

## **Walk : “La Mauresque & Fanal” (3 km {2 miles})**

**1 hour**

This walk, very close to the house, is a gentle exploration of 2 beautiful, wild and exposed headlands, separated by a deep but charming rocky creek; Anse de la Mauresque and combines a historical realisation with the ruggedness of the rocky coast and wonderful panoramic views.

The route to take is to turn left out of the house and continue along Rue de la Liberte to the Place de la Liberte, turn left out of the opposite corner of the square and proceed to the steps which climb to the main road to the harbour. Turn right and follow the road up to the junction in front of Le Dome and take a right towards Collioure, under the ‘Portus Veneris’ bridge. Continue for about 300 metres and then turn right immediately by the cemetery. This simple road leads to the plage d’en Baux, (where a footpath goes down to a pleasant cove) but our route winds round to the right.

By the side of the Rehabilitation centre (IME Mauresque) a simple footpath is marked with a yellow flash, which takes the perimeter of this centre, around a recreational court and then heads out towards the headland Cap Gros. Scattered amongst the rocks and wild flowers are mementoes of the Second World War. Despite being in Vichy France during the last war, Port Vendres was occupied by a substantial German force, who after 2 years of feigned occupation, in 1944 destroyed the harbour. The headland Cap Gros still bears the scars of military installations, which half a century on, are a savage reminder of wartime in this area. It would seem these decaying concretions are left as a memorial to the hard times experienced in Port Vendres during the early 1940s. There is a strange peace about this panoramic view-point, which is further endorsed out to the point where the Batterie de la Mauresque is found. This interesting ruin is first mentioned during the reign of the Kings of Majorque, (1292) and then late in 1700, formed the basis of a battery by the famous military engineer Vauban, when Spain and France were at each other’s throats over the frontier.



Batterie de la Mauresque, Port Vendres

It is worth spending time enjoying the views to Collioure and beyond, to Tour de Madeloc and then to appreciate the full extent of Port Vendres' charm from the tip of this headland. Take the footpath back along the edge of the cove Anse de la Mauresque, where a token to Charles Rennie Macintosh marks the site with a copy of one of his drawings in the 1920s of the crumbling fortress. Within a few metres, a simple footpath drops down to the cove, (a favourite spot for rock diving), and then beyond, taking the footpath up again along the edge of the second rocky headland; Fanal. Follow this path across the headland to its highest point and the views across the bay to the steep hills of Fort Bear are well worth the effort. The path then drops down to civilisation with steps down to Rue la Miran. A detour to the left leads to the lighthouse at Redoute du Fanal, (a further reminder of Vauban's magnificent military engineering at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century). Retrace back towards Port Vendres along the Rue la Miran and then very soon on the left, overlooking the Crie de Poissons, is a charming quiet memorial garden Square Henri Bes Jardin de l'Abatoir, sacred to the memory of the inhabitants of Pyrenees-Orientales who died in the almost forgotten Algerian War.

On leaving the memorial garden head back towards Port Vendres but if the Crie de Poissons has not already been explored, it is worth another detour down the next left turn and into the area that is fenced off. There is a legitimate footpath for pedestrians that weaves between fishing boats being repaired and wagons rushing out with fresh fish. Follow the official footpath round the buildings and the fish market will be found. This is a truly magnificent experience for fish lovers; everything imaginable for the palate – for the adventurous, try oysters and Collioure blanc!

After the excursion to the fish market, the journey home is very simple, either along the quai du Fanal, (lower road) or by returning to the upper one, where once again a token to Macintosh demonstrates another favourite view he painted in the last few years of his life.

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Map of Walk "La Mauresque & Fanal"

## **Walk : “Anse de l’Aspulgas & le Feu du Mole”** **(4k {2.5 miles}) – 1 hour**

This walk also takes in the marina, the commercial port and then on out beyond the headland overlooking the harbour wall lighthouse ‘Feu de Mole’ (dating from 1848) and then touches the wild and rugged garrigue of Cap Bear.

Once around the back of the Port Commercial the feeling that Charles Rennie Mackintosh had been there before is evident. Again much of the beauty is the natural terrain, wild life and realisation of the need for medieval fortresses on many headlands and hilltops.

From the house, drop down to the harbour and walk along Quai Pierre Forgas past the fishing fleet and moored yachts in the marina and round the quai to the opposite side; Quai de la Douane Republique to the side of the Commercial Port. Having hugged the perimeter fence at the back of the Port du Commerce, take the left fork (Avenue du General Leclerc) heading back towards the harbour shore and along Route de la Jete where the road follows the rocky shore past the Anse des Tamorins (apparently soon to be developed into a mixed leisure and extension of the port) and then immediately before the tunnel (built by the occupying German army during the last war to facilitate the transport of ammunitions) take the rough road to the left around the headland which is marked pedestrians only. Sadly this appears to be a canine latrine for quite a distance! Around the headland where there is a good view over the estuary to Port Vendres, the path touches the road at the Anse de Christine, the lovely restaurant, Le Poisson Rouge before veering back around another small headland taking in some of the ancient workings of one of Vauban’s fortresses, the Batterie Mailly. The frequent displays of Mackintosh’s factual sketches give historic account of previous glory of these ancient relics. It was here that Margaret Mackintosh in 1929, having been widowed at the end of 1928, brought her husband’s ashes and scattered them from the end of the Mole.

Once clear of the Batterie Mailly, the path comes back down to the road once more and for a few paces before opening into a small cul-de-sac supplying a few derelict and run-down premises as well as a scuba diving club on the beach of Anse de la Jete. The original barrage bearing the flimsy looking light house (the Mole) is hundreds of years old and the actual elegant light house itself dates from 1869 but currently repair work is on-going as a result of storm damage. Over Christmas 2008, the Jete and light house were badly damaged by massive storms with the loss of many tonnes of sea defences and the fine wrought iron spiral staircase to the lighthouse.

On the opposite side of the road from the scuba diving club, a small set of steps, with a yellow flash painted on a rock leads the path away from the beach and steeply up a winding rocky track through the garrigue. This is an area of unspoiled thick shrubs and haven to many birds and animals. After about 300m of rocky climb, the track comes out on the road to Cap Bear. It is worth following the road a short distance to



the corner where there is a rugged track descending to a scattering of homes. The views down the cliffs to the ocean and rocks below, over Port Vendres and beyond are spectacular.



Anse Christine with Poisson Rouge on beach & Batterie Mailly above

The return to Port Vendres is best taken by retracing steps down the hill but continuing on the tarmac which winds in and out of a couple of valleys with wonderful views looking to Port Vendres, Tours Madeloc & Massane, Fort St. Elme and on clear days, Pic Canigou in the distance.

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Map of Walk "Anse de l'Aspulgas & le Feu du Mole"

**Walk : “Cap Bear, Paulilles & the Dynamite Site”**  
**(12k {8 miles}) approx. 4 hours**

This route follows that of No. 4 but then continues along the rocky headland to Paulilles and back through the vines to Port Vendres.

From the house, drop down to the harbour and walk along Quai Pierre Forgas past the fishing fleet and moored yachts in the marina and round the quai to the opposite side; Quai de la Douane Republique to the side of the Commercial Port. Sadly, this drab 20<sup>th</sup> century construction is a replacement of the one destroyed in 1944 by the retreating German army who felt it necessary to sack everything on its departure. Having hugged the perimeter fence at the back of the Port du Commerce, take the left fork (Avenue du General Leclerc) heading back towards the harbour shore and along Route de la Jete where the road follows the rocky shore past the Anse des Tamorins and then immediately before the tunnel take the road going up the hill on the right; Chemin du Cap Bear. As the road winds up, quickly coming into view is one of the original sea defences of Port Vendres, the Redoute Bear on the left standing proudly on a promontory overlooking the bay. This museum built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, houses exhibits from the history of Algeria and a memorial to Sidi Ferruch.

As the road winds along the rocky hill, a ruined fortress comes into view just in front and below (Fort Maily), another of the defences of the town – a popular topic for Charles Rennie Mackintosh to paint. Visible from all around and crowning the massive hill of Cap Bear at 200m is the Fort Bear dating from 1895 and still a serious military installation used by the French Army today. The Chemin du Cap Bear twists steadily around the perimeter of Cap Bear and offers stunning views back over Port Vendres to Pic Canigou and the Corbieres in the distance. Also from here the twin Tours de Madeloc and Massane sit on the immediate skyline, whilst the craggy coastline is dominated by the two lighthouses of the Feu de Mole (1869) at the end of the Jete on the near side and Vauban’s Fort Fanal (1700) on the opposite side of the harbour mouth. At a number of points along this road Charles.

The road runs around a headland as Port Vendres disappears but very soon the Semaphor (1895) and Phare de Bear (1902) come into view. Along this route, it will be noted that there are occasional yellow flashes painted on the rocks; these are the ones to follow. Immediately before the locked gates of the Phare which contains an exceptional red marble spiral staircase but sadly not visible to the public. (Whatever happened to classy staircases?) On the right side of the road are stone steps leading down to a tiny secluded creek between ancient cacti and succulents of all varieties. The lower part of this path is rugged and care must be taken, but the effort is well worth while for at the bottom is Anse Ste. Catherine’; a tiny beach with a dozen fisherman’s cottages huddled around it – totally inaccessible by road. This track down is the suggested alternative route for accessing the coastal path on windy days. For the more confident walkers the regular path strikes off on the East side of Phare de Bear with an initial branch line leading down to the rocky prominence jutting out into the Mediterranean littered with concrete gun emplacements and search-light bases from German Occupation as if a memorial for all to contemplate



the horrors of war that should never be forgotten and home now to countless sea birds. Returning back up from this lonely place pick up the path again to the left of the Phare but take care – it would seem it drops off the side of the world and precariously clings to a rusty fence as it descends literally over the rugged cliff face. When at the beach, the path lifts up again between the houses and emerges through more mature cacti, over rocky out-crops on to a strictly coastal edge track. This is not for nervous or physically challenged walkers, particularly on windy days but it is a beautiful and bracing walk along some of the most spectacular coastal cliffs winding in and out and up and down. There are a couple of beautiful and isolated beaches that are crossed (the larger cove being called Plage Balanti) which after only a small distance in between settles on a wide smooth one (Plage de Bernardi) accessed by road from the RN114 and where in summer months refreshments can be obtained from Sole Mio – oh, yes! There are toilet facilities here.



Plage de Bernardi & Tour de Madeloc from the headland above Plage Balanti

It is worth passing the length of this beach, (still with its World War II Teutonic concrete defences) and then up over the small densely wooded headland to the next beach, Anse de Paulilles.

#### *Site de Paulilles*

*After the brutal defeat of France during the disastrous Franco-Prussian war of 1870, the Minister of the Interior & War, Gambetta instructed Paul Barbe, (a protégé of Albert Nobel) to construct a dynamite factory, he chose this to be a good site with criteria being a bay with a river, wells to wash the nitroglycerine, proximity to a port and a desolate site that would endanger lives – if there were an explosion!. It was prosperous and employed between 300 and 400 workers, suffered occupation by the Germans during the war and now, after many years of dereliction the site has been turned into a developing and imaginative conservation area encouraging artisan creativity. (See “Site classe de Paulilles” published by Conseil General [www.cg66.fr](http://www.cg66.fr) 04.68.95.23.40)*

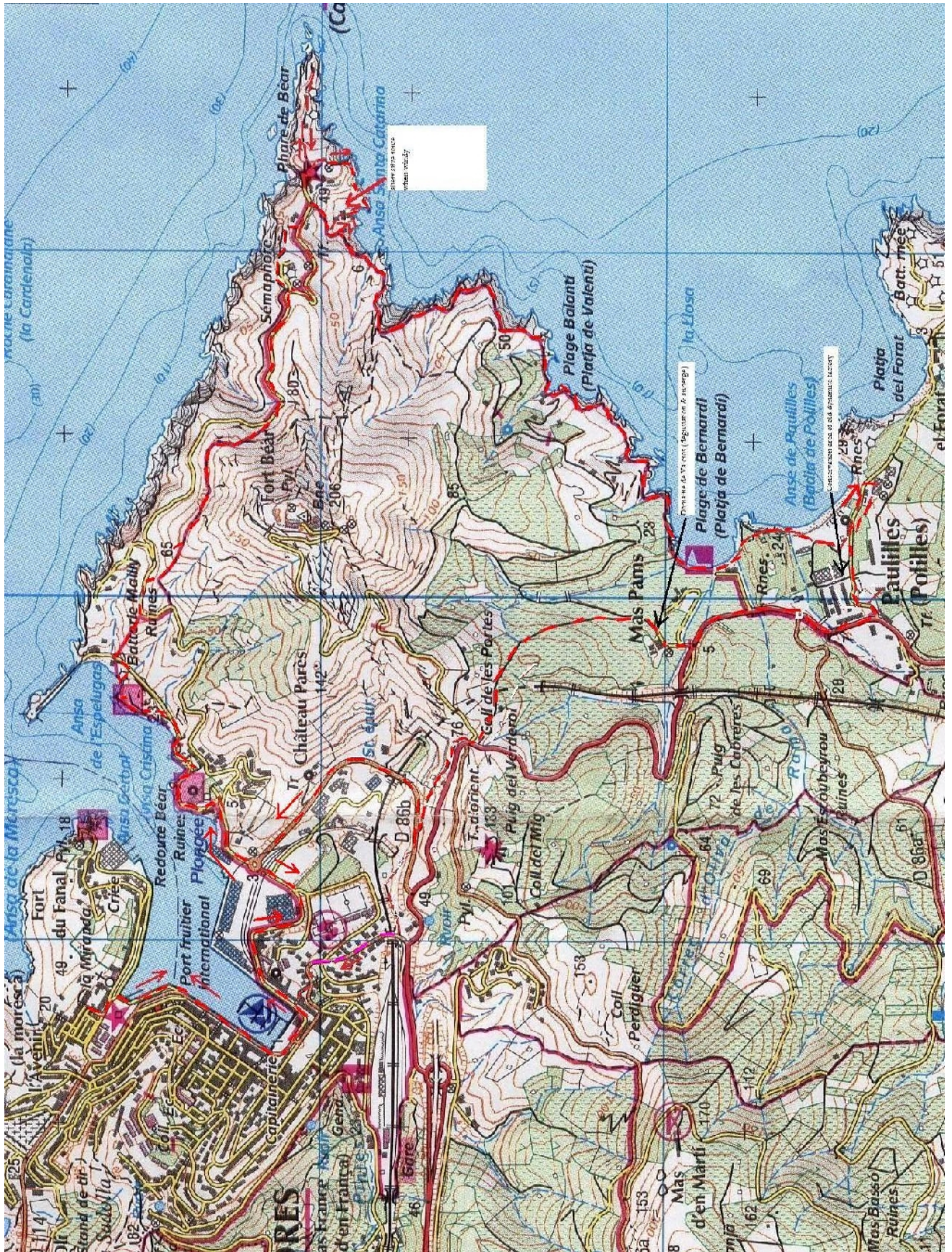
Whether the path is re-traced back to Plage Bernardi and up the track to the main road or the Park is left by the main gate on the RN114, is a decision for the walker but from here it is suggested to head North again and progress to Domaine de

Valcros on the N114 main road. This Domaine (marked on the map as Mas Pams) is a well respected wine producer being part of the Chateau de Jau at Cases-de-Pene and during the summer months, rooms, meals and a degustation are on offer here. Enter the main gates and immediately follow the sign for Chambres d'Hote but then proceed to the right of the farm buildings turning up a wide farm track that ascends the hill, but almost immediately there is a fork in the track and be sure to take the left limb (marked with a blue 'L' flash) which eventually brings the walk out for about 20 metres on the RN114 close to the col. Once Port Vendres comes into view, the small road to the military zone on the peak of Cap Bear leaves on the right and then immediately another track descends down just below the road which joins the road leading down to the Port du Commerce side of Port Vendres. Follow this round beneath the precarious ruin of Chateau Pares on the right (a mysteriously compulsive and derelict shell of more glorious days and one suspects wartime tragedy) and return to Port Vendres around the port.

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Map of Walk “Cap Bear, Pauilles & the Dynamite Site”



**Walk : “Vall de Pintes” or “The Mackintosh’s Enchanted Valley” -**  
**(9km {5.5m})- 2.5 hours**

This extraordinary walk at first seems lacking potential until it is actually completed when a feeling of hope for our environment rises in witness of the continued existence of untouched wild life. An alternative name for this walk which seems nowadays dominated by fast travel of the N114 rushing to its temporary conclusion at the ‘roundabout to nowhere’ above Port Vendres was coined “The Enchanted Valley” by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife Margaret who considered this valley as their favourite walk in the late 1920s when they lived in Port Vendres.

On leaving the house, cross the Place de l’Obelisque to rue de Pams and then take the first ramp of steps on the right up to the second street turning left on to Rue Louis Blanc to the Place Belieu and then follow the street Rue Pasteur down the hill and up the other side to the cross roads where take a left into Rue Camille Pelletan which very soon opens on to the square where, save for the ubiquitous motor car, life continues as it did 100 years ago, where petanque dominates watched by old and young as the chink of metal boules scatter grit and opponents balls to the cheers of supporters. Move away from this parochial French obsession by taking the first road on the right rue Parquebots where in 100 metres an ancient relic of a cobbled path leads to the left and up to a sharp bend in the road. Immediately in front a survivor of the Belle Epoch majestically stands high above with its architectural ornaments surprisingly intact considering the grim times it must have witnessed during 1944 when all around was blitzed as the retreating German army covered its tracks. Turning left out of the cobbled path the narrow road bends and drops down past a hotel trying to make a living on the right and the sleepy railway station serves commuters at the ends of the day.

Continue straight ahead into the Rue Val de Pintes, where the rural aspects of this walk really begin. Depending on the time of the year and recent rainfall, a dry ditch is to the right and it is difficult to imagine in times of serious inundation, how and where the flood waters rush to beneath the hotel that sits upon the tunnel. Follow this road past the recreation park on the left and then where a fork in the road appears, proceed left under the railway and then as the land begins to rise a choice of track once more appears and once again take the left one. To the left at this point a barrage across the ditch at certain times of the year holds a full reservoir of water but in summer it is a verdant ecological site teeming with life dependant on its boggy terrain. For the next  $\frac{3}{4}$  km the track steadily rises and the full impact of nature’s realm becomes apparent as every conceivable moth and butterfly species from blue to swallow tail flit freely in abundance. Not only Lepidoptera but grass hoppers, mantis, damsel and dragonflies of all colours dart from side to side of this neglected and tranquil track whose only traffic apart from this insect world seems to be occasional vigneron’s wagons bearing tons of grapes during the vendange. The verges are rich with wild flowers and herbs of all varieties whilst greenfinches and warblers sing in the pine trees to complement this haven of unspoilt Cote Vermeille hinterland. As the track rises it parallels the main N114 running almost inaudibly on a raised bank some meters above until a hairpin bend in our track tears off to the left

and rapidly climbs to immediately beneath the main road passing through a corrugated tunnel to the other side where a sharp right turn is taken and once again walk parallel to the main road but this time the road gradually rises higher than the speeding traffic.

As this track rises the climb becomes quite steep and the road quality rather dubious but follow it until it passes across the mouth of the tunnel of Raixat and where the tarmac is completely replaced by chippings, ravines and stones, take the left track and climb steadily winding steeply with a cork oak wood on the left. The map shows this to be a “Road not regularly maintained” which is no over-statement and is certainly not the route one should take the Rolls-Royce for a Sunday outing but have courage; it does get better – for a short while before deteriorating again!

As the steep incline levels at the top of the Coll d'en Raixat, walk a few metres to the right to the road junction and fabulous views can be seen over Collioure and the Plain of Roussillon to the North and back down the Val de Pintes. Close in front to the North East Fort Dugommier rises high with Fort St Elme beyond whilst the two tours of Massane and Madeloc, crown the ridges high above to the North West and South West respectfully.



Val de Pintes & hinterland behind Port Vendres from the top of the Val

Turn back to where the already walked track joins a rocky track and then walk straight along this right fork “Randonnee No. 6” that follows the contours around the mountain in a slight but easy rise, passing a memorial to a brave young fireman who lost his life at this spot whilst fighting mountain fires in 1976. Soon after this shrine the track turns to the right and at about 250m from sea level suddenly Tour de Madeloc looms high on the skyline as a menacing reminder of historic need for

beacons and look-outs. Beneath the tour sits one of the many garrison posts, whilst further round to the south the vast sienna coloured Batterie de la Galline stands out on a ridge. These fortifications were built predominantly by the genius military engineer Vauban during stressful relationships between the French and Spanish which were further complicated by nationalistic uprisings by Catalans. The whole scene would be an appropriate backcloth setting for a 19<sup>th</sup> century opera. It is difficult to imagine more beautiful panoramic views than these and as we walked this way during a bright and hot September afternoon, not a car passed us and our most persistent companion was a brightly coloured red-brown kestrel that hovered close-by as if not to miss the opportunity of the potential for a good feed should one of us not make it!

Very shortly the track drops down to the D86a where the route turns left on to tarmac again and gently rises between cork oaks and newly planted olive trees for a short distance where an alternative way looms. It is possible to take a foot path that drops to a few metres lower than the road but continues parallel to it but its track is rough and exposed and at times of strong wind, it is suggested the higher metalled D86a is safer as it winds along the southern edge of the Val de Pintes. After about 2km, the road reaches a sharp turn to the left at the head of a V shaped valley “Coll de Perdiguier” and at this point the Randonnee is signed off to the right but our path follows a small and insignificant rough footpath to the left in the sharp bend of the road. Follow this narrow path down and soon it turns into a charming unspoilt ancient track between vines on the left and garrigue to the right and is edged with numerous species of wild flowers. At the bottom of the hill, the path takes a sudden turn to the right and joins a modern but quiet road that rises to the new housing development to the right. Take this incline to the first corner where the path takes off to the left and drops down to the busy N114 where a right turn takes the walk to the road junction by Le Cedre Hotel and then a left winds down into Port Vendres along the harbour and back to home.







Map of Walk : "Vall de Pintès" or "The Mackintosh's Enchanted Valley"



## **Walk : Batterie de la Galline**

**14.5km (9m) – 4 hours**

This walk walks over the hills to the charming quiet hamlet of Cosprons, then to the hamlet of La Guinelle and further up to the Batterie de la Galline built in 1885-6 and sitting at a height of 260 metres it give spectacular views and to reach is a journey of perfect natural ecology throughout its distance. The going is steady and uphill in places but at no time is it dangerous, difficult or particularly strenuous for walking. We did this walk for the first time in March and the wild Spring colours were wonderful with mimosa, periwinkle, lavender, heathers, marigolds, gorse and magenta & pink coloured wild pea being ever abundant and being frequented by every species of butterfly from swallowtails to wood browns to Cleopatras to green hairstreaks. All about us were many species of birds of which the warblers, redstarts and finches and kestrels were the commonest. We twice saw the ridiculous displays of cock golden pheasants as they swore at us and scuttled away from their hiding as we approached.

Leave the house and drop down to the harbour edge following it to the steps by Ernest's Pizzas and up to the small leisure park, Place Castellane, where the bronze statue portraying two young lovers from Port Vendres 'Fenouil et Fenouille' embracing. Cross to the back and up the short street rue des Paquebots to the ancient steps that lead away to the left and then left at the top and proceed past the station and along the first stretch of the Val de Pinte road. As the leisure park on the left is approached, there is a small tunnel under the railway line on the left and although it does not look particularly inviting,, there is a pavement of sorts on the right and emerging the other end immediately turn left up a rocky track adjacent to the railway line and looking down on Port Vendres station. This easy track continues for a few hundred metres and emerges on to a wider cart track where another left turn is taken leading to the busy roundabout on the N914 (sometimes called the RN114). At this point cross the road, keeping to the left and go under the bridge that spans the left limb of the roundabout, ignore the cul de sac and then proceed around to the right where the new road goes up to a modern housing estate. After about 100 metres there is a yellow sign on the other side of the road which points to Rondonnees 6 & 8. Follow the path up for No 8. This footpath steadily climbs up the hillside between dry stone walls and already there is a plethora of wild flowers and herbal aromas of fennel, mint and marjoram in the summer and heather, lavender and rosemary in the Spring with an abundance of yellow gorse and Mimosa. The path seems to move as grasshoppers jump about around the feet. At the top of this moderately steep climb, cross over the D86a and proceed into the vineyards with vines either side of this charming walk which gives views over to the final peaks of France with Cosprons nestling in the valley.



Cosprons

As the track turns sharply to the right continue along it, ignoring the one it crosses and it descends into a small valley running parallel to an “not regularly maintained” road which the path then joins as it peters out. At this point continue slightly to the left down a narrow path and head to the left of the Cosprons water tower that looms in front. Cross the lane keeping to the right where immediately the narrow path continues down to the ditch and passes the water tower, emerging in the hamlet where the chapel of yellow orange stone and low single belfry brings immediate charm to this prosperous little community.

As the route de la Chapelle joins the D86a running through the village, turn right and down the hill to the outskirts of Cosprons. At this point the mountains tower above and with no effort at all it is possible to see 5 military installations at once: la Batterie 500, Tour de Madeloc, les Casurnes du Centre, la Batterie de Taillefer and in the eminent central position and closest is the target of this trip, La Batterie de la Galline. At this point take the right fork in the road, (also signed to the Vinaigrerie de Guineille), which runs parallel to a verdant and V shaped valley and along its route are ancient gnarled vines (‘vielles vignes’) seemingly to overflow the road; follow it to a bend which at this point crosses the brook Cosprons. Immediately take the right fork (the left is signed to the vinaigrerie again) and start climbing the narrow cork oak wooded slope and although this is still a road for traffic, it is very quiet and only travelled by local residents. With Mother Nature proudly showing off her colours all around, the road steadily climbs to the seemingly forgotten and charming hamlet of La Guineille at 103m. Beyond this collection of houses and their well-kept gardens, the metalled surface stops and a track continues. It is rugged but not difficult and the gradient not severe as lavender and wild sweet pea predominate this open slope.





La Galline is ever dominant on this climb and towards the top at each hairpin bend, the question is asked; "Is it not around this next corner?" The views from this track are magnificent as far as the coast out to Cap Bear with its lighthouse, the three beaches at Paulliles and Cap d'Ullastrell are all clearly visible whilst further round to the South-East Banyuls sur Mer comes into view with the Laboratoire Arago, (Paris University Marine Biology department's large aquarium) is clearly visible at the far end of the promenade. The mountainside here is deeply hewn by steep ravines which at their base have raging torrents in winter but double as dried ditches during the arid summer months; this is particularly true of the valley of the Callels which joins the Cosprons at Cosprons.

Batterie de la Galline is a paradox of construction for on the gate posts of its very impressive drawbridge entry it display built between 1885-6; but why? Was it a training ground for French sappers during a boring piece of peacetime, or was there another purpose? Considering it is constructed from sever well hewn rock and built in a strong military manner in a commanding position, it is very extraordinarily intimidating and would have been difficult to breach by any army stupid enough to climb this monstrous hill. The Batterie itself is not open to the public but the views from here in all directions are stunning. There is a tantalising suggestion that Tour de Madeloc is not far away and no more difficult a climb than the current one, but it is suggested this extension be the topic for another much longer day out or left to mountain goats.

From this point, the walk retraces the steps already taken but with such panoramic view of the world from above, the return journey offers as much pleasure as the ascent. Return to Guineille and Cosprons and pass the route de la Chapelle on the left continuing through the village along the D86a for about 1km, where there is a choice of left or right footpaths on each side of the road. The one to the right drops down to the river bed of the river Cosprons but the one on the left is the one to take. It can be a bit tricky keeping to the correct track here, which drops down a gully. In about 100m take a sharp turning right into the vineyards and then the ruin of Mas Escoubeyrou comes into view where only 3 walls still remain as a tribute to something previously majestic. Keep to the right above this old ruin, cross through a gap in a wall to the left, dropping down to the Ruma brook; cross this and then on the other side keep to the right following the edge of the stream along the edge of the vineyard to the corner where another

torrent joins. (These deep ravines in summer months form the track of the walk but in winter they are full of water)! Here, turn sharp left and follow upstream for about 25 metres, and then sharp left again for about 5 metres where a wooden plank crosses the third stream course.



Batterie de la Galline

From this point on, it becomes quite straight-forward as the path becomes grassy passing through 2 to 3 metre high heather shrubs, which in Spring bear heads of many tiny white flowers. As the edge of vineyard field is reached, turn right for 5 metres then a deep gully opens up which is the path up the hill. (Do not be surprised if a cock golden pheasant leaps out of the shrubs here). Exercise discretion throughout the route of this upward track for at times passage is not good and keeping to the left edging wall top is more advised. Very soon a white cottage appears on the left as the path crosses a country lane, (once the other side the path is more settled and easier to follow). A glance to the right gives sight of a bend on the N114 at Paulilles about 100 metres away. Climb steadily up the hill through the pine woods that gradually thicken all around to the brow of the hill where just before the D86a take a rough bridle track to the right and then if the middle lane is followed, an orientation point is found.

Return to the path and cross the D86a and proceed down the other side with high views of Port Vendres between the pine trees. This narrow rocky path drops down on the edge of a new housing estate but to the right, the unspoilt pine wood and vegetation has probably not changed for hundreds of years. Just as the houses on the left are being left behind there are two options; to take a short path up to the left which opens on to the access road to the previously mentioned housing estate, which drops down to the roundabout on the N114 from where retracing via the edge of the railway line can be taken. Alternatively, continue straight down, ignoring the yellow cross on the rock and this lovely length of a couple hundred metres of path are much more pleasant but be careful at the bottom dropping into the ditch



immediately before the road. Climb up over the concrete barrier and turn right with caution, keeping close to the barrier on this busy stretch of road but it is only about 100 metres. When traffic permits, cross over the road and at the corner of the next junction, opposite the Hotel Le Cedre, follow the road down into the village to the next cross roads, take a left turn and then the steps down on the right. Cross over the main road and down the next flight of steps to the harbour, which can be followed back to home.



Batterie de la Galline nestling beneath Tour de Madeloc with Cosprons in foreground





Walk – Port Vendres to Batterie La Galline and back