

Start: Prelles' bridge under the national road







Durance P4 Embarquement (Claude Margaux)

Useful information

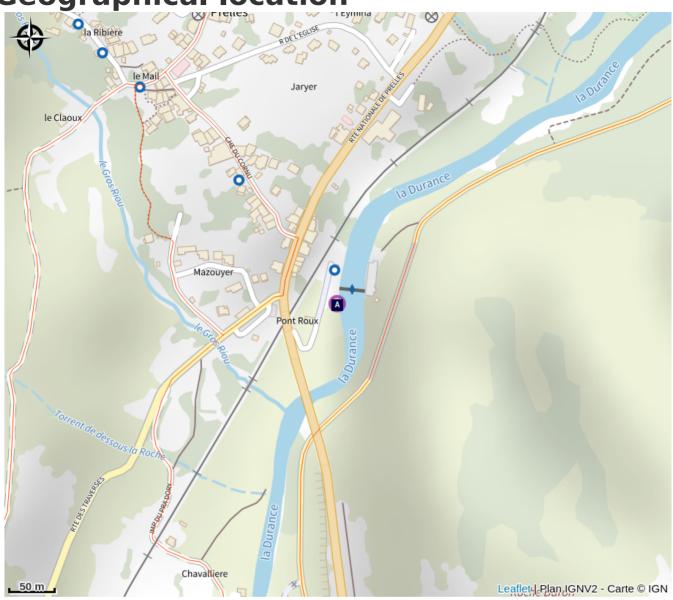
Practice : Canoe-kayak

Type : Départ (embarquement)

Description

Embark under the bridge of the national road, following the "eau-vive" (white water) signs. A staircase allows to get down to the river and check water levels.

Geographical location



- The quartzite and the ripple marks (A)
- The larch, a tree unlike any other (C)
- The chapel of Saint-Jacques-de-Prelles (E)
- High-mountain farming (B)
- Eco-construction (D)

All useful information

Source



On your path...



The quartzite and the ripple marks (A)

The rock through which the tunnel has been cut is a quartzite, a metamorphic, siliceous rock which is very hard and formed by grains of quartz welded together. It originates from sand deposited 230 million years ago in the still-shallow waters of the nascent Alpine ocean, and brought here by the erosion of the surrounding topography. In places, undulations can be seen on the tunnel wall: these are ripple marks, "fossilised" creased created by water flowing over the sand.

Attribution : Jean-Pierre Nicollet - Parc national des Écrins



☐ High-mountain farming (B)

The mountains are areas naturally used for agriculture. These agricultural practices have been carefully thought-out in order to protect the environment. Agri-environmental measures have been introduced. They are designed to encourage and remunerate volunteer users of mountain spaces in their actions to protect natural environments. These measures prevent overgrazing, the invasion of bushes and shrubs and the proliferation of invasive plants.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins



Name The larch, a tree unlike any other (C)

The symbol of the Southern Alps, this softwood tree loses its leaves in winter, and is swathed with gold and lights up the mountains in autumn. The larch forests are maintained by the grazing of flocks. Without them, other trees like the fir or other pine trees could grow, creating a different kind of forest. A pioneer species, the larch establishes freely in light conditions. Its solid rot-proof wood has always been used in the construction of houses.

Attribution : Hélène Quellier - Parc national des Écrins



Eco-construction (D)

On this path, you will pass by some eco-constructed cabins. One of them is made from larch, a wood that is naturally resistant to bad weather and insects and needs no previous treatment. The other is constructed according to the "post-beam" principle, which is reminiscent of half-timbered construction. This is characterised by an exposed supporting framework. The beams support the roof, and these beams are in turn are supported by the posts.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins



☐ The chapel of Saint-Jacques-de-Prelles (E)

The chapel of Saint-Jacques-de-Prelles was built in the Middle Ages, in 1502, on the ancient pilgrims' way from Italy to Santiago de Compostella. It is surmounted by an arcade bell tower, decorated at the top with blind arcades with pointed arches. A number of wall paintings depicting historical episodes adorn the interior of the chapel, likely dating from the fifteenth century. They were restored in 1955. This chapel was listed as a Historical Monument in 1906 and it contains objects also listed as Historical Monuments, such as the bell which dates from 1639 or the eighteenth century silver, gold and brass ciborium.

Attribution : Office de tourisme du Pays des Écrins