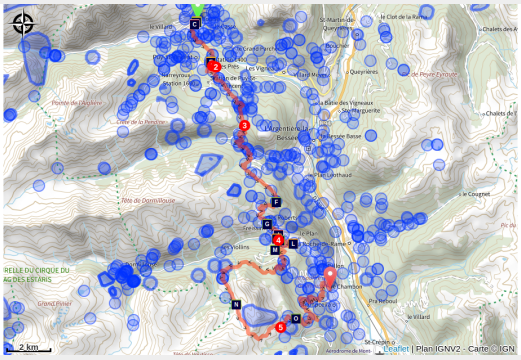
From Vallouise to Champcella (stage on the Super Noir - trail no. 15)

Vallouise

Champcella (Pays des Écrins - Pierre Nossereau)



Taking in traditional villages, unspoilt valleys, remarkable landscapes… Discover life in the Haute-Alpes and its beautiful environment!

A feature-packed Stage on the Pays des Écrins Super Noir trail, to admire the area's villages and hamlets. Discover the unspoilt character of Vallouise, the high peaks surrounding Puy Saint Vincent, the protected Freissinières valley, the charm of Champcella…

Useful information

Practice : Trail

Duration : 8 h 30

Length : 42.3 km

Trek ascent : 2761 m

Difficulty : Hard

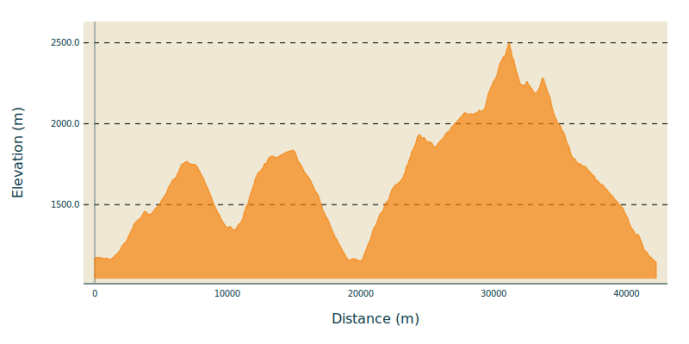
Type : Stage

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Panorama

Trek

Departure : Huttopia campsite, Vallouise
Arrival : Champcella
Cities : 1. Vallouise-Pelvoux
2. Puy-Saint-Vincent
3. Les Vigneaux
4. L'Argentière-la-Bessée
5. Freissinières
6. Champcella

Altimetric profile

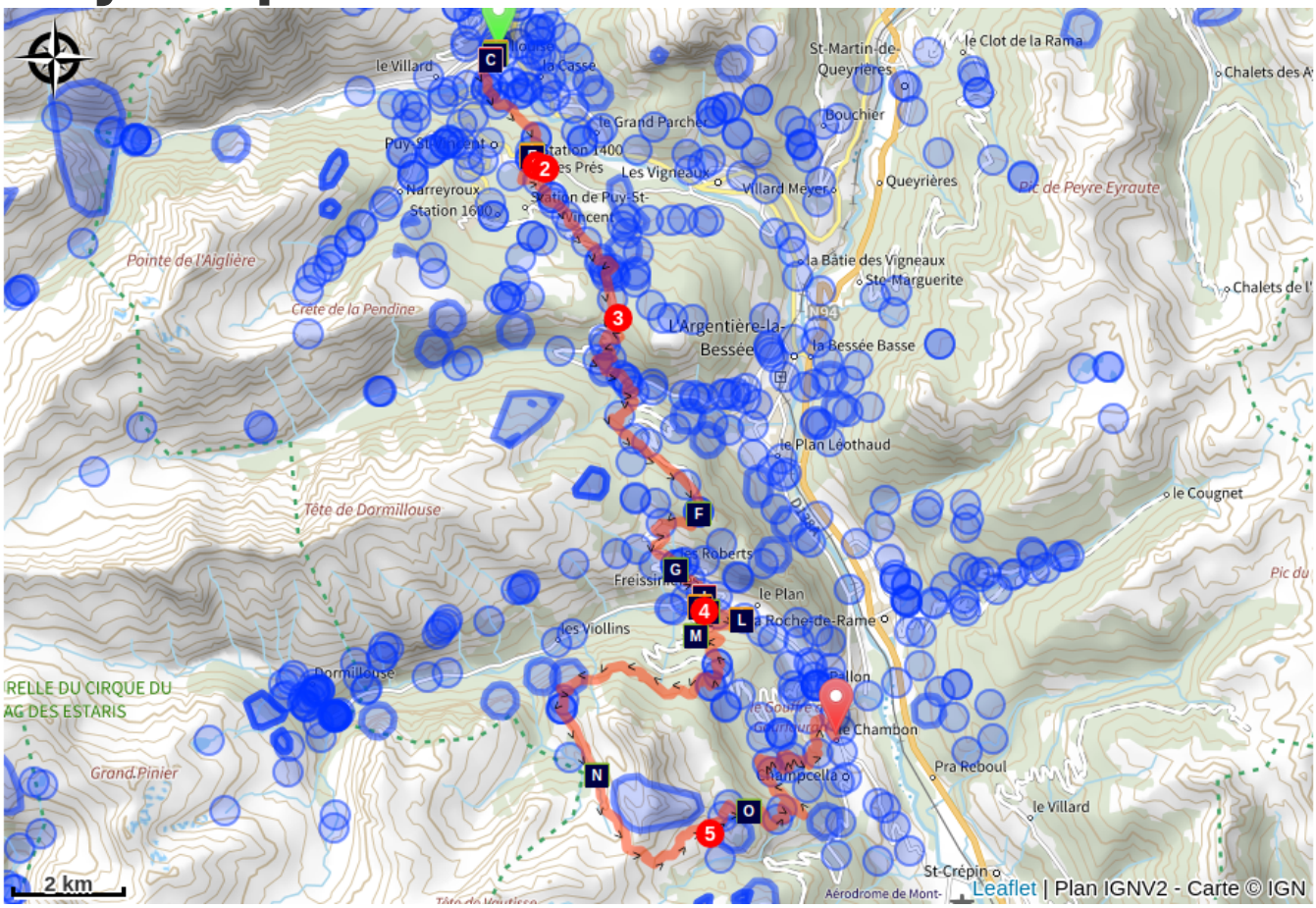


Min elevation 1142 m Max elevation 2500 m

In Vallouise, go straight through the village past the church. On the church square, take the Rue du Champs de Mars and then the "Dessous Ville" road. At the D504 intersection, proceed by turning left. Cross the Gérendoine bridge and continue straight on. Follow the shore of Lac des Allards (and past the Ranch) until you reach Les Alberts.

1. At the D4 intersection, turn right and then follow the road towards Station 1400 and Les Prés.
2. Turn right and follow the stream Les Alberts. Then join the path which passes underneath the Les Prés chairlift. At the intersection with the road, turn left and continue straight through Puy-Saint-Vincent. Head towards Prey d'Amont and then the Pousterle pass (“Col de la Pousterle”).
3. At La Pousterle, turn left towards the mountain stream Le Fournel; cross it and turn left. Continue straight on until you reach the Les Lauzes pass and then Les Aujards. The trail continues up to the Freissinières valley and the valley centre ("Maison de la Vallée").
4. From the Maison de la Vallée, go down into the meadow and cross the Biaysse river. Follow the track that runs along the right-hand bank of the river. At the second bridge, turn right. Continue along the edge of the Bois de Monsieur wood heading for the Cabane du Parc and the Cabane du Gourre. Continue straight on until you reach the Val Haute pass and then continue along the side of the Peyron.
5. Carry on as far as the Cabane de Tramouillon and back, and continue until you reach the Tramouillon pass and the Cabane de la Selle. Then carry straight on until you reach Champcella.

On your path...



The church in Vallouise (A)
Vallouise (C)
The Sentier du Facteur - the postman's path (E)
The common redstart (G)
The church of Sainte Marie-Madeleine (I)
The common barberry (K)
Cool forest (M)
Eagles, vultures and bearded vulture (O)

The lesser horseshoe bat (B)
The clouded Apollo (D)
The four-spotted chaser (F)

Félix Neff (H)
Freissinières (J)

The Freissinières valley (L)
The spotted nutcracker (N)

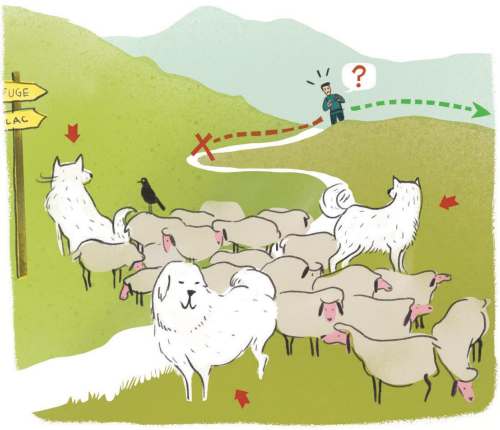
All useful information

Herd protection dogs

In mountain pastures, protection dogs are there to protect the herds from predators (wolves, etc.).

When I hike I adapt my behavior by going around the herd and pausing for the dog to identify me.

Find out more about the actions to adopt with the article "Protection dogs: a context and actions to adopt".
Tell us about your meeting by answering this survey.



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

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

Consider car-sharing >> 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 N94.

Advised parking

Huttopia campsite car park, Vallouise

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.

Alpine ibex

Sensitivity period: June, July, August, September

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

Zone de présence du Bouquetin des Alpes

En période de mise bas et d'élevage des jeunes (juin à septembre) les bouquetins peuvent être très sensible au dérangement notamment en cas de survol à basse altitude. Dans leur fuite les risques d'accidents sont multipliés. Merci de rester à bonne distance et d'éviter le survol de la zone à moins de 300m sol soit moins de 3170m d'altitude.

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

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 2300m.

Golden eagle

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

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

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de la zone à une distance de survol de 300m sol soit à une altitude minimale de 2400m.

Golden eagle

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

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

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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 2140m d’altitude à une distance de 300m sol.

Au site dit de Grand Bois, le couple de faucons a retrouvé son aire de prédilection dans le secteur "flamme de pierre" ; à éviter donc.

http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/actualite/amis-grimpeurs-attention-aux-pelerins-voies?fbclid=IwAR2Z8hX_38vpdW3mS499aRnY08jarhfm-5-eNV8K29k3WB3q3Ik2US_Alec

Peregrine falcon

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

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

Un site de nidification est actuellement utilisés par un couple de faucons pélerins dans une falaise équipée pour l'escalade, un secteur est à éviter jusqu'au 15 juin :

Au site dit du Ponteil, le niche dans la partie haute de la falaise, au-dessus de la vire, entre les voies "le grand dièdre" et "rôle en dalles".
Pour préserver leur tranquillité, il est donc préférable d'éviter la partie supérieure de ces voies.
La partie inférieure, jusqu'à la vire, ainsi que les autres voies de la falaise peuvent être grimpées en étant discret. Pour la descente, afin de limiter la fréquentation dans ce secteur à gauche de la falaise, il est proposé de prendre les rappels du "nid d'aigle", de "la fuite enchantée" ou bien le câble à droite de la falaise.

http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/actualite/amis-grimpeurs-attention-aux-pelerins-voies?fbclid=IwAR2Z8hX_38vpdW3mS499aRnY08jarhfm-5-eNV8K29k3WB3q3Ik2US_Alec

Merci d'éviter cette zone !

En cas de survol merci de rester au-dessus de 2010m d’altitude à une distance de 300m sol.

Information desks

Maison du Parc du Briançonnais
Place Médecin-Général Blanchard, 05100 Briançon

brianconnais@ecrins-parcnational.fr
Tel : 04 92 21 08 49
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...

The church in Vallouise (A)

The church of Saint-Étienne dates from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Inside is an altarpiece and a tabernacle in gilded wood dating from the eighteenth century, together with come mural paintings. Not far from the church stands the late sixteenth-century Chapel of the Penitents with a nineteenth-century painted facade.

Attribution : Thibaut Blais

The lesser horseshoe bat (B)

In summer, bats take up residence in the church roof. The species living here is the lesser horseshoe bat, which has been in serious decline over recent decades. Every year, the mothers return after hibernating in caves and each one gives birth to one bat pup. Bats are insectivore mammals threatened by the insecticides used on farmland and on wooden structures and the loss of their hunting habitats and roosts, among other things. They are all protected.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins

Vallouise (C)

Multi-storey houses - typical of the architecture in the valley in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries - stand on the old village street. The ground floor was reserved for animals, the first floor for habitation and the upper floors for grain storage. People moved from one floor to another by means of balconies interconnected by a staircase. Many of these balconies are arcaded with stone columns. This type of arcaded balcony is found throughout the valley.

Attribution : Pierre Nossereau

The clouded Apollo (D)

This butterfly with hyaline (glass-like) translucent white wings, marked with two black spots, flutters around the clearing or the edges of the forest, where the host plants of its caterpillars grow: the corydalis. Although abundant locally, it is nevertheless a species in sharp decline and is protected.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins

The Sentier du Facteur - the postman's path (E)

In former times, the postman would take this path every day: He would set out from Vallouise, deliver letters in Puy-Saint-Vincent and drop back down to Vallouise, stopping at the hamlets of Parcher on the way. In the winter, when the snow was too deep, the Traversouires (the inhabitants of Puy-Saint-Vincent) donned their snowshoes and wielded their shovels to clear the postman's path down to Vallouise.

Attribution : Christophe Albert - Parc national des Écrins

The four-spotted chaser (F)

Dragonflies can be seen gliding around the lake One of them is relatively easy to identify: the four-spotted chaser. It is called this because there is a spot on each of its four wings. The female lays her eggs on floating vegetation and the larvae are aquatic. The dragonfly feeds primarily on mosquitoes and midges which it catches in mid-air. The male and female also mate while in flight... A real acrobat!

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - Parc national des Écrins

The common redstart (G)

The common redstart can be told apart from its cousin, the black redstart by its white eyebrow (hence its French name which is translated as "white-browed redstart") and its orange breast. At least for the male, since the female of both birds is duller and brownish, but the female common redstart also has an orangey tail. It returns from Africa in early April and searches the areas to find a hollow in a tree or in an old wall where it builds its nest.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - Parc national des Écrins

Félix Neff (H)

Félix Neff was a Swiss Protestant pastor. He was responsible for the Protestant Revival in the Freissinières valley in the seventeenth century. He also set up the first education college for primary school teachers in France, in Dormillouse in 1826. He was also behind new irrigation and house-building techniques, developments which improved the everyday lives of the local people.

Attribution : Manuel Meester - Parc national des Écrins

The church of Sainte Marie-Madeleine (I)

The church of Sainte Marie-Madeleine was built in the seventeenth century. It is thought to be a former Protestant church which escaped destruction in 1684 when Louis XIV was leading an anti-Protestant drive. The Protestant church is then thought to have undergone works to convert it into a Catholic church.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins

Freissinières (J)

The name Freissinières comes from the old word freissinière meaning "black ash". This municipality, which extends as far as the Col des Terres Blanches and the Col de Freissinières, both of which overlook the Champsaur valley, is made up of thirteen hamlets, although none of them are called Freissinières! Archaeological excavations carried out twenty years ago show that sites at high altitude (such as Faravel) were occupied on a seasonal basis from the retreat of the glaciers 12,000 years ago (Upper Palaeolithic period) and that this occupation continued after that.

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins

The common barberry (K)

The common barberry is a bush with long thorns arranged in threes, and with oval serrated leaves. In spring, it produces clusters of yellow flowers, which later develop into red, oval and elongated berries. These tart fruits are edible and can be made into jellies... if you have the patience to gather them! This shrub grows almost everywhere.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins

The Freissinières valley (L)

The valley was created as the result of glacial overdeepening, that is to say, when the glacier came to a halt against the Pallon hard rock bar, it created a depression. When the glaciers retreated, a lake was left behind this rock bar and was gradually filled up by alluvial deposits. From a historical point of view, the Protestant pastor Félix Neff fundamentally altered life in the valley in 1826 by founding a training college for primary school teachers, developing irrigation processes and teaching new crop growing methods, among other things...

Attribution : Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins

Cool forest (M)

Here, the drought-sensitive fir has established itself among the larches. This forest harbours treasures such as the very rare ghost orchid and the shield-moss, a unique little moss - also rare - which grows on wood in an advanced state of decomposition and thus signals that the natural cycle of the forest is unimpaired.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins

The spotted nutcracker (N)

A harsh call sounds from the forest. A jay perhaps? No, a nutcracker, its cousin. With dark, white-spotted plumage, this bird's strong beak can break open hazelnuts (although not walnuts as suggested by its name in French, cassenoix (walnut breaker)) and in particular it can dissect Swiss pine cones in order to reach the pine nuts inside. It inhabits high forests. It buries Swiss pine nuts in the ground to store up food for the winter. When winter comes, it will find the pine nuts again even under a thick layer of snow. Those it forgets will germinate.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - Parc national des Écrins

Eagles, vultures and bearded vulture (O)

Numerous species of birds of prey glide around the Crête de Gaulent, scanning the alpine meadows. Might there be something edible down there? The pair of eagles living in this little valley might well choose a marmot. Present in the massif only in the summer and autumn, the griffon vultures keep an eye out for a dead sheep. As for the regal bearded vulture, even larger than the griffons, he picks up the leftovers as he can feed on bones.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins