées-Orientales. Make your way towards the Col de Llinas which offers a magnificent view! Further on, at the peak Saint Christophe bears the ruins of a tower or castle. A small chapel which has been restored also remains. In 1794, The peak played a decisive role in the combat between French and Spanish troops. In addition to the typical cork forests, l' Albère contains many natural treasures. If you are careful and pay attention, Garrulus glandarius, hoopoe or Short-toed Snake Eagles can be seen. Birds are not the only inhabitants of this sumptuous decor, reptiles (Montpellier snakes, or ocellated green lizards) and mammals badgers, hares, rabbits but also fox complete the picture.

TO DISCOVER

Dolmen Na Cristiana.

Panoramic view.

The restored Chapelle Saint Christophe at the peak.

ONLINE MAP



L'ALBÈRE

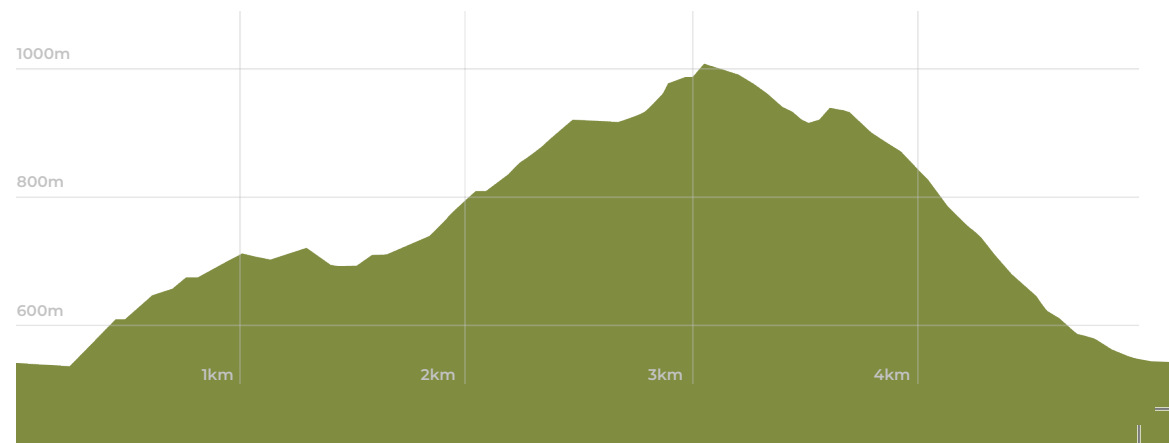
510m d+



DIFFICULTY



2h45 - 6 km



Departure : car park above town hall of l'Albère.

0 min : From the town hall go down the paved road, pass in front of l'Auberge Can Joan and continue. Ignore the first signs for the Coll de la Font and stay on the paved road.

1 **10 min :** Take the small path going up on the right towards the Coll Llinas. The path climbs into the forest before continuing on rocks. Be careful, this trail is steep. For those who wish to get to Dolmen 'Na Cristiana' on a more gentle route, it is possible to continue on the paved road then on a wide track on the right (then follow the arrows for the dolmen).

2 **25 min :** Dolmen 'Na Cristiana'. Continue the path towards the rocky crest on the right of the dolmen. After a few steps there are beautiful views of the Massif du Canigó and Fort Bellegarde.

35 min : Walk into the forest, the trail continues through the woods.

45 min : The landscape opens again allowing you to admire the magnificent view. Then continue straight. The stony path descends first and then ascends into the woods for about 20 minutes to reach the Coll Llinas.

3 **1h15 :** Coll Llinas, there is a panorama of the Roussillon plain, the Mediterranean Sea and the Canigó. From here until the Pic Saint Christophe you take the splendid panorama with you. Then take the path on the right that goes up towards the rocky peaks.

1h35 : Arrive at the Coll de la Branca. Follow the flat path for a moment before the ascent to the Pic Saint Christophe.

1h55 : Pic Saint Christophe. A small chapel surrounded by meadows sits on top of this peak. Then start the descent leaving behind the Chapel.

4 **2h05 :** At the crossroad, continue to the left.

2h15 : Coll de la Font. Then go down towards Saint Jean de l'Albère through a forest. The path is rocky and steep. Be careful, dead leaves make it very slippery.

3h : Back in front of l'Auberge Can Joan. Return to the car park.

