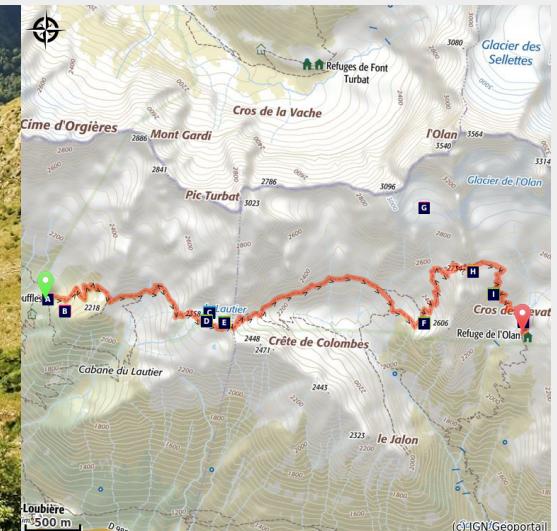


Du refuge des Souffles au refuge de l'Olan

Valgaudemar - Villar-Loubière



Le sentier vers le refuge de l'Olan (© Parc national des Ecrins - Olivier Warluzelle)



Une étape alpine permettant de découvrir un lac glaciaire et de s'immerger dans une ambiance minérale fascinante.

Cette traversée de refuge en refuge donne des vues inoubliables sur la vallée du Valgaudemar. Une belle étape sportive de marche dont les paysages imprègnent le randonneur du début à la fin de la journée.

Tommy Bulle

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 5 h

Length : 9.0 km

Trek ascent : 952 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Stage

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Geology

Trek

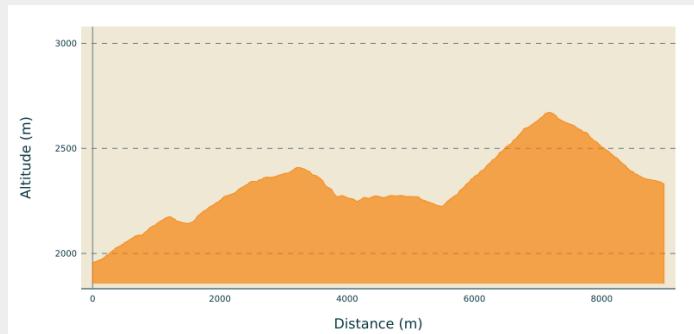
Departure : Refuge des Souffles

Arrival : Refuge de l'Olan

Markings :  GR

Cities : 1. Villar-Loubière
2. La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1956 m Max elevation 2671 m

De la terrasse du refuge, prendre la direction du col des Clochettes qui se situe 200m au dessus. La limite du parc national se trouve juste avant l'arrivée au col. Du col redescendre jusqu'à arriver à un croisement. Continuer alors tout droit et remonter en direction du lac Lautier. Ce petit lac glaciaire se traverse au niveau de son déversoir. Cheminer entre les polis glaciaires et la pelouse, puis atteindre le col Colombe d'où la vue sur la vallée et sur le sommet de l'Olan est remarquable. De ce point, la suite de l'itinéraire se devine avec le pas de l'Olan et la brèche en V dans l'arrêté sud de l'Olan. Du col des Colombes, redescendre un peu et à la signalétique en place, prendre le chemin serpentant en direction du pas de l'Olan et du refuge de l'Olan. Remonter 500m à flanc de montagne : c'est ici le passage le plus minéral de la balade. Une vire rocheuse large et aisée conduit alors au pas de l'Olan. Du sommet du pas, le refuge se devine en contrebas. En face se trouvent le sommet de la Rouye (3085m) et la cime du Vallon (3410m) qui ferme le grand cirque de l'Olan. La redescente au refuge est donc un véritable plaisir. D'un côté se découvre le village de la Chapelle en Valgaudemar, de l'autre, se dresse le versant sud-est de l'Olan. Entre les deux apparaît l'ancien cirque glaciaire. Quelle magie paysagère !

On your path...



Souffles mountain refuge (A)

Lautier Lake (C)

Rock partridge (E)

The Olan « summits » (G)

Chamois, Ibex, ... (I)

Remarkable views (B)

Alpine newt and ponds (D)

Flora at altitude (F)

Ancient refuge at Pas de l'Olan (H)

View of La Chapelle and the surrounding mountains (J)

All useful information



Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.



⚠️ Advices

Etre prudent après le croisement sous le col Colombe lors du passage d'un petit à pic, ainsi qu 'au pas de l'Olan. Se méfier des rochers mouillés au passage du pas de l'Olan.

ⓘ Information desks

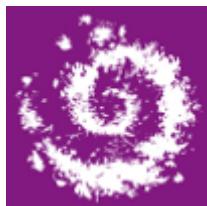
Valgaudemar Park house

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...



Souffles mountain refuge (A)

The Souffles mountain refuge is managed by the CAF (French Alpine Club). A keeper is present from June to September. Here you have the opportunity to get something to eat whilst chatting with a mountain professional or spend a night at high altitude if you prefer. This is a good way to split the itinerary in two.

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE



Remarkable views (B)

The view over the valley as seen from the Souffles refuge is well worth the trip. Along the crossing from the Clochettes pass to the Colombe pass, there are numerous viewpoints that give multiple variations on a single theme: that of a high mountain valley.

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE



Lautier Lake (C)

This is a remarkable site. Brown trout are reared here for the delight of anglers.

Attribution : Dominique Vincent - PNE



▢ Alpine newt and ponds (D)

At high altitude, it is possible to see two amphibian species. These are the common frog and the alpine newt. The latter is rarer. It is a fragile species and consequently a protected one. When adult, it resembles a small lizard. In its aquatic cycle, the male has an orange colour on its belly and throat. Most of the time when we watch it in the lake, it is motionless with its feet spread out, as though it were weightless. If it is frightened, a swift movement of the tail and it will find refuge under a stone. The lake is used for rearing which is not a good thing for newts that are food to fish. On the other hand, the ponds that are situated above the lake do not have fish and the alpine newts are at home and reproduce there.

Attribution : Michel Breuil - PNE



▢ Rock partridge (E)

The rock partridge likes rocks and open moors where the young can feed on the insects that are necessary for their growth. It is not rare to see a group towards the Lautier lake or the Colombe pass.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



▢ Flora at altitude (F)

With a large altitudinal range, the variety of environments and the strong Southern exposure, floral diversity is extremely rich and varied. Most notably you can see the Tiger Lily, which stands out in its environment by the striking originality of its colour and the yellow gentian whose roots are used to make a bitter "eau de vie" with many virtues.

Attribution : Dominique Vincent - PNE



▢ The Olan « summits » (G)

L'Olan is a major summit in the Écrins massif. It culminates at 3564 m and is composed of three summits of which the highest is the Northern summit. The Olan was climbed for the first time right to the central summit on the 8th July 1875, then the Northern summit on the 29th June 1877 by the famous W.B.A Coolidge and his guide Almer. A normal route setting out from the Olan refuge can, with a guide or the right mountaineering knowledge, be the goal of an ascent in the Valgaudemar.

Attribution : Bernard Guidoni - PNE

Ancient refuge at Pas de l'Olan (H)

When you arrive at Pas de l'Olan, there are a few traces of the first refuge which was under the rocky mountain wall. Looking more like a large log cabin, it was unfortunately squashed by a rock. Due to its remoteness from the valley, the men chose to rebuild it on the current site.



Chamois, Ibex, ... (I)

All along the path, fauna is present. Watch out for the eagle and the vultures that glide on the ascending winds, as well as the chamois who spy on the world below. A few Ibex can sometimes be observed by mountaineers on the slopes of the Olan, without forgetting the marmot who punctuates the ascent with its strident cry.

Attribution : Christophe Albert - PNE



View of La Chapelle and the surrounding mountains (J)

The roof of Olan refuge makes a remarkable belvedere over La Chapelle village and the surrounding mountains which are the imposing Olan, the Cime du Vallon and the Rouye. A little higher up, the Pas de l'Olan provides a point of view of the entrance to the Valgaudemar valley and of the other face of the Olan.

Attribution : PNE