

Stage 1: Ancelle - Col Bayard Oxygenation Centre - Le Noyer

Champsaur - Ancelle



La plaine d'Ancelle - foins (Pascal Saulay - PNE)



This is an ideal stage to begin the adventure: smooth and without physical and technical difficulties. From Ancelle, the route first takes in the Cols of Moissière, Manse and Bayard. The end of the stage is focused on the forest, mainly following the north-facing slope of lower Champsaur as far as Le Noyer.

After reaching the Col de Moissière and its great view over the Gapençais, the route makes for Col Bayard via a disused railway track and the peaceful Gap Canal. You move towards Col de Gleize with its wide-open views, before plunging towards the resort of Laye and lower Champsaur. A long forest section leads you to Cabane des Pierres for the last descent to Le Noyer.

Useful information

Practice : Mountain bike

Duration : 6 h

Length : 50.9 km

Trek ascent : 1478 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Stage

Themes : Flora, History and architecture, Pass

Trek

Departure : Ancelle

Arrival : Le Noyer

Markings : ➤ VTT

Cities : 1. Ancelle

2. La Bâtie-Neuve

3. Forest-Saint-Julien

4. La Rochette

5. Gap

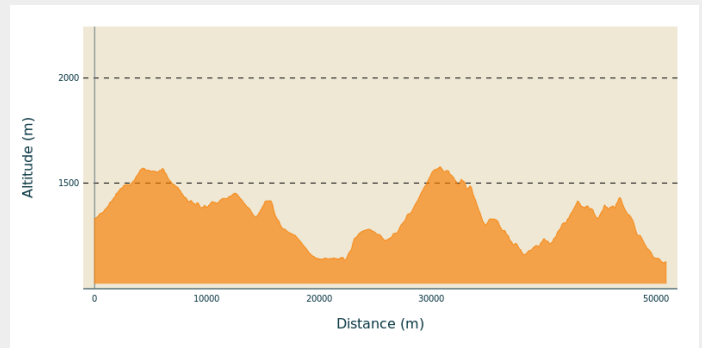
6. Laye

7. La Fare-en-Champsaur

8. Poligny

9. Le Noyer

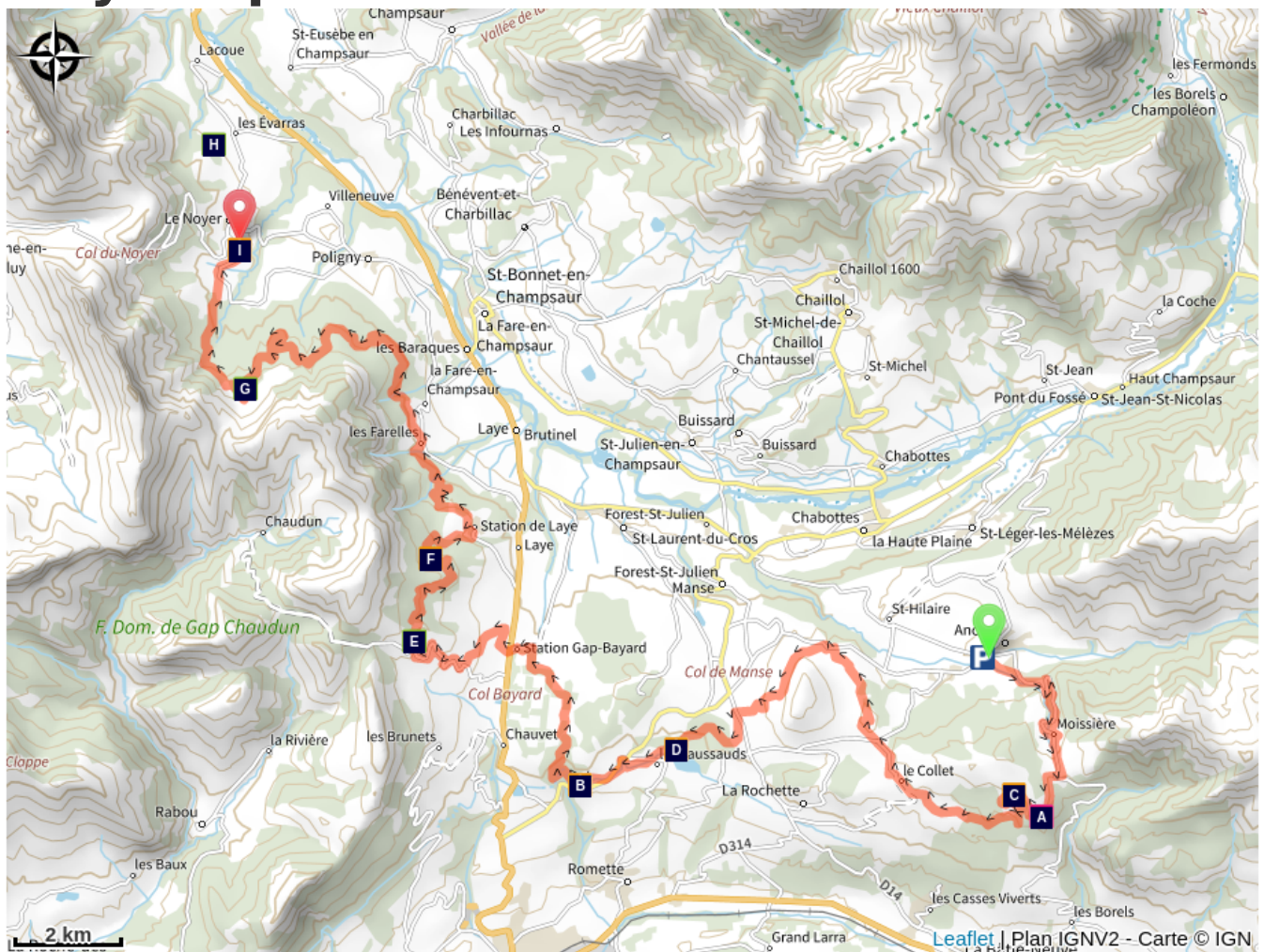
Altimetric profile






Min elevation 1122 m Max elevation 1578 m

A mountainside track with a great view over the Gapençais arrives in Le Collet and the Ouragnatte picnic area, going round Le Puy de Manse by the north and plunging down on the Col de Manse road with a short, technical descent. /!\ Continue on towards Gap along the disused Champsaur railway line that runs slowly down to Lac des Jaussauds. Cross the D944, then ride along the Gap Canal for a few kilometres. When you arrive at a hairpin bend, turn right onto a track going up to the Col Bayard golf course and the Oxygenation Centre. After crossing the very busy RN 85, /!\ you reach the Col de Gleize road. After a few turns on the way to the barrier, at about 1560 m, you head north towards the north and Champsaur along the Lauzon forest road. You cross a larch forest and arrive at a nice single track leading to La Cuque and the Laye resort (which our route goes round) and the village of Les Farelles. Avoid Fare-en-Champsaur: at the crossroads with the D217a, turn left onto the path. There follows a series of long climbs, enhanced by the sight of the peaceful Chapel of Notre Dame de Bois Vert (take the time to enjoy the view over the Champsaur woodland), until you reach the GR of the Cabane des Pierres and the Cabin of the same name. Then (at last!) you go down towards Le Noyer. But you need to concentrate because the beginning is quite technical and the ground is uneven. /!\

On your path...



-  View over Gap (A)
-  Archaeological site of Faudon (C)
-  Mouflon (E)
-  Fir (G)
-  Dominique Villars (I)
-  Canal de Gap (B)
-  Old Champsaur railway line (D)
-  ONF (F)
-  Roe deer (H)

All useful information

Advices

La piste sous le Collet d'Ancelle peut être très grasse par temps de pluie. Quelques descentes en sous bois peuvent devenir techniques par temps humide. Attention aux racines. Dégonflez un peu les pneus.

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
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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 2100m.

Peregrine falcon

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

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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 2080m d'altitude à une distance de 300m sol.

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 un distance minimale de 300m sol quand vous la survolez soit 1520m d'altitude !

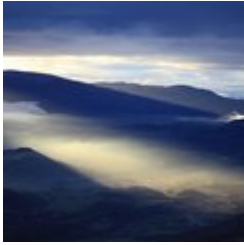
Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



◀ View over Gap (A)

To the south of Champsaur, the town of Gap is the administrative centre of Hautes-Alpes, with a little over 40,000 inhabitants. It stands at an altitude of 700 m on a major communications route between Provence and the Alps, and enjoys generous rates of sunshine with large natural areas in the vicinity. In 2013, L'Equipe newspaper voted the town of Gap as France's most sports-oriented town of over 20,000 inhabitants.

Attribution : Marc Corail - PNE

🍊 Canal de Gap (B)

Work began on the canal in 1864 and was completed in 1880. The canal is 28 km long, and takes its water from the River Drac, upstream of Pont du Fossé, before channelling it into the Gap basin. In today's money, it cost some 2 billion euros to build! The man in charge of the project, Maurice Garnier, a local member of parliament and contractor, went bankrupt and died in poverty, but managed to improve the life of local farmers.



🏺 Archaeological site of Faudon (C)

A quick ride takes you past the Croix Saint-Philippe to the remains of the Gallo-Roman village of Faudon, meaning mountain of fayards or beech trees) Settled during the Bronze Age by the Tricorians with a population of up to 400, in the Middle Ages this village became a stronghold for the local nobles before being abandoned in the seventeenth century.

Attribution : Marc Corail - PNE

🕒 Old Champsaur railway line (D)

1912 saw the start of the Champsaur rail works, an old project for a line between Grenoble and Gap which was intended to pass through Champsaur. In service from 1932 onwards, the Mure to Corps section was an undoubted success. From Corps to Gap, the earthworks and engineering works were almost totally complete. However, the onset of the War, a lack of resources and the development of cars all brought the project to an end in 1941. Today, numerous structures along the route bear witness to this past endeavour.

🐐 Mouflon (E)

If you make a detour to the Col de Gleize, you may well see some mouflons. An ancestor of the sheep with ammonite horns, it was introduced from 1949 into the Alps from herds in Corsica and central Europe, and seems well settled in the Chaudun area. Even though the European Union recommends strict protection of the mouflon, it is still hunted during the hunting season. Its populations are ill-adapted to extreme Alpine conditions and can fluctuate according to the winter weather.

👉 ONF (F)

The work of the Office National des Forêts (National Forestry Office) is not limited to the forests. After buying a large amount of land following the rural exodus (public land), the state delegated to the Water and Forestry agency the difficult task of preserving the natural heritage of a large number of areas (restoration of land and building, maintenance of paths, etc.)



🌲 Fir (G)

100 metres below the Cabane des Pierres stands the oldest and biggest fir tree in Champsaur. It is a European silver fir (*Abies alba*). The silver fir is often confused with the spruce (*Picea abies*). A tip to tell them apart: the spruce has cones that hang under the branch with needles all around the branch, while the fir has upright cones and rows of needles that stand out through having two small white lines underneath them.

Attribution : Parc national des Ecrins



Roe deer (H)

Walnut forests are a favourable home for roe deer. They came from Italy, the Isère and Drôme regions, and were added to some forty animals that were released between 1969 and 1975 in the neighbouring forests of Durbon and Morgon. This timid animal can be recognised by its red-brown coat and white patch on its rear.

Attribution : Pierre-Emmanuel Dequest -PNE

Dominique Villars (I)

The botanist Dominique Villars was born in Noyer in 1745. From an early age he was interested in botany, and with his friend, Dominique Chaix, a priest and botanist from Roche des Arnauds, he discovered many new species. He wrote "L'histoire des plantes du Dauphiné" (History of Plants in the Dauphiné), bringing together 3,000 species. Shortly before his death in 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte appointed him botany professor at the Strasbourg Special Medical School.