

# From Les Barangeards to Charbillac

Valgaudemar



Cavaliers au bord du lac de Roaffan (© Parc national des Ecrins - Carlos Ayesta)



*Pick up the Canal des Herbeys as far as Saint-Jacques en Valgodemar, carry on along a balcony trail before making a halt at the Lac de Roaffan, cross the Collet du Puy to La Motte-en-Champsaur and finish - still on a balcony trail - in Charbillac or head down into the heart of the hedgerow landscapes of Pisançon.*

Wend your way to the village of Saint-Jacques-en-Valgodemar in the coolness and silence of the Canal des Herbeys. The view then opens out onto the Faraut mountain and the hamlets below. A short break at the Lac de Roaffan before carrying on along the balcony trail overlooking the valley until you reach La Motte-

## Useful information

Practice : Horse

Duration : 4 h 30

Length : 16.1 km

Trek ascent : 569 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Stage

Themes : Geology, History and architecture, Lake and glacier

en-Champsaur, nestling amidst the fields. A final climb brings you near to Charbillac.

## Trek

**Departure** : Les Barangeards

**Arrival** : Charbillac

**Markings** :  Piste équestre

**Cities** : 1. Saint-Maurice-en-Valgodemard

2. Saint-Jacques-en-Valgodemard

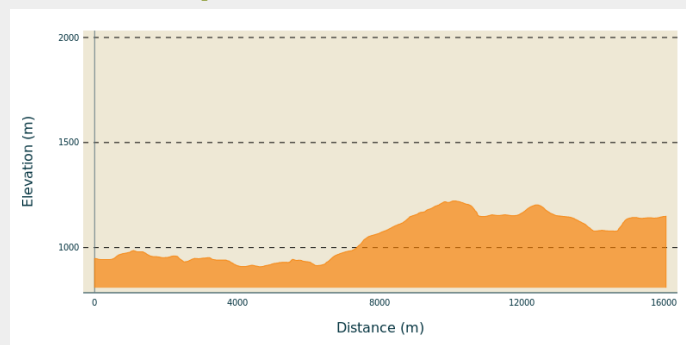
3. Chauffayer

4. Les Costes

5. La Motte-en-Champsaur

6. Bénévent-et-Charbillac

### Altimetric profile



Min elevation 910 m Max elevation 1223 m



From the Val des Sources, retrace your steps (Cloragne, La Chaup, École du Séchier) and continue along the road until you take the track on the left at Les Appras, heading towards Saint Jacques-en-Valgodemar. Stay on the path on the right-hand bank of the canal. The path leads to Saint-Jacques-en-Valgodemar: follow the GR50 along the road beyond the cemetery, heading towards Chauffayer.



1. On a bend at the Le Comas crossroads, go up to your left towards the Lac de Roaffan, until you reach Le Comas. Here, turn right onto a narrow, level path offering an unobstructed view over Saint-Firmin. At the Entrepierres crossroads, continue to follow the GR50 which rises uphill to the left, and then do the same thing at the Font Salée crossroads: a wooden sign indicates the direction of the lake. This track alternates between grass and stone pavement as it runs along the edge of the meadows. At Les Blachus, continue straight on (GR50) and then, finally, after a wide left- hand bend the GR route leads to the shore of the Lac de Roaffan (bathing prohibited), an ideal place for a break.
2. Then carry on towards Les Costes. The waysigned GR and PR (Petite Randonnée, short-distance trail) track becomes flat and grassy. (The Brèche de Faraud and the Col du Noyer are on your right). It comes out onto a road; turn left towards La Motte- en-Champsaur. After the hamlet of Maisseret, the GR leaves the road and drops down to the right along a gravel track, then a grassy path on the left before the farm shed. The path leads back to the road. At the Le Brusq crossroads, continue to follow the GR50 straight ahead and, on the bend at Les Courts, carry straight on again along the track that rises uphill through the wood. There is a clearing as you cross the Col du Collet: continue to follow the GR50 which drops down to the hamlet of Le Collet. Carry on along the road until you are approaching La Motte-en-Champsaur; here, take a shortcut: alternating tracks and roads on the right.
3. At the bottom, turn left onto the road (D123) towards Charbillac, then turn right after the Séveraissette mountain stream, on the Les Pascaux bend. Continue straight ahead, passing the water treatment plant to your left. The track crosses the mountain stream without difficulty and the path then climbs steeply through the wood to a flat, easy track leading to a guest house, "Les Cairns".



# On your path...



-  Herbys canal (A)
-  Hayfields (C)

-  Ornithological diversity (B)
-  Hedging (D)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

At the Canal des Herbeys, there is an area of rockfall at a tunnel: proceed with caution. At Le Comas, there is a narrow stretch reinforced with logs: proceed with caution.

Brusq: its French name evoking a beehive nestling in a hollow tree.

At La Motte-en-Champsaur: the birthplace of the Venerable JH Gondre, vegetables.

It is also possible to overnight in Pisançon, at the gîte L'Aventure: go down the main road in Charbillac, take the track on the right and then turn first left and carry on until you reach the D23. Turn left and then, at the junction, head downhill towards Pisançon. Turn left onto the Chemin de Champ Chevril, and then right onto the Rue du Frisa.

# 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  
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 2010m d'altitude à une distance de 300m sol.

## Golden eagle

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

Contact: Parc National des Écrins  
Julien Charron  
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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 1920m.

## Short-toed snake eagle

Sensitivity period: March, April, May, June, July, August, September

Contact: Parc National des Écrins  
Julien Charron  
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Nidification du Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc en période de nidification sont principalement les pratiques aériennes comme le vol libre ou le vol motorisé.

Merci d'essayer d'éviter la zone ou de rester à un distance minimale de 300m sol quand vous la survolez soit 1780m d'altitude !

# On your path...

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## Herbeys canal (A)

Inhabitants of Valgaudemar have long tried to control water to compensate for dry summers. The Herbeys canal still functions and is well used. With more than 600 litres per second, it waters 289 ha in the districts of Chauffayer and St-Jacques. It is 28km long and was started and finished on the initiative of François Dupont de Poncharra des Herbeys'. It is maintained every year by the members of the users' union who spend several days cleaning out the canal as well as consolidating the vaults.

Attribution : Olivier Warluzelle - PNE

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## Ornithological diversity (B)

Thirty years of careful inventories have identified 220 species of bird in the valley. This exceptional variety is not only due to the landscapes (hedges, wetlands, forests and high mountains) but also to the Champsaur's geographical position: not quite north-alpine, wide open to the south with the Manse and Bayard thresholds, ideal for exchange and for migratory birds such as herons, ducks, red-footed falcons or flycatchers.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE

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## Hayfields (C)

When they have not been disturbed by modern fertilisation techniques and silage, around fifty species of plant can still be found in the hayfields. The most symbolic are the poet's daffodil, alpine salsify, meadow sage, sainfoin and globeflower that punctuate the landscape with their different colours.

Attribution : PNE

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## Hedging (D)

Hedged landscapes were quite common in France before the war, but here, above an altitude of 1000 m, a wonderful diversity has been maintained. A patchwork of hedgerows, prairies and woods are home to an array of birds. Amongst them are many common sparrows (red-backed shrikes, stonechats, sparrows, quails and wrynecks) whose numbers are in decline in France, sometimes alarmingly so. Richness is therefore not solely due to rarity.

Attribution : PNE