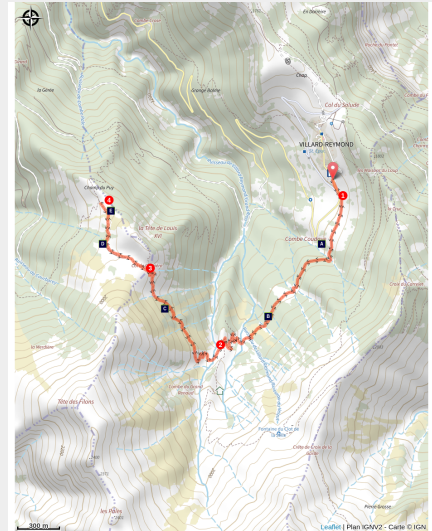


# Tête de Louis XVI via Col de Corbière

Parc national des Ecrins - Villard-Reymond



Descente de la Tête de Louis XVI, col de Corbière (Kinaphoto - Parc national des Ecrins)

*Under the watchful eye of Le Grand Renaud, this royal trail runs over stone ripples and joins up with the Lignarre valley.*

A varied path blending hollows and flowering meadows, with its highest point being a striking view for all those making the effort to get there. The Tête de Louis XVI via Col de Corbière is a “trophy” that no hikers worth their salt should ignore!

## Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 3 h

Length : 8.4 km

Trek ascent : 398 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Return trip

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Panorama

# Trek

**Departure** : Villard-Reymond

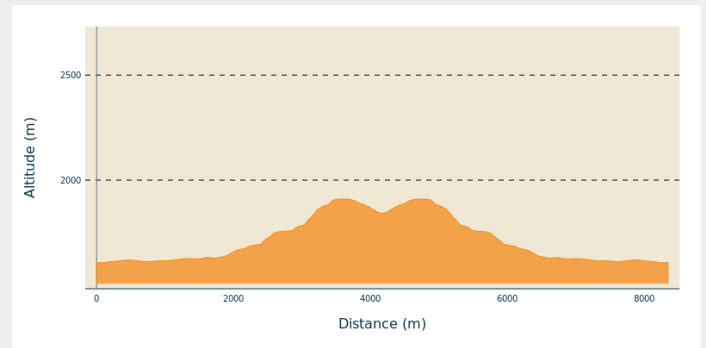
**Arrival** : Villard-Reymond

**Markings** : — PR

**Cities** : 1. Villard-Reymond

2. Ornon

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1608 m Max elevation 1911 m

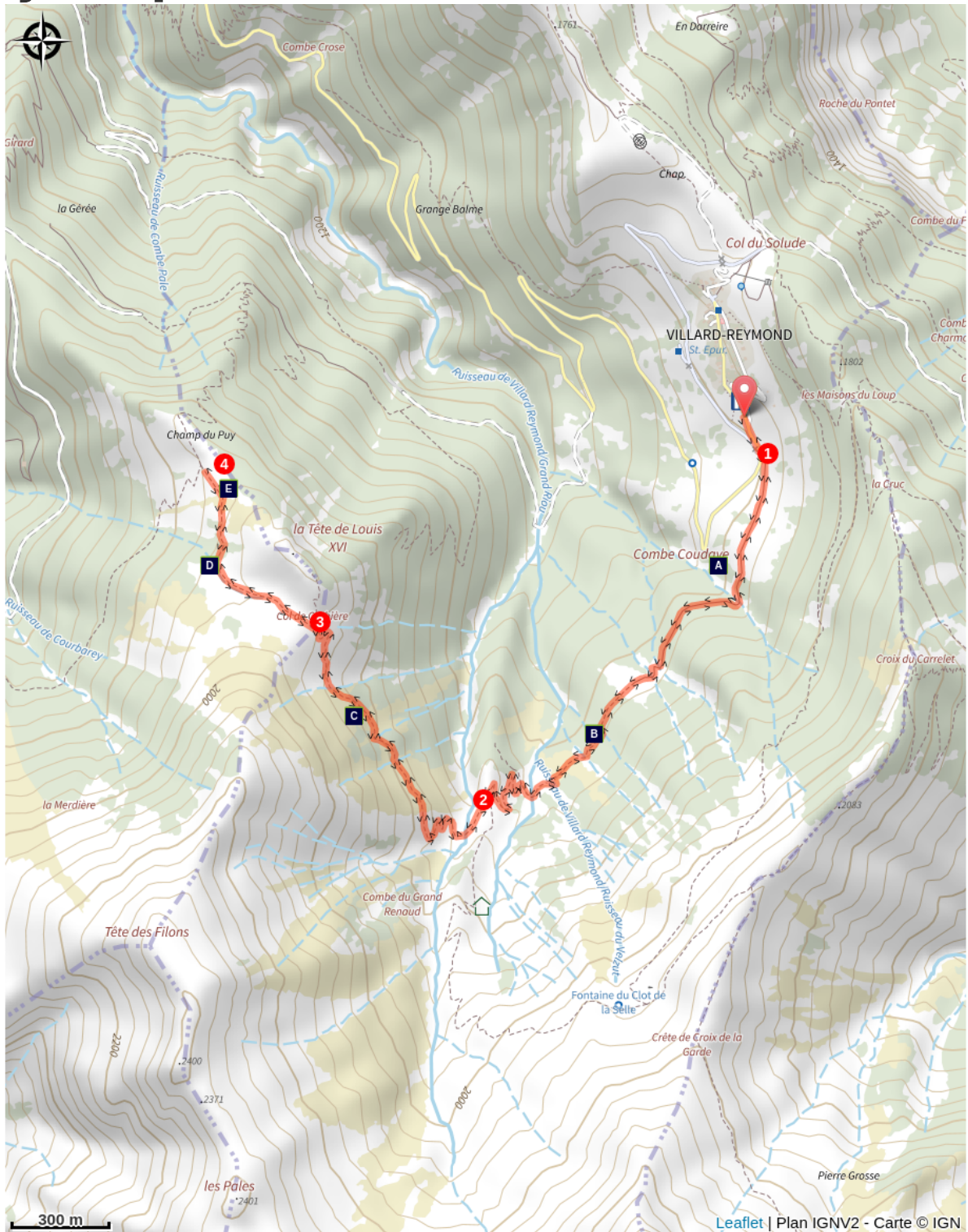
Park in the entrance car park below Villard-Reymond and take the forest path below the Chemin De Velzut (1614m), which follows the curve of the Cirque du Grand Renaud.




After crossing several hollows, the path begins a winding climb towards the magnificent flowering pastures. The path leads up steeply to Le Grand Riou (1608m), with a plunging view above the wild torrent and its “cauldrons”.



From Le Grand Riou, descend slightly to the right to cross the torrent. From there, follow the looping ascent, then cross the hollows up to the meadows as far as Col de Corbières (1926m). Here, you follow the signs to Tête de Louis XVI (1980m), and then go up to the right.

You can take the same path back down towards the resort of Col d'Ornon.

# On your path...



-  Common pipistrelle (A)
-  European larch (C)
-  Griffon vulture (E)

-  Yellow bellflower (B)
-  Pansies (D)

# All useful information

## **i** 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](#).



## **How to come ?**

### Access

D526 to La Palud, then the D210 to Villard-Reymond

### Advised parking

Villard-Reymond car park, just before arriving in the village

## **i** Information desks

### Oisans Park house

Rue Gambetta, 38520 Le Bourg d'Oisans

[oisans@ecrins-parcnational.fr](mailto:oisans@ecrins-parcnational.fr)

Tel : 04 76 80 00 51

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



## Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

## On your path...

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### Common pipistrelle (A)

Brown in colour with relatively short ears, the common pipistrelle and the kuhl's pipistrelle are rivals for the title of Europe's smallest bat. The common pipistrelle can be found in a wide range of ecological environments, even above an altitude of 2,000 m. In late 19th century France, school books celebrated the virtues of the bat. They are insectivores, eating a quarter or a third of their weight each day in mosquitoes and other insects. They emit ultrasounds that cannot be heard by the human ear. This technique helps them to find their way in the dark and capture their prey. They are often to be seen around lampposts, hunting insects that are attracted to the light.

Attribution : Jean-Pierre Nicolet - PNE

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### Yellow bellflower (B)

This campanula is easy to recognise, with its tufts of highly compact yellow flowers. It is one of the few Alpine biannual plants. The seeds scattered in autumn produce large, slender leaves the first year, growing in a rosette shape. The flower only blooms the second year, when it ensures its posterity, then dies. The plant can be found on Alpine grassland (from altitudes of 1,000 to 2,600 m) and on rocky ground and soil that is rich in limestone. Standing on a thick, hollow stalk with a great many leaves, it is 10 to 40 cm tall.

Attribution : Bernard Nicolet - PNE



## 🌸 European larch (C)

With a rich range of colours varying with the seasons, the fine and soft needles of the larch turn from light green in spring to emerald green in summer and gold in autumn. In winter, they fall, and the majestic larch seems to be dried out. Only the small round cones persist, which birds take to pieces to peck at the seeds. The flowers bloom at the same time as the first supple needles in spring: the female flowers have small raspberry-coloured cones and the male flowers are pale yellow catkins.

Attribution : Thierry Maillot - PNE

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## 🌸 Pansies (D)

In a carpet of violet flowers, but sometimes yellow, white or multi-coloured, the Alpine pansy brings colour to the grass. It is also known as the mountain violet. Its spur, which can be seen on the back of the flower, is long, and only insects with long sucking pumps, such as butterflies, can gather pollen from them. Violets and pansies are members of the same family. To tell them apart, you need to look at the two side petals: they are turned downwards in violets, and upwards in pansies. Pansies are optimistic violets!

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE

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## 🦅 Griffon vulture (E)

In summer, the griffon vultures leave their nesting areas, attracted by the many sheep grazing in the Alpine pastures. They soar up above the mountain crests. Expert scavengers, they have a fundamental role in the food chain, quickly eliminating corpses and so limiting the risk of disease spreading. This task as nature's undertakers has long made them an object of horror and fear for mankind. They are in decline in the Alps, but once again present in the Massif des Ecrins, following programmes to reintroduce them since 1980 in Les Causses and more recently in the Prealps.

Attribution : Coulon Mireille - PNE

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