

Hike

17 Perthus Trail

LE PERTHUS

The village is located at 271 m altitude and on the hill of the same name. The originality of Perthus (in Catalan: El Portús) lies in the fact that the layout of the border in 1659, under the Treaty of the Pyrenees, allowed it to be part of both in French and Spanish territory. Simple enough, if you cross the street, you change countries. The border is only materialized by two markers, one at the beginning of the Spanish quarter, the other at the end of the village. The communal territory is located between Vallespir and Roussillon and offers countless opportunities to discover nature, without forgetting the presence of historical monuments of primary importance: The Fort of Bellegarde, The Site of Panissars and the trophy of Pompée.

PERTHUS TRAIL

This hike offers exceptional heritage. Your path will be punctuated by buildings steeped in History. First step is 'le reposoir de Madame' from 1752, this hut 'baraque castellane' (French name) was built to serve as a resting place for the wife of the Marquis de Castellane and Governor Bellegarde, during their visits to the castle. Later on, you will discover three restored military fountains (Font del Colomer, Font de Pedres Blanques and the Font dels Miquelets) that will lead you straight to 'les ruines du col de Panissars'. These ruins are testimony to the activity that prevailed in this area in Roman times. Follow a series of border monuments (boundary markers), demarcating the border between France and Spain to reach the Fort de Bellegarde. Throughout History, the belonging of this Fort has changed several times. In turn both Spain and France have occupied it.

TO DISCOVER

The rich historical heritage of Le Perthus.

Views on the Alberes, Canigó, and Spain.

ONLINE MAP



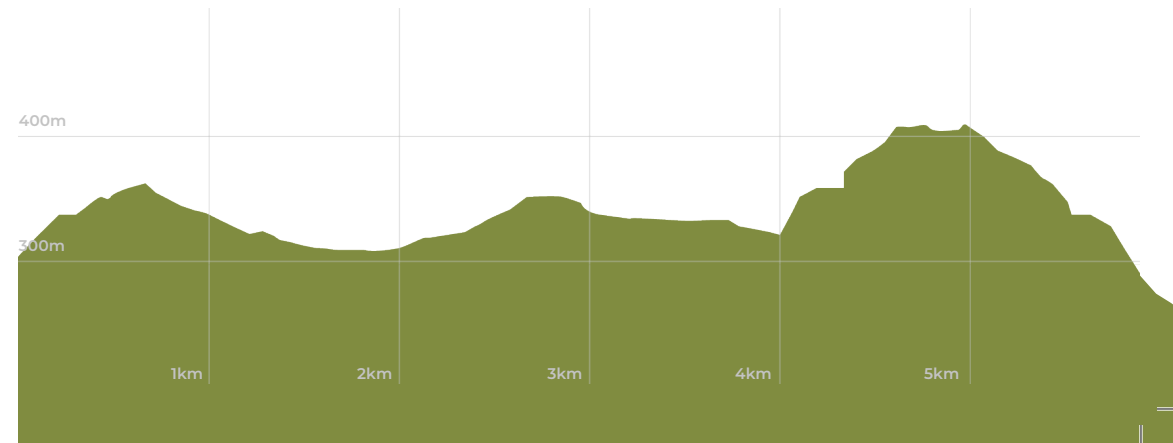
LE PERTHUS

189m d+



DIFFICULTY

2h00 - 6 km



Departure : Parking P2 in the village of Le Perthus.

1 **0 min :** Starting from the car park, take the GR10 footpath, up through a wooded area, passing in front of the technical services workshop. Pass behind 'le Reposoir de Madame' or ' Baraque Castellane', continue climbing on the paved road.

10 min : Take the track DFCI V19 going down. From this track there is a beautiful view of Canigou.

20 min : When on a bend you pass in front of 'la Font del Colomer', the military fountain. Continue on the trail to find at the next bend la 'Font de Pedres' (behind the electric generator). Continue on this trail passing in front of a reservoir and then that runs between fields and pine forests.

30 min : The track divides in two, follow the one on the right. Pass in front of a new reservoir. The vegetation is variable: fir, cork trees, fields ...

2 **45 min :** Return on the bike route /paved Green route on the track on the left. A few minutes later, below on the left: 'la Font dels Miquelets'. Stay on the Green route which offers a beautiful view of the Fort de Bellegarde.

1h00 : On the right, access the Roman ruins 'de Panissars'. Climb the dry stone steps to see the boundary marker n°567 and enjoy an overall view overlooking the ruins. Go around the south of the ruins. At the fire prevention sign, a fork shape emerges on your left. Continue taking the left branch of the fork. Then follow the small path on the ridge as far as the guard tower and Marker 568.

3 **1h15 :** Go around the Watchtower and follow the small path to the military cemetery. Go around it on the right to reach Marker 569. Continue on the wide track that descends on the right and then on a bend take the path that climbs between oaks in the direction of Fort Bellegarde.

1h25 : At the marker 570 take the path on the furthest right which goes along the hillside until marker 571.

1h35 : At marker 571 turn left towards marker 572 and continue on the footpath that runs behind marker 572. Be careful this trail is on the flank of the hillside.

1h45 : Enter the 'Fort Bellegarde'.

Be careful : It is forbidden to enter the little fort located below the fort. The latter has been damaged by fire leaving the structure unsafe.

4 **1h45 :** Go up to the Fort along the gravel path. Then go around the Fort to arrive at the main gate and parking.

2h00 : From the car park go down the paved road and after about twenty meters you will reach a bend with a large embankment on the right. Turn on the embankment and take the path that follows.

2h10 : From the ' Reposoir de Madame' return on the paved road. Get back to the carpark.

