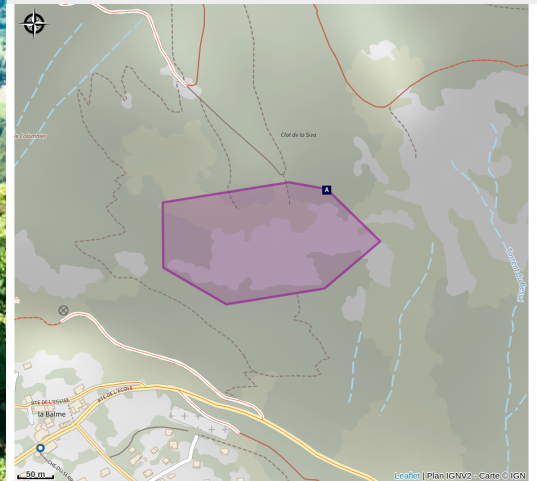


Via Ferrata des Vigneaux

Parc national des Ecrins



(Rogier Van Rijn)



At the entrance to the Vallouise Valley, a spectacular, airy and vertical cliff offering two via ferrata routes, with beautiful panoramic views over the Vallouise and Durance valleys.

This historic site, one of the first via ferrata sites in France, offers a challenging route reminiscent of the earliest via ferratas, with plenty of natural footholds and handholds on the rock. The breathtaking panorama accompanies you throughout the entire route, from the start to the summit.

Useful information

Practice : Via ferrata

Type : Falaise

Period : April to november

Orientation : ↓ S

Description

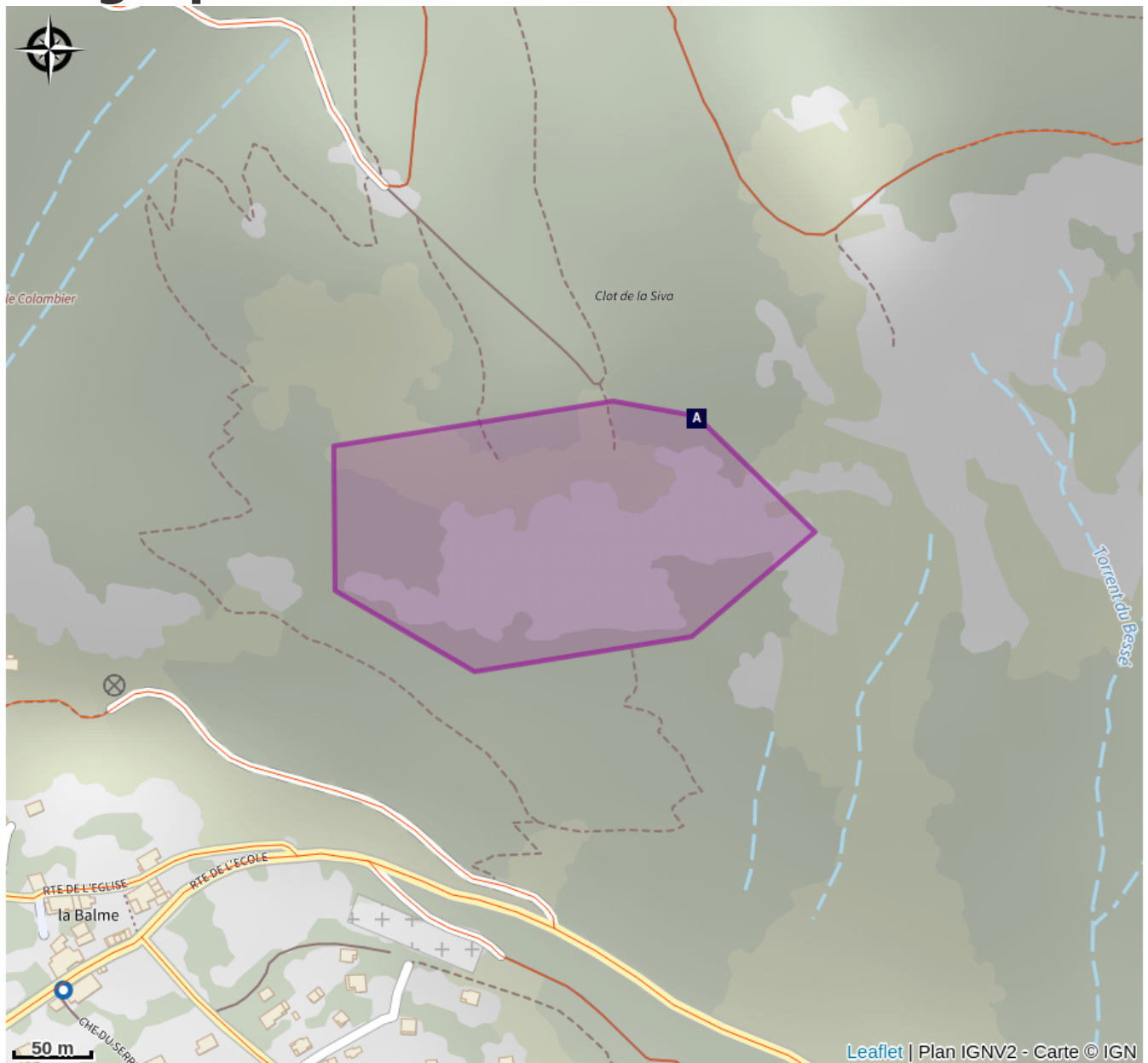
This site offers a traditional, old-school via ferrata experience, with plenty of contact with the rock, both for handholds and footholds. The cliff rises to an altitude of 1,500 m and is characterized by its impressive verticality.

The route is relatively lightly equipped, with just a few rungs and steps to help negotiate the most vertical sections. On the Colombier Via Ferrata, a beautiful ladder provides access to the final vertical wall.

The site is suitable for children aged 10-12 and over, depending on their via ferrata experience and comfort with exposure.

Access: The car park is located as you leave Les Vigneaux, on the Route des Traverses, on the left-hand side when heading towards Briançon. The trail starts behind the hut. Allow approximately 25 minutes.

Geographical location



-  The church in Les Vigneaux (A)
-  The view over the Montbrison massif (C)
-  The sundial (E)

-  The forest ungulates (B)
-  Images of the grapevine (D)

All useful information

Advices

This site faces south, so it is best tackled earlier in the day, avoiding the hottest hours of the afternoon.

Emergency number : 112

Transports :

Pubic transports >> <https://services-zou.maregionsud.fr/fr/>

Carpooling >> www.blablacar.fr

Information desks

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Source



Pays des Ecrins

<https://www.paysdesecrins.com>

On your path...



The church in Les Vigneaux (A)

The church of Saint-Laurent with its elegant porch dates from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. On its south wall there are frescoes depicting the vices, dragged towards hell by a demon, and their punishments. Enough to make you shudder! Its Lombard Romanesque bell tower has a very rare one-handed clock dating from the eighteenth century. It is one of the oldest working clocks of its type.

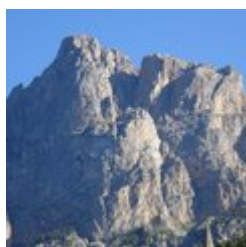
Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins



The forest ungulates (B)

Deer, including roe deer, chamois, and wild boar are found the forest. Their feet are hooved, made up of a horn-like material rather like human nails. They walk on the tips of some toes, the others being atrophied. This makes them more efficient runners. Deer don't have horns, but antlers which drop and regrow every year, and only in the males. Reminiscent of the shape of branches, these antlers are made from a bone-like material.

Attribution : Thibault Blais



The view over the Montbrison massif (C)

The path offers a beautiful overall view of the limestone massif of Montbrison, overlooking the hamlets of Pelvoux and including the Cime de la Condamine, the Tête des Lauzières, the Pic de Montbrison and the Tête d'Amont.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins



Images of the grapevine (D)

Les Vigneaux owes its name to the vine cultivation once plied on its hillsides. The grapevine is also depicted on the town's coat of arms, which has a vineplant, and also on the traditional houses with vine trellises. Houses with grape presses are also a reminder of the importance of the grapevine.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins



The sundial (E)

The sundial is an eighteenth-century tradition widespread across the Southern Alps where the sun is ever-present. Artisan sundial makers produced these sundials, which were added as a decoration to house fronts, religious buildings or, as here, a tower. The sayings inscribed on them make some of these artistic works philosophical as well as decorative.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins