

Lake Sainte Marguerite

Les Orres



Le Lac au printemps (florimont.tilliere)



Lake Sainte-Marguerite is well worth the effort, offering a peaceful setting ideal for a picnic or a refreshing break. It's a pleasant destination to head for with children.

The first part of this hike takes place in the shade of some ancient larch trees, after which the landscape opens up and leads to summer pastures, sometimes described as "cow mountains" by the most experienced mountaineers. The lake, which is hidden from view until the final effort, then appears beneath the peaks reflected in its crystal-clear waters. No need to climb any higher to appreciate the freshness of the setting!

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 4 h 30

Length : 10.6 km

Trek ascent : 623 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna, Pastoralism

Accessibility : Family

Trek

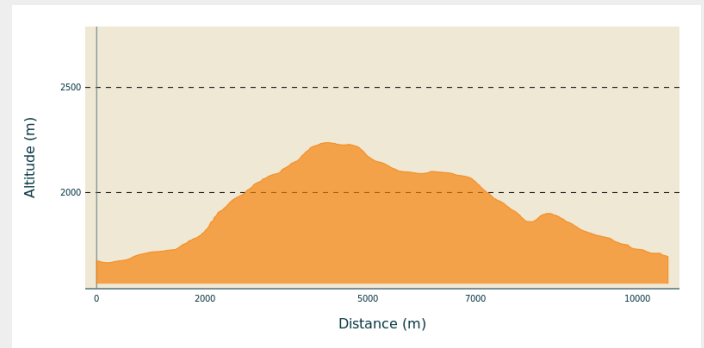
Departure : Pré Claux, Les Orres

Arrival : Pré Claux Les Orres

Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. Les Orres

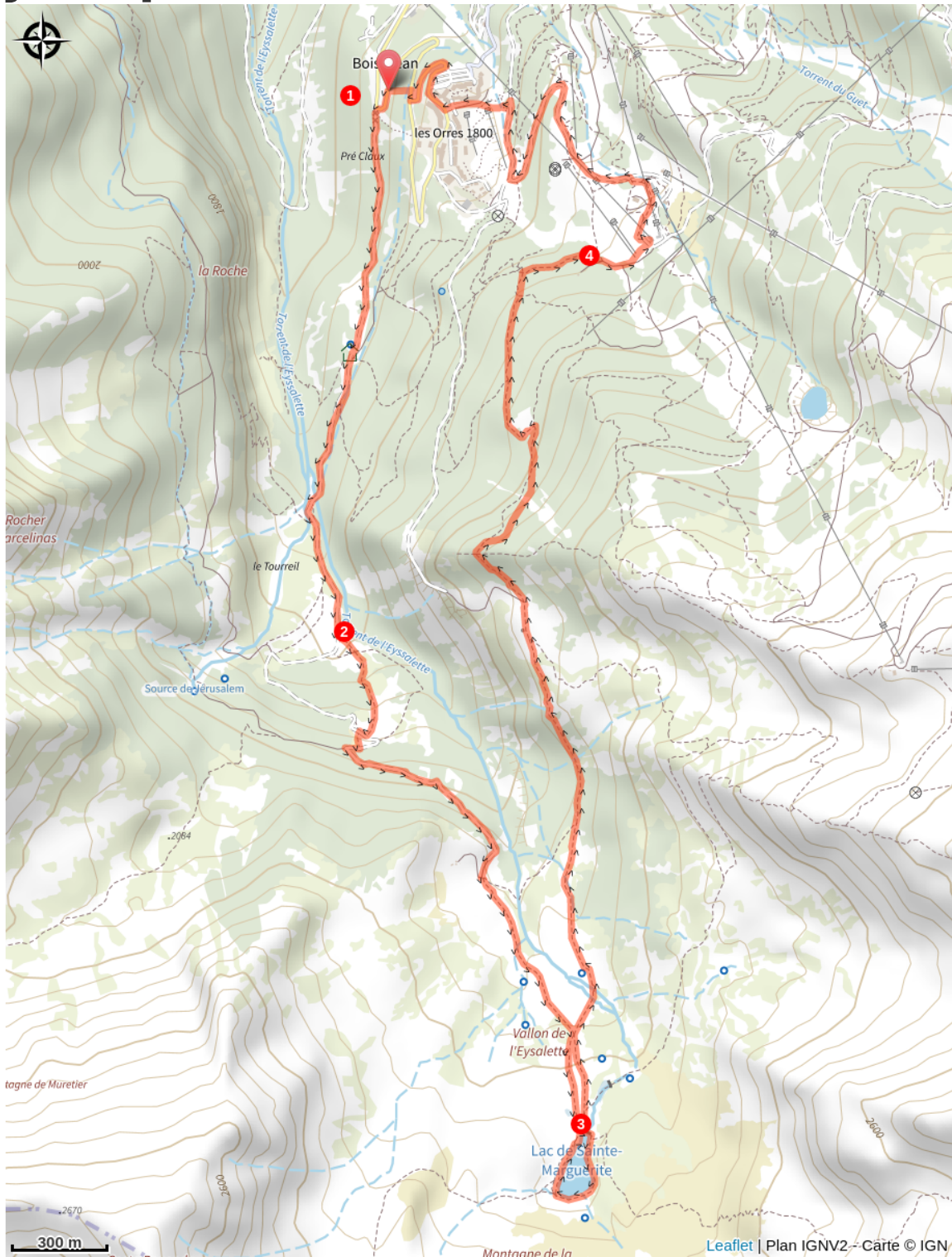
Altimetric profile




Min elevation 1667 m Max elevation 2239 m

1. Follow the forest track that starts at the end of the Pra Paisset car park at the bend. After a few hundred meters, continue straight past the Gautier sheepfold. Keep going straight at the intersection with the Via Ferrata sign, 1.8 km from the starting point.
2. Then turn left at Pré Lapierre on wide, flat terrain. The path then rises on a steep slope. Veer right 250m higher. Continue straight on a wide path through the larches at the next intersection. Turn left at the Rocher Long sign, then follow a rocky steep path. It disappears when entering an alpine meadow after an ascent of a few hundred meters. It is extended by a small path that crosses the high-altitude meadows near the lake cabins. Then cross the stream and continue on a small path in the pastures. Keep climbing, then turn right at the intersection. Continue as far as the lake.
3. Once you reach the lake, you can walk around it. Then retrace your steps to the previous intersection, take the wooden bridge over the river, continue through the pastures, cross a stream, and follow the path that ascends slightly (the stream is likely to disappear in summer). The route becomes more wooded between clearings and undergrowth, then enters a larch forest. Keep straight when crossing the ruins of old cabins. Turn right and follow the sign indicating the return to the resort at the next intersection. At the next intersection in a clearing, follow the direction "Station par le chalet des Fontaines " "resort via the Fontaines chalet." Continue straight at the next intersection after a descent.
4. Once you reach the skiing area, take the wide path that passes under the chairlift. Then follow a small path that goes behind the brasserie restaurant and in front of the Pousterle chairlift, then join the gravel access road and follow it to Les Orres 1800. Then take a right towards Champ Lacas and reach the centre of the resort. Pass under the tunnel towards the shops and join the parking lot on the other side. Take the Bois Méans road at the bend at the exit to the car park. Descend to the hairpin bend below and take a path to the left 20m further on, crossing the balustrade. The path drops down to the Pra Paisset car park.

On your path...



 Red squirrel (A)

 Lake Sainte Marguerite (C)

 The Larch (E)

 Gautier Sheepfold (B)

 Pasqueflower in fruit (D)

All useful information

How to come ?

Transports

Public transport : ccserreponcon.com

Access

Follow the N94 from Gap or Briançon, then the D40 towards Les Orres at Embrun.

Advised parking

Pra Paisset car park, les Orres 1800

Accessibility

Family

Information desks

Office de Tourisme des Orres
1 place des étoiles, 05200 Les Orres
ot.acceuil@lesorres.com
Tel : 0492440161
<https://www.lesorres.com/>



Source



Serre-Ponçon
<https://www.serreponcon.com>

On your path...

Red squirrel (A)

The red squirrel or Eurasian squirrel is an arboreal, diurnal rodent. As its name suggests, it can be found over much of the Eurasian continent, but is nonetheless one of the key species in French coniferous and mixed forests. It weighs an average of 600 grams and measures 18 to 20 cm plus a tail of 16 to 20 cm. Its colour varies from reddish to brownish-black, but its belly is always white. It spends much of its life stocking up on food, seeds or acorns, in preparation for winter. In fact, it does not hibernate and only slows down during this period. Squirrels lead solitary lives and only meet other squirrels when they are breeding. The threat of the grey squirrel, which was imported from North America, is better adapted to deciduous forests and carries a deadly virus for its cousin, is worsening in Europe and could soon spread to the Alps.



Gautier Sheepfold (B)

This centuries-old sheepfold was first restored in 1755 during Jean Francois Gautier's term as mayor of Les Orres, after whom it was named, and once again in 2009 after withstanding more than two centuries of weathering. The floor of the sheepfold was laid using the traditional "standing timber" technique. Small, debarked trunks 12 cm high are held vertically by crushed gravel between the trunks.

Attribution : florimont.tilliere



Lake Sainte Marguerite (C)

Lake Sainte Marguerite lake lies in the high Eysalette valley, surrounded by peaks that almost form an amphitheatre, with the Pic Silhourais and the Alpe de Verdun mountain rising above them. This exceptional setting is complemented by the rich fauna of the lake, which promises a great catch for anglers, particularly the Brown trout, which can also be found in the Eysalettes torrent, which rises in the lake.

Attribution : florimont.tilliere



✿ Pasqueflower in fruit (D)

The Alpine Pasqueflower is common in the department. This anemone is found in lawns and undergrowth. Its fruits are achenes, meaning that they do not open. It is a dry fruit that is not intended to be eaten by animals. This means they colonise environments on the wind, which carries them from one place to another.

Attribution : Amélie Vallier

✿ The Larch (E)

The larch, which can be seen throughout the walk, is a very special tree. Although a member of the Pinaceae family, like Cedar, Fir, Pine and Spruce, it is the only conifer whose needles change colour and fall off in autumn. A mountain tree par excellence, it grows at altitudes of between 1200 and 2400m, where it is generally accompanied only by the Swiss Pine. Its light green, airy foliage lets the sun's rays through and its undergrowth is often rich in geraniums or orchids. It has a straight, smooth trunk that splits into plates as it gets higher. Its bark tends towards grey and reddish brown and its branches lean downwards like those of the Epicea. Its needles are grouped in clusters of 20 or 40 on short branches and measure about 3cm

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