

## Security informations

### Weather conditions

Website : [www.meteo.nc](http://www.meteo.nc) – Voice assistant : 36 67 36

Weather forecast by fax : 36 67 37

### In case of accident

- **Keep your calm**, don't panic.
- **Protect** : prevent any secondary accident ; take the group and the victim to safety.
- **Alert** : evaluate the situation. Describe the place : name of the path, nature of the ground (ridge, valley, undergrowth,...), number of the last seen milestone (paths and helipads are equipped with numbered milestones), hiking direction and, if possible, GPS coordinates. Wait for the instructions given by the rescue service.
- **Rescue** : provide first aid. In case of helicopter evacuation, make yourself visible.

### Useful numbers (free)

**15** SAMU (médical help) – **16** Maritime rescue service

**17** Police – **18** Accident of fire

**112** SOS all services

### Opening hours Deva natural area

- From 6:30 am to 7:30 pm

### Opening hours Deva information point

- From monday to sunday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

The access to the trails is free and unsupervised. Users hike them on their own responsibility or that of their legal guardian, for minors. You are about to walk on a multidisciplinary path, so please observe the rules of courtesy.



Photo J.-F. Clair

## FFRandonnée® route categories

**GR** Long-distance linear hiking trails, crossing different regions, over several days. Marked by two overlaid red and white rectangles.

**PR** One-day (at the most) strolling and hiking trails. Marked by a yellow rectangle.

Markup

PR



Right direction



Turn left



Turn right



Wrong direction

## Forest of the Origins trail

This path goes through areas, whose history goes back to nearly three millennia. These are the lands of the customary chieftainships and clans of the Ara and Arô countries. Here fought the peoples of Ara, Gô Arô, Nékou, Néra, Nécaju and Sarua fought against the French Army.



**Location** : Bourail, 165km/102miles from Nouméa (2-hour drive), via the territorial road RT 1. After the bridge on the Nera river, head to « Roche Percée » (« pierced stone »). At the first fork, take a right towards « Domaine de Deva » (Deva natural area). At the next intersection (Gouaro), turn left and drive to the entrance of the site, which is on your right.

**Car park** : au niveau du premier rond-point (toilettes, table, eau)

**Duration** : 3 h

**Length** : 6,7 km / 4 miles(loop)

**Elevation gain +** : 29 m / 95 ft. **Elevation gain -** : 29 m / 95 ft

**Min. Altitude** : 1 m / 3 ft **Max. Altitude** : 6 m / 19 ft

**Rating** : **ibp** index 19 Easy • Technicity 1 Easy • Risk 1 Low

**Difficulties** : none. Carefully follow the marking and the indications, since you could easily get lost, once under vegetation in flat terrain.

**Water point** : at the car park

**GPS coordinates** : **UTM/WGS 84**

### Websites

[www.deva.nc](http://www.deva.nc)

[www.destinationprovincesud.nc](http://www.destinationprovincesud.nc)

### Further informations

**Deva information point**– Tél. 46 57 56

Email : [maisondeva@deva.nc](mailto:maisondeva@deva.nc)

**SEM Mwe Ara** – Tél. 46 22 28

**Bourail Tourist office**– Tél. 46 46 12

Email : [info@bourailtourisme.nc](mailto:info@bourailtourisme.nc)

**Southern Province Departement of culture, youth and sport** :

Tél. 20 48 50

Email : [dcjs.contact@province-sud.nc](mailto:dcjs.contact@province-sud.nc)



ExploreNC-Pix Graphique / Parenthèses - octobre 2021

Photo J.-F. Clair



PR

# FOREST OF THE ORIGINS Trail



HIKING GUIDE





**6** « Lagon et herbiers » et « L'arbre à virgules » signpost (« lagoon and Herbaria » and « Decimal point tree ») (GPS : 536 294 - 7 611 968) (location map) : keep walking westward till you get to the locality named « The Fault » (« La Faille »).

**7** « La Faille vue du ciel » signpost (« The fault seen from the sky ») (GPS : 535 414 - 7 612 131) : at this point, the track branches off to the northeast and then, finally, to the west

**8** Crossroads (GPS : 536 133 - 7 612 364) (signpost ; the track going to the left connects to the « Sentier des Géants »-« Trail of the Giants », by means of a footbridge over the No Bouaou river) : go straight ahead. Pass the « Arbre à bulimes » signpost (« Bulime Tree »). The path meanders in the dry forest, following the No Bouaou from afar off (left bank), going eastward.

**9** « Le Bourao » signpost (GPS : 536 980 - 7 612 372) : keep on walking to the northeast after a right curve, and reach the crossroads you crossed on your way in. Take a left and get back to the car park, using the same track (point 2, point 1).



Photo J.-F. Clair

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

**D** Start (GPS : 536 935 - 7 613 252) (information sign) : walk south amongst the scarce niaoulis. The track gradually inclines towards southeast, leading to a crossroads.

**1** Intersection (GPS : 536 982 - 7 612 998) (signpost; location map ; the track that goes straight south is a link to the « Sentier des Géants » (« Trail of the Giants ») and the « Faille de l'îlot Shark » (« Shark Island Fault ») : take a right to the east. The path goes along the humid and wooded flow of No Poradéno (do not enter if flooded). It crosses some muddy areas thanks to three successive deckings, and then heads back south (the vegetation thins out). At an inconspicuous junction, keep going straight on a path that leads to a clearing. At the southern end of this glade, the track curves to the left toward east and reaches a small woodland. It goes through a swampy area and then across a culvert, before bending southwards again.

**2** « Sur les traces du passé » signpost (« tracking down the past ») (GPS : 537 135 - 7 612 463) : after a short distance toward southwest, the track curves southeastwards and gradually slides westwards, leading to a crossroads (GPS : 537 087 - 7 612 353) in an open field (signpost ; location map ; the trail on your right is the return path). Turn left toward southwest.

**3** « Sur les traces du passé » signpost (GPS : 536 969 - 7 612 268) : the path goes south (it enters areas where various archaeological excavations have been done since 2006).

**4** « Sur les traces du passé » signpost (GPS : 536 978 - 7 612 253) : keep on hiking south to the gleaming beach.

**5** Seaside (GPS : 536 785 - 7 611 819) : the path stretches westward alongside the lagoon

## THE ROUTES OF THIS SITE'S HISTORY

The archaeological inventories carried out on the provincial natural area of Deva identified dozens of sites, which date from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century. They are mainly characterized by the presence of raised mounds (on which huts had been built), sometimes comprising a surrounding wall, a stone threshold and some tiles, defining the former hearth.

On the ground, abandoned waste left by the past occupants can be seen : remains of food (shells, fishbones), fragments of pottery, adzes or stone chips. Ancient kanak habitats were located in several geographic zones of the Deva natural area. Most of them were situated above flood level, overhanging the creeks. Others were built on ridgelines, near water sources and horticulture crops, which were the inhabitants' main food.

Sources : Christophe Sand.