

Les Gourniers discovery path

Embrunais - Réallon



Le hameau des Gourniers à l'automne (Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Ecrins)



A discovery path with interpretation tables and botanical labels, around the hamlet of Les Gourniers and its «giant's cauldron».

This valley-bottom hamlet has retained its traditional charm. The street, edged with rather modest houses, leads to the former school (the Park information centre in July and August) and the small chapel, the Chapelle de la Nativité. I know all the locals and for me it's a real pleasure to spend time listening to the old people talking about years gone by in this mountain valley where - not so very long ago - life was hard. (Mireille Coulon, Park Ranger)

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 45 min

Length : 1.1 km

Trek ascent : 45 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Flora, Geology, History and architecture

Trek

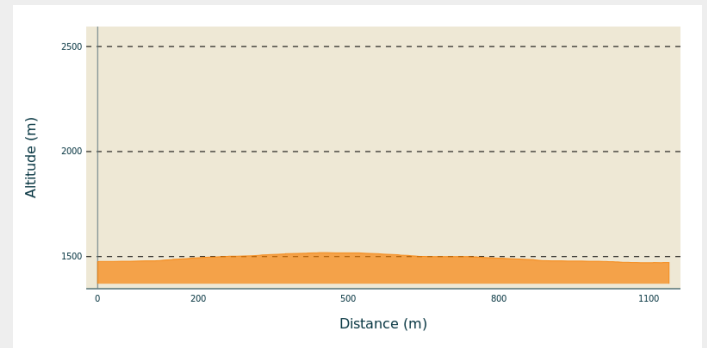
Departure : Les Gourniers

Arrival : Les Gourniers

Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. Réallon

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1472 m Max elevation 1520 m

In the car park on the right before the bridge. A panel describes and gives details of the route. Take the stone steps on the right which lead to the path. Go along the roadside until you reach the end of the field and take the uphill path on the left. All along the route, there are interpretation tables offering a description and understanding of the valley's landscapes.

1. You can continue straight ahead for a there-and-back detour to the foot of the La Pissarotte waterfall (allow 15 minutes).
2. Cross the footbridge over the mountain stream and then head back towards the top end of the hamlet, not forgetting to turn left down to the belvedere that overlooks the giant's cauldron ("Marmite de géant")..
3. After going past a house, turn left to drop down to the hamlet and back to the car park.

On your path...



- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|  | Carrion crow (A) |  | Yellow gentian (B) |
|  | Beech (C) |  | Burnt-tip orchid (D) |
|  | Cupid's dart (E) |  | Martagon lily (F) |
|  | Giant's cauldron (G) |  | Brown trout (H) |
|  | Chapel of the Nativity (I) |  | Hamlet of Les Gourniers (J) |
|  | Communal oven (K) | | |

All useful information

How to come ?

Access

From Savines-le-Lac, take the D41 to Réallon, then follow the D241 until you come to the hamlet of Les Gourniers in the valley bottom.

Advised parking

Car park, Les Gourniers

Information desks

Information center "les Gourniers" (summer only)

Les Gourniers, 05160 Réallon

embrunais@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 92 44 30 36

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



Maison du Parc de l'Embrunais

Place de l'Église, 05380 Châteauroux-les-Alpes

embrunais@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 92 43 23 31

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



Source



Parc national des Ecrins

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

On your path...



Carrion crow (A)

The carrion crow is a medium-sized corvid, slightly larger than the rook. It is easy to avoid confusing them, as the latter has a narrower, straight beak with a whitish base. Its plumage creates green reflections. The males and females are identical in appearance when young.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE



Yellow gentian (B)

It is easy to see why this perennial plant, with a strong, hollow stem and which can grow up to one metre tall, is commonly called the great gentian. At the end of the stem, it carries several tiers of yellow flowers grouped into whorls, supported by a pair of large opposing leaves. This species can be told apart from others in the genus not only by its colour but also because the corolla is made up of five or six petals.

Attribution : Dominique Vincent - PNE



Beech (C)

A majestic tree with a smooth, steel grey trunk. It has bright, shiny leaves which turn to russet in the autumn. The seeds, or beechnuts, are set into a small spiky woody shell. Here, the beech is growing at the limit of its distribution; they are at their highest in the Durance valley.

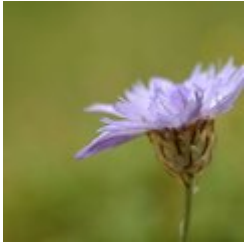
Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



Burnt-tip orchid (D)

Its name comes from the deep purple colour at the end of the flower spike. 10 to 30 cm tall, this orchid grows in sunny meadows, in limey soil. The flowers are small and arranged into a tight spike.

Attribution : Bertrand Nicollet - PNE



✿ Cupid's dart (E)

This 30 to 70 cm high plant has slender leaves, some linear with a few narrow side lobes. It is distinctive for its flower heads with parchment-like, translucent bracts and a broad russet median vein ending in a little point. The flowers are all ray-shaped and serrated at the tip. They are blue to purplish, darker at the base.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



✿ Martagon lily (F)

The martagon lily is distinctive for its long upright flower spike. It bears 3 to 10 flowers which are violet-pink streaked with purple, out of which its long orangey stamens emerge. It's better to admire it from a distance because, beautiful as it is, it has an unpleasant smell!

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



🏠 Giant's cauldron (G)

The term 'Giant's cauldron' describes a cavity created by a current of water in a standing rock. Here, the waters and the pebbles of the Chargès torrent whirl around polishing the cavity and giving it its spectacular shape.

Attribution : PNE- Mireille Coulon



🐟 Brown trout (H)

This wild trout of the salmonid family is 25 to 100 cm long. Its streamlined body and well-developed fins make it a very efficient swimmer in fast-flowing water. The deepness of the colour on its back varies depending on the environment. Its back and sides are decorated with black dots outlined with pink.

Attribution : Jean-Philippe Telmon - PNE



🏠 Chapel of the Nativity (I)

It is difficult to be sure of the chapel's date of construction, but it existed in 1700. The bell was installed in 1870, but the bell tower was built in 1956. In 2013, a new larch shingle roof replaced the old corrugated iron roof,

Attribution : Mireille Coulon



Hamlet of Les Gourniers (J)

The old houses of the hamlet are modest in appearance. They are built from stone and have sheet metal roofs. They used to be roofed with slate extracted from the nearby quarries

Attribution : PNE- Mireille Coulon



Communal oven (K)

This is located in the basement of the former school (now the Park Information Centre). It is regularly used on the occasion of local festivals and events.

Attribution : Victor Zugmeyer - PNE