

# Pétarel Lakes by the Andrieux

Parc national des Ecrins - La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar



Lacs de Pétarel (Dominique Vincent - Parc national des Ecrins)



*This ascent in a forest setting enables you to benefit from the grandiose panorama of the Mount Olan massif.*

The silent forest cover of Silver Firs, populated by enormous ants, gives a mysterious character to this ascent. Then, the landscape of the lake offers hikers wonder and serenity.

## Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 5 h 30

Length : 10.0 km

Trek ascent : 1063 m

Difficulty : Hard



Type : Return trip

Themes : Lake and glacier,  
Panorama

# Trek

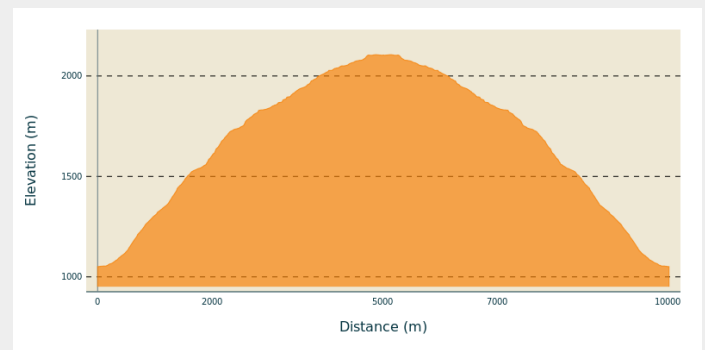
**Departure** : Hameau Les Andrieux, la Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

**Arrival** : Hameau Les Andrieux, la Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

**Markings** :  PR  GRP

**Cities** : 1. La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

## Altimetric profile














Min elevation 1052 m Max elevation 2107 m

From Andrieux car park at the level of the fountain place cross the main road in front of the small chapel and go towards the end of the village in the direction of the pine forest.. At the level of the entrance to the National Park indicated by signposts, climb the track going up to the left. At an altitude of 1 400 m, leave the track going towards la Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar and des Portes hamlet (a bit higher up) on the left, staying on the same path. The ascent continues for some time in the forest which brightens up progressively.. Walk carefully through the last rocky passages. A large cairn signals your arrival at the lakes. Return using the same itinerary.

# On your path...



- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Yellow Figwort (A)                                     |  Boreal Owl (B)            |
|  Red Ants (C)   |  Cime du Vallon (D)        |
|  Pic des Souffles (E)                                   |  Pic de l'Olan (F)         |
|  Pic Turbat (G)   |  Granite at Pic Turbat (H) |
|  Combination of minerals in the Olan and the Turbat (I) |  Pétarel Lakes (J)         |
|  Scientific monitoring of the Pétarel Lakes (K)         |   |

# 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

Under the glacial cross cliff, certain crossings can be slippery especially in wet weather. NB : the bivouac is only allowed (from 19h à 9h) and rubbish must be taken away in order to preserve the site.

## How to come ?

### Transports

Réseau de transport régional : <https://zou.maregionsud.fr/>

### Access

From Saint-Firmin, take the D985A/route de La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar, continue on this road to the Andrieux hamlet.

### Advised parking

Place de la fontaine, hameau des Andrieux, La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar.

# 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.

## Short-toed snake eagle

Sensitivity period: March, April, May, June, July, August, September

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

Nidification du Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc en période de nidification sont principalement les pratiques aériennes comme le vol libre ou le vol motorisé.

Attention le survol motorisé dans la zone cœur Parc National des Écrins est interdit en-dessous de 1000m sol et une réglementation spécifique s'applique au survol non-motorisé.

Voir la réglementation pour les survols non-motorisés : <https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/les-survol-non-motorises>

Voir la réglementation pour les survol motorisés : <https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/les-survol-non-motorises>

## Information desks

### Valgaudemar Park house

Ancien Asile Saint-Paul, 05800 La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

valgaudemar@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 92 55 25 19

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



## Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

# On your path...

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## Yellow Figwort (A)

There are plants that are like no others. That is the case of the Yellow Figwort. Its tall size (30 à 80 cm), its hairyness, its square stalk with large indented leaves and its yellow-green colour form a combination that catches the eye. A very rare plant in the Hautes-Alpes, its distribution area covers all of central and Southern Europe, the Pyrenees and Russia. It flowers between April and July. It probably escaped from Medieval medicinal gardens cultivated by monks. Its habitat is particular: in ruins and old walls. Please do not pick it since it is interesting simply to observe it.

Attribution : Dominique Vincent - PNE

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## Boreal Owl (B)

The Boreal Owl is a typical species from the conifer forests. It is present throughout the year in the mountainous areas of France. In this forest, there live several individuals who are hard to spot.. Easily recognizable, the Boreal Owl has golden-yellow coloured eyes, circled with black topped with clear coloured eyebrows. It most often nests in holes bored by the Black Woodpecker or in natural cavities in old trees. It feeds on small mammals : field mice or voles that it hunts at night.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE

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## Red Ants (C)

Numerous anthills are present in the forest area. Anthills are composed of accumulated vegetable detritus.. The principal rôle of the dome is the thermoregulation of the anthill, in particular for the brood. In fact, the temperature of the ants' eggs must not go above 25°-30°C. The weight of this habitat can be amazing: up to 20 kilos for a nest of 3 m cubed.. Apparently anthills are a sign of a healthy environment. So please respect these little creatures!

Attribution : PNE - Nicollet Bernard

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## Cime du Vallon (D)

The Cime du Vallon is an easy stretch of snow to hike or ski across in Winter and in Spring. Starting from Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar, it offers a difference in levels of 2 350 m.

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## Pic des Souffles (E)

The first summit in the valley at an altitude of more than 3 000 m, It is hardly visited by mountaineers. At the beginning of the story of mountaineering, the pic was highly frequented by local guides who opened the first trails. Currently rated AD (quite difficult) it has been equipped. The approach is long but worth it for the suspended atmosphere. The passage to the refuge of the same name will leave nobody unmoved.

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## Pic de l'Olan (F)

The Pic de l'Olan is a summit like a beacon in the valley. Its North East face is one of highest and wildest in the Alps. like the Walker rocky spur or the Drus (in the Mont-Blanc massif). Its name is a deformation of 'Auran' which signifies « windy mount ». The first ascent of Northern summit was carried out on 29th June 1877. For mountaineers, it represents a good climb accessible to all levels accompanied nevertheless by a high-mountain guide.

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## Pic Turbat (G)

A pretty 3 000 m achievable as an athletic hike in summer, it can be seen from the Souffles de l' Olan refuge. It is also a lovely belvedere over the first part of the valley and across the large North-West face of the Olan. On the way back, a pause beside the little Lautier lake is not to be missed.

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## Granite at Pic Turbat (H)

This very compact granite (on the facing slope), consists of fine grains, and the clear colour which is specific to Pic Turbat. It is formed from drops of granite that came back up across le magma, and which were then uncovered due to erosion.

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## Combination of minerals in the Olan and the Turbat (I)

The mineral combination (situated in the facing slope) consisting of the Olan and the Turbat offers an interesting reading of the diverse geological layers. This site is characteristic of alpine territory. These last high mountains at the heart of the massif exceed the crystalline base by 3 500 m.

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## Pétarel Lakes (J)

The Pétarel lakes are relics of a long glacial and geological history. They are the result of glacial abrasions in the Hercynien granite, base rock of the Ecrins massif.

Attribution : PNE - Roche Daniel

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## Scientific monitoring of the Pétarel Lakes (K)

A scientific protocol was put in place on the lake at Pétarel in order to follow the evolution of fish, zooplankton and phytoplankton. This lake constitutes a singularity in the mountain parks, it is a witness to climatic and historical evolution. This protocol is carried out with other services: The Mediterranean Institute for Continental and Marine Biology (IMBE), The National Office for Water and Aquatic Environments (ONEMA) and the Departmental Federation of Fisheries in the Hautes-Alpes.

Attribution : PNE - Warluzelle Olivier