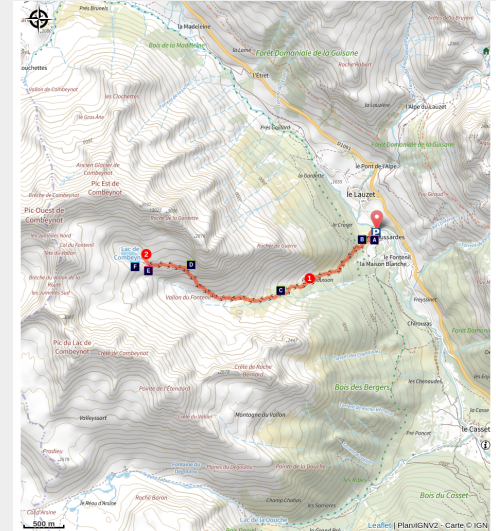


Combeynot Lake

Parc national des Ecrins - Le Monêtier-les-Bains



Montée au lac de Combeynot (Thierry Maillet - Parc national des Ecrins)



A blue veil has been lost in this mineral world. You will not find an oasis in this desert of stones but a deep lake of freezing water.

"In the middle of the summer, the valley exposed to the North can be very hot. That's why I like to go out at sunrise in order to make the most of the cool early morning. Just like the chamois who make the most of this calm moment in order to graze.. At 10 o'clock, most of them are sleeping and immobile, dozing and ruminating, you could almost say they are invisible!"

Cyril Coursier, heritage technician in Briançonnais

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 6 h

Length : 7.9 km

Trek ascent : 943 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Return trip

Themes : Fauna, Lake and glacier

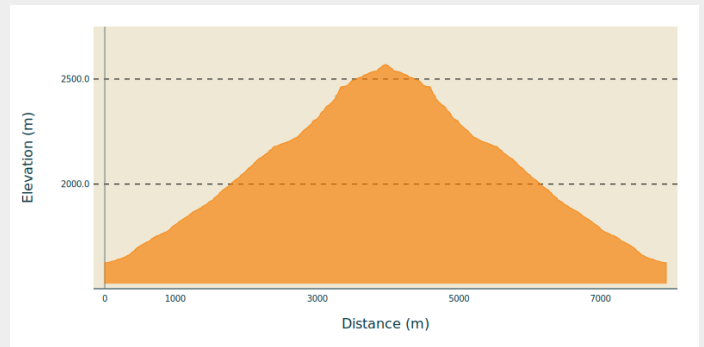
Trek

Departure : Les Boussardes

Arrival : Les Boussardes

Cities : 1. Le Monétier-les-Bains

Altimetric profile









Min elevation 1626 m Max elevation 2569 m

The unique marked trail starts from the carpark at the edge of Guisane. It goes up on the right bank, with a regular ascent to Pré Chausson then through Fontenil valley. After a slightly more difficult section, the lake is hiding under an overhang in the bottom of the valley. Return using the same itinerary in the opposite direction.

On your path...



-  Boussardes Hamlet (A)
-  Larch (C)
-  View of the Briançonnais (E)

-  Hayfields (B)
-  Chamois (D)
-  Combeynot Lake (F)

All useful information

Herd protection dogs

In mountain pastures, protection dogs are there to protect the herds from predators (wolves, etc.).

When I hike I adapt my behavior by going around the herd and pausing for the dog to identify me.

Find out more about the actions to adopt with the article ["Protection dogs: a context and actions to adopt"](#).

Tell us about your meeting by answering this [survey](#).



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

No water on this path, take 2 litres per person. The itinerary is indicated on the signposts marked « porte du Parc national » which can be found near the carpark.

How to come ?

Transports

Bus Grenoble - Briançon : stop at Lauzet (LER 35).

Access

Leave the D1091 down from Lauzet hamlet, direction les Boussardes.

Advised parking

Carpark beside the Guisane, Boussardes hamlet.

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 et de privilégier un survol de la zone à une distance de survol de 300m sol soit à une altitude minimale de 2350m.

Information desks

Information center "le Casset" (summer only)

Le Casset, 05220 Le Monétier-les-bains
brianconnais@ecrins-parcnational.fr
Tel : 04 92 24 53 27
<http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/>



Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



Boussardes Hamlet (A)

The habitat of Guisane valley is characterized by the small hamlets with character (Le Lauzet, Le Casset, etc.). Here, the small hamlet of Boussardes charms visitors with its houses with typical architecture squeezed against one another.

Attribution : Bernard Nicollet - PNE



Hayfields (B)

Around Boussardes hamlet, the hayfields are maintained, by the agricultors, sheltering in the summer exceptional biodiversity: Whinchat, red backed shrikes, Mountain Apollo butterflies.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



Larch (C)

The larch is the only European resinous tree to lose its needles in winter. Its wood is red brown. In the landscape, its colours are striking going from tender green in the Springtime to the colours of Autumn. Its pink flowers seduce the naturalists and the photographers in Springtime. If it puts up with harsh mountain conditions the larch does not tolerate competition from other trees. Just above Boussardes hamlet you can observe the installation of the forest in the ancient pastures and hayfields.

Attribution : Robert Chevalier - PNE



Chamois (D)

Fontenil valley represents a quiet territory for the chamois. Situated in the heart of the national park outside the pastoral areas, this itinerary is only used by hikers. The National Parc national carries out annual health monitoring on the chamois population.

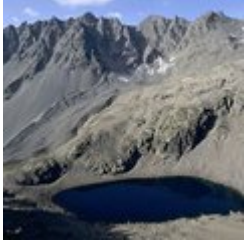
Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



View of the Briançonnais (E)

Arriving at Combeynot lake is a reward for the eyes. Facing you is, the Tête du Vallon (3059 m) which dominates the lake. Turn around and make the most of the view of the Briançonnais, with Pic de Rochebrune as a backdrop.

Attribution : Claire Broquet



Combeynot Lake (F)

Combeynot Lake is a glacial lake, metres deep, behind a cross cliff. Sometimes the water disappears in Autumn, like in 1976, and more regularly in these last few years. These waters are unusual in that they do not shelter any aquatic species. What a hostile environment!

Attribution : Jean-Pierre Nicollet - PNE