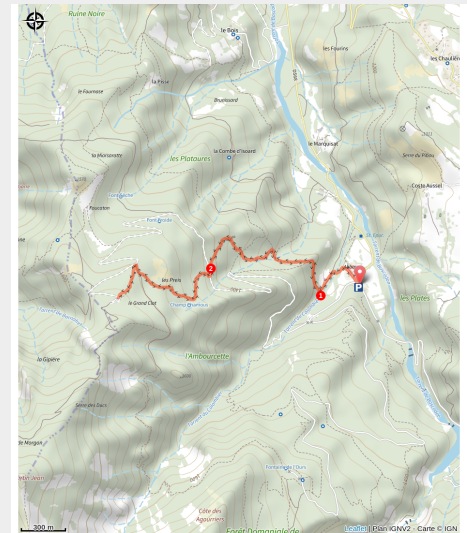


# Les terrassettes

Parc national des Ecrins - Crots



Vue sur le Pic de Morgon depuis le Grand Clot (Amélie Vallier)



*This trail takes in remarkable cultural and historical heritage features. It leads to the car park in Le Grand Clot and on to Le Morgon, avoiding the piste.*

It all starts at the famous Abbaye de Boscodon. After crossing the Colombier mountain stream, make your way through the famous Forêt d'Exception-labelled forest of Boscodon, recognised for its diversity. Set off on a discovery of mountain springs and other features of the area's historical heritage, hitherto unknown to the general public. This trail ends at the forest pastures and the Pic du Morgon.

## Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 3 h

Length : 5.8 km

Trek ascent : 506 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Return trip

Themes : Fauna, History and architecture

# Trek

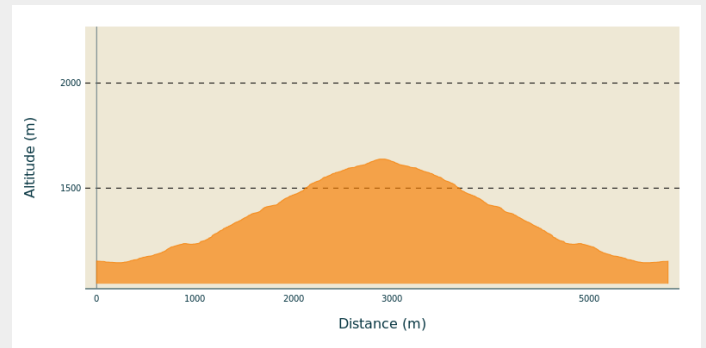
**Departure** : Abbaye de Boscodon, Crots

**Arrival** : Abbaye de Boscodon, Crots

**Markings** : — PR

**Cities** : 1. Crots

## Altimetric profile

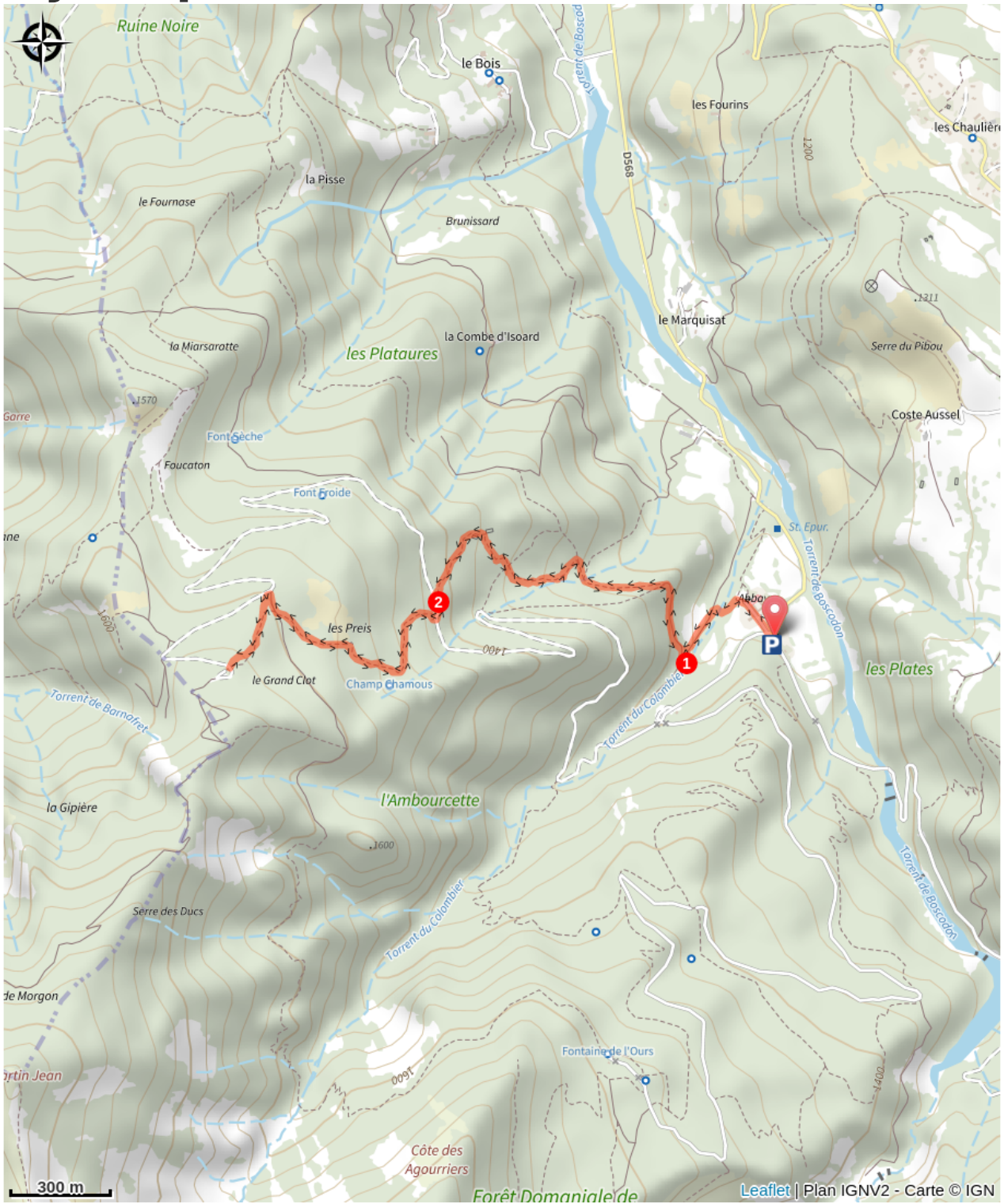


Min elevation 1146 m Max elevation 1639 m

From the car park, go along the edge of the Abbaye de Boscodon and continue straight ahead. When you reach the path, turn left. Cross the Colombier mountain stream and take the track on the left.

1. A short distance further up, turn right and go across the earth mound. At the top of this rise, take the track on the right. A few hundred metres after crossing a stream, take the path on the left. From here, follow the stone wall and, further up, follow the water course on the left upstream. At the next intersection, turn right and pass between the stone walls. [When you reach the crossroads, take the track on the left following the sign to Les Terrassettes; this brings you to some abandoned houses]. From the ruins, turn left and then right at the empty houses. At the next crossroads, continue straight ahead to the forest road.
2. When you come to the road, turn left. Then, turn right at the boulder and enter the forest. At the intersection, go left to the abandoned house in the place called « les Preis ». Follow the walls. When you come to the track, continue straight across and immediately turn left to the car park in Le Grand Clot.

# On your path...



- |   |                       |   |                                  |
|---|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|  | Abbey of Boscodon (A) |  | Le Colombier mountain stream (B) |
|  | Retaining wall (C)    |  | Common buzzard (D)               |
|  | The common cuckoo (E) |  | Abandoned hamlets (F)            |
|  | Larch (G)             |   |                                  |

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Exercise caution when crossing the Colombier mountain stream during flood periods. It is possible to detour via the bridge a little further uphill.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

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

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

### Access

From the N94 from Embrun or Savines-le-Lac, follow signs for the Abbaye de Boscodon and park in the car park adjacent to it.

### Advised parking

Car park of the Abbaye de Boscodon

## **Information desks**

### **Tourist office Crots**

Place des Ballerins, 05200 Crots

Tel : 0492431305

<https://www.serreponcon-tourisme.com/>

## **Source**



Serre-Ponçon

<https://www.serreponcon.com>

# On your path...

---



## Abbey of Boscodon (A)

This is the only abbey within the Department. It was built in the twelfth century and has been occupied by a variety of groups over time: the Chalaisian order, the Benedictine order and the families of commendatories; it also housed peasants at one time. Divided into several parts: the part open to the public is the abbey church. It has the distinctive feature of being very airy and has no coloured stained glass windows. This abbey also has a private chapel and a cloister delimiting an interior space.

Attribution : AAAB

---



## Le Colombier mountain stream (B)

This mountain stream is 3 kilometres long. A mountain stream (torrent in French) is a natural water course located in the mountains. The flow regime is characterised by a steep gradient, with a very fast and irregular water flow, ranging from violent flooding to low water levels, leading to significant erosion. As in many mountain streams, numerous sill structures (levels) can be seen in Le Colombier. Their purpose is to slow down the water flow and therefore limit the impact of floods.

Attribution : Amélie Vallier

---



## Retaining wall (C)

The retaining walls are made from dry stone. In Provence, they are called restanques. They were built in sloping areas to create crop terraces, holding back the earth. At the time, their construction enabled generations of inhabitants to make a living from their land, which was made fertile and workable. Today, a number of researchers and artisans are attempting to re-introduce this age-old technique.

Attribution : Amélie Vallier



## Common buzzard (D)

The common buzzard is very common in wooded environments. It is approximately 55 cm long with a wingspan of 1.3 metres. This bird of prey is an excellent hunter and feeds primarily on small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Their breeding period starts in February. The female lays approximately three or four eggs. During the incubation period, the male brings food for the female and takes her place which she leaves the nest.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE

---



## The common cuckoo (E)

This is a medium-sized migratory bird, identifiable by its «cuckoo» call heard between April and July in woods and open spaces.

The females seek out the nests of small passerine birds and when she finds a nest with eggs in it, she eats one of them and lays another in its place. In the parasitised nest, the cuckoo chick hatches first and ejects the other eggs from the nest so that it is raised, alone, by its adoptive parents.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE

---



## Abandoned hamlets (F)

When Boscodon was a densely populated rural hamlet, another hamlet was to be built at the location called Les Terrassettes. The size of the houses - today in ruins - suggest a sizeable population. Numerous tree species such as almond trees were planted around them. This area was essentially inhabited by migrants, most families hailing from Le Laverq en Ubaye. Deserted in 1947, it was long reached by the path which is now part of this trail.

Attribution : Amélie Vallier



## ✿ Larch (G)

The king of trees in the mountains of the Southern Alps, the larch is the only conifer to drop its needles in winter. In the spring, its cones are a characteristic dark purple. The larch is one of the few European tree species that is imputrescible, that is to say, it does not rot. This is why, despite the fact that it twists as it dries out, it is widely used in frameworks, drinking troughs and other water holding vessels in the mountain villages. Incapable of germinating in its own undergrowth, it needs natural openings such as avalanche corridors for the young shoots to develop. It is found at altitudes in excess of 2,200 metres, adopting dwarf forms in these "combat" zones. The larch tree growing at this point on the trail is several hundred years old.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE