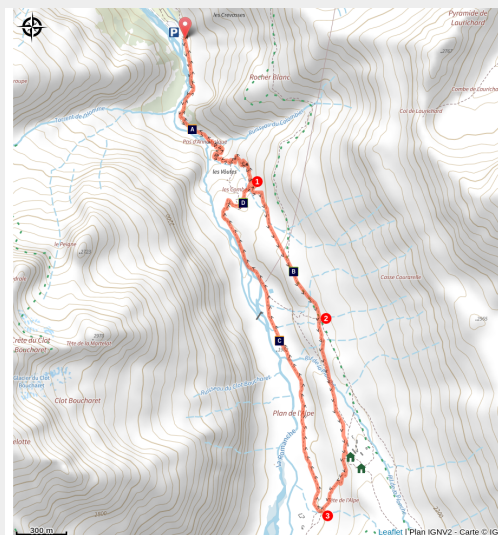


# The Alpe de Villar d'Arêne

Parc national des Ecrins - Villar-d'Arêne



Plan de l'Alpe de Villar d'Arêne (Thibaut Blais - Parc national des Ecrins)



*An easy walk to discover the alpine universe with the family within the geographical boundaries of the Oisans and the upper Briançonnais.*

At the heart of the Alpe valley, the mountain pastures continue the story of pastoralism in the present as they did in the past. The refuge gives hikers a taste of the high mountains and provides the opportunity of spending a night with the family in the refuge.

## Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 8.0 km

Trek ascent : 367 m

Difficulty : Easy

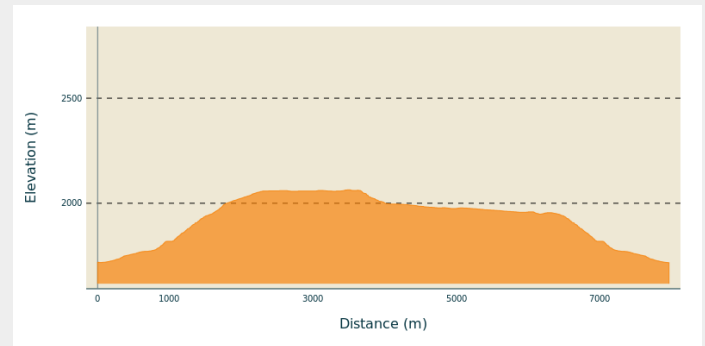
Type : Loop

# Trek

**Departure** : The Arsine bridge, Villar d'Arêne

**Cities** : 1. Villar-d'Arêne

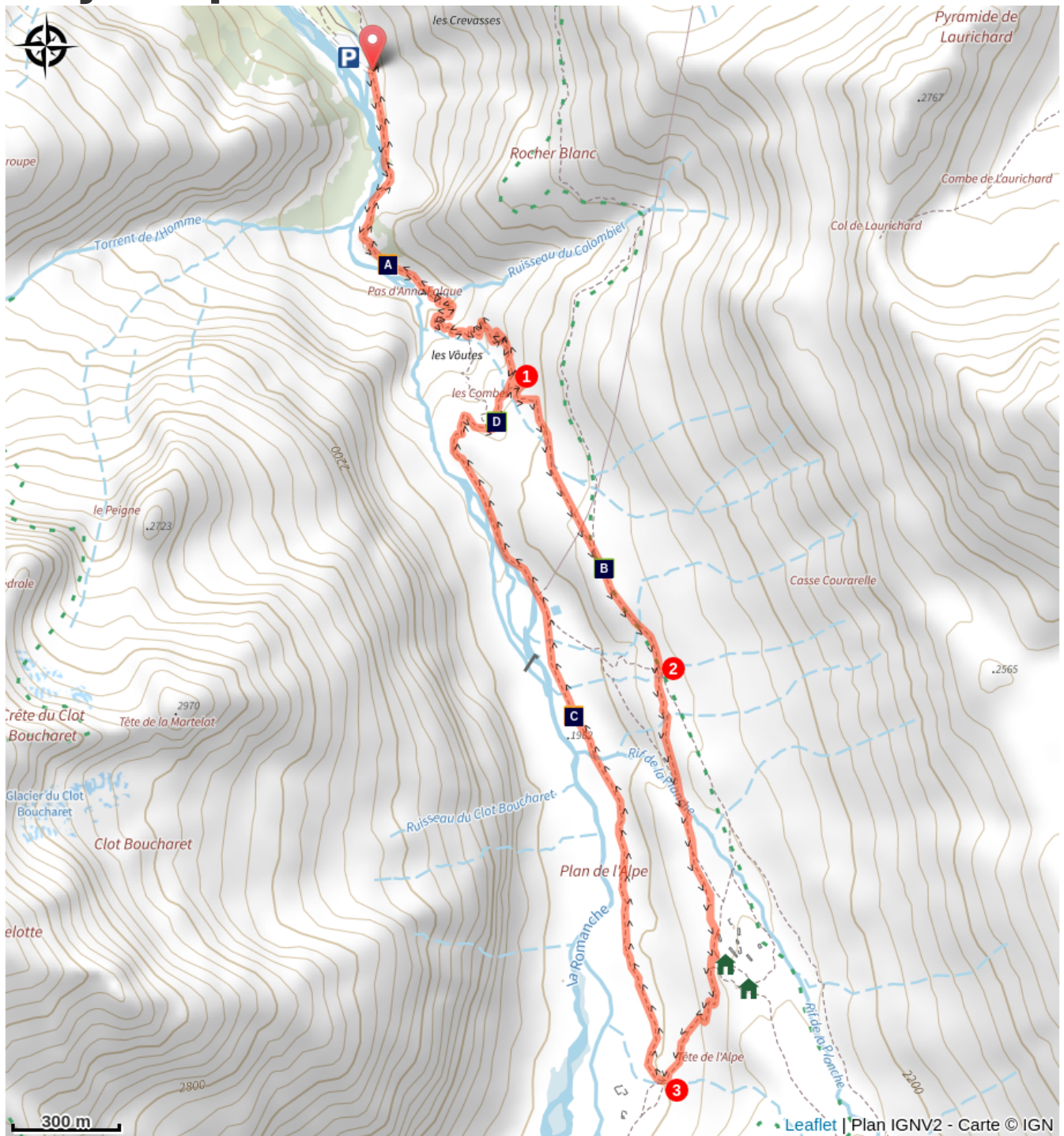
## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1718 m Max elevation 2065 m

From the car park at Gravière, follow the bottom of the valley on the right bank on an excellent path that crosses the Pas d'Anna Falque. The fork that divides the way between the Alpe and Adèle Planchard is well marked. Take the track that goes up to the left, cross the path of crevasses near to the weather station... A little later leave the GR 54 and fork to the right and continue straight ahead until the Alpe refuge at Villar-d'Arêne. Go round the refuge to the right and go down to the crossroads which overhangs the Romanche. Turn right in order to go back down to the Plan de l'Alpe and pass several streams until the path originally used at the beginning. Pick up the path slightly to the left which crosses the Pas d'Anna Falque in order to come back to the car park.

# On your path...



Romanche valley, Charles Bertier (A)

Alpe Valley (C)

The marmots' "bosse" (B)

Alpine Columbines (D)

# 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

Randonnée familiale mais qui peut impressionner des personnes sujettes au vertige. Présence de passages avec du vide et cordes métalliques mais sur un sentier large.



## How to come ?

### Access

From La Grave, take the D1091 in the direction of Villar d'Arêne. Go left on to the D207. At the crossroads, turn right towards Le Palun. Cross the Arsine bridge and park in the car park situated on the right.

### Advised parking

La Gravière au pont d'Arsine, Villar d'Arêne

# 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](mailto: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 2500m.

## Information desks

**Maison du Parc du Briançonnais**  
Place Médecin-Général Blanchard, 05100  
Briançon  
[brianconnais@ecrins-parcnational.fr](mailto:brianconnais@ecrins-parcnational.fr)  
Tel : 04 92 21 08 49  
<http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/>



## Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

# On your path...

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## Romanche valley, Charles Bertier (A)

The Romanche was a source of inspiration for many mountain artists and it have been painted repeatedly. Charles Bertier (1860-1924) was inspired to paint Vallée de la Romanche au Pied-du-Col and Les Fréaux près de la Grave, two oil paintings that were painted in 1894. The artist from Grenoble learnt to paint landscapes with Jean Achard, and mountains with the abbot Guétal and did not hesitate to set up his easel on the high summits of the Dauphiné Alps. More to the point, his mission was to make his contemporaries 'understand the mountains'!

Attribution : © Musée de Grenoble

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## The marmots' "bosse" (B)

The alpine marmot is naturally present on grass at altitude. Here, it occupies a singular place which we call the marmots' "bosse». This hibernating rodent is only visible between April and October. The marmot lives in a family and respects a hierarchy. Games, grooming, fighting and biting ensure the dominance of a couple as well as the cohesion of the group. Each animal participates in the delimitation of the territory by rubbing its cheeks on rocks and also by urinating and defecating there. When there is danger, the marmot emits a high and powerful whistle in order to warn the others.

Attribution : PNE - Coursier Cyril

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## Alpe Valley (C)

Mountaineers have always particularly liked the Alpe valley. It has long been a place for a base camp, for several big classic climbs in the Massif des Ecrins. It is over the ice cap that the famous roped party Coolidge-Almer succeeded in making the first ascension into the mountain of the Agneaux. Le 17 July 1873 following this they carried out the first crossing of the Casse Déserte mountain pass and the ascent of the Pointe Brevoort at the Grande Ruine.

Attribution : PNE - Roche Daniel



## ✿ Alpine Columbines (D)

Hidden at the foot of a rhododendron bush, caught between the scree and the edge of the, is a rare species, it is as bright as it is rare. Do not rub against the Columbine, or it will lose its petals. The leaflets are split with deep incisions, in a double layer to form simple leaves, lifting up young milky buds at the end of the stalk and magnificent widely spread out flowers, azur fragments lost in the vegetation. Columbine flowers are the only ones that possess five spurs, five petals at their extremities in a corset, protected by five sepals in the form of a lance.

Attribution : Thierry Maillat - PNE