

# De Villar Loubière au refuge des Souffles

Valgaudemar - Villar-Loubière



Refuge des Souffles (© Parc national des Ecrins - Carlos Ayesta)



## *Belle montée face au chaos géologique des Arraches.*

*En été, la montée au refuge des Souffles est digne d'une promenade dans un jardin botanique avec tout son cortège d'insectes qui lui est indissociable. On a vraiment l'impression de partir gravir les sommets avec la Cime d'Orgière qui surplombe le sentier tout au long de l'ascension.*

Tommy Bulle

## Useful information

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Practice : By walk

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Duration : 3 h

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Length : 5.3 km

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Trek ascent : 951 m

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Difficulty : Medium

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Type : Stage

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Themes : Fauna, Geology, History and architecture

# Trek

**Departure** : Villar Loubière

**Arrival** : Refuge des Souffles

**Markings** :  GR

**Cities** : 1. Villar-Loubière

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1024 m Max elevation 1953 m

Depuis le Parking, remonter la route du village jusqu'à la fontaine. Prendre à gauche jusqu'à rejoindre un chemin en terre. Le début de la randonnée est marqué par des panneaux de signalétique du parc national. Suivre le chemin qui est signalé avec un pictogramme GR et passer sur une petite passerelle. Sur le versant opposé, les Arraches se dévoilent peu à peu. Le sentier monte jusqu'à arriver à un croisement où se trouvent des pancartes signalétiques. Prendre à gauche, traverser quelques pierriers suivis d'un petit massif de feuillus. Après un dernier raidillon où coule une petite source, le refuge se découvre aux yeux du randonneur. Rejoindre le refuge n'est alors plus qu'un jeu d'enfant !

# On your path...



-  Villar-Loubière windmill (A)
-  Sheep on the mountain pasture (C)
-  Variety of the natural environment (E)
-  Arraches (B)
-  Black Grouse (D)
-  Variety of plant life (F)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Être prudent au début du sentier lors du passage de quelques à-pics et se méfier de chutes de rochers en cas de fortes pluies.

## **How to come ?**

### Access

De la route nationale N85, bifurquer en direction de Saint Firmin, suivre la Chapelle en Valgaudemar et s'arrêter à Villar Loubière.

### Advised parking

Parking au bord de la D 985 A. Si pas de place, parking au centre du village.

## **Information desks**

### **Valgaudemar Park house**

Ancien Asile Saint-Paul, 05800 La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

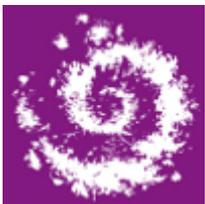
valgaudemar@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 92 55 25 19

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



## **Source**



Parc national des Ecrins

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

# On your path...

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## Villar-Loubière windmill (A)

As you begin the steep climb towards the Col de la Vaurze, don't miss the unusual Villar windmill, covered in vegetation. Built in 1838, this legacy from past times has been perfectly preserved with its curious horizontal wheel. It was still in use 50 years ago, milling wheat, but also nuts and rapeseed. It was restored in 1979 and is the last working windmill in the Valgaudemar valley.

Attribution : Florence Chalandon ©

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## Arraches (B)

From the refuge, or during the climb, a peculiar geological formation may catch your eye on the opposite bank, above the old hamlet of Peines. Sedimentary rocks are trapped in the middle of crystalline formations where erosion has created a specific pattern of erosion that looks like a giant tiger has clawed at the rock. This morphology is what gave it the name Arraches.

Attribution : Olivier Wartuzelle - PNE

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## Sheep on the mountain pasture (C)

During your walk, you might come across sheep on the mountain pastures. This is an old form of pastoralism, as proven by the dry stone enclosures that you will see. These are known as 'jas'. You will also notice a rock shelter near to the Clot. The sheep that are in these pastures belong to breeders from the valley or from the Bas Champsaur area.

Attribution : Jean-Philippe Telmon - PNE

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## Black Grouse (D)

The upper limit of the forest is where you are likely to see the black grouse. The female has faint in her bland-coloured feathering that camouflages her in the vegetation, making her difficult to spot. On the other hand, the male, which is black and white with red "eyebrows", is not so private, particularly during the reproduction season when their cooing and hissing sounds echo in the mountain in the early morning.

Attribution : Robert Chevalier - PNE

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## ✿ Variety of the natural environment (E)

This walk is a summary of south facing slopes in the Valgaudemar area. It starts in the warm scree that is more or less vegetated. It then progresses over lawns and moors of juniper, blueberries or bearberries... They give way to mountain ash, whitebeam and amelanchiers indicating that the forest will soon take over. Higher up, the beech forest casts shade on the walkers, next a beautiful larch forest is a sign that the forest environment will give way to the high altitude moors and lawns. The Lautier lake and the surrounding ponds are a haven for aquatic species. Still higher, is the realm of rocks and chamois.

Attribution : Bernard Guidoni - PNE

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## ✿ Variety of plant life (F)

There is a large variety of plant life along the itinerary, particularly on the slopes above the refuge, due to the exposure, the soil types and the altitude. Marjoram, lis, laserwort, houseleek, stinecrop, gentian, columbine, aconite and many others are present.

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE