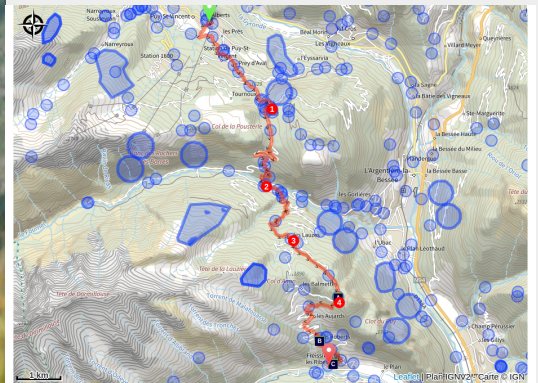


From Puy-Saint-Vincent 1400 to Freissinières

Parc national des Ecrins



Au col de la Pouterle (© OT Pays des Ecrins - Rogier van Rijn)



Two passes, two unspoilt valleys... one narrow and wild, the other more open and populated... Crossing the Col de la Pouterle plunges you into another world. This is the stage with the biggest variation in elevation!

From a developed mountain across the Col de la Pouterle to the wild Fournel valley ... From a forested shady northern slope to sunlit alpine pastures and populated hamlets via the Col de la Lauze... The magic of mountain pass crossings which, in just a few steps, take you into completely different environments and landscapes.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 7 h

Length : 16.2 km

Trek ascent : 900 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Stage

Themes : History and architecture, Pass

Trek

Departure : Puy-Saint-Vincent 1400

Arrival : Freissinières

Markings :  Trail  PR  GR

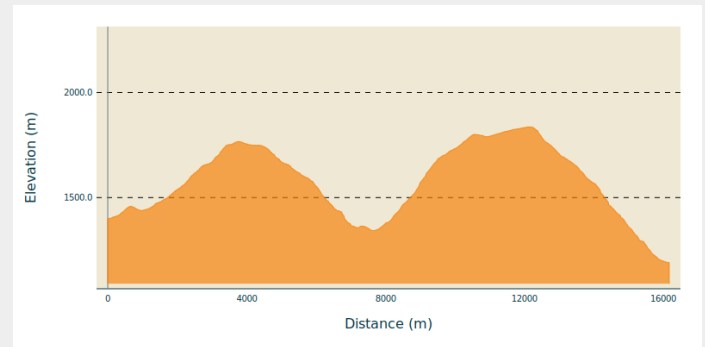
Cities : 1. Puy-Saint-Vincent

2. Les Vigneaux

3. L'Argentière-la-Bessée

4. Freissinières

Altimetric profile

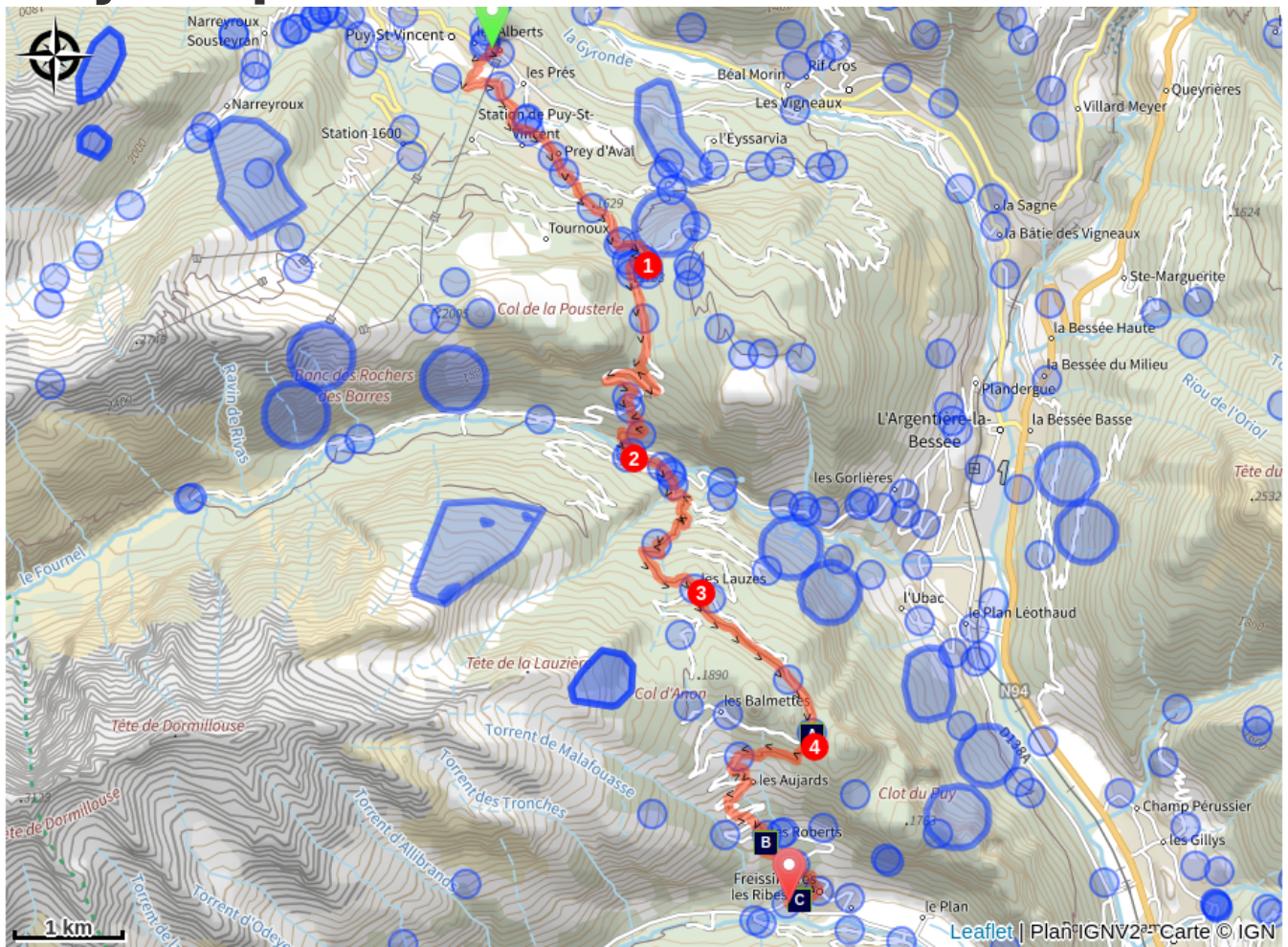


Min elevation 1190 m Max elevation 1836 m

At the chapel of St Roch, take the paved road that leads up to the resort buildings (leave the GR). Go across the car park - private property, gate/fence. At the far end of the car park, take a narrow forest path that follows the stream Les Alberts (trail no. 15). You reach a paved road. Turn left onto it, pass under the cable cars and when you come to another paved road turn right (trail no. 15). Follow this for approximately 600 metres. From here, follow the GR waysigns until you reach the Col de la Pusterle - the route alternates between paved road and track

1. When you reach the Pusterle plateau, you come to the large sign "Forêt des Vigneaux", "Plateau de la Pusterle 1,760 m". Follow the track heading towards Vallon du Fournel (GR). At subsequent intersections, stay on the track (Vallon du Fournel). After the drinking troughs, leave the track to follow a path on the right leading into the alpine pastures (GR). After thirty or so metres, the path drops down to the Vallon du Fournel, crossing the GR track at a number of points. Superb view over the valley. At subsequent intersections, follow signs for Col des Lauzes (GR). You come to a dwelling, and the path becomes a track until it reaches "Pont Haut 1,405 m".
2. Cross the bridge over the mountain stream Le Fournel then take the path on the left, on the right-hand bank of the stream. When you come to a track on a hairpin bend, take the path leading uphill on the right (GR). At the intersection "Le Sapey 1,370 m", follow the track (Col des Lauzes). Approximately 200 metres after crossing the Crouzet mountain stream, leave the track to take a narrow path on the right (GR). The path winds swiftly uphill, steeply in places, up to the "Couieman" intersection (GR, trail no. 15); here, continue heading towards Col des Lauzes. You go past the Couieman high pasture chalet, the end of the steep uphill section. The path runs on a level gradient to the Les Lauzes alpine pasture.
3. Les Lauzes alpine pasture. Cross the track and follow an indistinctly marked path opposite (GR). After a short ascent and a long level stretch, the path joins a track which you follow right until you reach the Col des Lauzes.
4. Col des Lauzes. Take the downhill path (Les Aujards - Freissinières - GR). After approximately 30 metres, take the narrow path on the right. Continue on the GR until you come to Freissinières, after passing through the hamlets of Les Aujards and Les Roberts. A beautiful path, sometimes lined with walls, which regularly intersects the track and then the paved road (GR, trail no. 15 then no. 7).

On your path...



The four-spotted chaser (A)



The common redstart (B)



Huile de marmotte - marmot oil (C)

All useful information

Advices

Alpine pastures: follow instructions relating to livestock and the presence of guard dogs.

Les Lauzes alpine pasture: (presence of livestock).

At the Col des Lauzes, before the narrow path on the right, you have the option of staying on the track for approximately 30 metres to take in a magnificent panoramic view over the Freissinières valley (bench), and then retracing your steps back to the turnoff point.

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.

Peregrine falcon

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

Contact: Parc National des Écrins
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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

Source



Parc national des Ecrins

<https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr>

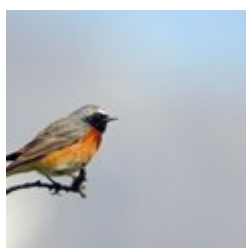
On your path...



The four-spotted chaser (A)

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 (B)

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



Huile de marmotte - marmot oil (C)

In times past, the inhabitants of Freissinières used oil for cooking and lighting. Walnut or almond oil was difficult to produce at this high altitude. The Briançon plum tree or marmottier, however, can withstand the mountain conditions, and the yellow fruits of this tree contain kernels. These kernels were pressed in mills to produce an oil with medicinal virtues: marmot oil. .

Attribution : Bernard Nicollet - Parc national des Écrins
