

Du refuge du Clot Xavier Blanc au refuge du Pigeonnier

Valgaudemar - La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar



Le refuge du Pigeonnier (© Parc national des Ecrins - Jean-Pierre Nicollet)



Cette étape permet de découvrir le fond de la vallée du Valgaudemar et le cirque glaciaire du Gioberney.

Le passage de la vallée à la haute montagne est une transition saisissante. On y voit peu à peu le règne du végétal céder sa place au règne du minéral.

Tommy Bulle

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 5 h

Length : 8.0 km

Trek ascent : 1070 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Stage

Themes : Lake and glacier,
Panorama, Top

Trek

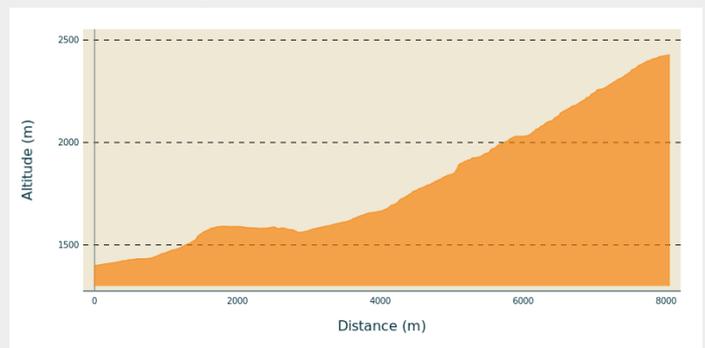
Departure : Refuge du Clot Xavier Blanc

Arrival : Refuge du Pigeonnier

Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1401 m Max elevation 2429 m

Du refuge du Clot (Xavier Blanc), continuer sur le sentier balisé GR 54 en direction de l'ancien hameau du Clot. Enjamber le torrent du Gioberney par une passerelle et arriver au hameau Le Clot. Il ne reste de celui-ci qu'une maison restaurée pour le berger. Le sentier traverse une petite prairie. Il est fermé par deux murs de pierre qui servaient à empêcher les animaux de sortir du chemin et d'aller brouter les cultures, avant qu'ils n'aient rejoint l'alpage. Un peu après, il faut quitter le GR 54 et remonter sur la gauche afin de rejoindre le sentier du Ministre. Arrivé là, prendre la direction du chalet hôtel du Gioberney qui se devine aisément. Le sentier est plat, mais il faut rester vigilant car le versant est abrupt. Rejoindre le parking du Crépon qui constitue le départ du sentier du Ministre. Celui-ci est situé à l'extrémité sud du parking qui longe la route pour rejoindre le chalet hôtel. La sente suit un peu la route, la traverse et passe presque sous la cascade du voile de la mariée. De là, atteindre un autre parking où se trouve le départ pour le refuge du Pigeonnier, au niveau des panneaux d'entrée du parc national des Ecrins. Le chemin part plein sud bien à plat avant de se redresser pour passer quelques lacets raides puis de se radoucir. Traverser les passerelles et arriver après quelques lacets au refuge, dominé par la face sud des Rouies.

On your path...



-  The Minister's footpath (A)
-  Northern Bat (C)
-  Common frog (E)
-  The summits (G)

-  Châlet-hôtel in Gioberney (B)
-  The different environments (D)
-  The glaciers (F)

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.



How to come ?

Transports

www.05voyageurs.com entre Gap et La Motte en Champsaur
possibilité de correspondance avec le car Gap-Grenoble

Information desks

Valgaudemar Park house

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

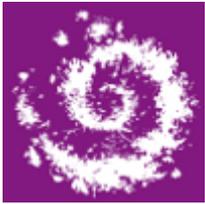
valgaudemar@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 92 55 25 19

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



Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



The Minister's footpath (A)

A strange name for a footpath... Two explanations are given. The first, simply suggests that a minister inaugurated, or at least used, the footpath. The second, which is more likely, explains that donkeys were also known as ministers. Indeed, these animals were priceless to peasants of the time and they were pampered and treated accordingly. This path, which is mostly flat would have been well suited for them, and it would seem logical that it was given this name.

Attribution : Dominique Vincent - PNE



Châlet-hôtel in Gioberney (B)

The construction of the chalet-hôtel at Gioberney started during the Second World War as part of a youth project. It enabled some young people the possibility of escaping obligatory work service in Germany (STO). The stones for the building were taken on the spot, cut and put together using cement mortar. At that time the road to Gioberney did not yet exist, and would only be built in 1963. You had to go up on foot, for « tired intellectuals », it was possible to be helped by a mule in order to reach the refuge. There was not much frequentation until the construction of the road...

Attribution : PNE - Bodin Stéphane

Northern Bat (C)

The Northern Bat is a boreal bat, a glacial relict in the Alpine arc. Adapted to the cold, it resists temperatures close to -7°C for short periods of time. The Northern Bat is a discreet species that lives in boreal forests scattered with humid areas. It sometimes hunts near to public lighting, one of the only places where it is easy to observe it. The capture of females at this site has enabled us to believe in the presence of a colony at Gioberney. It would be the first known reproducing colonies in France.



The different environments (D)

From an altitude of between 1600 m to 2450 m, this itinerary invites you to cross different kinds of environment. Blueberry bushes and rhododendrons on the minerals of the scree slope, the green larch pastures, and this trip will be punctuated by different environments with their specific flora and fauna.

Attribution : Stéphane D'houwt - PNE



Common frog (E)

Sometimes in the water, sometimes out of it, this is the amphibian of the summits. With the Alpine Newt, it occupies the smallest puddle of water up to the most impressive altitudes. (2800 m). In a state of lethargy during more than 8 months of the year due to the bitter winter it is a symbol of adaptability to altitude. In the winter it burrows into the mud or slides out of the water under leaves, a tree stump or a rock to shelter from the frost.. It lays up to 4000 eggs on average, since it is confronted with climatic conditions and predators (newts, fish...), only a few individuals will reach adulthood in order to ensure the sustainability of the population. A real example of adaptability at altitude !

Attribution : Jean-Philippe Telmon - PNE



The glaciers (F)

Gioberney glacial cirque offers a 180° panorama of the magnificent Rouies glaciers, the Condamine at the foot of the Bans... Today, in retreat, (the polished glaciers remain as slabs smoothed by the erosive action of these 'ice monsters') a witness to their past.

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE



The summits (G)

At the bottom of Valgaudemar, this loop enables you to fully appreciate « Himalayas of the Alps ». This cirque du Gioberney is topped with superb summits easily more than 3000 m altitude. From the west to the east, The Rouies and their 3589 m, the Pic du Says (3420 m), the Mont Gioberney (3352 m), the Pointe Richardson (3312 m), the famous Bans (3505 m) and the Aupillous at 3458 m. With three glacial cirques which blend in to one and its high summits, one really touches the domain of mountaineering here.

Attribution : Bernard Guidoni - PNE