

Trek

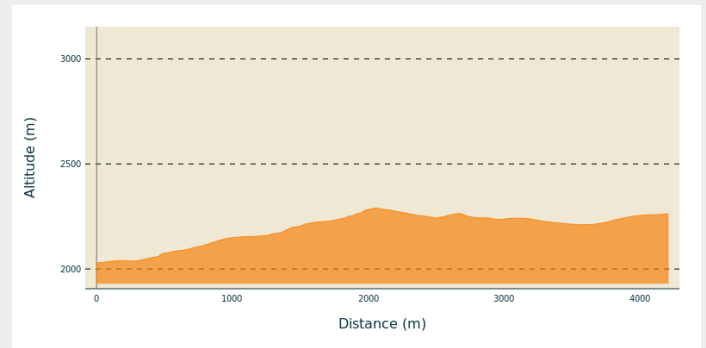
Departure : Refuge de Chabournéou

Arrival : Refuge de Vallonpierre

Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

Altimetric profile







Min elevation 2031 m Max elevation 2291 m

De la terrasse du refuge de Chabournéou, partir plein sud sur le sentier à flanc de montagne. À quelques pas, un panneau donne la direction du refuge de Vallonpierre. Ce sentier conduit jusqu'au refuge sans rencontrer d'autre bifurcation. Dans un premier temps, le chemin monte tranquillement dans la végétation et traverse quelques torrents qui descendent des neiges éternelles. Puis à proximité de l'aplomb du sommet « est » du Sirac le sentier franchit une barre rocheuse. Quelques aménagements sont présents, trois barres de fer aident pour se hisser vers le haut. Bien suivre les lacets afin d'éviter de s'engouffrer dans le petit couloir sous les dites barres de fer. Le sentier longe de façon débonnaire le versant nord s'approchant tantôt de la glace tantôt des rochers. Deux passages sont encore à négocier avec prudence. Le premier est à l'abord d'une dalle qu'il faut passer en prenant bien sur la gauche (marque de peinture). Être vigilant : sur la droite se trouve une sente d'animaux qu'il ne faut pas suivre. Avant d'arriver sur le « plancher des vaches », le sentier passe sur une vire large mais nécessitant tout de même de la prudence. À la fin du versant, le chemin contourne la montagne et commence à redescendre vers les pâturages. De là le sentier chemine entre des chaos de blocs rocheux, traverse du terrain morainique et s'échoue sur une plaine recouverte d'une magnifique pelouse. Le refuge est là, avec son petit lac et l'imposante face ouest du Sirac.

On your path...



-  Chamois (A)
-  Alpine grey willow (C)

-  The Sirac (B)
-  The Vallonpierre refuge (D)

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.



Information desks

Valgaudemar Park house

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Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



Chamois (A)

The chamois is an emblematic animal of the Alps and is at home anywhere in the mountains be it in the forests or rocky areas. It has short curved black horns and is a close relative of the antelope. It has particularly well developed sense of smell and hearing. It is consequently difficult to approach. However, near to the Chabournéou mountain refuge, and on the route towards that of Vallonpierre, it will be quite easy to enjoy the antics of the young kids on the névés that are still present. Did you know? While a walker is capable of climbing 400 m in an hour, the chamois is capable of climbing up 1000 m in ten minutes! This physical capacity is very useful for escaping danger.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



The Sirac (B)

To the south of the Ecrins massif, the Sirac is the last high summit at an altitude of 3441 m. It stands at the end of the Séveraisse valley, proudly showing off its best side: its 1500-metre high north face. During this walk, you will regularly raise your amazed eyes as if to salute this Lord and its crown. You will walk at its feet whilst being overlooked by its hanging glaciers. Simply magic!

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



Alpine grey willow (C)

At the subalpine level, above the highest limit of the forests, only bushes such as the alpine grey willow can be found. It is possible to find it on the north slopes of the Sirac, on the route between Chabournéou and Vallonpierre. Its milky green colour can be spotted from afar. If you look closer, you will notice its main characteristic, which is a silky hair that is on both sides of the leaves. One reason for this peculiarity might be to store as much moisture as possible to avoid desiccation. Despite its abundance here, it should not be forgotten that it is not such a common species!

Attribution : Bernard Nicollet - PNE



The Vallonpierre refuge (D)

A small lake, pretty meadows and the benevolent Sirac... This magical setting would lead to the construction of a refuge at an altitude of 2270 m in 1942. However, it was a victim of its own success and in 2000 the decision was made to build a second, bigger one. It can accommodate 37 instead of 22. This new building was the first modern mountain refuge to be built using stones on site rather than imported materials. It copies the simplicity and the crow-stepped gable from the "small refuge" which has been kept as lodgings for a warden's helper.

Attribution : Dominique vincent - PNE