

BANYULS-SUR-MER - COLL de GRAN BAU - COAST PATH

Côte Vermeille, Pyrénées-Orientales, France

Duration: about 3 hours walking

Climb: 350 metres



START: at the roundabout near the tourist office, on the sea front in Banyuls.

We follow the Avenue Général de Gaulle into the town. Opposite the Rue Lapérose, we turn left and we cross a footbridge over a wide river bed.

We turn right and we go along the Rue Joliot Curie. At a bifurcation, we go to the right, along a road which passes alongside the river bed. We go under a railway bridge and we turn left, into the Avenue Pierre de Marca.

At a bifurcation, we turn sharp left, up the Avenue Manolo Valiente. The avenue winds up a hillside.

At another bifurcation, we go straight ahead and we soon enter open country. The lane goes up a long valley, with a railway line down below on the left.

At a bifurcation we go to the right. The lane winds up a hillside. At another bifurcation, we go to the right. At another bifurcation (just after a house, on the left), we go to the right.

The lane becomes an unsurfaced track, and it winds up to the Coll de Gran Bau. Here, there are wonderful views in all directions.

We go straight across the col and we follow a track which descends on the other side.

At a bend in the track, we go straight ahead, on a footpath which climbs towards a pylon.

We reach a track on a hilltop near the pylon. We follow the track, to the left, then to the right. The track goes past the pylon and descends to meet the coast road.

We go the right and we walk along the coast road for a short distance to an open area with a kiosk. Here there are signs for the coast path ('sentier littoral').

We follow the coast path, to the left, in the direction of Banyuls.

The coast path rises and descends several times, but it is easy to follow (we look for yellow waymarks).

We follow the coast path all the way back to the centre of Banyuls. (En route, a notice says that the vineyards along the coastline were first planted by the Greeks and the Romans.)



Alan Mattingly
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More walks: www.walks-vernetlesbains-canigou.eu