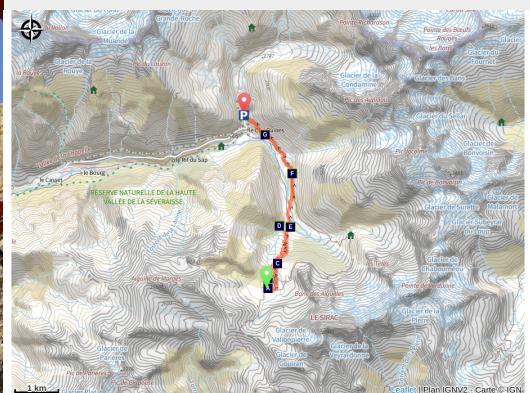


Du refuge de Vallonpierre au parking du sentier du ministre

Valgaudemar - La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar



Les Rouies depuis le sentier du Ministre (© Parc national des Ecrins - Bernard Guidoni)



Cette dernière étape marque la fin de cette itinérance avec une paisible redescente au fond de la vallée.

Il faut profiter de cette dernière soirée en refuge pour partager cette expérience de voyage alpin, la revivre étape après étape. S'il faut laisser ces lieux magiques derrière soi le lendemain, heureusement le massif des Ecrins regorge de nombreux autres itinéraires pour les randonneurs en quête d'évasion.

Tommy Bulle

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 6.9 km

Trek ascent : 41 m

Difficulty : Medium

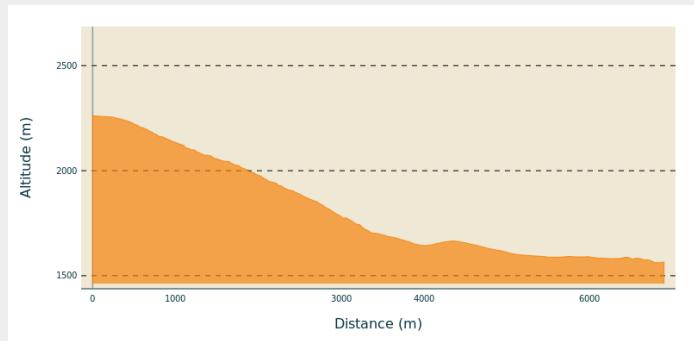
Type : Stage

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Pastoralism

Trek

Departure : Refuge de Vallonpierre
Arrival : Parking du ministre
Markings : GR
Cities : 1. La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar

Altimetric profile

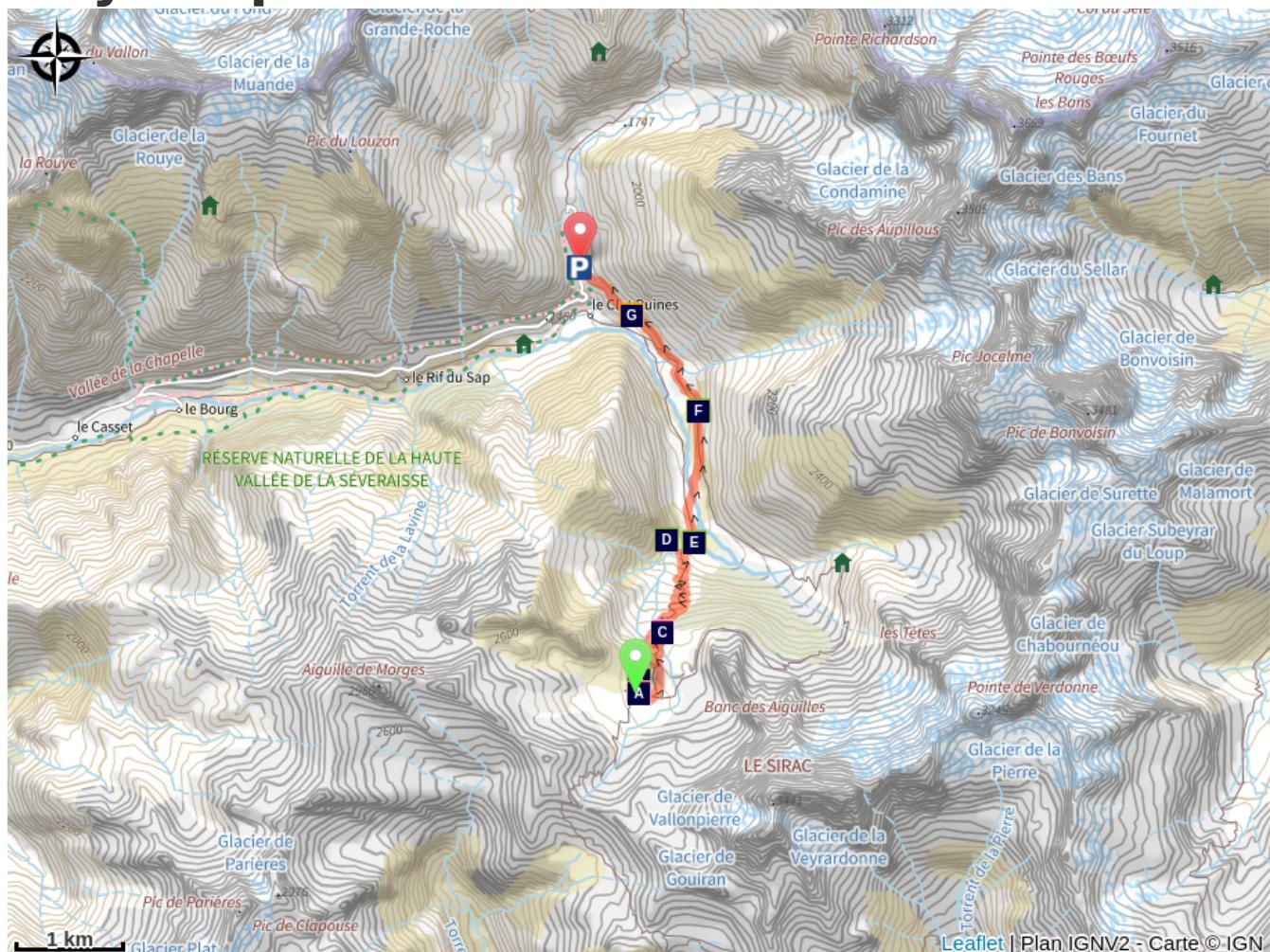


Min elevation 1563 m Max elevation 2263 m

Du refuge, repartir en direction de la veille et basculer dans le versant. Un panneau indique la direction refuge du Gieberney, qu'il faut suivre. Le chemin louvoie sur le bord d'une ancienne moraine et passe à coté d'une petite cabane de berger. Puis de grands lacets taillés dans la pente emmènent à une passerelle qui marque la fin définitive de la descente. Un troupeau de moutons pâture parfois ici. Mais il faut savoir que l'alpage complètement retourné est l'œuvre des sangliers. Suivre la direction donnée par le panneau vers le refuge du Gieberney. Le sentier remonte légèrement dans des blocs et arrive à un croisement d'où la descente se poursuit. Vous trouverez peut-être quelques myrtilles selon la saison. Le sentier est en balcon jusqu'au parking du sentier ministre... terminus de cette belle échappée en Valgaudemar !

Il est possible de rejoindre le point de départ, Villar-Loubière, en empruntant la navette du Valgaudemar, ou en ayant réservé un taxi.

On your path...



The Vallonpierre refuge (A)

Impressive geology (C)

High altitude birds (E)

The Minister's footpath (G)

Alpine ibex (B)

Marmot (D)

Variety of the natural environment (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

[Navette estivale du Valgaudemar.](#)

Pour réserver un taxi, prendre contact avec la Maison du Parc de La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar.

Information desks

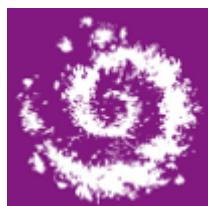
Valgaudemar Park house

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 Vallonpierre refuge (A)

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



Alpine ibex (B)

The species had almost completely disappeared from the French Alpine regions, and they survived thanks to our Italian neighbours, the kings of Savoy. Until the mid-15th century, they were still to be seen, but they were not wary of mankind and were hunted for their meat. Superstitious medical practice at the period also hastened their decline: their horns were ground into powder and used as a remedy for impotence, while the cross-shaped bone over their hearts was thought to ward off sudden death.

Successfully reintroduced into the Vanoise area in 1960, they were also brought back into the Champoléon valley over 20 years ago.

Attribution : Jean-Philippe Telmon - PNE



ⓘ Impressive geology (C)

From chabournéite, the native mineral of Valgaudemar, to the crystalline rock from the Sirac's gneiss, from the hollow of Vallonpierre made in sedimentary rock to the show that is given by the shale and tuffs on the Chevrettes pass, this circuit will take you back in time. The folds and the colours appear before you like an impressionist's work of art.

Attribution : Bernard Guidoni - PNE



ⓘ Marmot (D)

A high-pitched whistle sounds in the mountain pastures it is the cry of the marmot on guard, warning its companions of the arrival of imminent danger from the sky. Any inattentive creature failing to take note should beware a golden eagle will carry them away in its talons to feed its young.

Native to the Alpine grassland, colonies of marmots live with their young until their third year. Gnawing and digging are their favourite pastimes, along with rolling down the slopes. And not forgetting an afternoon nap on a nice, warm rock and their long hibernation between October and March.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



ⓘ High altitude birds (E)

Autumn is migration season. The mountains, which are too harsh in winter, loses their inhabitants. Some opt for a change in altitude and go lower down the valley or to the coast. This is the case for the alpine accentor, the redstart, the redpoll, or the Eurasian linette. Others head off on a long journey to warmer countries. The Sahara offers a milder winter to the common rock thrush, whinchat and wheatear. The lesser whitethroat will head to the east. In the summer, this fine bunch will meet up again in the mountains. It finds a sanctuary where the diversity of plants and invertebrates is preserved. The alpine pastures seem to be favourable for the reproduction of all of these species that are diminishing and need to be protected.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE



✿ Variety of the natural environment (F)

During this walk, you will face all four directions at some point. This feature gives a surprising variety of plant species, from almost Mediterranean vegetation to subalpine species on the north slopes, such as alpine grey willow (see description below). You will walk for some time in scree, then tread on short alpine prairies and its cushion-like plants

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE



⌚ The Minister's footpath (G)

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