

From Les Payas to Les Marrons

Champsaur



Randonneurs sur un sentier dans les bois (© Parc national des Ecrins - Carlos Ayesta)



Roam through easy tracks through the farmlands, enjoying a break at the lake or in Saint-Julien, then take to the heights as you head towards Chaillol.

In the heart of the Champsaur and its livestock farms, explore a string of charming traditionally restored hamlets, passing along some beautiful flat and fast tracks, most of them shaded. From Chabottonnes, you will be enchanted by the climb towards Les Marrons and its beautiful vantage point looking onto the peaks and valleys. Culture enthusiasts will enjoy rowing the open-air art exhibition on the L'Arbrespin path.

Useful information

Practice : Horse

Duration : 5 h

Length : 19.1 km

Trek ascent : 655 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Stage

Themes : Geology, History and architecture, Lake and glacier

Trek

Departure : Les Payas

Arrival : Les Marrons

Markings :  Piste équestre

Cities : 1. Bénévent-et-Charbillac

2. Saint-Bonnet-en-Champsaur

3. Saint-Julien-en-Champsaur

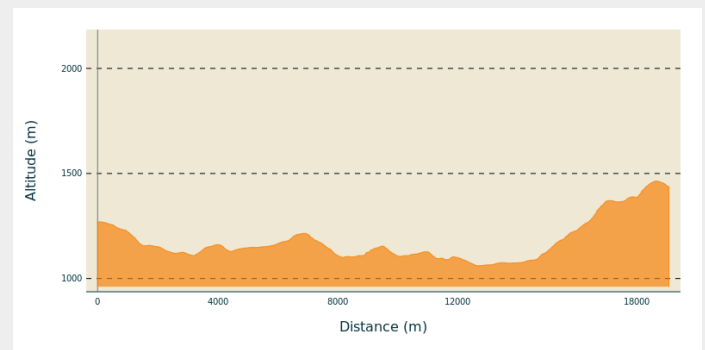
4. Buissard

5. Chabottes

6. Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas

7. Saint-Michel-de-Chaillol

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1062 m Max elevation 1465 m

From Le Rocher equestrian centre, follow the road right (north) and then fork left as you enter Les Pelloux and take the first road on the right, which soon turns into a pleasant shaded rural track. In Pra Viéil, carry on along the main track which bears left in front of a chalet (towards L'Aulagnier). When you reach Les Aliberts, continue straight ahead along the road until you come to La Boède. Turn right onto the D43 (route de Chaillol) and then cross it in order to join the "Chemin des Morts" road left, following it until you reach the chapel in L'Aulagnier. Here, turn right and head down through the hamlet until you come to the junction. Continue straight on down the road (PR (Petite Randonnée, short-distance trail) and mountain biking ("VTT") waysigns) which then forks left. A wooden signpost indicates the increasingly narrow path which leads to the Lac de L'Aulagnier, on the left.

1. Follow the lake shore and carry straight on along the track which comes out at Le Chanet. Continue straight on along the Route du Champ du Rouy, passing the water fountain, the communal oven and the chapel, all remarkable features. Before you leave the village, take the grassy track leading down through the woods (mountain biking ("VTT") sign).
2. When you reach Saint Julien-en-Champsaur, go down to the left and then turn left again in front of the church, on the Route de Chantaussel. Continue straight on, pass a first oratory (Rue des Oratoires) along a path which leads to a second oratory and the Saint-Julien road (D15). (Caution, fast-moving traffic!). Carry on along the D15 until you come to a junction (D15 roadsign).
3. Turn right and turn off immediately onto a grassy track running downhill to the right. Join the road, turn right and continue on until you reach La Coustoune. Here, turn left onto the Chemin du Clavi (mountain biking ("VTT") route) heading towards Chabottes, along a good flat track. The track comes out onto a Y-shaped road (at Les Fouents): continue straight on downhill and, after the few houses in the hamlet of Les Roberts, take the track on the left and carry on through Arieu. After the Riou Mort river, go down to the right along the Chemin des Villettes and then turn left onto the Chemin des Ribières; carry straight on to the mill (Le Moulin). Cross the Route de Chaillol and take the Chemin de Prés Vieux along a flat and very easy track (Canal de St-Bonnet) until you reach the Chabottonnes mill ("Moulin"). Continue straight on until you reach Chabottonnes.

4. Go left uphill and then right in front of the water fountain, heading towards the gîte. After the last house, the winding track is wide and drivable at first and then turns into a bumpy footpath which continues to rise uphill. The path joins a track which turns into a road below St Michel de Chaillol. Turn right before the church, go past the cemetery and the water fountain.
5. Continue straight on between the houses along a grassy track leading towards L'Arbrespin (a thematic contemporary art discovery trail). Turn left onto this path which starts with 3 small steps and has two gates, which can be skirted around (but are easy to negotiate). As art discovery trail comes to an end, the track widens and levels out and offers some fine views over the meadows and the Vieux Chaillol mountain range. At the Sainte Anne oratory, take the road to the left, heading towards Les Marrons. Retrace your steps and follow the Riou Mort uphill until you reach the Le Chamois gîte.

On your path...



All useful information

Advices

Retrace your steps to the D23, Route de Challiol; follow it for 500 metres and turn right onto the road called "Chemin des Morts" leading towards L'Aulagnier.

From Les Rissents, above the chapel, the magnificent panorama over the Champsaur valley and the mountain range adorned by the Vieux Chaillol is worth the detour: go left up the D15B (there-and-back).

At Les Marrons, take a moment to admire the water fountain and the church which have been superbly restored.

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.

Short-toed snake eagle

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

Contact: Parc National des Écrins
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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 une distance minimale 300m sol quand vous la survolez soit 1520m d'altitude !

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