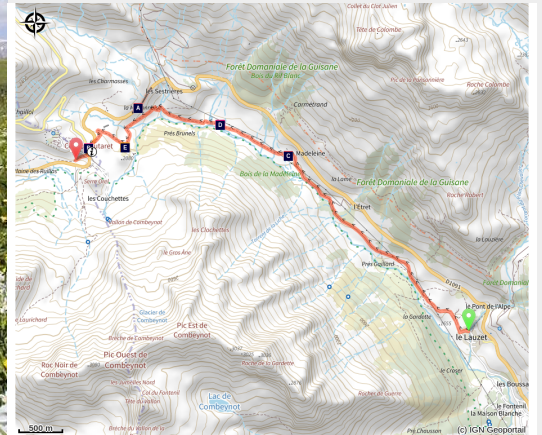


Du Lauzet au Col du Lautaret

Briançonnais - Le Monêtier-les-Bains



Pelouses alpines en aval du Col du Lautaret (© Parc national des Écrins - Pascal Saulay)



Le long de la Guisane, entre sous-bois et alpages, un sentier ancestral chemine de hameaux en chapelles.

Cette étape assez facile poursuit la pérégrination tout en laissant le temps d'apprécier le riche patrimoine architectural et religieux de la vallée. En fond sonore, le doux ronronnement de la Guisane apporte aussi fraîcheur et sérénité lors des chaudes journées d'été. Le chemin s'élève paisiblement dans les alpages, sur les pas de ces voyageurs d'antan, trouvant refuge dans les hospices et passant le col en toutes conditions.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 6.6 km

Trek ascent : 399 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Stage

Themes : Flora, History and architecture, Pass

Trek

Departure : Le Lauzet

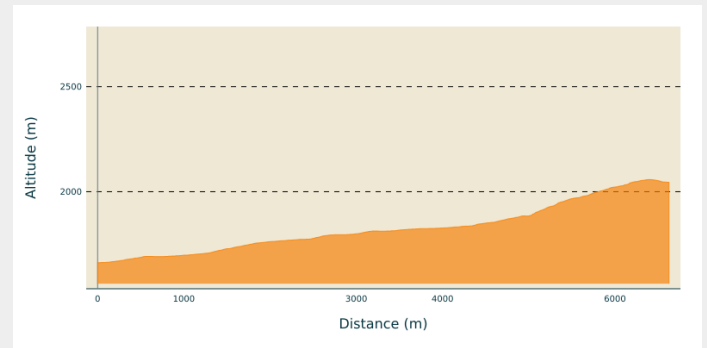
Arrival : Col du Lautaret

Markings :  GR

Cities : 1. Le Monétier-les-Bains

2. Villar-d'Arêne

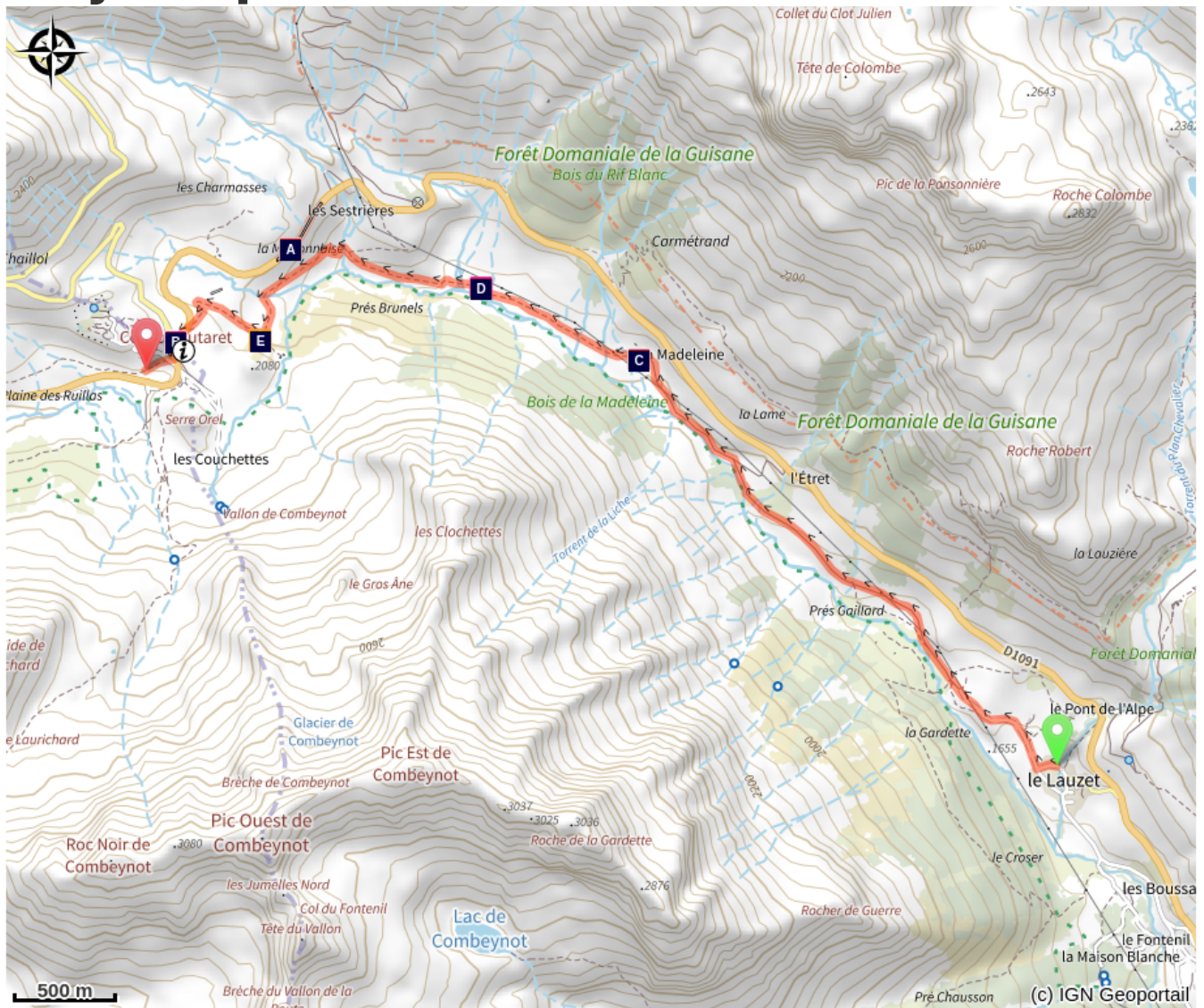
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1663 m Max elevation 2059 m

Au hameau du Lauzet, continuer jusqu'à l'église et rejoindre alors le GR®50 sur la gauche. Ce GR® emprunte une piste carrossable qui s'élève progressivement dans la vallée, en rive gauche de la Guisane. À l'ancien hospice de la Madeleine et sa chapelle, le chemin se transforme en sentier facilement reconnaissable. Le col se rapproche petit à petit à travers ces alpages, toujours en contrebas de la route du Lautaret. Après quelques grandes courbes peu raides, le col est enfin là !

On your path...




 Marionnaise snow fence (A)

 Madeleine Hospice (C)

 Le Massif de Combeynot, W. Brockedon (E)

 The Col du Lautaret climate (B)

 View over the Pic de Rochebrune (D)

All useful information

Advices

Prendre le temps d'observer le patrimoine architectural et religieux de cette haute vallée.

Le col du Lautaret est souvent venteux.

Environmental sensitive areas

Along your trek, you will go through sensitive areas related to the presence of a specific species or environment. In these areas, an appropriate behaviour allows to contribute to their preservation. For detailed information, specific forms are accessible for each area.

Peregrine falcon

Sensitivity period: February, March, April, May, June

Contact: Parc National des Écrins
Julien Charron
julien.charron@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Nidification du Faucon pèlerin.

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Faucon pèlerin en période de nidification sont principalement le vol libre et les pratiques verticales ou en falaise, comme l'escalade ou l'alpinisme. Merci d'éviter cette zone !

En cas de survol merci de rester au-dessus de 2500m d'altitude à une distance de 300m sol.

Information desks

Information center "Col du Lautaret" (summer only)

Col du Lautaret, 05220 Le Monétier-les-bains

brianconnais@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 92 24 49 74

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



Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...

Marionnaise snow fence (A)

In the Guisane valley, the Col du Lautaret road is in places highly exposed to the risk of avalanches. From when it was first built, a number of measures were taken. The first was a long, semi-open snow fence that lets snowslides flow above the road and arrive lower down the slope. A little further downstream is another, quite original solution: since the layout of the land was not adapted to a traditional snow fence, two diversion tunnels were dug at the sides (the Rif Blanc and the Vallois). If there is a major avalanche risk, the road is closed and the traffic temporarily diverted through the tunnels. Once the risk is over, the road is cleared and reopened to traffic.



The Col du Lautaret climate (B)

The Col du Lautaret is a climatic limit between the northern and southern Alps. It works like a barrier for rough weather, and it is not unusual that the Romanche valley to the west is filled with snow, while the Guisane valley to the east is dry, and vice versa. The Romanche valley runs down directly to the region of Grenoble, where the climate at the same altitude has twice as much precipitation, and so works as a corridor for rough weather coming from the area. This explains why the Col du Lautaret and the neighbouring Col du Galibier mark the limit for many plants with Mediterranean affinities. This transitional position is characterised by a climate with a strong Mediterranean influence in the direction of Briançon.

Attribution : © Parc national des Ecrins - Cyril Couriser

Madeleine Hospice (C)

At an altitude of 1,810 m, below the present-day Col du Lautaret road, the Madeleine hospice helped travellers cross the pass in all weathers and provided pilgrims with a chance to rest on their way to Rome or the Holy Land. The foundation of the order of the Holy Penance in these buildings dates from 1228. There is a chapel on the site, and it is located on a former road from Briançon to Grenoble. An avalanche destroyed the Madeleine hospice in 1740, and the building was rebuilt, then abandoned, when the road to Lautaret was modernised.

View over the Pic de Rochebrune (D)

The Guisane valley descends towards Briançon to the south-east. The view opens up in the distance towards the Massif du Queyras, with one of the summits clearly visible. The Pic de Rochebrune, at an altitude of 3,320 m, stands proudly above the Cervières valley, 10 km from Briançon and from the Guil valley in the Queyras region, linked by the Col de l'Izoard (2,361m). This enormous dolomite rock bastion is accessible to experienced hikers, since the last part is somewhat steep and you need to use your hands to climb up in places.

Le Massif de Combeynot, W. Brockedon (E)

In the work by W. Brockedon, [*Illustrations of the Passes of the Alps*](#), published in 1828, one of the engravings illustrating the Col du Mont-Genèvre shows, according to the title: *Mont d'Arcines and the Val de Guisane from the Col du Lautaret* (p. 25). The view is described as follows: "Across a deep ravine, the River Guisane is seen tumbling down the mountains from its source in the distant glacier of Mont d'Arcines, and thence flowing on to the Durance, through the narrow valley which is bounded by rugged and pinnacled mountains ". On the previous page, it says that "Le Casset is near the foot of the Glacier de Lasciale, which descends from the Mont d'Arcines". So it is clear that Mont d'Arcines is the present-day Les Agneaux mountain, and the Lasciale glacier is the Casset glacier, which must have reached much lower down. However, Paul Guillemin thinks that this is the first printed depiction of La Meije, and he marks it as n° 2 in his inventory (PG: 2). This was an error of interpretation on his part. In fact, it is the view over the Massif du Combeynot from the old Lautaret road. From this viewpoint, Les Agneaux (or Mont d'Arcines) cannot be seen.