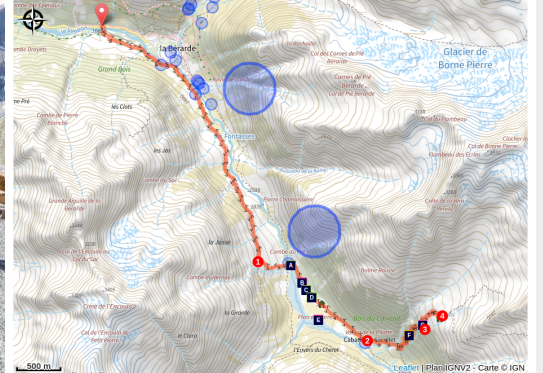


# The Refuge Temple Écrins

Parc national des Écrins



Refuge Temple Écrins (Thibaut Blais - Parc national des Écrins)



*This itinerary takes you to the Refuge Temple Écrins and offers a magnificent panoramic view over the legendary peaks of Les Écrins, a major mountaineering destination.*

An excursion with a near-Himalayan backdrop, which hugs the Vénon and climbs up through the pines to the Refuge Temple-Écrins, which stands at the foot of the Pilatte glacier.

## Useful information

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Practice : By walk

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Duration : 5 h

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Length : 15.6 km

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Trek ascent : 1023 m

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Difficulty : Hard

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Type : Return trip

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Themes : Flora, History and architecture, Hut

# Trek

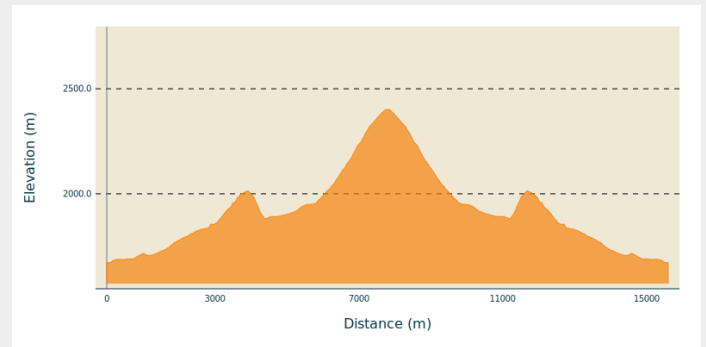
**Departure** : La Bélarde

**Arrival** : La Bélarde

**Markings** : — PR

**Cities** : 1. Saint-Christophe-en-Oisans

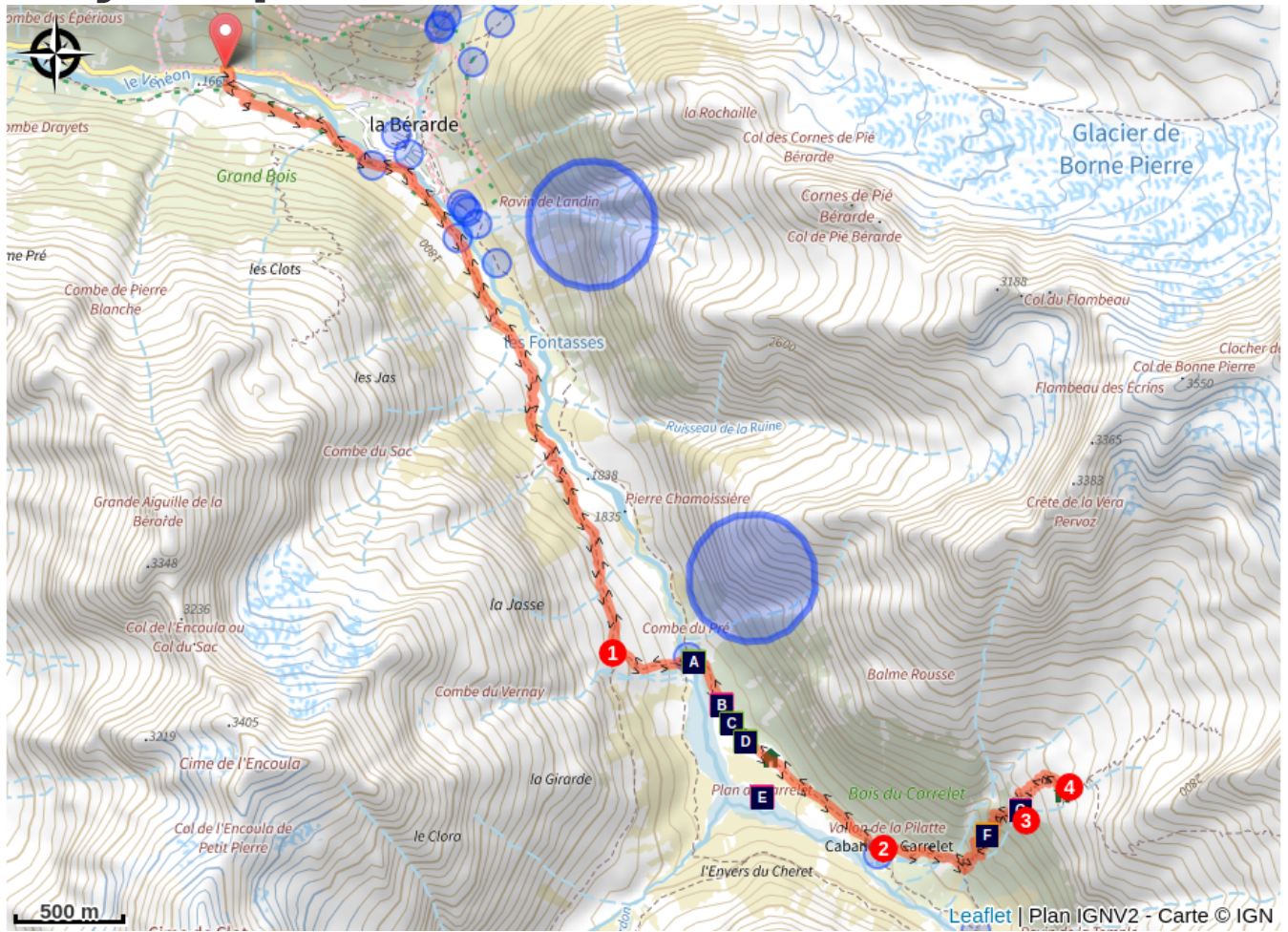
## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1672 m Max elevation 2402 m

1. From the FFCAM buildings and the Mountain Centre ("Maison de la Montagne"), join the path running along the Vénéon towards the Refuge de Temple-Écrins (sign). The path gradually rises along the left-hand bank of the Vénéon, running for 4 kilometres along the valley bottom.
2. Continue past the Refuge du Carrelet and after a short distance, turn left towards the Refuge de Temple-Écrins (sign). You rise steadily through the woods of Le Carrelet, with some large stone steps.
3. As you emerge from the forest onto grassy slopes, the landscape opens up before you and the refuge is just 15 minutes away.
4. To return, follow the outward route in reverse.

# On your path...



-  Large Blue Butterfly (A)
-  Mountain Pine pinewood (C)
-  Plan du Carrelet (E)
-  High altitude passages (G)
-  Conquest of the Ailefroide (B)
-  Mountain Pine (D)
-  Upkeep of the slopes and paths (F)

# All useful information



## Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.



## ⚠️ Advices

Une zone d'exclusion a été mise en place par arrêté municipal interdisant de pénétrer dans l'ancien hameau de la Bérarde. Celui est donc contourné de chaque côté et le départ s'effectue au niveau du pont de l'ancien camping.

Les chiens sont interdits en coeur de Parc national.

## How to come ?

### Transports

Grenoble bus station: +33 (0)4 76 87 90 31

Transisère: +33 (0)820 08 38 38 / <http://www.transisere.fr/>

Lines 3000 & 3030 run between Grenoble and Bourg d'Oisans. Then, line 3040 links Bourg d'Oisans and La Bérarde.

### Access

From Bourg d'Oisans or from La Grave, take the D1091 and then the D530 following signs to Vénosc. Continue straight on until you reach La Bérarde. During the winter, the road is closed to traffic between Champhorent and La Bérarde. The

hamlets of Les Étages and La Béarde are therefore cut off during this period, the duration of which varies according to snow conditions. To contact the Departmental Council: +33 (0)4 76 80 03 48.

### Advised parking

Car park in La Béarde

# Environmental sensitive areas

Along your trek, you will go through sensitive areas related to the presence of a specific species or environment. In these areas, an appropriate behaviour allows to contribute to their preservation. For detailed information, specific forms are accessible for each area.

## Golden eagle

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August

Contact: Parc National des Écrins  
Julien Charron  
julien.charron@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Nidification de l'Aigle royal

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec l'Aigle royal en période de nidification sont principalement le vol libre et les pratiques verticales ou en falaise, comme l'escalade ou l'alpinisme. Merci d'éviter cette zone !

Attention en zone cœur du Parc National des Écrins une réglementation spécifique aux sports de nature s'applique : <https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/thematique/sports-de-nature>

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## **Information desks**

### **Office de tourisme de Saint-Christophe-en-Oisans / La Bérarde**

infos@berarde.com

Tel : 04 76 80 50 01

<http://www.berarde.com/>



### **Oisans Park house**

45 avenue de la République, 38520 Le Bourg d'Oisans

oisans@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 76 80 03 25

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



## **Source**



Parc national des Ecrins

<https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr>

# On your path...

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## Large Blue Butterfly (A)

This butterfly with blue wings spotted with black frequents the mountain grasslands and entrusts the ants with rearing its caterpillars... It lays its eggs on the host plant, the Breckland Thyme, whose flower buds feed the caterpillar until it lets itself fall to the ground. The Fire Ants take over. They are attracted by the honeydew produced by the caterpillar and they transport it to their anthill to milk it. . The caterpillar becomes carnivorous and eats the young ant larvae without being disturbed. It hibernates until the Spring. When it reaches maturity, it creates a chrysalis in the anthill. The butterfly hatches and quickly goes out in to the open air to carry out the reproduction of the species.

Attribution : PNE - Nicollet Bernard

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## Conquest of the Ailefroide (B)

By its magnitude, its height, its steepness, the conquest of the North-West face of the Ailefroide (impressive view of the North-West face of the Ailefroide which dominates Carrelet plain at an altitude of 3954 m) it is comparable with the famous Northern face of the Grandes Jorasses by Devies. The first ascent carried out by the corded team Devies and Gervasutti on the 23rd and 24th July 1936. On the approach from the Temple-Ecrins refuge Gervasutti broke a rib which did not stop him from carrying out this prestigious first.

Attribution : PNE - Roche Daniel

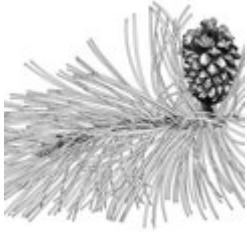
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## Mountain Pine pinewood (C)

The pinewood of Mountain Pines at Carrelet is rightly considered to be the highest in Europe. In fact, it occupies a slope at an altitude of 2400 m. It is also developing downwards due to the end of pastoral bovine activity at the beginning of the 1970s. Progressively, the grassland has been colonized by the juniper heath which encourages the implantation of Mountain Pine.

Attribution : PNE - Nicollet Bernard



## Mountain Pine (D)

The Mountain Pine is a high altitude species. This tree can be seen on the sunny slopes up to an altitude of 2450 m. If it can reach a height of 15 m locally it becomes much shorter and crooked even bushy when conditions are difficult... Its roots are solid, it is a frugal species that can support a very short vegetative period, extreme cold, snow, drought, the alpine brightness, the wind and the black ice,. It can be used as a species for reafforestation at altitude with a view to protecting certain soils and to fight against the beginning of avalanches...

Attribution : PNE - Lévy Frédérique

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## Plan du Carrelet (E)

At the meeting point of the Vénéon and Chardon valleys, the Plan du Carrelet is a vast plateau of glacial origin. It was originally a lake, after the glaciers withdrew, and was then gradually blocked by sediment coming down from the slopes all around, forming the vast plateau that can be seen today. Fed by the many mountain streams flowing into it, it is exceptionally rich in plant life, particularly species that are at home in wet and turbulent environments, like the banks of a mountain stream. In early summer, the plants bloom, providing an impressive sight , in the midst of the mountain pines, replanted at the beginning of the 20th century by the foresters, and which are now the prevailing species.

The Carrelet Refuge standing in the middle of the plateau was one of the oldest refuges set up by the Club Alpin Français, and dates from 1879. It is now a private residence and closed to the public.

Attribution : © Parc national des Ecrins - Cyril Couriser

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## Upkeep of the slopes and paths (F)

The Restauration des Terrains en Montagne (RTM, "Restoration of Mountain Land") service, now part of the ONF, has been carrying out civil engineering work to combat erosion in the ravines near the path leading to the Temple-Ecrins refuge since 1882. Permanent monitoring and major annual maintenance work are needed to maintain thresholds, wire-mesh fencing, planting indigenous species and laying turf. Each year, the park rangers set up temporary walkways across the mountain streams.



## 📍 High attitude passages (G)

The Col de la Temple (to the east of this trail), at an altitude of 3,322 m, constitutes a relatively easy passage between the Vallouise and the Vénéon. The last access slope to the pass is occupied by a small glacier that has greatly diminished in size in recent decades. The pass seems to be free of ice, but the ice is actually hidden by the stones. The story goes that once, a priest managed to go through the pass from the Vallouise to say mass at La Bérarde. Today, the pass is mainly peopled by mountain-climbers on their way to Pic Coolidge, standing at 3,774 m.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Ecrins