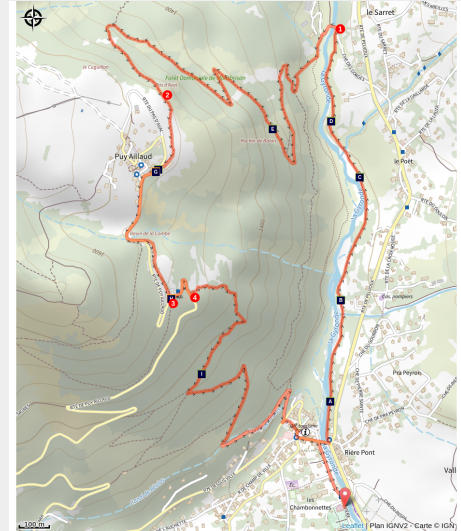


# Puy Aillaud (trail route no. 19)

Parc national des Ecrins - Vallouise-Pelvoux



Traileur - Puy Aillaud (Thibaut Blais)



*An ascent through pine woods, a descent through an oak wood and a short, hidden stretch to reach Puy Aillaud.*

“Emerging onto the plateau of Puy Aillaud amidst the meadows, passing below this tranquil hamlet and then dropping back down along an old track to the charming chapel of Saint-Jean almost makes you forget the great features of the rest of the route.” Marie-Geneviève Nicolas, park ranger at the Parc National des Écrins

## Useful information

Practice : Trail

Duration : 3 h

Length : 7.2 km

Trek ascent : 415 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna, Flora, History and architecture

# Trek

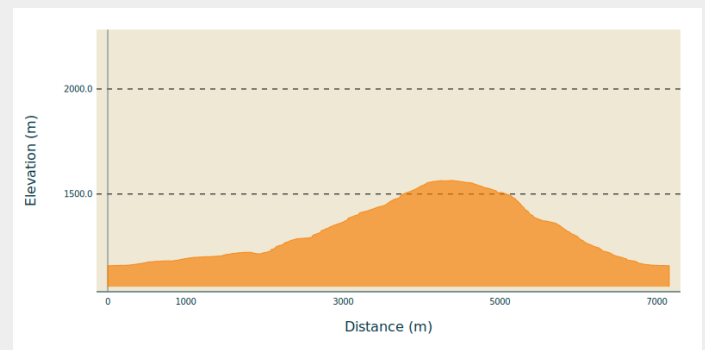
**Departure** : Camping Huttopia, Vallouise

**Arrival** : Camping Huttopia, Vallouise

**Markings** :  Trail

**Cities** : 1. Vallouise-Pelvoux

## Altimetric profile

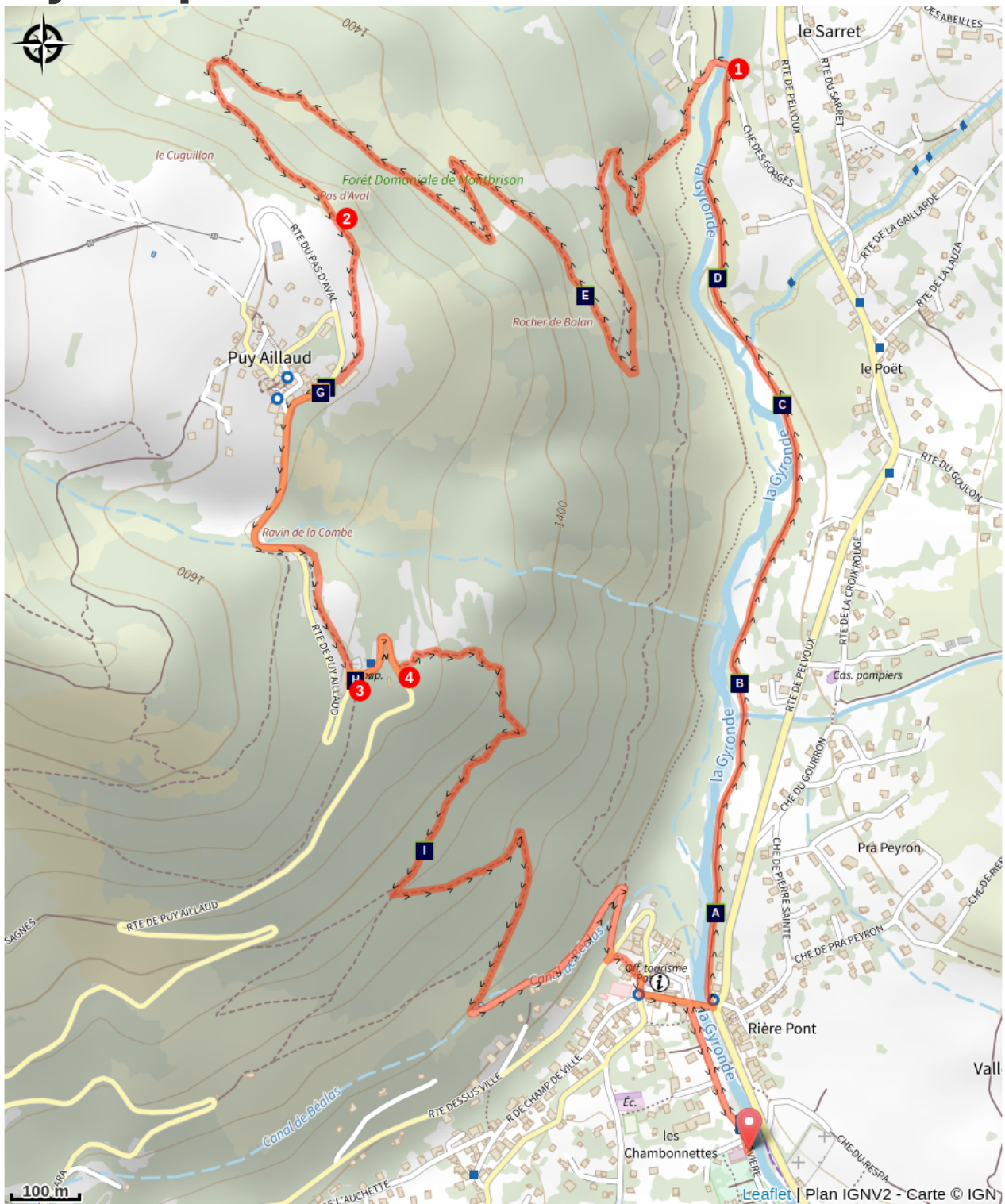











Min elevation 1159 m Max elevation 1565 m

When you come to the Vallouise bridge ("Pont de Vallouise"), take the track leading up the left-hand bank of the Gyr leading towards Pelvoux.

1. Cross the Gyr over a wide footbridge and after a short distance, on a hairpin in the track, take a path running below a stable and soon after this take the path on the right to Puy Aillaud.
2. After the Pas d'Aval, a short narrow stretch through boulders, follow the yellow or white painted posts until you reach the road. Turn left onto the road to pass below the village of Puy Aillaud and then take the track towards the chapel of Saint-Jean.
3. Turn left back onto the road for a hundred metres or so, leaving the walking trail that leads away straight ahead.
4. After the hairpin, you plunge onto a steep path edged with deciduous trees running straight down the slope. The path runs through a forest of oak and pine trees, and you continue the descent until you reach Vallouise. The descent can be slippery in places.

# On your path...



- |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  The trout (A)                 |  Forest on the water's edge (B) |
|  The white-throated dipper (C) |  The aspen (D)                  |
|  The shrubby milkwort (E)      |  The rock sparrow (F)           |
|  The hamlet of Puy Aillaud (G) |  The chapel of Saint-Jean (H)   |
|  The downy oak (I)             |                                                                                                                    |

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Before setting off, it is very important to check the opening periods for this route on the website: <https://stationdetrail.com/fr/stations/le-pays-des-ecrins/parcours>

Share your photographs on social networks with #stationdetrailecrins

Check weather conditions before setting off.

Rescue services contact details: Secours Montagne (Mountain Rescue): +33 (0)4 92 22 22 22 or 112

Show consideration for the work of farmers, livestock keepers and owners

Close all gates behind you

Take your litter home

Do not take shortcuts across pastureland

The trail routes are also suitable for walking

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

Public transport >> [www.pacamobilite.fr](http://www.pacamobilite.fr)

Consider car-sharing >> [www.blablacar.fr](http://www.blablacar.fr)

For more information, ask at the Tourist Information Office nearest to the trail starting point.

### Access

10 km from L'Argentière-La Bessée, take the D994E.

### Advised parking

Camping Huttopia car park, Vallouise

## **Information desks**

### **Vallouise Park house**

vallouise@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 92 23 58 08

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



### **Bureau d'Information Touristique de Vallouise**

Place de l'Eglise, 05340 Vallouise

contact@paysdesecrins.com

Tel : +33(0)4 92 23 36 12

<https://www.paysdesecrins.com/>



## **Source**



Pays des Ecrins

<https://www.paysdesecrins.com>



# On your path...

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## The trout (A)

But what's the angler angling for? The brown trout of course! This is the mountain fish par excellence, with a streamlined body to withstand the current more efficiently and light brown skin speckled with black and red. It lives in cold, oxygen-rich waters.

Attribution : Parc national des Écrins

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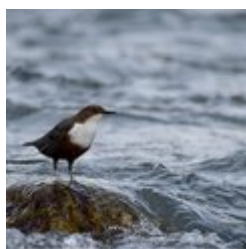


## Forest on the water's edge (B)

This small wood is a fragment of the riparian forest: natural forest growing adjacent to a body of water. Reduced everywhere due to urbanisation, this type of forest is made up of alder, willow and oak, and also poplar, birch and aspen, among others

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins

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## The white-throated dipper (C)

Perched on a rock in the middle of the river, a squat bird with a short tail, brown with a large white bib, bobs up and down with his tail in the air. He then dives and only reappears a few moments later. This is how this bird hunts, diving into the water and then walking against the current along the river bed searching for aquatic insect larvae, small crustaceans or small fish, lifting pebbles with its beak to dislodge them.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins

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## The aspen (D)

On the right, a stand of aspens with smooth, greenish trunks and rounded, crenelated leaves take on magnificent colours in autumn. The stem, or petiole, of aspen leaves is flat and twisted, so it can be caught by the slightest breeze making the foliage «quake» hence its common name, the quaking aspen.

Attribution : Bernard Nicollet - Parc national des Écrins

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### ✿ The shrubby milkwort (E)

The shrubby milkwort grows in the undergrowth. This creeping sub-shrub has glossy oval leaves, similar to box leaves. The flowers are white and orangey yellow. Common in the Alps, it grows in open woods and dry forests.

Attribution : Jean-Pierre Nicollet - Parc national des Écrins



### 🇫🇷 The rock sparrow (F)

A little flock of rock sparrows can often be spotted around Puy Aillaud. This large sparrow earned its French name moineau soulcie, (sourcil meaning eyebrow) because it has a large white eye-stripe. It also has a dark head, a brown back with white stripes, and a white breast and underside striped with light brown. It has a small yellow throat spot, often not visible. It is a year-round resident.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - Parc national des Écrins



### 🕒 The hamlet of Puy Aillaud (G)

Puy Aillaud is a permanently inhabited hamlet and the highest in Vallouise (1,580 m). This hamlet has preserved some beautiful traditional houses.

Attribution : Jean-Philippe Telmon - Parc national des Écrins



### 🕒 The chapel of Saint-Jean (H)

Surrounded by a cemetery and with a bench installed to the front of its façade, this pretty little seventeenth century chapel has an air of peaceful tranquillity. Maybe to sit and watch the trail runners?

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins



### ✿ The downy oak (I)

The route leads down a warm slope, where the downy oak reigns supreme. It is a small oak tree with a twisted growth habit and with marescent leaves, that is to say, they dry out in the autumn but remain on the tree all winter. It is called "downy" because the young branches, buds and sometimes the undersides of its leaves are covered in a fine down. It is a tree that grows happily on the warm dry slopes.

Attribution : Parc national des Écrins