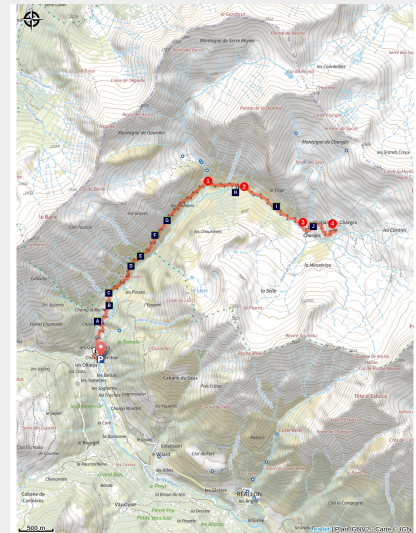


The Chargé source

Parc national des Ecrins - Réallon



Le cirque de Chargès (Mireille Coulon - PNE)



This trail follows the torrent and is an opportunity to see how the water makes its way to the Chargès mountain pastures.

The first encounter with the Chargès torrent is quite strange: a "giant's cauldron" has been dug out of the hard rock, forming a reservoir that seems to be bubbling. Later, along the torrent, calm gradually returns until the arrival at the source in the hollow of the corrie.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 5 h

Length : 13.4 km

Trek ascent : 765 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Return trip

Themes : Fauna, Pastoralism

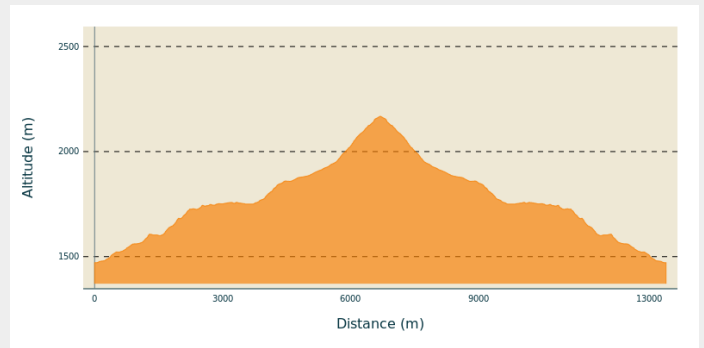
Trek

Departure : Les Gourniers, Réallon

Arrival : Les Gourniers, Réallon

Cities : 1. Réallon

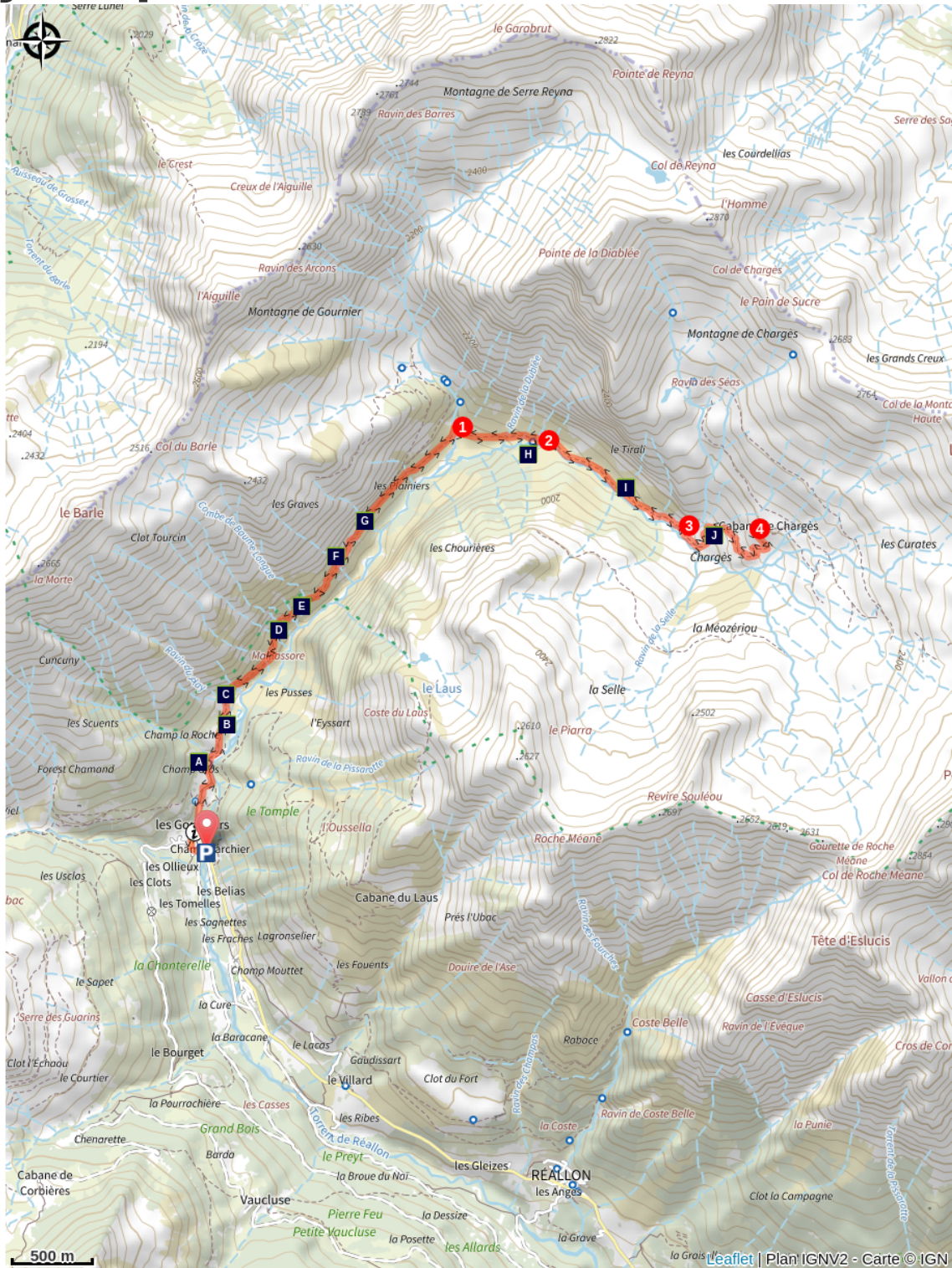
Altimetric profile




Min elevation 1472 m Max elevation 2169 m


From Les Gourniers car park, cross the village and follow the path to the Saint-Marcellin Chapel. The path then makes its way around the mountainside to a footbridge (Pont la Claie), then goes up to the Pré d'Antoni cabin. Continue as far as a torrent (footbridge). Go up a grassy slope to get to a flatter section and the Chargès source.

On your path...



 Black Woodpecker (A)

 Rock Bunting (C)

 Short Toed Snake Eagle (E)

 Eurasian Crag Martin (G)

 Cincle plongeur (I)

 Long Tailed Tit (B)

 Wallcreeper (D)

 Crave à bec rouge (F)

 Chamois (H)

 Pipit spioncelle (J)

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

Between Chapelle-Saint-Marcellin and the Claie bridge, there is a danger of falling stones, especially during strong rainfall. The route is not recommended in this case.

How to come ?

Access

From Savines-le-Lac, take the D41 to Réallon. Then follow the D241 to the village of Les Gourniers at the bottom of the valley.

Advised parking

Les Gourniers

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 2400m.

Information desks

Information center "les Gourniers" (summer only)

Les Gourniers, 05160 Réallon
embrunais@ecrins-parcnational.fr
Tel : 04 92 44 30 36
<http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/>



Maison du Parc de l'Embrunais

Place de l'Église, 05380 Châteauroux-les-Alpes

embrunais@ecrins-parcnational.fr
Tel : 04 92 43 23 31
<http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/>



Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



Black Woodpecker (A)

This funny red bird with a red helmet and a long light coloured beak is the biggest woodpecker in the Alps. It is difficult to see because it is very solitary and distrustful. However, thanks to numerous clues that reveal its presence, it is possible to place its song and its very typical and sonorous. It taps endlessly to defend its territory and to find bark beetles or carpenter ants.

Attribution : PNE - Chevalier Robert



Long Tailed Tit (B)

This Tit is easily recognizable thanks to its ball of feathers coloured white, black, brown and pink, extended by a very long tail. Not very selective, it adapts to all kinds of forest environments as long as they are dense. Although it is more common on the plain, it is also present in the mountains up to an altitude of 2 000 m in the Alps. Unlike other tits, the Long Tailed Tit nests in a spherical and flexible nest which grows little by little as the young birds develop.

Attribution : PNE - Coulon Mireille



Rock Bunting (C)

The Rock Bunting is mainly a Southern mountain species. In the cold season, it migrates towards the valleys or the plains. In Spring, from the top of a bush, sings his song, agreeable but not very remarkable or loud. As long as you are discreet and attentive, it is possible to sometimes hear his little "tsip", high-pitched brief cries.

Attribution : PNE - Combrisson Damien



Wallcreeper (D)

Discreetly hanging onto the cliff thanks to its long clawed feet, the Wallcreeper is on a search for insects and spiders that its long, narrow, curved beak enables it to extract. The unique representative of the Tichodroma family, the Wallcreeper dominates the vertical mountain wall where it finds its home and safety. Not a shy species, it is emblematic of the mountain region, the Wallcreeper sometimes moves closer to the villages in Winter.

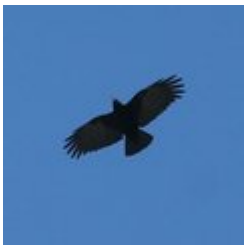
Attribution : PNE - Combrisson Damien



Short Toed Snake Eagle (E)

Spring has only just returned when you can hear cries as loud as the church bells. You have to lift your head up to admire two large birds flying together, alternating aerobatics and hovering in the sky like two silver coloured kites playing with the wind.. Their light stocky silhouette and their darker head enable you to identify the Short-toed Snake Eagle. It mainly feeds on reptiles (lizards and snakes) which it captures by the head, which it can then regurgitate in order to feed its young.

Attribution : PNE - Saulay Pascal



Crave à bec rouge (F)

La falaise qui surplombe le sentier au-delà de la chapelle Saint Marcellin abrite plusieurs couples de crave à bec rouge, fidèles à leur territoire. De la famille des corvidés, il ressemble beaucoup au chocard à bec jaune. Les différencier par la silhouette demande un peu d'expérience mais le bec est le bon critère : rouge, long et incurvé pour le crave, jaune et court pour le chocard. Jouer avec l'air en piqués, vrilles et loopings est sa spécialité.

Attribution : Christian Couloumy - PNE



Eurasian Crag Martin (G)

The Eurasian Crag Martin has beige hardly contrasted feathering. It is capable of real prowess in flight, a quality that is indispensable for catching the multitude of insects that it feeds on. In Spring, once it has found a rocky ridge, the Eurasian Crag Martin endlessly transports mud and pieces of vegetation with its beak. Using this unique tool it solidly fixes each element to the edifice of the rock with a clever mix of saliva and water.

Attribution : PNE - Coulon Mireille



Chamois (H)

An emblematic animal in the Alps, the chamois or « rock goat » has short curled horns. Like the Ibex, it is easy to observe through binoculars. The goats and esterlons (young males aged one year) like to live in big herds ; in contrast, the billy goats stay quite isolated only rejoining the females during the mating season. In the winter, the chamois need a lot of tranquility in order to conserve their reserve of fat which they need in order to survive...

Attribution : PNE - Nicollet Jean-Pierre



Cincle plongeur (I)

Le cincle plongeur est facile à observer à condition d'être discret. Il vit le long des rivières et des torrents de montagne. Petit oiseau roux et gris, à la queue courte, il a le bec effilé, une tache blanche du menton à la poitrine. Cet étonnant passereau a la particularité de marcher au fond de l'eau à contre-courant, en quête de nourriture. Il s'aplatit et s'agrippe au fond avec ses doigts, ouvre ces yeux, protégés des flots par une fine membrane et repère alors vers, larves, petits crustacés et poissons.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



Pipit spioncelle (J)

Ce petit oiseau de la famille des Passériformes peut rester invisible en voletant à contre jour dans le bleu du ciel. Il est donc très discret. Par contre, il sait se faire entendre en criant son nom : « pi-pit-pipit-pipit-pipit » et tout à coup, à l'apogée de son vol, il se laisse glisser vers le sol, les ailes déployées en parachute tout en émettant un « piiiiii » jubilatoire ! Posé dans l'herbe de l'alpage, il devient difficile à distinguer parmi les touffes de la grande fétuque.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE