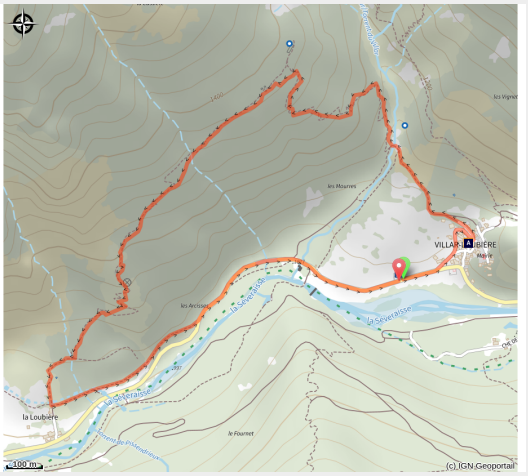
Village of Les Peines

Valgaudemar



Vue sur le torrent du Villar et les Souffles (Jean-Philippe Telmon - PNE)



A hike around the mountainside towards the abandoned village of Les Peines, on a belvedere above Villar-Loubière.

A historic site with a plunging view over the Valgaudemar valley - the village of Les Peines is always a delight.

In Villar-Loubière, don’t miss a visit to the hydraulic windmill, which is listed as a Historic Monument.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 4.1 km

Trek ascent : 335 m

Difficulty : Easy

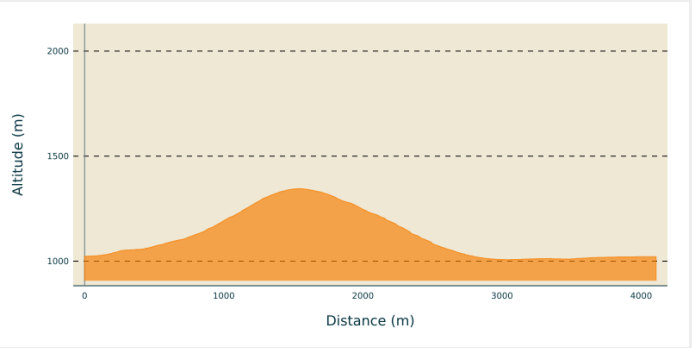
Type : Loop

Themes : History and architecture

Trek

Departure : Villar-Loubière
Markings : PR
Cities : 1. Villar-Loubière

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1008 m Max elevation 1346 m

We leave from the centre of the village of Villar-Loubière and head for Les Peines via Pont des Peines. Cross the footbridge and continue up the winding path to the ruins of the village of Les Peines. Go down via La Loubière and return to Villar-Loubière by the La Valgaude route.

On your path...



Villar-Loubière windmill (A)

Hamlet of Les Peines (B)

Schist organ pipes (C)

All useful information

How to come ?

Transports

Shuttle from Saint-Firmin in summer and connection with buses from Gap and Grenoble.

Access

From the RN 85, take the D 985a to the village of Villar-Loubière towards La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar.

Advised parking

At the entrance to the village of Villar-Loubière

Source

Maison du Tourisme du Champsaur et Valgaudemar

http://www.champsaur-valgaudemar.com

On your path...



Villar-Loubière windmill (A)

As you begin the steep climb towards the Col de la Vaurze, don’t miss the unusual Villar windmill, covered in vegetation. Built in 1838, this legacy from past times has been perfectly preserved with its curious horizontal wheel. It was still in use 50 years ago, milling wheat, but also nuts and rapeseed. It was restored in 1979 and is the last working windmill in the Valgaudemar valley.

Attribution : Florence Chalandon ©



Hamlet of Les Peines (B)

High above Villar-Loubière, the remains of the hamlet of Les Peines bear testimony to the harsh living conditions in the Valgaudemar valley at the beginning of the last century. Perched on a promontory, the site offers a spectacular view.

Too often afflicted by mountain river floods, maintaining the stricken land was like the labours of Sisyphus: constant clearance with no end in sight. This disheartened the few mountain-dwellers who returned from the Great War. This prompted the abandonment of Navette, above La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar, as well as Les Peines. In the nineteenth century, 92 inhabitants still lived in these high areas, and 14 children attended the school in the hamlet... until the inter-war years.

In 1955, the last inhabitant, who lived as a hermit here, departed as well, leaving only memories behind. Only the conveyor cable between Les Peines and Villar-Loubière is still used to transport wood down the mountain.

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE



Schist organ pipes (C)

Above the hamlet of Les Peines, some monumental schist sentinels watch over the valley with their stony gaze. The phenomenon of erosion can sometimes be destructive, but its action also forms very beautiful geological curiosities.

These shiny schist monoliths are also known as "organ pipes".

Exposed due to the movement of the tectonic plates, these rock formations are the result of a mixture of sediments accumulated at the bottom of ancient oceans and crystalline formations created in the depths of the earth, which was subjected to enormous pressures and temperatures. Primarily made up of mica and quartz crystals, this metamorphic rock has a flaky and shiny appearance. Extreme weather then exposed the most solid part of these formations. Born of the oceans and the earth, they form abrupt and tortured draperies which are also called «Arraches».

Attribution : Jean-Philippe Telmon