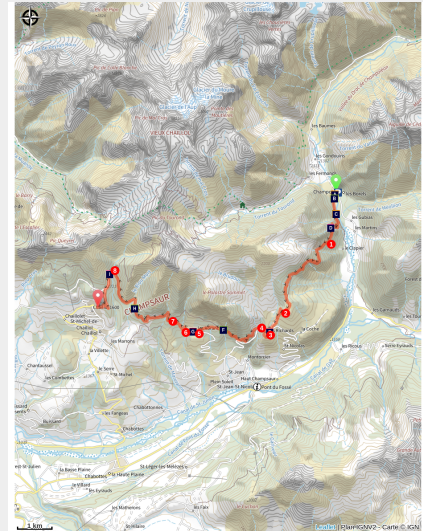


Tour of Vieux Chaillol - Stage 4 out of 5

Champsaur - Champoléon



Les Aiguilles de Famourou (© Parc national des Ecrins - Marc Corail)



This leg is along a south facing ledge below the beautiful Palastre rock faces and the Aiguilles de Famourou.

As well as a panoramic view of the Drac valley, you will discover a prosperous mountain, an area with a network of hedges, canals, sunken paths and its pollarded trees. There is an ongoing agro-pastoral tradition around the village resorts and in summer, most of the valleys and pastures are used for cattle and sheep.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 6 h 30

Length : 17.7 km

Trek ascent : 1175 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Stage

Themes : History and architecture, Top

Trek

Departure : Les Borels

Arrival : Chaillol 1600

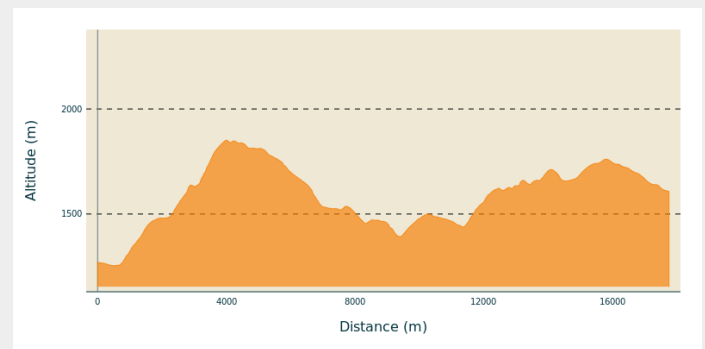
Markings :  GR

Cities : 1. Champoléon

2. Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas

3. Saint-Michel-de-Chaillol

Altimetric profile

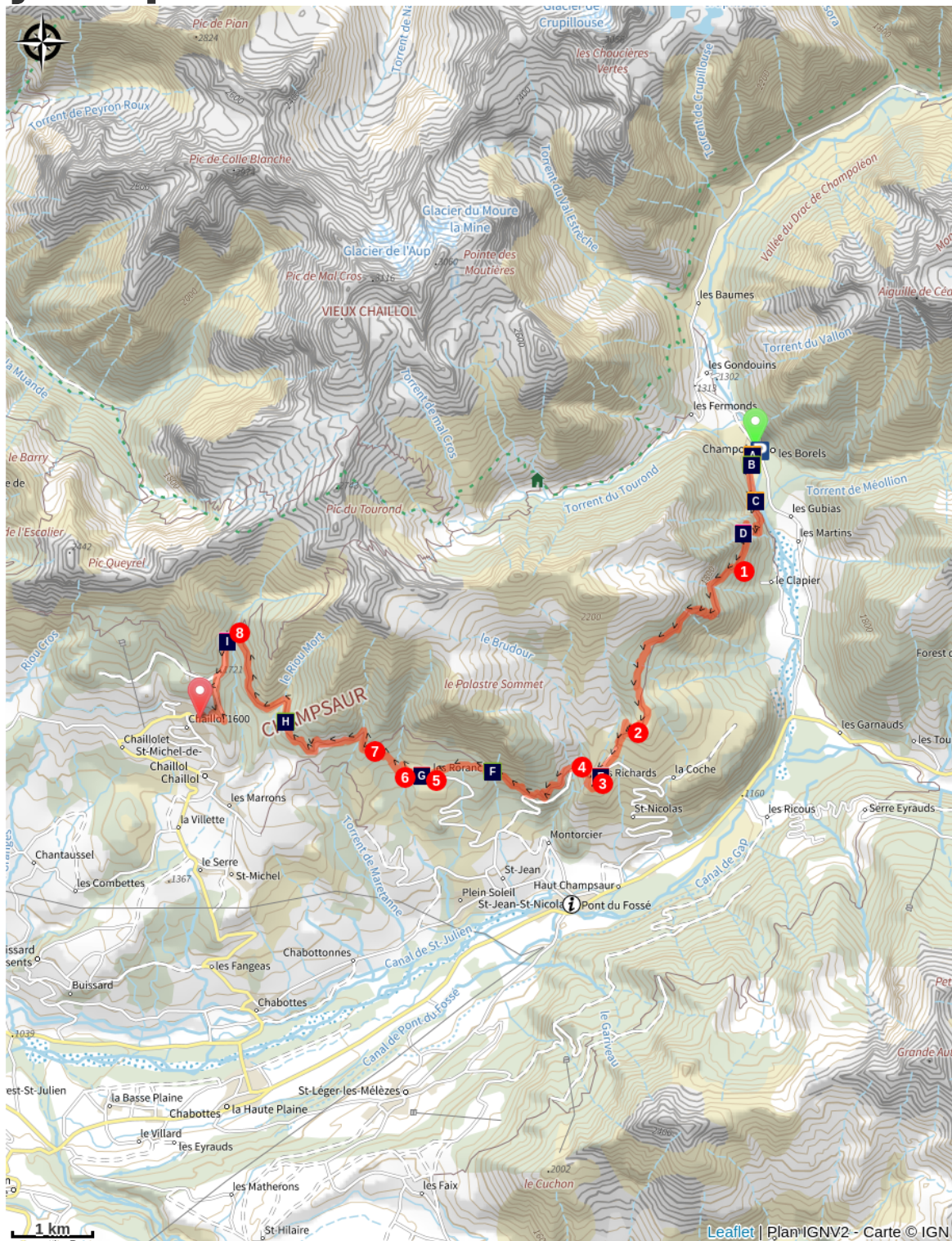







Min elevation 1255 m Max elevation 1852 m





Whilst keeping on the right bank, continue along the Drac for about 10 minutes, which will quickly take you up to the right and into a larch forest. The GR continues under large black slabs (sandstone).

1. An hour later, you will see a footpath to the left that goes down to the hamlet of Clapier. Continue up through the forest, the path flattens out to overlook the Aiguilles de Pertuis. Go through a shale zone and leave the forest for a pasture area where you may lose the tracks in some places. Take the footpath to the right, down along the thalweg up to the mountain spur that dominates the valley.
2. Go down the meandering path that joins the small road leading to Les Richards. Walk across the hamlet.
3. At the junction take the route to the left. Walk past a farm, through a first gateway, along the enclosure, through a second gateway and cross the Bonnets stream. The path then heads up the right bank and enters a wood, on a forestry path that goes down to, and crosses, the Brudou stream.
4. Whilst still in the forest, go past the Baumette Forester's house, then not long after, above the Doue water source, cross over the Peyrouse stream.
5. In the hamlet, turn right (sign) and follow the slightly downhill track. It soon reaches a crossroads.
6. Follow the sign for Chaillol to the right. The trail climbs through the forest, sometimes a little steeply. Ignore the various paths on either side and follow the red and white GR markings.
7. After a few steep switchbacks, turn left onto the balcony path towards Chaillol (sign). The GR comes to the forest again and follows an old irrigation canal just below. You will then reach the rest area of the old Chaillol mountain refuge.
8. Follow the forestry road that goes down the right bank of the Buissard stream to get to the Chaillol resort.

On your path...



-  Les Borels (A)
-  Champoleon (C)
-  Les Richards (E)
-  Les Roranches Chapel (G)
-  Le Vieux Chaillol (I)

-  Alpine ibex (B)
-  Geology (D)
-  Short-toed snake eagle (F)
-  Scots pine (H)

All useful information

Advices

The Drac has very wide riverbed that spreads and flows in several branches. They can change direction after heavy rainfalls cutting off the cross-country ski trails in several places.

How to come ?

Transports

In the summer, shuttle from Gap to Les Auberts that stops at Les Borels. Be sure to reserve 36 hours in advance at 05voyageurs.com or by calling 04 92 502 505.

Access

From the N85, take the D944 (Col de Manse) 4 km after Pont-du-Fossé, turn left onto the D944a and continue to Les Borels.

Advised parking

Car park to the left when you arrive at Les Borels

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 2450m.

Black grouse - winter

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, Decembre

Contact: Fédération départementale des chasseurs des Hautes-Alpes :
Pierre-Frédéric Galvin : pierre-frederic.galvin@fdc05.com

Membre de l'Observatoire des Galliformes de montagne
Virginie Dos Santos : ogm.vds@gmail.com
Blandine Amblard : ogm.amblard@gmail.com

Zone de refuge hivernal pour le Tétrás lyre. Merci de veiller à respecter le balisage.

Black grouse - winter

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, Decembre

Contact: Fédération départementale des chasseurs des Hautes-Alpes :
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Zone de refuge hivernal pour le Tétrás lyre. Merci de veiller à respecter le balisage.

Peregrine falcon

Sensitivity period: February, March, April, May, June

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

Nidification du Faucon pèlerin.

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Faucon pèlerin 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 !

En cas de survol merci de rester au-dessus de 2200m d'altitude à une distance de 300m sol.

Information desks

House of Champsaur

champsaur@ecrins-parcnational.fr
Tel : 04 92 55 95 44
<http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/>



Tourisme Office of Champsaur & Valgaudemar

Les Barraques, 05500 La Fare en Champsaur
Tel : 04 92 49 09 35
<http://www.champsaur-valgaudemar.com/>



Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



Les Borels (A)

This is most important village in the Chamoléon district (no hamlet bears this name). Until towards the first world war in 1914, the valley lived in a closed circuit for all everyday items. At the Borels there was a weaver (wool and hemp), a miller-baker, an ironmonger, a mason, a breeches-maker and in the other hamlets, a cobbler, two millers, a joiner and two shoemakers. The latter worked from home.

Attribution : Marc Corail - PNE



Alpine ibex (B)

If you take a few minutes' walk at the end of the valley, you will be able to see some Alpine ibex. In September 1994, in Champoléon, some thirty animals from Vanoise area were released by Ecrins National Park rangers. This superb animal is heavier (100 kg) and less timid than the chamois, and is closely related to the domestic goat. It was almost extinct in the Alps. Today it is totally protected in France and is now safe extinction.

Attribution : Rodolphe Papet - PNE



Champoleon (C)

To the 24 questions asked by the attorney general of the Dauphiné in 1789, the Champoléon Council replied, "Champoléon is in the most atrocious place of the Haut-Dauphiné. The community has 16 villages, 80 families and 600 souls spread over the slopes of the mountain. All of the roofs are thatched [...] the rivers and streams cause serious damage." Indeed, on All Saints Day in 1790, the Champoléon church was destroyed by flooding. Part of the graveyard was washed away taking coffins and corpses away from Champoléon too.

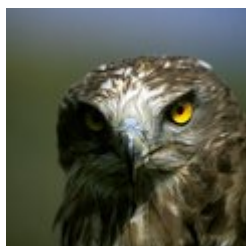
Attribution : Marc Corail - PNE

Geology (D)

Upstream from Les Borels, the right-hand side of Champoléon is dominated by peaks without stratification, made up of crystalline rocks (granite and gneiss). They are protruding and pushing back the older, softer sedimentary rocks found on the other side (limestone and sandstone). These movements have caused faults and mineralisation which was exploited in past times (pyrite, galena, copper...)

Les Richards (E)

Perched up at an altitude of 1548 m above Pont-du-Fossé in the commune of Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas, the village of Les Richards is a haven of tranquillity. The view is breathtaking over the Autanes and the Champsaur woodlands. This is the starting point for a very popular hiking trail around the mountains or to the summit of the Palastre, and a take-off area for long-distance hang-gliders. It is not unusual for a hang-glider to land in Grenoble and sometimes even in Chamonix after a long day's flight from Les Richards! The record is 162 km, with a landing in Chamonix in 2002.



Short-toed snake eagle (F)

This bird of prey can be recognised because of its large head, its quite impressive wingspan (1.80m) and the white plumage under its wings and body. Despite its size, it rarely eat small mammals. Its food mainly consists of lizards and snakes. When it hunts, it takes up a particular position against the wind, poised in the air with its wings fully outstretched.

Attribution : Marc Corail - PNE



Les Roranches Chapel (G)

Built in 1780 on the site of a former chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption, the Roranches chapel is dedicated to Saint Pancras, the protector of farm animals and pets. It was built using humble architectural techniques, and is highly representative of the small places of worship in the Champsaur woodlands where, as so often in the mountains, the materials used were those that were ready to hand. Two renovation projects have been carried out on the chapel since 2013 with the support of the Ecrins National Park. The first was aimed at stabilising the barrel vault and renewing the framework and roof using the original material, slate. The second project was to restore the plasterwork inside and outside, as well as the whitewash, windows and flooring.

Attribution : © Parc national des Écrins - Michel Francou



Scots pine (H)

The Scots pine can be recognised by its long reddish brown trunk and sparse foliage. The needles are grey-green, slightly curved and paired. It needs a great deal of sunshine, but can make do with poor, sandy soil that is unsuited to other trees. Its wood is light and of high quality.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



Le Vieux Chaillol (I)

Easily visible from Champsaur and from beyond Gap, Le Vieux Chaillol is, like the Ecrins range, made up of granite rocks originating in the bedrock of the Cambrian era and which suddenly rose up some 5 million years ago. But the rocks of Le Vieux Chaillol have undergone a particular recrystallisation and have been transformed into metamorphic conglomerates and schists.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE