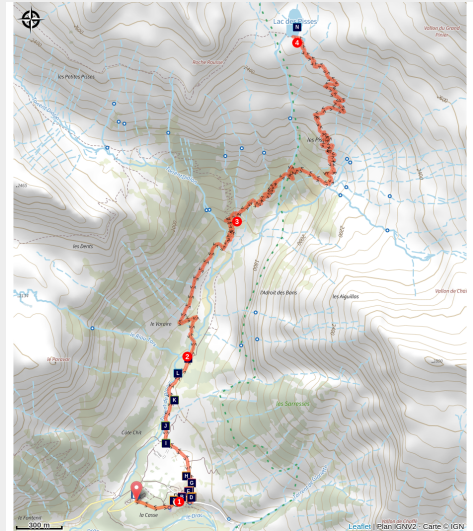


# Lac des Pisses

Parc national des Ecrins - Orcières



Lac des Pisses (Thierry Maillet - Parc national des Ecrins)



*Shaped by pastoral activity, the Pisses valley has for generations been the summer residence of ewes and their shepherds.*

This winding trail overlooks the Prapic valley and runs as far as Lac des Pisses, in a rocky high-altitude atmosphere. It crosses several torrents and is a chance to enjoy the refreshing waterfalls.

## Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 13.9 km

Trek ascent : 1000 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Return trip

Themes : History and architecture,  
Lake and glacier, Pastoralism

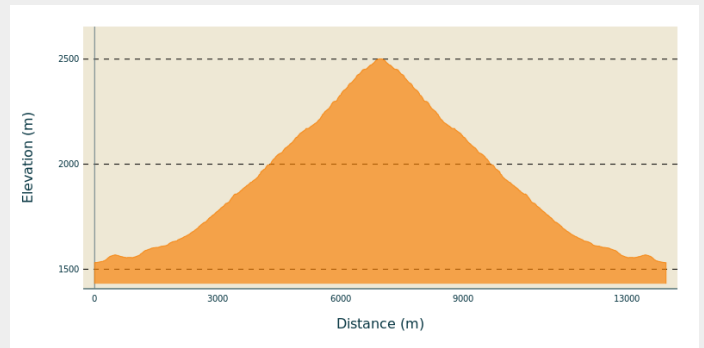
# Trek

**Departure** : Prapic, Orcières

**Arrival** : Prapic, Orcières

**Cities** : 1. Orcières

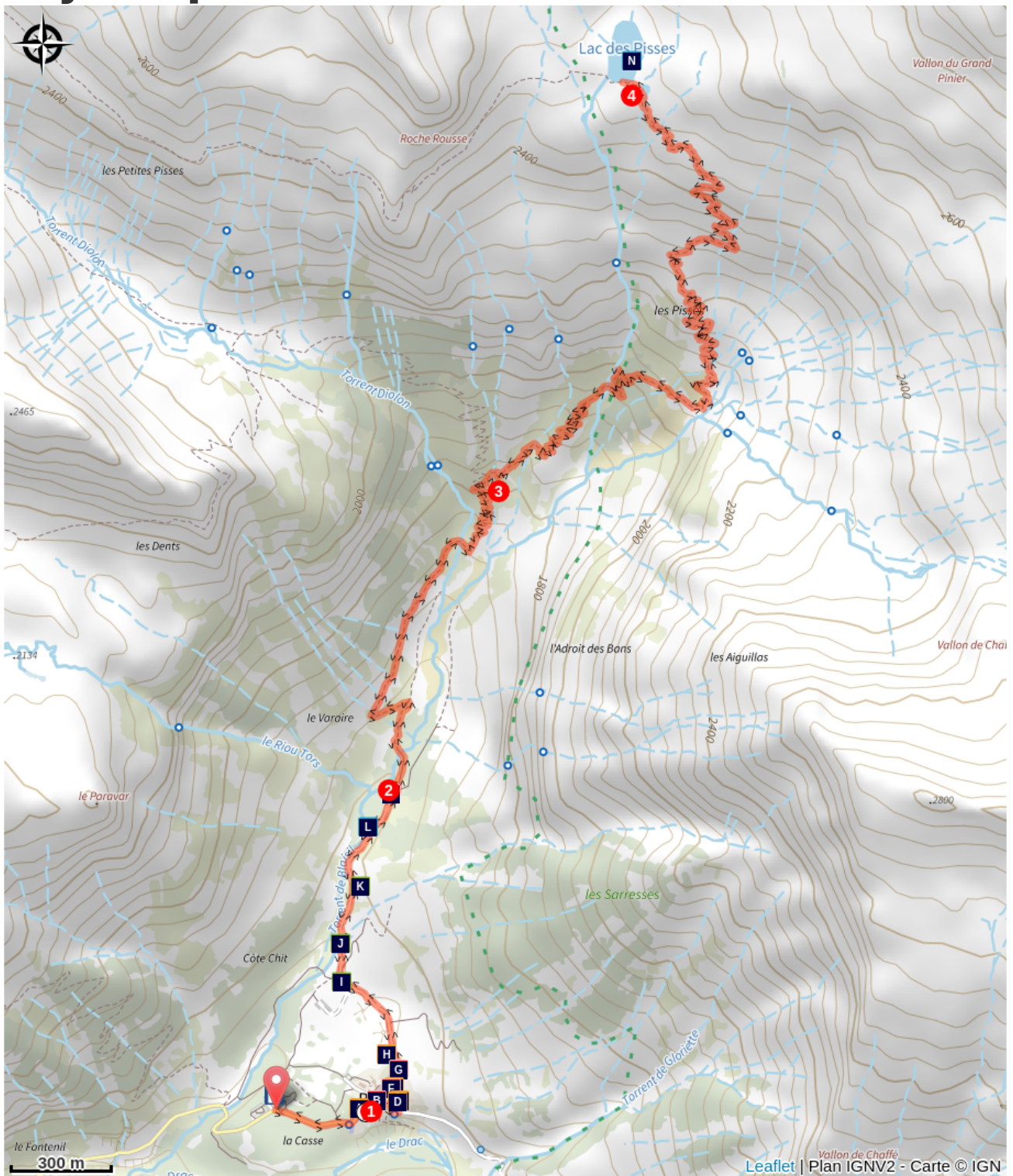
## Altimetric profile











Min elevation 1532 m    Max elevation 2502 m

From Place de Prapic, head up towards the stopover gîte, then turn left. A wide path crosses the fields, then goes up the Blaisil valley. You pass by the Tombeau du Poète path. At the second crossroads, continue along the route to the right as far as Lac des Pisses. You follow the same route on the way back.

# On your path...



- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Prapic Church (A)                 |  Prapic Hamlet (B)   |
|  Running water (C)                 |  Last Bear (D)       |
|  Votive Festival (E)               |  Barn gable (F)      |
|  Prapic (G)                        |  "Tadpole" trees (H) |
|  Yellow billed Chough (I)          |  Dung Fly (J)        |
|  Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly (K) |  Blaisil torrent (L) |
|  Ancient Gravel Pit (M)            |  Lake Pisses (N)     |

# 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.



## How to come ?

### Transports

Shuttle service (must be reserved beforehand at the Orcières Tourist Office):  
Prapic-Orcières [www.orcieres.com](http://www.orcieres.com)

## Access

In Orcières, on the D76, take the D474/Le Bignottes. Then continue on the D476/ Les Fourrés turning slight right at the intersection to the village of Prapic.

## Advised parking

Village of Prapic



# 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 à moins de 300m sol (3250m d'altitude).

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>

## 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 centre of Prapic (summer only)

champsaur@ecrins-parcnational.fr  
Tel : 04 92 55 61 92  
<http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/>



## Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

## On your path...

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### Prapic Church (A)

Dedicated to Saint-Anne, Prapic Church dates back to the 1860s. It was built following the request of the inhabitants for a place of worship, who were faced with the hazards of winter and the distance from the parish church in Orcières. On the stained glass choir window, you can admire the portrait of Prapicois: Jean Sarrazin (1833-1914), nicknamed the «the poet of the olives», a different poet from that in the tomb ... Can you find it?

Attribution : Michel Francou - PNE

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### Prapic Hamlet (B)

Surrounded by vegetable gardens, piles of stones and mown terraces the village nestles on the banks of the Drac and gives the best land over to agriculture. The typical house is most often perpendicular to the slope, based on an architecture created from materials collected locally and showing great intelligence in its elaboration. From course plasterwork to the delicacy of walnut wooden doors, shale roofing with gables made from plaited alder, this is the architectural vocabulary that punctuates your visit.

Attribution : Pascal Saulay - PNE

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### Running water (C)

Running water came to Prapic in 1924. The first pipes were made from metre long sections, hollowed out trunks of larch. Their fittings probably did not enable all the water collected from the six village fountains to be transported!

Attribution : Michel Francou



## 🕒 Last Bear (D)

In Blaisil valley, near to Prapic, the last bear in the region was slaughtered in 1895. This species had disappeared progressively between the 19th and the middle of the 20th century. In the French Alps, its disappearance is due to its classification as a harmful animal by the legislator in 1844. However, the reduction of its territory due to human activity also contributed to its disappearance. Its reintroduction in the Pyrenees is a controversial subject.

Attribution : PNE - Dequest Pierre-Emmanuel

## 🕒 Votive Festival (E)

In the memory of the inhabitants, the votive festival for Saint-Anne has been celebrated for generations in Prapic Chapel. Previously it was celebrated in the old chapel situated at the top of the valley, but in 1870, it burnt down. Every Sunday following the 26th July, the faithful pay tribute to Saint Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary. However votive festivals are traditionally organized in order to answer a wish or to give thanks for a miracle.



## 🏠 Barn gable (F)

In a poor country, ingenuity is increased. How do you close the gable of the barns while letting the air in to finish drying the hay without having to spend too much money? There are several examples here of the techniques used.

Attribution : Michel Francou - PNE



## 🏠 Prapic (G)

Prapic, at the foot of the Charnière plateau, is the most famous of the 23 hamlets of Orcières commune. You just have to look upwards to appreciate the richness and the quality of the architecture of the dwellings. The large Champsaurines houses have kept all their character here when the corrugated metal has not replaced the Prapic slate.

Attribution : PNE - Collection Tron Lucien





## "Tadpole" trees (H)

The fodder distributed to the livestock during the winter is a precious commodity. To increase their supplies, the mountain dwellers use everything they have. In Autumn, before the leaves fall, the breeders cut branches from trees (ash and maples) and make bundles of wood. These will be treats for sheep and goats! This explains why the trees here have big heads... They are known as « tadpole » trees.

Attribution : Marc Corail - PNE



## Yellow billed Cough (I)

A whirl of black birds moves noisily along the edge of the mountain wall before landing on a heath covered with juniper bushes. Dozens of them in a joyful rumpus, the Yellow billed Coughs feed on the berries left in winter. Real acrobats, they are capable of breathtaking aerial demonstrations. This ease of flight enables them to travel daily from places of high altitude spending the night there in holes in the rocks, to the bottoms of the valleys where they often find food near to the villages. This small member of the Corvidae species is protected and is on the regional red list because its natural habitat is very localized.

Attribution : PNE - Fiat Denis



## Dung Fly (J)

The Dung Fly is a difficult name to bear for such a pretty insect with a golden body! You can often see it on a fresh cow pat or a pile of manure, busy hunting or reproducing on the warm matter. With 240 million years of evolution, it is an expert in "aerobatics". It has 360° vision and it can locate an odour from a distance of several kilometers.

Attribution : Blandine Delenatte - PNE



## Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly (K)

Precocious, the Small Tortoiseshell is the first butterfly to visit the flowers that have only just come out through the snow. Its caterpillars feed uniquely on nettles where you can see them gathered together with two yellow stripes on their backs. The butterfly has bright orange wings on top, incrustated with ebony and edged with blue lunules ringed with black.

Attribution : Joël Blanchemain - PNE



## Blaisil torrent (L)

Blaisil torrent is the addition of two torrents one from Pisses lake and the other at Estaris. These two lakes situated at an altitude of 2500 m are accessible to walkers who set off early. But the effort is worth it: they present a remarkable setting and history!

Attribution : Michel Francou - PNE

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## Ancient Gravel Pit (M)

Just forty years ago, the bottom of the valley was a sterile gravel pit, completely bare, where the torrent reigned supreme. Little by little, it became colonized and today the stones have given way to a forest. From time to time an avalanche makes sure that it kept is clear.



## Lake Pisses (N)

The lakes were created in different ways. Lake Pisses was formed by the large glaciers of the quarternary age that carved out the softer rock as they advanced from Lyons to Sisteron. When the glaciers melted, 8000 years ago, these dips became lakes known as "basin lakes".

Attribution : PNE - Corail Marc