

Du refuge du Pigeonnier au refuge de Chabournéou

Valgaudemar - La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar



Refuge de Chabournéou (© Parc national des Ecrins - Thibaut Blais)



L'étape traverse le fond de la Vallée du Valgaudemar qui relie le versant sud des Rouies au versant nord du Sirac.

Durant toute cette étape, la vie de la haute montagne est à proximité. On est imprégné par la présence des sommets, on observe la faune et la flore de ces milieux caractéristiques du massif des Ecrins, dans lesquels les amoureux des cimes et des grands espaces ont coutûme de se retrouver.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 6 h

Length : 13.5 km

Trek ascent : 848 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Stage

Themes : Hut, Pastoralism, Top

Trek

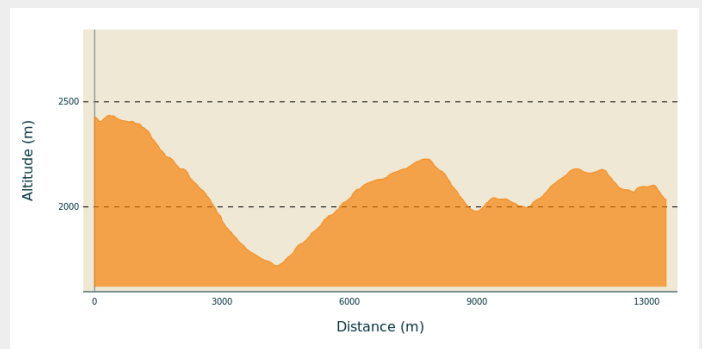
Departure : Refuge du Pigeonnier

Arrival : Refuge de Chabournéou

Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1721 m Max elevation 2437 m

Passer devant le petit lac en contrebas du refuge afin de revenir sur le sentier emprunté la veille. Le sentier contourne l'arrête de l'Orient qui descend du Pic central du Vaccivier pour se diriger plein est vers la cabane du Vaccivier. La vue s'ouvre alors sur l'immense Vallon du Vaccivier et le sommet culminant du Valgaudemar : Les Bans (3669m). Un belvédère est matérialisé par un gros cairn, quelques centaines de mètres après le refuge. Un passage délicat et un peu vertigineux (mais sans exposition) est alors à négocier. Bien chercher à gauche puis revenir sur la droite pour trouver les meilleures marches. Arriver à une bifurcation et suivre la direction de la Cabane du Vaccivier et Gioberney. Le sentier redescend à partir de là pour retourner en vallée. Le suivre jusqu'à la Cabane de la Crotte(1720m). Quelques passages sont assez raides et demandent de l'attention. Légèrement en dessus, prendre la direction de Tirière et remonter dans de vieux polis glaciaires et rhododendrons. La vue est magnifique sur le versant sud des Rouies et le lac Lauzon. Arriver sur le plateau de Tirière, et savourer une pause face à la vallée et la Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar. De nouveau, redescendre par une section du sentier assez raide, et à la prochaine bifurcation, suivre le sentier du Refuge de Chabournéou. Il remonte et passe devant la cabane du Pis, un abri sous roche moins spartiate que celui du Vaccivier. Traverser le torrent du Pis, qui descend du glacier des Aupillous, sommet qui se trouve sur la gauche et la face nord ouest du pic Jocelme. Le sentier remonte un peu pour arriver de nouveau sur le plateau de Beaume Rousse. D'un seul coup, le refuge de Chabournéou se découvre en face sur l'autre rive. Descendre et suivre en courbe de niveau le sentier afin de traverser le torrent de Chabournéou. Les vues sur les différents versants des montagnes sont sublimes. Le refuge de Chabournéou est alors très vite rejoint.

On your path...




 Pigeon Loft Refuge (A)


 The Alpine Ibex (C)

 The Chauvetane mine (E)

 High altitude birds (G)

 The Common Hawker or Sedge Darner (B)

 Live at the rhythm of the sheep (D)

 Landscapes and summits (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.



⚠️ Advices

Des passages délicats, qui dépendent de la saison et de la météo, peuvent-être rencontrés sur cet itinéraire. Ils concernent notamment la traversée du torrent du Pis et celle du torrent de Chabournéou.

📍 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...



Pigeon Loft Refuge (A)

Perched at 2423 m, at the foot of the Rouies, this real eagle's nest was restored at the beginning of the year 2000. It uses solar energy and offers dry toilets which are signs of the edifice's environmental integration. Situated almost at the highest point of this hike, it is often the place for a short, beneficial rest, beside the nearby pond.

Attribution : Jean-Pierre Nicollet - PNE



The Common Hawker or Sedge Darner (B)

Beside the small pond at the Pigeon Loft refuge, you could have the surprise of seeing this big dragon fly, the Common Hawker, hunting. One of the only kind that lives at these altitudes. Most of its existence is spent as a sub-aquatic larva. Several years under the water are necessary for this great predator to finish its growth and to reach its sexual maturity. From then on, it needs to leave the aquatic environment in order to transform itself into a flying imago (adult). This adult stage only lasts for a few weeks with only one purpose which is reproduction. Mating in flight and the laying of eggs on the surface of the water are carried out in order to finish the life cyclewith death.

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE



The Alpine Ibex (C)

The Alpine Ibex almost disappeared in the 19th century. It owes its survival to the protection put in place in Italy and in La Vanoise National Park which sheltered the last population. Since the beginning of the reintroduction programme of the species initiated successfully in 1989, the 'lord of the summits' has recovered his place in the Massif des Ecrins. The cirque du Gioberney is a favourite location for the birth of young, at the beginning of the summer, and it provides the calm atmosphere required by this species. Maybe you will be surprised by the massive and majestic silhouette of a male or a very young kid demonstrating its innate mountaineering qualities.

Attribution : PNE



🐏 Live at the rhythm of the sheep (D)

Despite the austere terrain, Valgaudemar valley has been the home, for centuries to intense pastoral activity which gives a rhythm to the lives of the inhabitants from spring to the first snows. Here and there, you will discover a shepherd's hut always under the astonished gaze of the sheep belonging to the sheep farms in the valley. The flocks contain different races including « Métisses », « Thônes et Marthod », « Lacaune » and « Mérinos », which are particularly well adapted to the demands of this terrain.

Attribution : Jean-Philippe Telmon - PNE

🍊 The Chauvetane mine (E)

In the 19th century, the Valgaudemar area experienced a mining rush. Several explorations uncovered a few veins that were the start of mining operations for lead sulphide or argentiferous galena in the Navette valley, at Le Roux or even in La Chauvetane. An English mining company called the "Valgaudemar Mining Company Limited, associated with a Saint-Firmin notary, was founded in 1861. The work of the peasant-miners in the valley, on the steep rock face of the Chauvetane, was essentially to dig out tunnels leading to the veins where the ore was extracted and sent down to the Condamine. There, women would load it onto donkeys and take it down to the present day Xavier Blanc mountain refuge, where it was processed. The operation was not viable however, and the activity finally ceased in 1923.



📍 Landscapes and summits (F)

The panorama evolves whilst crossing the Tirière plateau. To start with, walkers have a view of the Gioberney cirque and the surrounding summits, including Les Rouies and its glacier. Further on, the Sirac dominates and the eye is drawn to the Surette valley with a view of the Valgaudemar valley. Opposite, on the other side of the Surette valley, the Morge peak looks like it is poised at the junction of the valleys as a lookout tower.

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE



High altitude birds (G)

The Tirlière plateau is an ideal spot for observing avifauna of the open altitude environment. The song of larks, water pipits and black redstarts will accompany you on this walk. At a bend, you might see a magnificent common rock thrush or a kestrel in the "Holy Spirit" hovering position that makes it easy to identify. Tirière is also a reference site for tracking the chamois population in the Ecrins National Park.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE