

The Onde circuit (no. 5)

Vallouise - Vallouise-Pelvoux



(Thibaut Blais)



A pleasant, welcoming circuit through forest and along the river bank.

This circuit takes you along both banks of the Onde for almost its entire distance. So you will be accompanied by the sound of the blue-tinged waters rippling over the stones and can admire this mountain stream which is fed from numerous of the peaks overlooking the valley.

Useful information

Practice : Mountain bike

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 8.3 km

Trek ascent : 156 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna, Flora

Trek

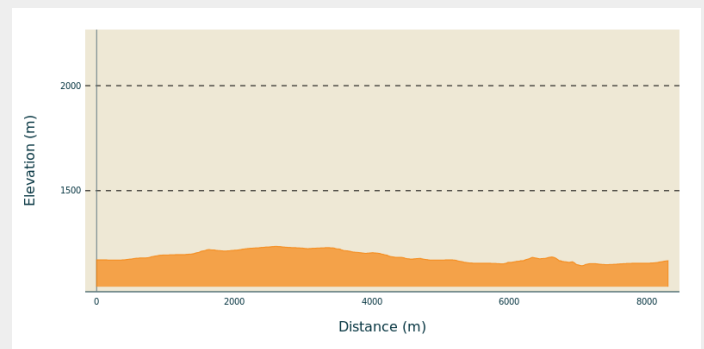
Departure : Pont de Gérendoine (left-hand bank of the Onde), Vallouise

Arrival : Pont de Gérendoine (left-hand bank of the Onde), Vallouise

Markings : ➡ VTT

Cities : 1. Vallouise-Pelvoux

Altimetric profile







Min elevation 1144 m Max elevation 1236 m





Setting out from the Gérendoine bridge on the left-hand bank of the Onde, follow the track leading upstream.

1. Turn left to cross the Pont de Fontaines, and then right to take another track running along the Onde, but this time on the right-hand bank
2. Go right at the intersection at the Pont des Places at the entrance to the campsite, crossing the Onde and turning right again to join a paved road on the left-hand bank of the Onde
3. 250 metres after the bridge, turn right to leave the paved road and join a stony path
4. Turn right to cross the Pont de Fontaines again and then left towards the Cascade de la Pissette, on the right-hand bank of the Onde heading downstream
5. Bear left crossing the (unnamed) bridge to join the original track, heading towards Vallouise until you come to the Gérendoine bridge
6. Cross the bridge and then turn left onto a track running along the right-hand bank of the Onde
7. Leave the track and the Onde, turning right onto a new path. 200 metres further on, after crossing the local road, being very careful of the traffic
8. Before the house, turn right uphill to start the small tour
9. After the descent, take the track on the left to return to the path previously taken and your starting point

On your path...



-  The great goldenrod (A)
-  The black-veined white (C)
-  The morio (E)
-  Wood cranesbill (G)

-  The bird cherry (B)
-  The rosebay willowherb (D)
-  The Alpine copse snail (F)
-  The long-tailed tit (H)

All useful information

Advices

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

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 >> www.paysdesecrins.com

Access

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

Advised parking

Car park near the Pont de Gérendoine (right-hand bank of the Onde), 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...



✿ The great goldenrod (A)

In damp spots on the edge of the track, swathes of tall plants grow. It forms great plumes of tiny yellow plants. The great goldenrod, still known as the tête d'or or "head of gold" is a plant native to North America and introduced into Europe in the eighteenth century as an ornamental. Since then, it has colonised a large are of Europe and in some places it even competes with the local flora.

Attribution : Cédric Dentan - Parc national des Écrins



✿ The bird cherry (B)

Here where the soil is sufficiently cool, a small tree with oval, pointed leaves grows on the side of the track. In May, when it starts to come into leaf, the bird cherry, a cousin of the familiar ordinary cherry tree, produces numerous clusters of highly scented white flowers. These later develop into in loose bunches of small dark cherries which are only just edible. It was called the "putiet" or stinking wood, not because of its scented flowers of course, but its bark.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - Parc national des Écrins



🦋 The black-veined white (C)

What could be better than a great pile of manure, its nutrient-rich liquid seeping onto the road? This windfall attracts clouds of butterflies which settle in their dozens on the road, risking their lives. It is the ideal spot (well, sort of!) for admiring them because they are so preoccupied with sipping this nectar. One of them is easy to identify: the black-veined white with very distinctive black veining. This butterfly is very common, so it can be spotted very frequently, not only near piles of manure!

Attribution : Jean-Marie Gourreau - Parc national des Écrins



✿ The rosebay willowherb (D)

The rosebay willowherb is a tall, upright plant with elongated leaves. Its numerous purple-pink flowers are arranged in loose spikes at the top of the stem. It forms large clumps, which produce a beautiful display when in bloom. It is a pioneer plant and favours road embankments and disturbed ground. In late summer, its very numerous seeds, each with a little plume, float away en masse glowing in the advancing twilight...

Attribution : Thierry Maillet - Parc national des Écrins



🦋 The morio (E)

With wings edged with creamy white and sporting a string of little blue dots, a large butterfly takes flight from the path as the walker approaches. This is the morio. Its common French name is manteau royal, or royal cloak (although her cloak is not edged with ermine!) It lives near willow and beech trees because it loves the sap that flows from wounds in these trees. It is one of the few butterflies to hibernate as an adult.

Attribution : Bernard Nicollet - Parc national des Écrins



🐌 The Alpine copse snail (F)

On the damp banks of the stream, hidden in the grass, is a snail with a beautiful golden brown shell speckled with brown, decorated with a dark spiral stripe. It has a black body. The alpine copse snail is relatively rare and, as its name suggests, it is found in the Alps. It is a sub-species of the ordinary copse snail, which is present across Europe.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - Parc national des Écrins



✿ Wood cranesbill (G)

The path is edged with large clumps of a plant with purple flowers, the wood cranesbill. The leaves are palmate and divided into 5 to 7 incised and indented lobes. This common plant grows in meadows and cool woods. The «geraniums» we see on balconies are in fact pelargoniums, distant cousins originally from South Africa and cultivated for ornamental purposes.

Attribution : Marc Corail - Parc national des Écrins



The long-tailed tit (H)

Some birds are causing a stir in a tree, constantly coming and going and uttering little calls. They are round and black and pinkish beige in colour with a long tails, hence their name, the long-tailed tit. They are resident birds and always live in small groups. They inhabit forests, undergrowth and even gardens. They weave a ball-shaped nest out of lichen, moss and dry grass.

Attribution : Robert Chevalier - Parc national des Écrins