

Le plateau du Taillefer

Parc national des Ecrins



Plateau du Taillefer (Thibaut Blais - Parc national des Ecrins)



Ce fragment de Laponie au cœur des Alpes présente un milieu d'une grande diversité.

Le plateau du Fourchu offre aux randonneurs un paysage unique en Oisans ressemblant aux toundras du nord de l'Europe. D'innombrables petits lacs d'origine glaciaire, dont certains sont devenus des tourbières, sont enchâssés au milieu d'une lande.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 7 h

Length : 15.8 km

Trek ascent : 959 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Return trip

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Panorama

Trek

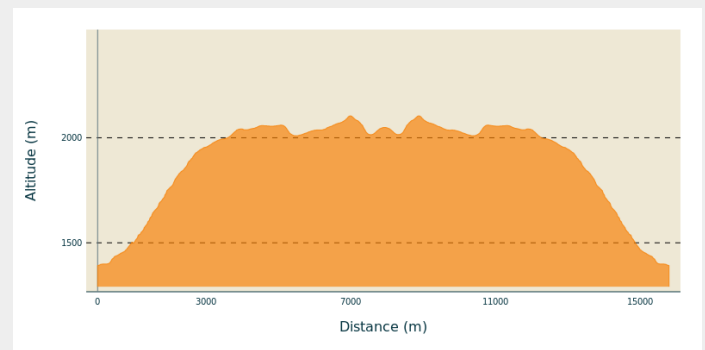
Departure : Hameau de la Grenonnière

Cities : 1. Ornon

2. Oulles

3. Livet-et-Gavet

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1392 m Max elevation 2105 m

Du parking, suivre la piste de terre qui longe un moment une vaste combe taillée dans les schistes gris et luisants. Emprunter le chemin sur 800 m puis au croisement « L'airette ».

1. Prendre le sentier à droite direction « refuge du Taillefer », ce sentier s'élève doucement sur un adret rocailleur à demi-boisé. Après une montée raide, on arrive au croisement « La Buffe » - 1 780 m. Prendre la direction « refuge du Taillefer ». Le sentier passe sous l'imposante bâtisse du Carrelet puis traverse à niveau jusqu'au refuge.
2. Du refuge, prendre la direction du Pas de l'Envieux. Traverser le ruisseau de l'Echaillon (à gué) et s'élever lentement jusqu'au pas de l'Envieux (2 074 m).
3. Prendre le sentier qui descend direction le plateau des lacs (sud).
4. A l'altitude 2 003 m, rejoindre le sentier qui vient de Basse Montagne. Bifurquer sud-ouest et longer les lacs de la Vache, de l'Agneau et le lac Noir. Remonter sensiblement à un petit col puis basculer en direction du lac Fourchu.
5. Le retour se fait par le même chemin qu'à la montée.

On your path...



-  The black grouse (A)
-  The Taillefer Plateau peat bogs (C)
-  The Taillefer Plateau - Natura 2000 site (E)

-  Chamois and rock ptarmigan (B)
-  Common cottongrass (D)
-  The northern emerald (F)

All useful information

Advices

Sont interdits sur le plateau du Taillefer, le camping, les feux et les activités nautiques (baignade incluse). Les chiens devront être tenus en laisse. Le bivouac entre 19 h et 9 h reste autorisé, mais dans des zones dédiées.

How to come ?

Access

Accès jusqu'à la Paute par la N91. Prendre ensuite la D526 jusqu'au Pont des Oulles, puis la D210. Laisser à gauche le hameau de la Grenonière et continuer jusqu'à la fin de la route goudronnée (parking).

Advised parking

Parking au-dessus du hameau de la Grenonière

Information desks

Oisans Park house

45 avenue de la République, 38520 Le Bourg d'Oisans

oisans@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 76 80 03 25

<https://www.bourgdoisans.com/>



Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



The black grouse (A)

To observe black grouse in summer, you need to get up early. In France, black grouse (or blackcocks) can only be found in the Alps. In spring, the male with its black plumage and lyre-shaped tail with white under-tails parades to attract females. In winter, they spend most of their time in igloos dug out of the snow to protect themselves from the cold. This is a particularly sensitive period because they cannot replenish the energy used up when they must leave their igloos suddenly if an off-piste skier or show-shoe hiker passes by.

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Chamois and rock ptarmigan (B)

While hundreds of sheep graze on the edges of the plateau, higher up, on the nearby crests and summits, chamois and rock ptarmigan may be seen. These animals are the emblems of high altitudes, with the first nicknamed the "goat of the rocks", and the rock ptarmigan sometimes known as the "snow partridge". If you want to get a good look at either of them, you must leave them undisturbed: binoculars or a telescope are essential.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



The Taillefer Plateau peat bogs (C)

The extreme conditions of humidity, acidity and cold holding sway on the lake plateaux mean that organic matter is not fully broken down, so it builds up in hollows to form peat. Peat bogs are extremely useful. They are remarkable, rare, fragile and extremely precious habitats that are characterised by exceptional biodiversity. Here you can find rare species that are adapted to these difficult living conditions (high humidity, low temperatures, poor soils). The most common plant is peat moss (sphagnum) - real sponges that can stock up to 30 times their own weight in water! Peat bogs also play the role of a filter by purifying the air and water. They reduce erosion, help renew the phreatic zones, naturally store carbon and protect from flooding and drought. Under threat from human activity and climate change, this natural heritage is monitored closely.

Attribution : © Parc national des Ecrins - Justine Coulombier



Common cottongrass (D)

Nicknamed “bog cotton”, common cottongrass grows in wet and acidic soils, such as the peat bogs of the Taillefer. Common cottongrass, like the rock ptarmigan or the mountain hare, are fragile species, the remnants of a glacial climate and still living in the mountain range. It is a cotton-like plant with white plumes, and fruit gathered into a single, quite thick ball. The smooth stalk is round, unlike the other species of cottongrass, which are triangular.

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The Taillefer Plateau - Natura 2000 site (E)

Recognised by the European Union for its great ecological interest, the Taillefer Plateau is listed in the Natura 2000 network. The network is made up of a series of European natural sites that are identified for the rarity or fragility of the wild, animal or plant species, and their habitats.

12,000 years ago, the withdrawal of the glacier from the Taillefer mountains shaped the landscape that can be seen today: a high plateau between 2,000 and 2,500 metres high, with a constellation of lakes mainly produced by old glacier abrasion; a plateau that presses down to the south on the abrupt and bare slopes of the summit of the Taillefer.

On the plateaux today there are over a thousand wetland and peat bog areas, a remarkable concentration, and one that is rare in the French Alps.

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The northern emerald (F)

The northern emerald is a dark-coloured dragonfly with a metallic green or shiny black body, contrasting with its lighter-coloured eyes. It is hard to tell it apart from other species in the genus. In the Ecrins, the species can only be found in the peat bogs of the Taillefer Plateau at an altitude of over 2000m, where it lives with its close cousin, *Somatochlora alpestris*.

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