Combe des Champannes loop

Parc national des Ecrins - Embrun

(Jean-Luc Armand (Vélo Vert Magazine))

Discover Embrun's wild coombes, those gaps in the black earth forest that stretch right down to the edge of the lake.

The busy banks of Embrun's lake quickly give way to wild, wooded stretches that open out into nothing more than deep coombes and the black earth so characteristic of the region. The descent, which is as winding as you could wish, leaves little time to gaze into the opaline waters of the lake.

Useful information

Practice : Mountain bike

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 11.7 km

Trek ascent : 382 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop
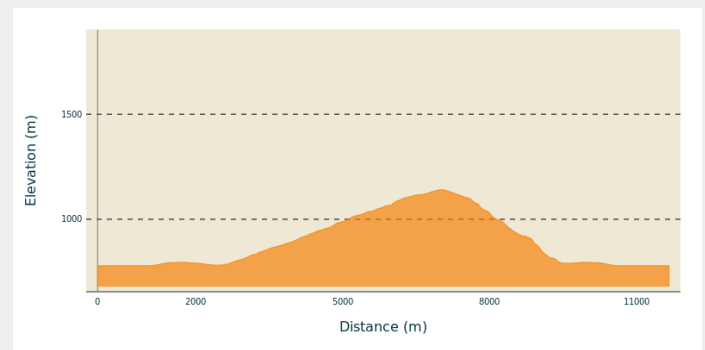
Themes : Fauna

Trek

Departure : Lake Embrun
Arrival : Lake Embrun
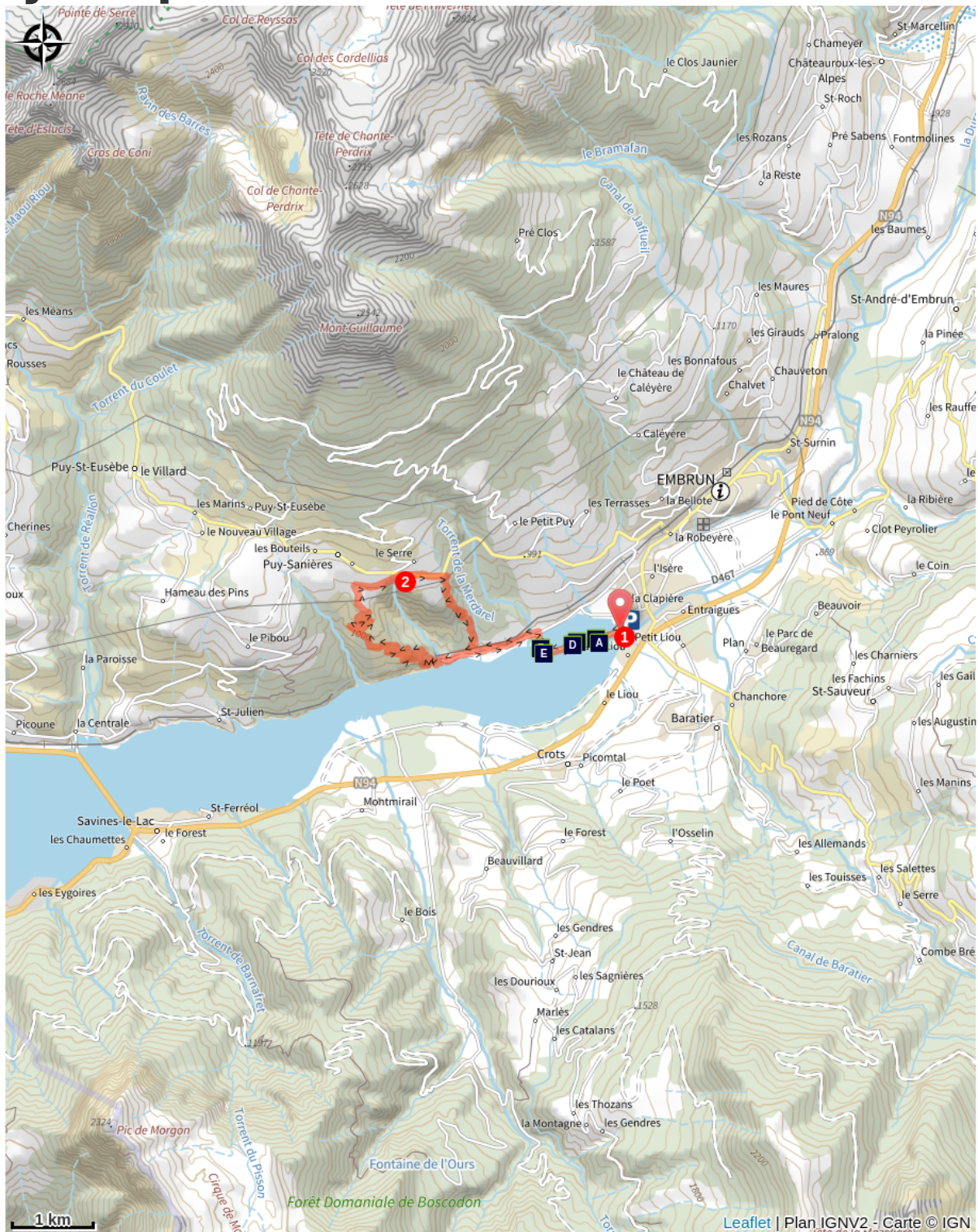**Markings** : ▶ VTT
Cities : 1. Embrun
2. Puy-Sanières

Altimetric profile

Min elevation 780 m   Max elevation 1142 m

1. From the beach car park, head up the central path towards the Durance then turn right once on the banks to go alongside the lake. Then turn left onto the road after the yacht club reception. Follow the road until you reach the track. Follow the hairpin path up through the pines, following the trail. At the end of the forest, as the area opens up, the path turns into a carriageway and leads to the Departmental road linking Embrun to Puy-Sanières.
2. Drive down the Departmental road then turn right after a few hundred metres. A single-track path winds its way down over the lake to the track used on the outward journey. Turn left onto the track just after passing under a small tunnel, then return along the same route.

07/03/2025 • Combe des Champannes loop

On your path...

🥾 Common Perch (A) 🥾 The fry (B)
🥾 Mallard (C) 🥾 Grass Carp (D)
🥾 Yellow-legged Gull (E) 🥾 Great Cormorant (F)

All useful information

How to come ?

Transports

Transports en commun : ccserreponcon.com

Access

Take the N94 from Gap or Briançon, then head towards the lake at Embrun.

Advised parking

Beach car park, Embrun

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
Julien Charron
julien.charron@ecrins-parcnational.fr

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 1310m d'altitude !

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ⓘ Information desks

Tourist office Embrun
Place Général Dosse - BP 49, 05202 Embrun

embrun@serreponcon-tourisme.com
Tel : 0492437272
https://www.serreponcon-tourisme.com/

Source

On your path...

🌿 Common Perch (A)

The Perch has a grey-green body with dark stripes. Its scales are rough. It has two dorsal fins, one of which has spiny rays. Its lower and caudal fins are orange. It can grow to around forty centimetres. It is a gregarious and opportunistic carnivore. It feeds on invertebrates and crayfish, but also hunts fish in organised packs. It is a chance for many novice anglers to get their first taste of carnivorous fishing.

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Attribution : etienne.charles

🌿 The fry (B)

This is one of the most common 'white' fish. It has a spindle-shaped body, compressed laterally and covered with large silvery scales. Its lower fins and eyes are tinted red. Opportunistic, it eats both plants and tiny prey such as larvae and mosquitoes. It forms large shoals and most of the lake's anglers take their first steps on the water by catching them.

🌿 Mallard (C)

Not known to be shy, this dabbler prefers to feed on the surface or at shallow depths by moving forward with alternating circular strokes of its legs: it dips its head into the water and tilts forward. It nests on the banks of the Durance and is omnivorous, feeding on invertebrates, small fish and grasses... The male is easily recognisable during the breeding season by its bright green head. After this period, they moult and adopt a grey-brown colour close to that of the females and young.

Attribution : Pascal Saulay - PNE

🌿 Grass Carp (D)

This fish takes its French name (Amour Blanc) from the river it originates in, the "Amur" River, which forms the border between China and Siberia. Its powerful body resembles that of the carp, but its low-set eyes are very different. The well-thought-out and reversible introduction of this species by the town of Embrun and the fishermen is a gentle, ecological and controlled way of solving the problem of plant proliferation in the Embrun water body.

🌿 Yellow-legged Gull (E)

It has travelled up the Durance and settled on the lake, where it finds propitious conditions for its survival (open water). This gull, a cousin of the seagulls, is omnivorous. The colony can be seen around the lake all year round. They are generally grey or white, with black markings on the wings. They have a long, thick beak and yellow webbed feet. The young are grey in colour and take two to four years to acquire adult plumage.

Attribution : Pascal Saulay - PNE

🌿 Great Cormorant (F)

Size: 90 cm

Attribution : etienne.charles