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NEPTUNE Blue paths

The wreck of l'Arroyo



**Attention
FRAGILE**



**SPAMI
species**



Diving



**Cultural and
natural**



**Highly
frequented**

Géographical location

France, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, La Seyne-sur-Mer, Var

Name of conservation area (or protected area)

The Arroyo site is located in the Natura 2000 area Embiez-Cap Sicié (fully marine area)

Degree of environmental protection

No restrictive regulatory protections

Diving site name

Arroyo wreck (and Arroyo gardens nearby)

Geographic coordinates (reference system)

LAT 54°02'54" N

LONG 5°52'11" O

Reference system WGS84

LOCATION



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Type of access to the diving site

Site accessible by boat

Site characteristics

Maximum depth

20m / 36m

Difficulty

Medium (levels 2/3)



Cultural and natural

Information from the managing organisation

The wreck of the Arroyo is a renowned dive site, due to its heritage interest and its relatively easy accessibility, which attracts many divers. However, there is no precise estimation of the frequency of dives on site.



INFORMATION



Authorisation not required



Diving



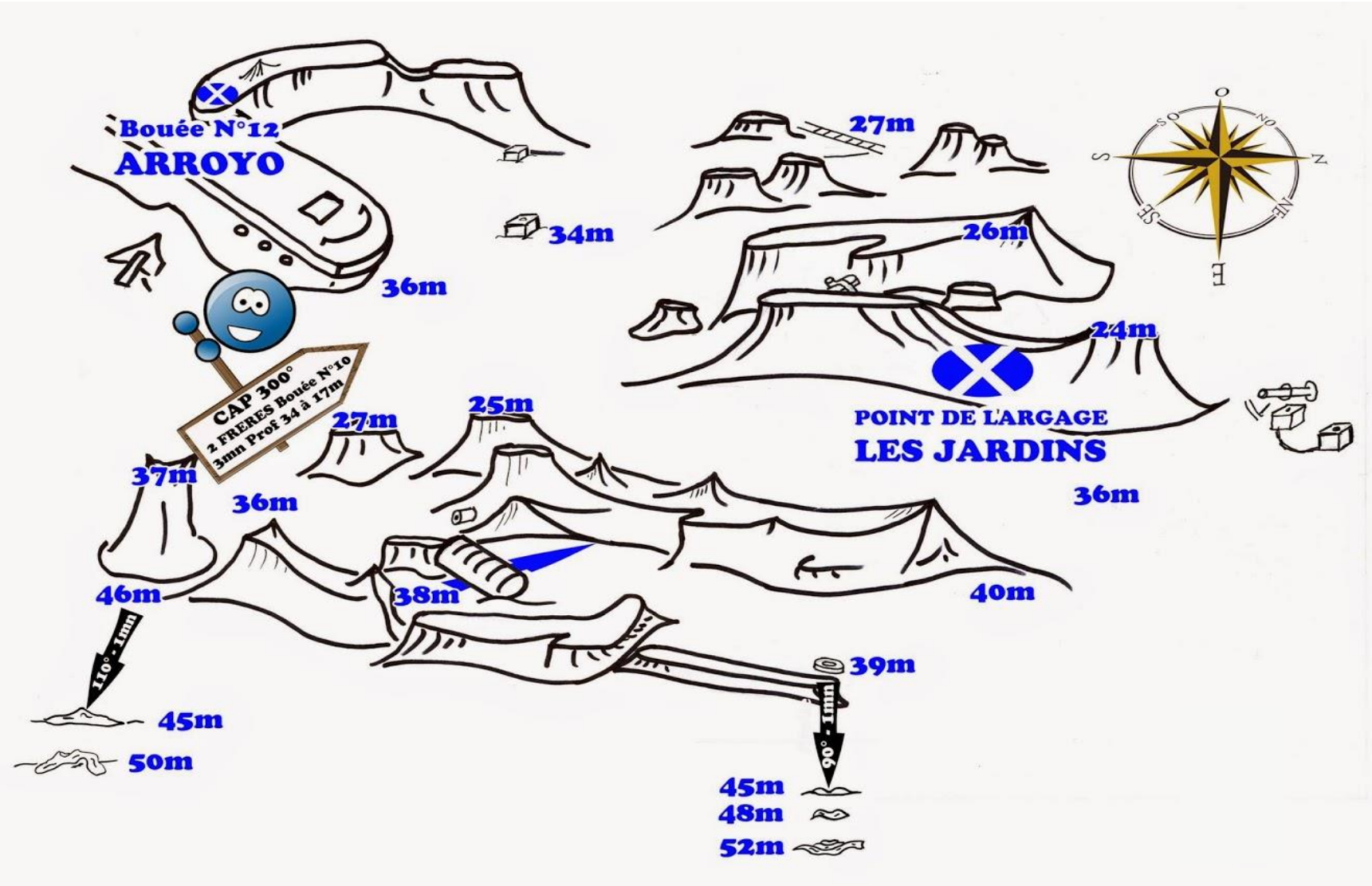
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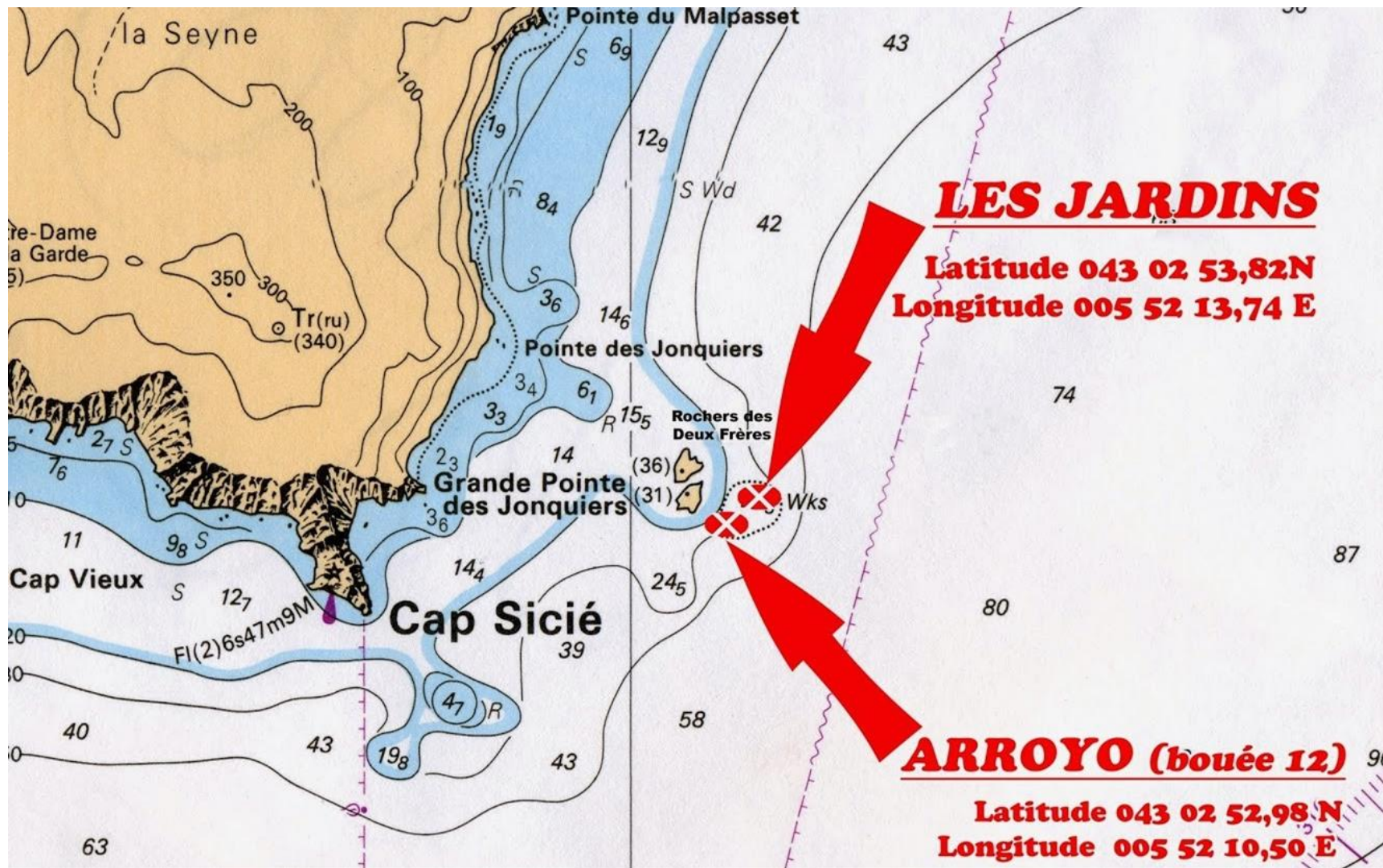
PATH MAP



Attention FRAGILE



SPAMI species



PATH MAP



Attention FRAGILE



SPAMI species

Description of the site of natural interest

The underwater landscapes around the islets of Les Deux Frères present a remarkable architectural diversity: to the southeast, a wide rocky plateau, colonized by erect species of coralligen (large sponges, forest of orange gorgonians and white gorgonians) ends with a sub-vertical drop- This site has a great diversity of habitats (herbarium with *Posidonia oceanica*, rocky drop-offs, semi-obscure caves, coralligenous habitats) sheltering determinant and remarkable species (*Pinna nobilis*, *Corallium rubrum*, *Scyllarides latus*, large gorgonaires) as well as a rich ichthyofauna. The local conditions, strong offshore swell, constantly renewed water, allow a good quality of the seabed and a good biodiversity of the fixed fauna and the fish stands.

The ecological interest of the wreck mainly lies in the relatively well-developed stands of Red Gorgons. They are particularly present on the stern, the dunette, the capstan and the mooring bits. The hole in the chimney hides congres. The wreck is also a landmark for capons and octopus. Sars and castagnoles gather in vast banks around the wreck.

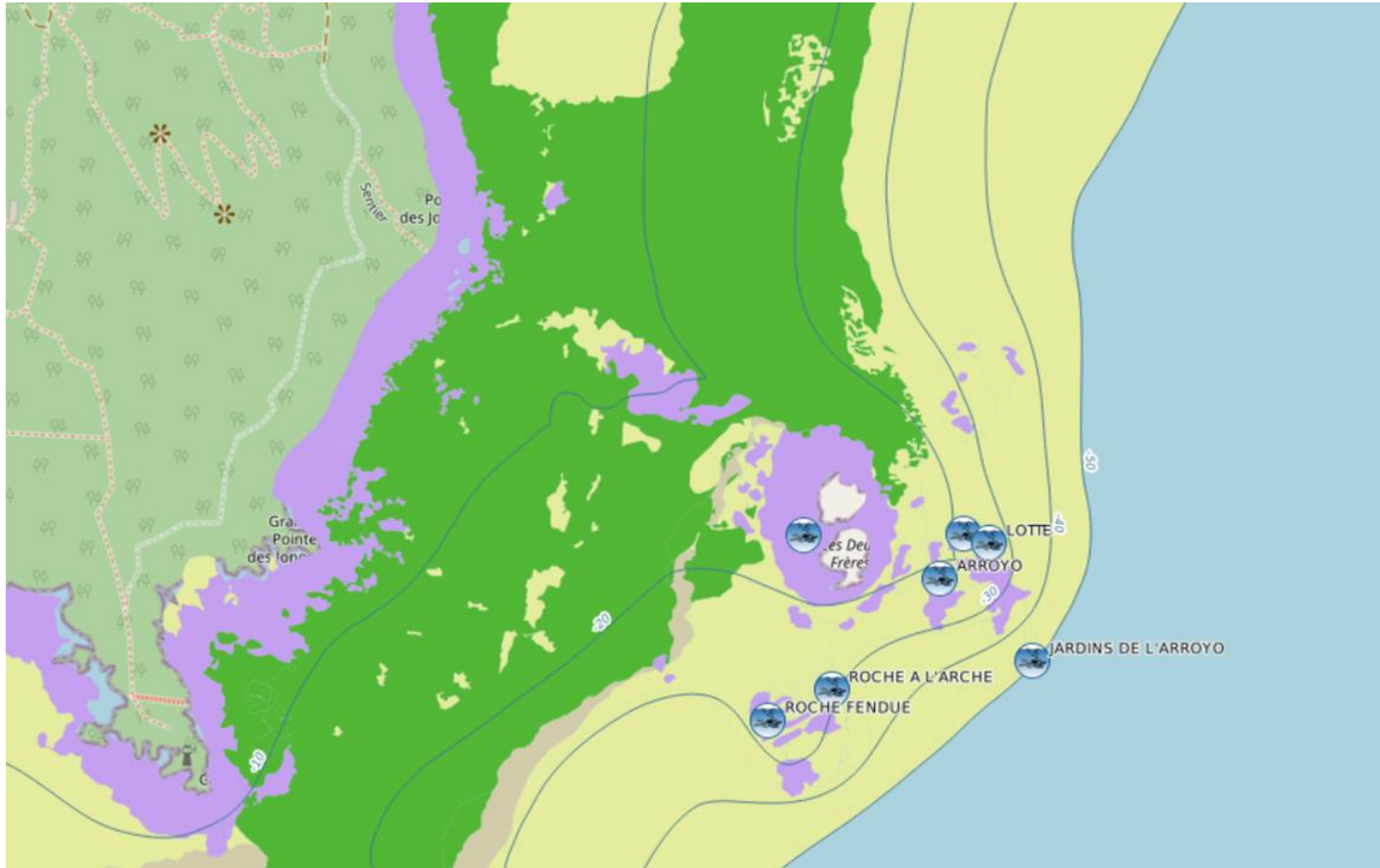
A number of remarkable species can be seen in the site and its rich surroundings, such as brown grouper, corbs ... dolphins regularly cross in the area as well (bottlenose dolphins, blue and white dolphins)



NATURAL

Main espèces list

- *Posidonia Oceanica*
- *Corallium rubrum*
- *Pramuricea clavata* (gorgone rouge)
- *Eunicella cavalinii* (gorgone jaune)
- *Epinephelus marginatus*
- *Sciaenna umbra*
- *Tursiops truncatus*
- *Stenela coeruleoalba*



Habitat Map (GIS)



NATURAL

Area of main habitats (within a 100m radius of the site)

- Posidonia oceanica ----
- Infra-coastal rocks and coralligenous biocenosis ----
- Coastal mobile and detritic funds ----



NATURAL

Environmental heritage photos

Brown grouper (Copyright: Nicolas BARRAQUE – Turtle Prod)



Red gorgon and diver (copyright: Nicloas BARRAQUE – Turtle Prod)



Castagloles (Copyright : Nicolas BARRAQUE – Turtle Prod)



Orange gorgons (Copyright: Nicolas BARRAQUE – Turtle Prod)

Description of the site of cultural interest

The Arroyo was launched in 1921. Equipped with tankers, its mission was to distribute drinking water to other boats and troops of the French army. It was 55 meters long and weighed 682 tons. Its engine had a power of 875 hp. The Arroyo was used in Indochina until 1953, then repatriated to Toulon. The French Navy then decided to sink it for the G.E.R.S (Underwater Study and Research Group), in order to serve as a training site for combat divers. On August 18, 1953, she was towed near the islet of Les Deux Frères. It is Commander Philippe Taillez, at the origin of the creation of the G.E.R.S and pioneer of scuba diving in autonomous scuba suits (with his comrades Frédéric Dumas and Jacques-Yves Cousteau) who directed the operation.

Sixty kilos of dynamite were placed in two spots: 20 kg for the tanks and 40 kg in the engine room. The deflagration destroyed a part of the hull. The ship did not sink to the intended point. A slight current deported it, and the bow smashed on a rocky pit.

This wreck lies 36 meters deep. It broke into two parts on a rock. You can go from one side to the other under the break. The wreck rises to a depth of about twenty meters.

CULTURAL



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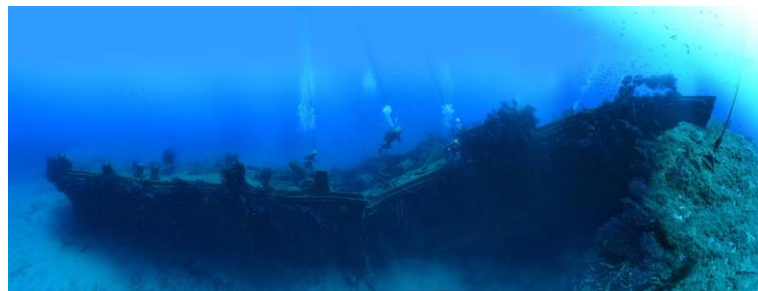
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Many passage allows divers to access the bowels of the Arroyo (Copyright: Nicolas BARRAQUE – Turtle Prod)



L'Arroyo – Sur le Pont (Copyright : Nicolas BARRAQUE – Turtle Prod)



The Arroyo is divided into 2 pieces (Copyright: Nicolas BARRAQUE – Turtle Prod)



The Arroyo lies 36 meters on a sandy background (Copyright: Nicolas BARRAQUE – Turtle Prod)

CULTURAL

Cultural heritage photos