

From Alpe du Grand Serre to Col d'Ornon

Parc national des Ecrins - La Morte



Face nord du Grand Armet vue sous Plancol (© Parc national des Écrins - Emmanuelle Boithiot)



After a gentle start, this stage will quickly take you up in the world. It runs through the Vaunoire Valley to the River Malsanne via the famous Col de Plancol. The descent is technical in places and steeper than the ascent.

After a gentle start, the route rises through the woods as far as the mountain pastures. The view gradually clears over the Col and the fascinating north face of the Grand Armet. When you get to Plancol, you can enjoy a wonderful change in perspective with an exceptional view over the west face of the Parc des Ecrins.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 6 h

Length : 15.0 km

Trek ascent : 991 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Stage

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Panorama, Pass

Trek

Departure : Alpe du Grand Serre

Arrival : Col d'Ornon

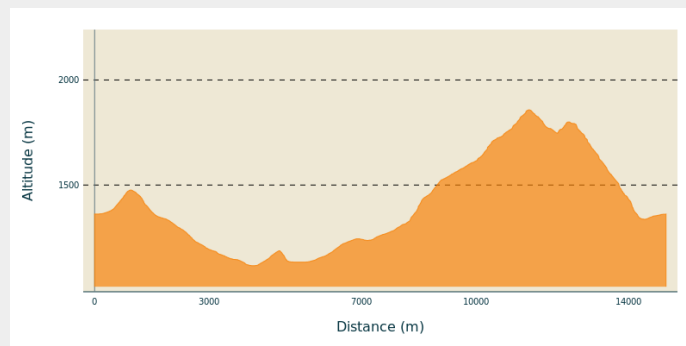
Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. La Morte

2. Lavaldens

3. Chantelouve

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1117 m Max elevation 1859 m

From the centre of the resort, follow the D114 road towards La Mure for 500m.

1. Then turn right into the path. This was once a road and is lined with twisted beech trees. It crosses the new road and arrives at Chabotte.
2. Carry on the road as far as the "Moulin Vieux" fork. Go through the village, following the signs to "Plan Col".
3. Cross the Vaunoire mountain stream and, just after the bridge, follow the markings along the left bank. The path you want meets up with the slope on the left bank near the Pourvis house.
4. From the car park the route follows a path through the forest. Towards 1300 m (a ford) the path turns into a track. The route rises quickly through the wood (a steep path) and crosses the Vaunoire mountain stream (a footbridge) at about 1180m. The track then follows the left bank of the stream before arriving in the mountain pastures at about 1600 m. Cross the ford and follow the path that runs under the shepherd's cabin and rises quickly, passing through several bends as far as the Col de Placol.
5. The path then goes down into the small west-facing valley, passes next to the source of the River Baisse and begins a dizzying crossing equipped with cables (a long, sheer crossing with a peak). You arrive once more in the beech forest and the path winds its way towards the Malsanne Valley. At the bottom of the valley, it crosses the white alder forest of Ornon and arrives at the RD 526, which you follow up to the Col d'Ornon.

On your path...



 République des Enfants (A)

 The Grand Armet glaciers (B)

All useful information

Advices

Un passage a gué peu après la cabane du col sur le ruisseau de Vaunoire peut être problématique selon le niveau de l'eau, s'il y a beaucoup d'eau : chercher le passage le moins profond, ne pas hésiter à enlever ses chaussures, bien utiliser ses bâtons pour se stabiliser pendant la traversée.

Prudence : passages vertigineux et main courante installée à la descente de Plancol vers le Col d'Ornon.

Information desks

Oisans Park house

Rue Gambetta, 38520 Le Bourg d'Oisans

oisans@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 76 80 00 51

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



Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



République des Enfants (A)

The “Children's Republic” was an important experiment in education. It was part of the movement in citizenship education occurring in different parts of the world and advocating the respect for children. It began in 1946 with the arrival of children from the south of France or young Spanish refugees, most of whom were orphans. Here homes were gradually built, community centres and holiday camps. This explains this large building at Moulin Vieux, which is called the Colonie (camp) or the Republic, and which today welcomes travellers and holidaymakers.

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The Grand Armet glaciers (B)

The Massif du Taillefer has hardly any glaciers left on its sides. In the first part of the ascent in the Roizonne valley towards Plancol, you go below the north face of the Grand Armet, which still has two glaciers. The higher one is called the Grand Glacier, and is valiantly resisting the widespread melting of the Alpine glaciers, despite a relatively low altitude (2250m), although it has greatly decreased in size over the past few years. The Grand Glacier is the most westerly glacier in the French Alps.

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