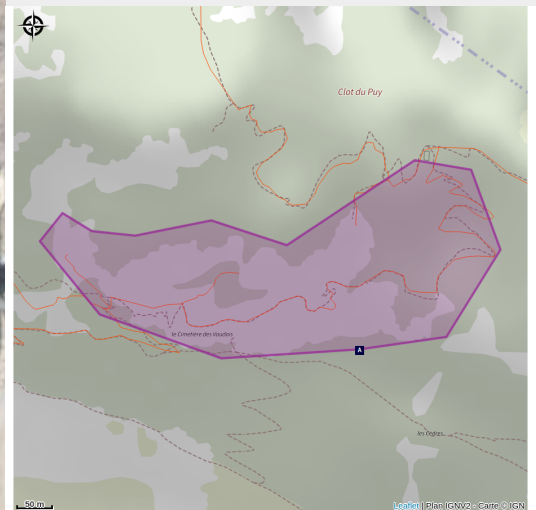


Freissinières : La Grande Falaise

Parc national des Écrins



Homme longeant une paroi rocheuse (© Pays des Écrins)



Ongoing fire - Area closed

France's first Via Ferrata, equipped in 1988, on a stunning cliff above the Freissinières valley.

This cliff overlooks the entire Freissinières valley, offering a beautiful view throughout the ascent. Very classic and very close to the rock, this historic site features two via ferratas with progressively increasing difficulty.

Useful information

Practice : Via ferrata

Type : Falaise

Period : April to november

Orientation : ↓ S

Description

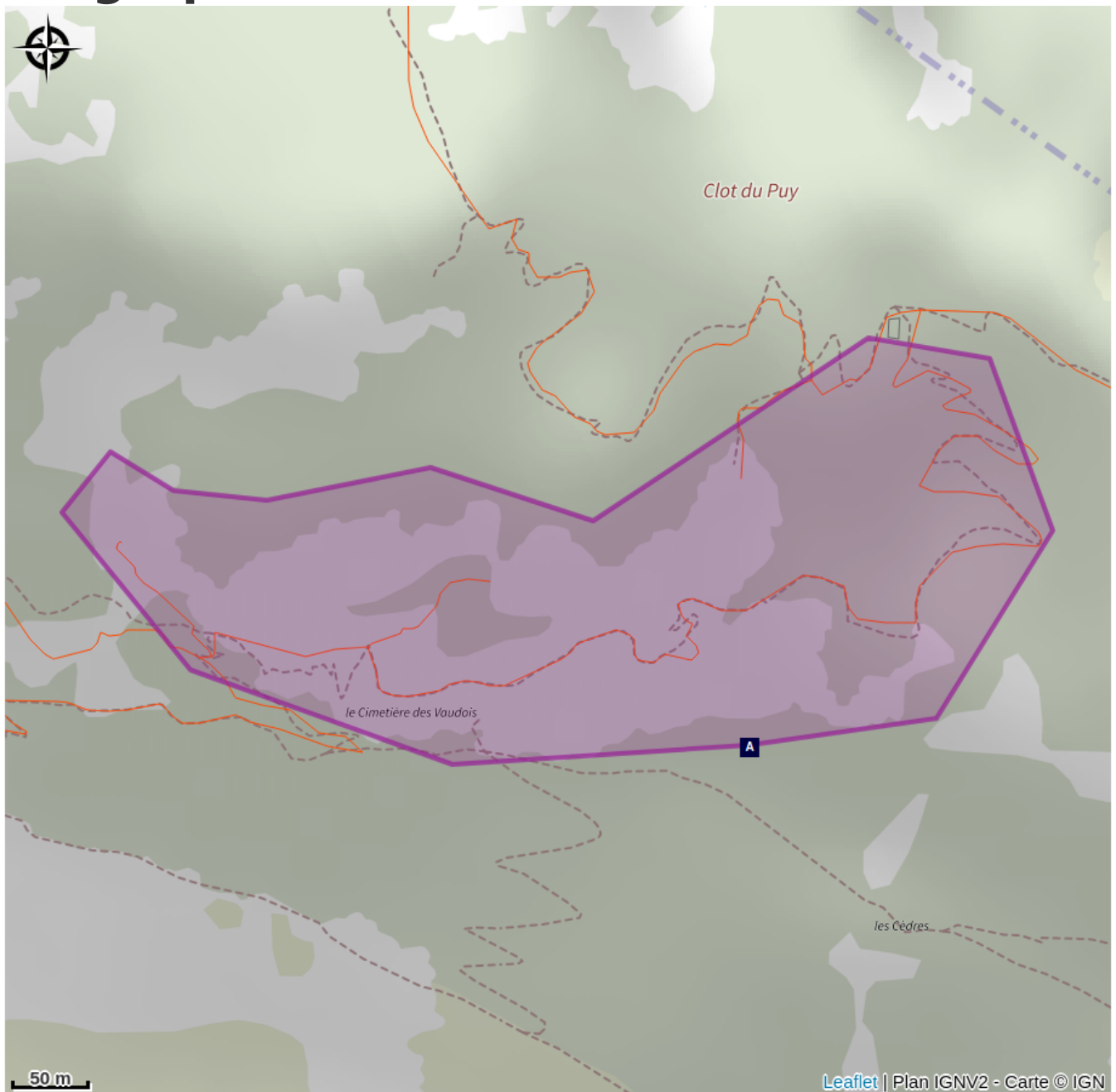
This via ferrata site runs along an entire cliff face, with minimal equipment—a sign of its age. There is frequent contact with the rock, and good footwear is essential as the rock is often polished.

Access: From the village of Freissinière, continue toward the Col d'Anon. Park in a hairpin bend on the left (signposted). Follow the well-marked trail to the start.

Return: 1 hour. Take the path that runs along the cliff.

- Start altitude: 1,400 m
- Top altitude: 1,600 m
- Elevation gain: 200 m
- Length: 1,000 m
- Exposed and airy route

Geographical location



The crag martin (A)



The Grotte des Vaudois - The
Waldensians' Cave (C)



The fire lily (B)

All useful information

AdVICES

Emergency number: 112

Transport:

Public transportation: ZOU! <https://services-zou.maregionsud.fr/fr/>

Consider carpooling: BlaBlaCar <http://www.blablacar.fr>

Information desks

Bureau d'Information Touristique de L'Argentière-La Bessée

23 Avenue de la République, 05120 L'Argentière-La Bessée

contact@paysdesecrins.com

Tel : +33(0)4 92 23 03 11

<https://www.paysdesecrins.com/>



Bureau d'Information Touristique de Vallouise

Place de l'Eglise, 05340 Vallouise

contact@paysdesecrins.com

Tel : +33(0)4 92 23 36 12

<https://www.paysdesecrins.com/>



Source



Pays des Ecrins

<https://www.paysdesecrins.com>

On your path...



The crag martin (A)

The birds that are constantly swooping around the cliff are crag martins. They are brown with a beige underside. They have built their nests under small overhangs. This species is very common in the Alps. Partially migratory, crag martins return to the Mediterranean coast in winter, where they join resident populations. So it is the first bird to reappear in the valleys of the Pays des Écrins in late February and the last to leave in October!

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins



The fire lily (B)

In June and early July, the rocks are brightened up here and there by large orange flowers: the fire lily is a splendid plant which grows in the mountains of Europe. It grows in rocky or bush-covered terrain and even - why not? - right on the cliff faces, in dry areas. It is a protected species.

Attribution : Marie-Geneviève Nicolas - Parc national des Écrins



The Grotte des Vaudois - The Waldensians' Cave (C)

The history of Freissinières is linked to that of the Waldensians, who found refuge in this valley and in other Alpine valleys in the thirteenth century. The followers of this religious movement - which later embraced the reformation - were deemed to be heretics and therefore persecuted. This cave, in which Waldensians sought refuge after being taken by surprise, witnessed massacres perpetrated by the Inquisition.

Attribution : Thierry Maillet - Parc national des Écrins