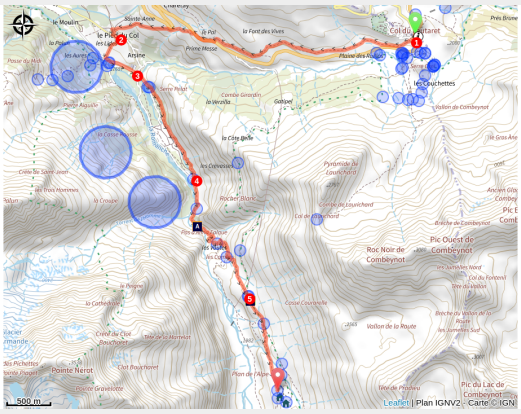
From the Col du Lautaret to L'Alpe du Villar-d'Arène via Pied du Col

Briançonnais

Vers le refuge de Villar d'Arène, les Agneaux au fond. (© Parc national des Ecrins - Thibaut Blais)



A variant of the first stage of the four-day Tour du Combeynot which follows the two GR® routes in the massif of les Écrins.

The walker travels through a landscape of pastureland to the green meadows of the Plan de l'Alpe. The footpath runs up a stretch of the Romanche valley, a favoured playground for marmots. It is a true pleasure to hike along the foot of one of the most iconic peaks of Les Écrins : La Meije.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 9.9 km

Trek ascent : 419 m

Difficulty : Easy

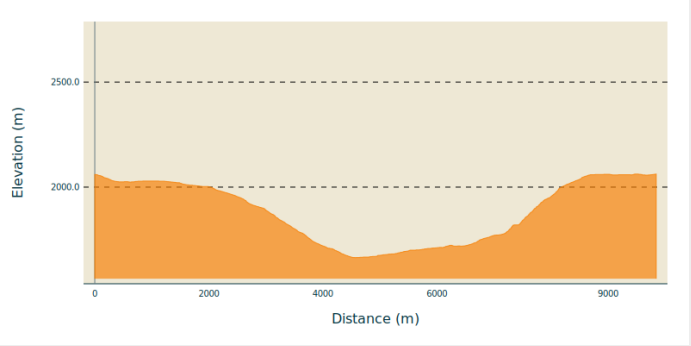
Type : Stage

Themes : Hut, Lake and glacier, Pastoralism

Trek

Departure : Col du Lautaret
Arrival : L'Alpe du Villar-d'Arène
Markings : GR
Cities : 1. Le Monêtier-les-Bains
2. Villar-d'Arêne

Altimetric profile

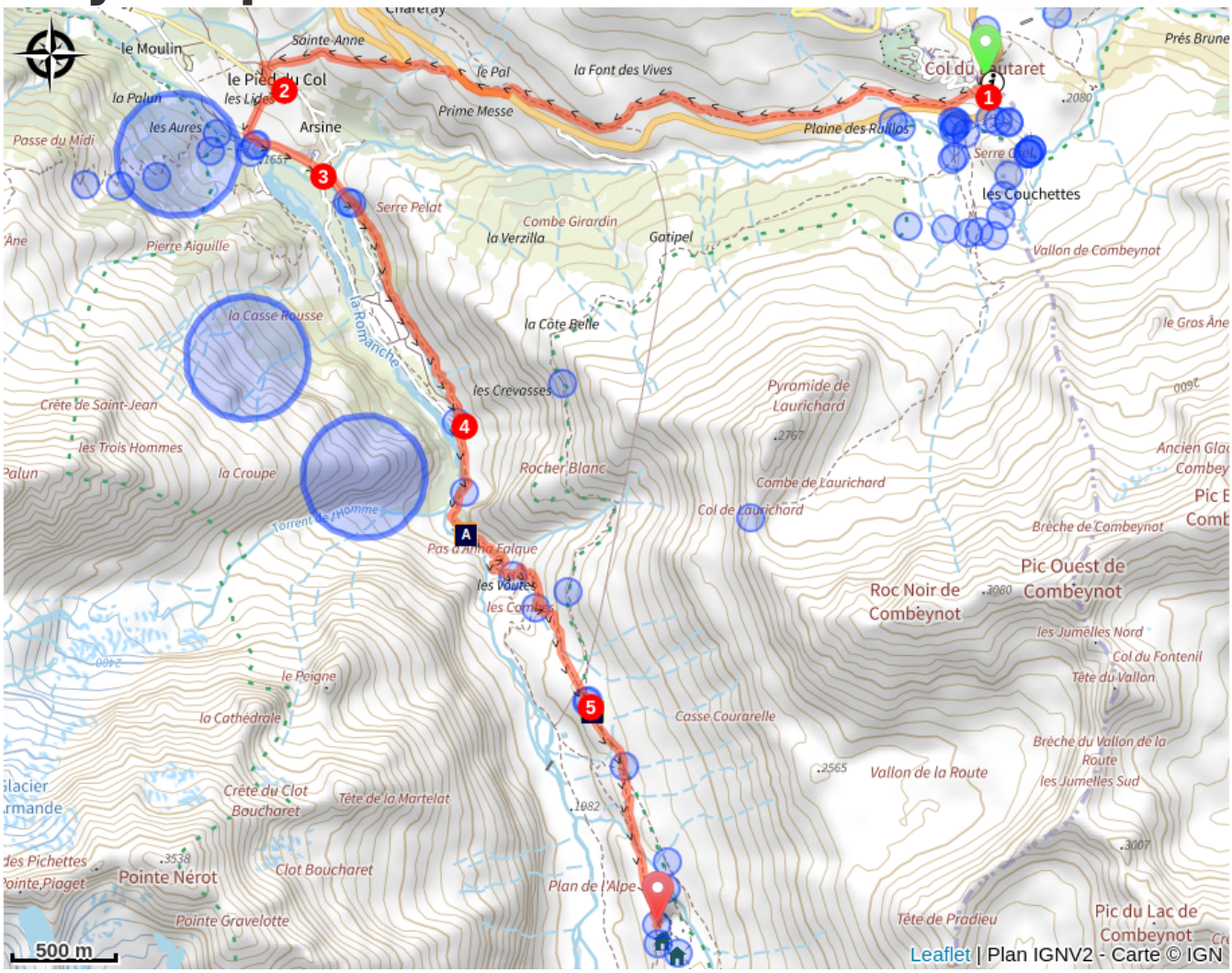


Min elevation 1664 m Max elevation 2062 m

From the Parc au Col du Lautaret information centre, follow the road.

1. Turn right after the Café de la Ferme. Take the GR®50 (signs) which runs downhill to Le Pied du Col.
2. Once past the hamlet, carry on along the GR® track until you come to a paved road.
3. Go left and follow the GR®54 waymarks. Follow the road until you come to a gîte. Pass Pont d'Arsine (1,667m), leave the lake on your right and carry on until you reach the summer car park.
4. The valley narrows and after the Le Colombié stream the footpath starts to rise uphill towards the alpine pasture.
5. Ignore the Les Crevasses footpath, which leads from the Col du Lauteret, on your left, go past a meteorological station and on to the shelter of L'Alpe de Villar d'Arène (2,079m) via the right-hand footpath.

On your path...



Romanche valley, Charles Bertier (A)

The marmots' "bosse" (B)

All useful information

How to come ?

Transports

Transports en commun : https://zou.maregionsud.fr/
Pensez au covoiturage : https://www.blablacar.fr/

Access

Depuis Briançon, emprunter la D1091 en direction de Grenoble, passer le Monêtier-les-Bains et continuer jusqu'au col du Lautaret.

Depuis Grenoble, emprunter le D1091 en direction de Bourg d'Oisans, puis continuer vers la Grave et monter jusqu'au col du Lautaret. Attention le tunnel du Chambon est fermé, il faudra emprunter la route de secours.

Advised parking

Car park at the Col du Lautaret Park Centre ("Maison du Parc").

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.

Golden eagle

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August

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

Nidification de l'Aigle royal

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec l'Aigle royal 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 et de privilégier un survol de la zone à une distance de survol de 300m sol soit à une altitude minimale de 2500m.

Golden eagle

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Golden eagle

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Attention en zone cœur du Parc National des Écrins une réglementation spécifique aux sports de nature s’applique : https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/thematique/sports-de-nature

Information desks

Information center "Col du Lautaret" (summer only)
Col du Lautaret, 05220 Le Monêtier-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...

Romanche valley, Charles Bertier (A)

The Romanche was a source of inspiration for many mountain artists and it have been painted repeatedly. Charles Bertier (1860-1924) was inspired to paint Vallée de la Romanche au Pied-du-Col and Les Fréaux près de la Grave, two oil paintings that were painted in 1894. The artist from Grenoble learnt to paint landscapes with Jean Achard, and mountains with the abbot Guétal and did not hesitate to set up his easel on the high summits of the Dauphiné Alps. More to the point, his mission was to make his contemporaries 'understand the mountains'!

Attribution : © Musée de Grenoble

The marmots’ "bosse" (B)

The alpine marmot is naturally present on grass at altitude. Here, it occupies a singular place which we call the marmots’ "bosse». This hibernating rodent is only visible between April and October. The marmot lives in a family and respects a hierarchy. Games, grooming, fighting and biting ensure the dominance of a couple as well as the cohesion of the group. Each animal participates in the delimitation of the territory by rubbing its cheeks on rocks and also by urinating and defecating there. When there is danger, the marmot emits a high and powerful whistle in order to warn the others.

Attribution : PNE - Coursier Cyril