

THEMED PATH: The larch forest path

Vallouise - Puy-Saint-Vincent



Le long du torrent du vallon de Narreyroux (Office de tourisme Pays des Écrins)



A nature walk in the heart of the Puy Saint-Vincent resort!

This downhill route offers some lovely panoramic views and varied landscapes. An itinerary punctuated with information panels on the fauna and flora, giving an insight into life on the mountain. A trail that is rich with discoveries, with a succession of points of interest. Don't forget your binoculars!

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 6.0 km

Trek ascent : 49 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Descent

Themes : Fauna, Flora

Trek

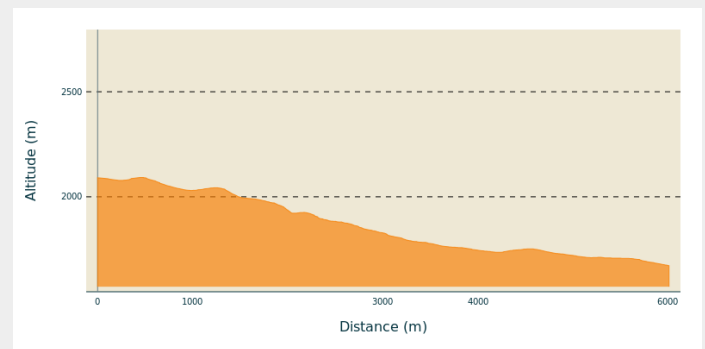
Departure : La Bergerie chairlift, Puy Saint Vincent 1,600 m

Arrival : Puy Saint Vincent 1,600 m

Markings :  Sentier thématique

Cities : 1. Puy-Saint-Vincent

Altimetric profile

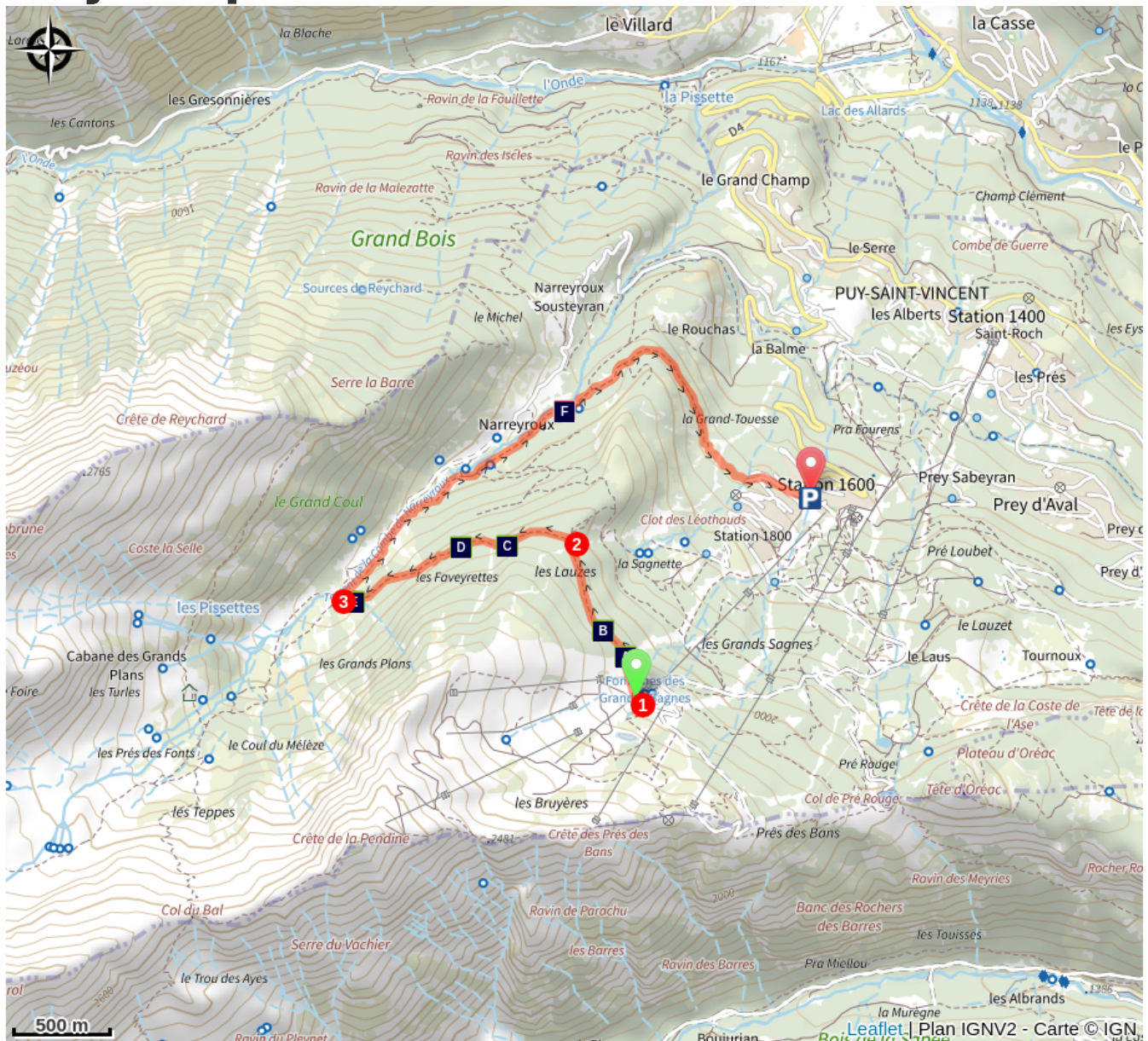



Min elevation 1673 m Max elevation 2093 m

Starting from the bottom terminal of the La Bergerie chairlift, take the chairlift if it is open. If it is not operating, go up the “La Bergerie” track to reach the chairlift top terminal.

1. Facing away from the chairlift terminal, take the path on the right.
2. Continue along the path on the left to the Combe de Narreyroux mountain stream.
3. Take the path on the right which follows the mountain stream and leads back to your starting point.

On your path...




 The ptarmigan and the mountain hare (A)

 The larch forest (C)

 The "megaphorb" (E)

 The wheatear (B)

 The red wood ant (D)

 The mountain habitat (F)

All useful information

Advices

Enquire at the Puy Saint-Vincent Tourist Information Office ("Bureau d'Information Touristique") to check whether the Le Bergerie chairlift is running, so that you can reach the starting point (paying, open one morning a week). If necessary, it is possible to reach point no. 1 on foot.

Information panels are installed all along the route.

Binoculars are recommended for observing the fauna

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

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

14.7 km from L'Argentière-La Bessée, take the D994E, the D4 and the D804.

Advised parking

Parking Clot du Rouzel, Puys Saint Vincent 1600 m

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.

Black grouse - winter

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, Decembre

Contact: Parc National des Ecrins

Thierry Maillet : thierry.maillet@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Membre de l'Observatoire des Galliformes de montagne

Virginie Dos Santos : ogm.vds@gmail.com

Blandine Amblard : ogm.amblard@gmail.com

Zone de refuge hivernal pour le Tétrás lyre. Merci de veiller à respecter le balisage.

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 L'Argentière-La Bessée

23 Avenue de la République, 05120

L'Argentière-La Bessée

contact@paysdesecrins.com

Tel : +33(0)4 92 23 03 11

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



Source



Pays des Ecrins

<https://www.paysdesecrins.com>

On your path...



The ptarmigan and the mountain hare (A)

The rock ptarmigan, a member of the grouse family, and the mountain hare are both perfectly adapted to high-altitude life. Among other adaptations, they turn white in winter in order to escape the attention of predators, and they are grey-brown in summer. In addition, their feet are covered with feathers or fur, and act as snowshoes when moving over snow. They are particularly threatened by the increasingly early arrival of the flocks in the alpine pastures, the boom in winter tourism and climate change.

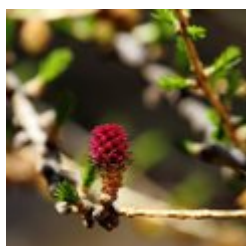
Attribution : Robert Chevalier - Parc national des Écrins



The wheatear (B)

This bird is common in the alpine pastures and can be recognised by its grey back, its pale underside, its white rump, its white tail the shape of an inverted black "T" and by a black stripe over its eye. During the mating season, the male's underside is pinkish. Perched on a large rock, he utters a loud «uit uit» alarm call, which gives his presence away. A migratory bird, he arrives from Africa in April and flies south again in September.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - Parc national des Écrins



The larch forest (C)

The symbol of the Southern Alps, this softwood tree loses its leaves in winter. Perfect adaptation to winters in the high mountains: being leafless, the branches are better able to withstand the weight of the snow. Arranged in little clusters, the leaves are a soft green in the spring and golden yellow in the autumn. It is a pioneer species which needs light in order to grow. It provides mankind with a source of pasture for the flocks and a strong and rot-proof construction material.

Attribution : Christophe Albert - Parc national des Écrins



The red wood ant (D)

The nest of the red wood ant is made from conifer needles, dry grass and earth. It is home to between 200,000 and 500,000 ants! It gives off an odour of vinegar, due to the formic acid, a substance sprayed by the ants as a defensive mechanism. Inside the nest, the worker ants each have their own task. In early summer, a large number of winged ants fly from the nest: these are males who will only live for a few days, enough time to reproduce, and a few new queens.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins



The "megaphorb" (E)

The "megaphorb" is a combination of mega-plants which establish themselves in places where the soil is permanently damp, deep and nutrient-rich. The adenostyles alliariae, the alpine sow-thistle, the masterwort or false benjoin and the tansy-leaved rocket are among them.

Attribution : Bernard Nicollet - Parc national des Écrins



The mountain habitat (F)

The houses here were once built with local materials: stone and larch wood. They are roofed with shingles rather than the lauze (flat stone) commonly seen in other mountain regions. The hamlet of Narreyroux was a high mountain hamlet within the municipality of Puy-Saint-Vincent. In fact, one of the chalets is still used as a shepherd's cabin, before the flock moves up the valley floor where the Grands Plans shepherd's cabin is situated.

Attribution : Thierry Maillet - Parc national des Écrins