

Tour of Vieux Chaillol - Stage 5 out of 5



Champsaur - Saint-Michel-de-Chaillol



Le Vieux Chaillol du plateau de Tresserre (© Parc national des Ecrins - Pascal Saulay)



Following a walk up through the larch forest, you will have beautiful viewpoints over the Champsaur valley, its mountain hedges and in the distance the Dévoluy mountain range.

In the Champsaur, there is extraordinary biological diversity and many people. This scattered lifestyle across several hamlets away from the larger towns such as Saint Bonnet, are due to an interesting past. Religious fervour has left its mark on the area by way of crosses and chapels. It was the subject of many conflicts between Catholics and Protestants, who assembled around the Duke of Lesdiguières.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 7 h 30

Length : 22.7 km

Trek ascent : 628 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Stage

Themes : Flora, History and architecture

Trek

Departure : Chaillol

Arrival : Les Paris

Markings :  GR

Cities : 1. Saint-Michel-de-Chaillol

2. Saint-Julien-en-Champsaur

3. Saint-Bonnet-en-Champsaur

4. Bénévent-et-Charbillac

5. Les Infournas

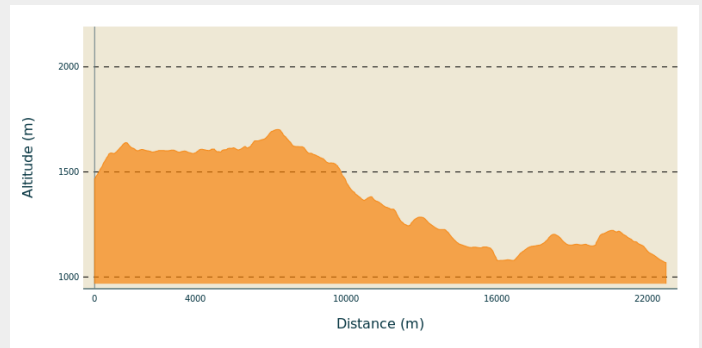
6. La Motte-en-Champsaur

7. Les Costes

8. Chauffayer

9. Saint-Jacques-en-Valgodemard

Altimetric profile







Min elevation 1069 m Max elevation 1703 m

From the Chaillol 1600 resort, take the stony road that links up to the Bois de la Lozière forestry road (turn left). Continue on the forestry road for another 500 m where, on the right, you will come to the footpath that leads into the larch forest. Walk past the footpath to the right that goes to the Pisse pass, and again on the right, the one that leads to the Viallet pass, and start a descent through the woods. When you leave the Lozière wood, cross the top of Les Combes. Enter the Barbeyroux wood and pick up the forestry route on the right. When you reach the roundabout, follow the road to the right that goes to the Subeyrannes forestry house and then go down to the village of Infourna Hauts. On the left at the exit of the hamlet, follow the paved road then the forestry road that leads to the Blache pass. From there head west following the wooded ridge. Cross a paved road (5 minutes to the left is the hamlet of L'Auberie and its strange chapel of the Petêtes). Go up through the Bois de Clier and as you leave it you will reach the hamlet de Charbillac along the road. Go through Charbillac and follow the road that then becomes a rough track leading to an enclosed meadow. Head down through the forest then once you have passed the Merdarel stream, go along the irrigation canal until you get to the bridge over the Séveraissette that will lead you to La Motte en Champsaur. From the post office square, the path continues up to the north-west to the hamlet of Le Collet. Go over the mountain pass of the same name, then start down on a shaded route on the paved road from Les Courts. Follow the road for 400 m, then a track to left, to 400 m of paved road, leading to Maisseret. The GR leaves the paved road by a rough track that bends until it reaches Les Costes water storage reservoir. 400 m into the forest, link up to the forestry road that heads down north-east, changes into a footpath and crosses the Costes irrigation canal. It is possible to get to Les Paris by a small footpath to the right.

On your path...



-  Champsaur architecture (A)
-  Ornithological diversity (C)

-  Hedging (B)
-  Hayfields (D)

All useful information

How to come ?

Access

From the N85 head towards Saint Bonnet and follow the D43 then the D143 towards Chaillol or Chaillol 1600.

Advised parking

Chaillol 1600 or Les Marrons

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.

Short-toed snake eagle

Sensitivity period: March, April, May, June, July, August, September

Contact: Parc National des Écrins
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Nidification du Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc en période de nidification sont principalement les pratiques aériennes comme le vol libre ou le vol motorisé.

Merci d'essayer d'éviter la zone ou de rester à une distance minimale de 300m sol quand vous la survolez soit 1560m d'altitude !

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...



Champsaur architecture (A)

Today's landscapes and the houses are no accident. They bear the trace of humans, who were less concerned with building attractive places, than with striving to find the best rigorously functional solutions for the area. In the northern part of the Drac valley, an area often faced with a cold wind, hedges were planted, buildings were close together and almost blind on the north-facing side. On the balconies to the east, as in St-Michel-de-Chaillole or St-Julien-en-Champsaur, the aim was to find sunlight and the facade often had a large porch.

Attribution : Marc Corail - PNE



Hedging (B)

Hedged landscapes were quite common in France before the war, but here, above an altitude of 1000 m, a wonderful diversity has been maintained. A patchwork of hedgerows, prairies and woods are home to an array of birds. Amongst them are many common sparrows (red-backed shrikes, stonechats, sparrows, quails and wrynecks) whose numbers are in decline in France, sometimes alarmingly so. Richness is therefore not solely due to rarity.

Attribution : PNE



Ornithological diversity (C)

Thirty years of careful inventories have identified 220 species of bird in the valley. This exceptional variety is not only due to the landscapes (hedges, wetlands, forests and high mountains) but also to the Champsaur's geographical position: not quite north-alpine, wide open to the south with the Manse and Bayard thresholds, ideal for exchange and for migratory birds such as herons, ducks, red-footed falcons or flycatchers.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE



Hayfields (D)

When they have not been disturbed by modern fertilisation techniques and silage, around fifty species of plant can still be found in the hayfields. The most symbolic are the poet's daffodil, alpine salsify, meadow sage, sainfoin and globeflower that punctuate the landscape with their different colours.

Attribution : PNE
