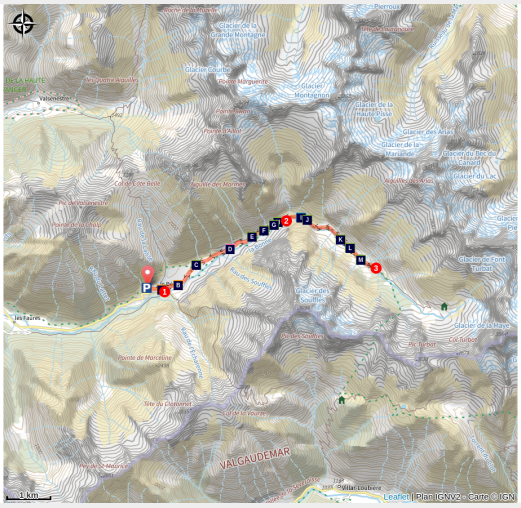
Châtellerat Cabin

Parc national des Ecrins



La cabane de Châtellerat (Xavier_and_Caroline - Parc national des Ecrins)



A route through the mountain valley of La Bonne through low-lying, sub-Alpine vegetation: juniper bushes, heather, rhododendrons...

The landscapes of the Bonne valley are remarkable for the lushness of the vegetation and the shapes of the reliefs inherited from the major glacial eras. Here, the glaciers have worked like powerful rebate planes, digging out and shaping the most vulnerable rocks. The mountain cliffs, glacial barriers and waterfalls bear witness to the natural erosion in the Valbonnais valleys.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 4 h

Length : 13.4 km

Trek ascent : 468 m

Difficulty : Medium

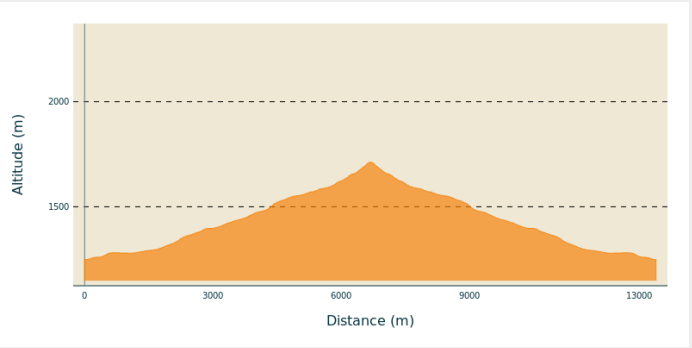
Type : Return trip

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Panorama

Trek

Departure : Le-Désert-en-Valjouffrey
Arrival : Le-Désert-en-Valjouffrey
Cities : 1. Valjouffrey

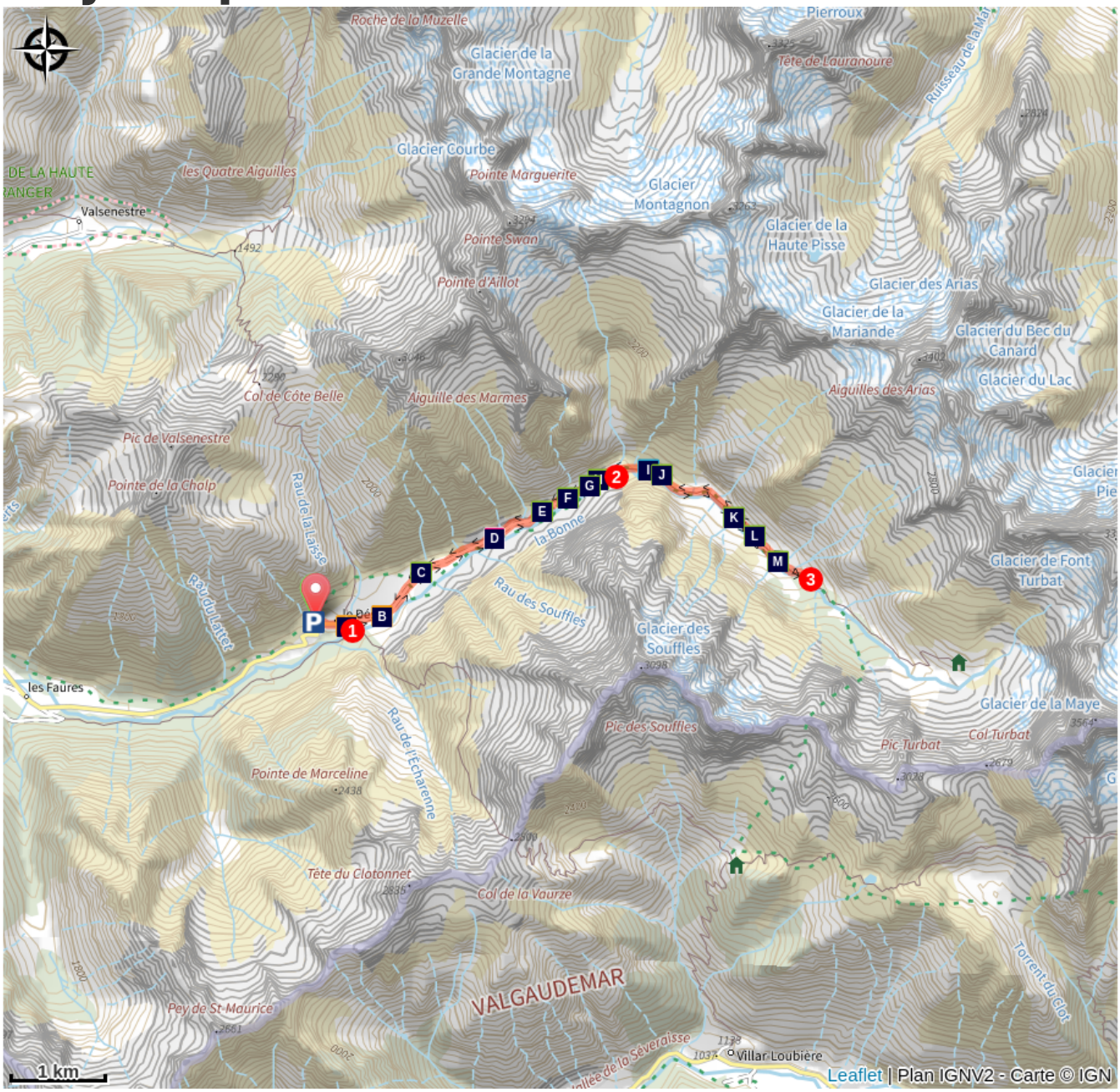
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1249 m Max elevation 1713 m

From the car park at the entrance of Le Désert-en-Valjouffrey, cross the village, heading east. Cut across the GR 54, by crossing the stream of La Laisse - it leads to the left to Côte Belle and to the right to Col de la Vaurze. Follow the path on the right bank of La Bonne which leads you to the entrance of the Ecrins National Park. The entrance to this protected area is shown by three information panels. After crossing a footbridge near the Pisse waterfall, continue along the rising path, still following the bottom of the valley through fairly low-lying vegetation. You arrive at the Châtellerat cabin. Come back the same way.

On your path...



- The Désert-en-Valjouffrey (A)
- Common Chiffchaff (C)
- Cob web House Leek (E)
- Apollo (G)
- Cascade de la Pisse (I)
- Eurasian Siskin (K)
- Red Fox (M)
- Hay Fields (B)
- Glacial valley (D)
- Rhododendron (F)
- White-throated Dipper (H)
- Mountain Hare (J)
- Ring Ouzel (L)

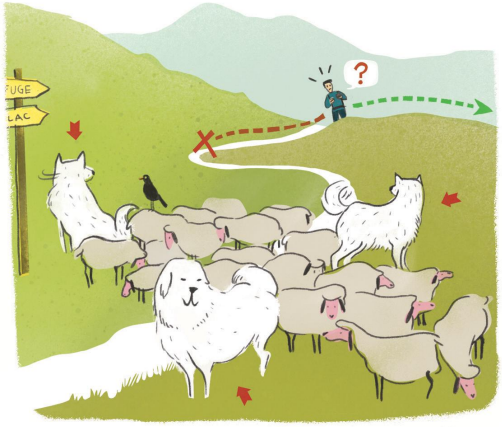
All useful information

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 transport services to the start of the trail.

How to come ?

Access

From Entraigues, take the D117 to the village of Le Désert-en-Valjouffrey

Advised parking

Entrance to the village of Le Désert-en-Valjoufrey

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.

Alpine ibex

Sensitivity period: June, July, August, September

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

Zone de présence du Bouquetin des Alpes

En période de mise bas et d'élevage des jeunes (juin à septembre) les bouquetins peuvent être très sensibles au dérangement notamment en cas de survol à basse altitude. Dans leur fuite les risques d'accidents sont multipliés. Merci de rester à bonne distance et d'éviter le survol de la 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

Information desks

Maison du Parc du Valbonnais
Place du Docteur Eyraud, 38740
Entraigues

valbonnais@ecrins-parcnational.fr
Tel : 04 76 30 20 61
http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/



Source

Parc national des Ecrins

https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr

On your path...



The Désert-en-Valjouffrey (A)

No sand or barren lands, the name of Desert comes from the word "essarter" which means to clear the land of forest in order to produce a clearing. Forest clearing was necessary for the implementation and the development of agriculture in the mountains... Nowadays, the Desert is one of the only hamlets at altitude which is inhabited all year round in spite of the harsh mountain climate.

Attribution : PNE - Collection Tron Lucien

Hay Fields (B)

The hayfields where the grass is mown have been improved over the generations by the extraction of stones which have then been stacked in piles which are known locally as “clapiers”. These piles of stones mark the boundaries between the crops and the flocks.



Common Chiffchaff (C)

A bird that you hear but do not see, the Common Chiffchaff nicknamed the "écu counter”. Its song, which is very easy to identify, evokes the sound of gold coins falling one by one in to the cash register as they are counted. Green-brown and greyish on top, its feathers are off white underneath, beige on the chest with a barely visible pale brow.

Attribution : PNE - Saulay Pascal



Glacial valley (D)

The high valley of Bonne, or Font Turbat, is a typical glacial valley in the form of a trough with morainic bars marking the stages of the retreat of the glacier. The lower shelves or glacial shoulders are suspended above the trough 500 to 600 m in size of which the steep sides dominate the layers of scree and the alluvial fans (mass of debris transported by the water It finishes upstream by a vast cirque at the imposing foot of the rocky wall of theOlan (3 564 m), hemmed in at its foot by the Maye black glacier. At the time of the last glaciation of Würm, 10 000 years ago , the two glaciers of Font Turbat and Maye joined together and fed into a powerful glacial tongue in the Bonne valley. It formed the valley in to the shape of a basin by scraping and polishing rocky walls in the granite. The lowest moraines, masses of rocky debris transported by the glaciers are situated around Châtellerat cabin.

Attribution : PNE - Nicollet Bernard



Cob web House Leek (E)

Thick leaves organized in tight rosettes shoot up towards the sky twists of white hairs which are quite similar to the traps woven by certain spiders. Not less competitive than the rhododendrons, The Cobweb House Leek is adapted to resist drought. The main rosette and the smaller shoots well grouped together; make a real water reserve which is then marvelously stocked by the fleshy leaves... It also develops many kinds of hairs that collect the dew.

Attribution : PNE - Warluzelle Olivier



Rhododendron (F)

Nicknamed the rose of the devil, the rhododendron ferrugineum has the capacity of placing itself between the rocks and boulders where the soil is rare. It keeps its stiff leaves which are dark green and shiny and rust coloured underneath right through the winter. It gets its name from this rust colour. Every year, between the end of July and the beginning of August its branches are crowned with bouquets of flowers coloured rose and purple.

Attribution : PNE - Vincent Dominique



Apollo (G)

A big white butterfly with black and red markings is not shy; the Apollo is easy to see between the middle of June until the end of July... It lays its eggs on the White Stonecrop, a perennial plant with white flowers living on scree and gravel... The male Apollo is born before the female and waits patiently to procreate. It is to be noted that it benefits from national protection; its transport and destruction are forbidden.

Attribution : PNE - Combrisson Damien



White-throated Dipper (H)

Easier to observe than the Common Chiffchaff, the White-throated Dipper lives beside rivers and mountain torrents... A little red and grey bird, with a short tail, it has a fine beak, a white mark on the chin and on the chest. This astonishing sparrow has the particularity of being able to walk under the water against the current in search of food. It flattens itself down and grips on to the bottom with its claws, opens its eyes, which are protected from the flow by a fine membrane and spots worms, larvae, little crustaceans and fish.

Attribution : PNE - Chevalier Robert



Cascade de la Pisse (I)

With its origin in the high crystalline ground, the torrent bounces down waterfalls and cascades until it meets the Pisse at a height of 40 m.

Attribution : PNE - Nicollet Jean-Pierre



Mountain Hare (J)

There are many Mountain Hares or Blue Hares that observe you; the opposite is rarely true... Brown in summer, white in winter, the Mountain Hare is present across the Alps. Like the European Hare from which it differs being smaller, with a white tail and shorter ears, It leaves Y shaped tracks in the snow due to the way it moves in little jumps (it brings its back legs in front of the front legs.). However, it is often its tracks and its little dry, round droppings that indicate its passage. Its large fluffy feet are like snowshoes enabling it to stay on the surface of the snow even when it is powdery.

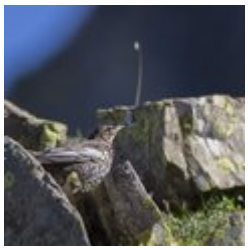
Attribution : PNE - Couloumy Christian



Eurasian Siskin (K)

Feeding principally on the seeds of the Alder, the Birch and conifers, the Eurasian Siskin only nests in conifer forests in the mountains of the Northern Alps during the reproduction period... The male, more colourful than the female, can be recognized from its bright green-yellow feathers its black forehead and its little white bib under the beak. It is in winter, that you can observe them, sometimes in big groups, descended from the mountains in search of food...

Attribution : PNE - Combrisson Damien



Ring Ouzel (L)

The Ring Ouzel is easy to identify: it endorses the black feathering of the blackbird, but is distinguished from it by the big white bib on the chest, the light borders of its wings and abdomen. Insects, grasshoppers, worms and berries make up its menu. This shy mountain blackbird, that flies fast, lives at the edge of forests of larch, Scots pines, Spruce and Swiss Pines pins at an altitude of between 1 000 to 2 500 m. Present in the mountainous massifs it nests in the lower branches or in the hollow trunk of a tree, a crack in the rock or building. Essentially a migrator, the Ring Ouzel hibernates in Spain or in Northern Africa. It comes back to the Alps from the month of March.

Attribution : PNE - Saulay Pascal



Red Fox (M)

The Fox was originally called the goupil in French and this animal was the central character of the hugely famous “novel” written in the 12th century about a goupil called "Renart" (later “Renard”), who was, a clever knight tricking and making fun of the clergy and the powerful who were unable to deal with the people. Renart made fun of them and was sometimes cruel. He was so popular that his name became that of the animal species he portrayed. Another literary reference to this animal is by Jean de la Fontaine whose character « Maître Renard » features in twenty of his fables...

Attribution : PNE - Combrisson Damien