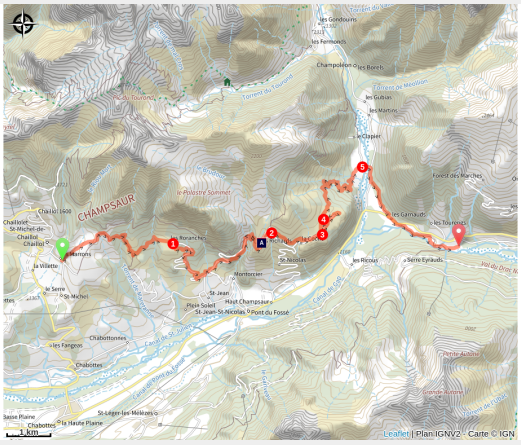
From Les Marrons to Orcières (Chauffarel)

Parc national des Ecrins

Chapelle des Roranches (Parc national Ecrins - Thibaut Blais)



After exploring a few isolated hamlets, this stage leads to the outskirts of Champoléon before following first the banks of the Drac Blanc and then the Drac Noir to reach the village, ski station and leisure base of Orcières.

From precipitous paths to forest tracks, you pass through a succession of varied landscapes. From the vast belvederes of the Plateau de la Coche to high alpine pastures, remarkable rocky landscapes and the peaks of the Champsaur, you have the privilege of scenic vantage points offering plunging views over the valleys and wild banks of the Drac Blanc until you arrive at the Orcières leisure base.

Useful information

Practice : Horse Riding

Duration : 6 h 30

Length : 19.4 km

Trek ascent : 688 m

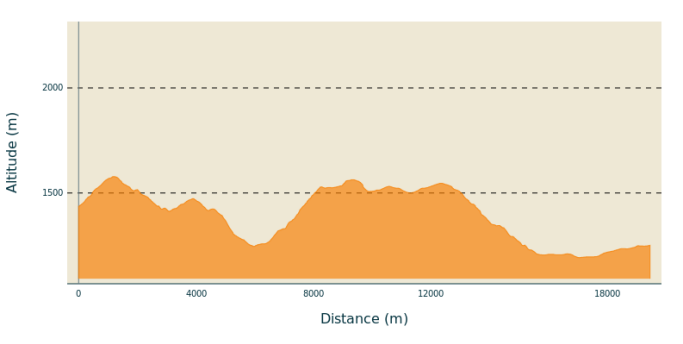
Difficulty : Medium

Type : Stage

Trek

Departure : Les Marrons
Arrival : gîte de Chauffarel
Markings : Piste équestre
Cities : 1. Saint-Michel-de-Chaillol
2. Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas
3. Champoléon
4. Orcières

Altimetric profile

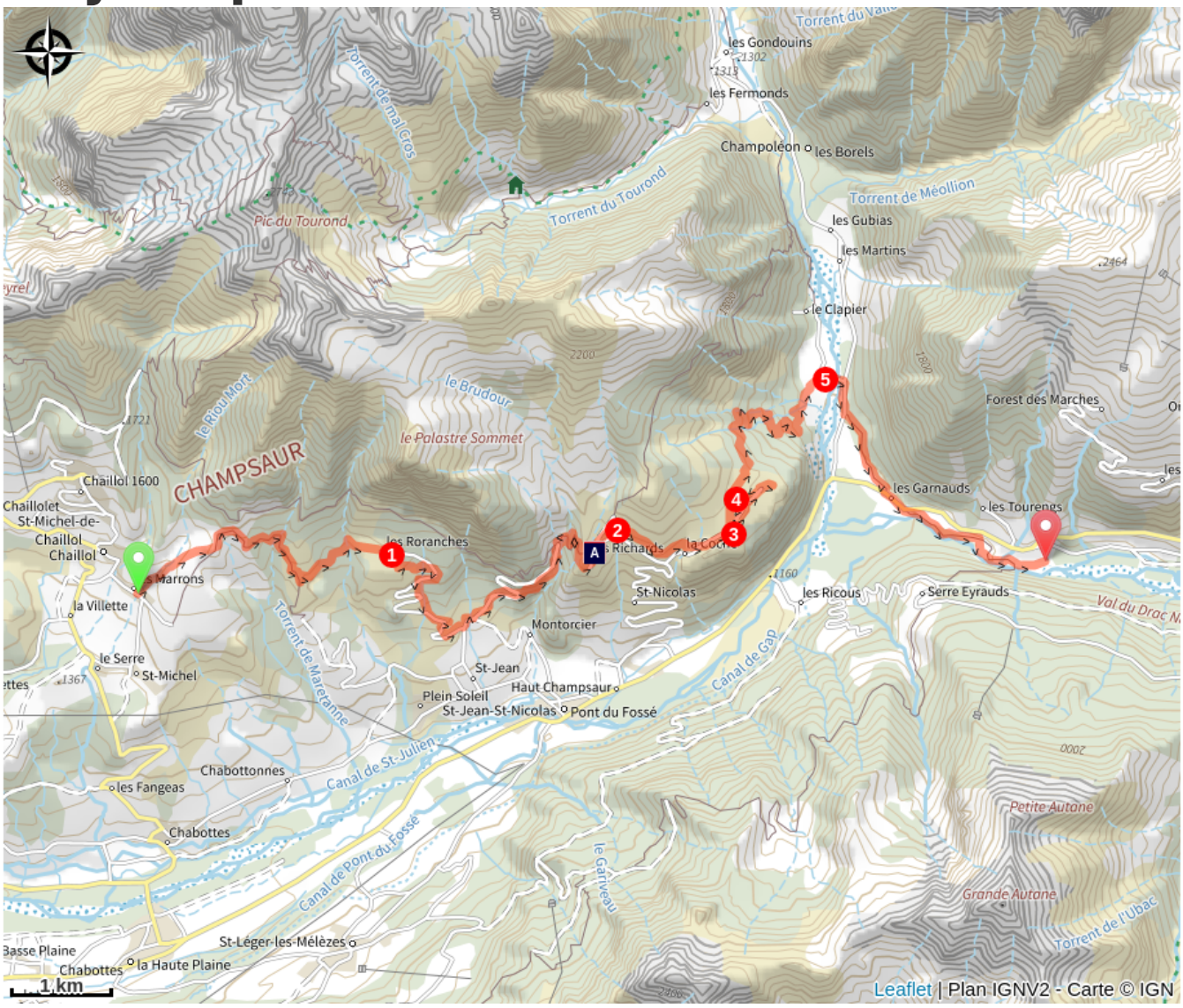


Min elevation 1193 m Max elevation 1579 m

Leaving Les Marrons, follow the Riou uphill (north-east) and, at the shed, fork right towards Famourou along a wooded footpath. It leads to a grassy track which you join left. At Forest de Famourou, the path reaches a wider track: continue left towards Les Roranches. A magnificent view emerges over the Aiguilles de Famourou and Le Palastre. At Le Coulet and then at Le Vernet, where you go through two wooden cow pen gates, always follow signs for Les Roranches.

1. In Les Roranches, take the time to admire the chapel of Saint-Pancrace, the oratory and the former school, among other things. Before the bread oven, descend down to L'Horte via shortcuts signposted "Pied du Palastre" and climb uphill again via Les Bonnets and Les Jalligons until you reach La Baumette. Then continue straight ahead on the track heading towards Les Richards on the GR50. Ford across the Brudou (shaky footbridge) and then carry on along the GR route which comes out at Les Richards.
   As you enter the hamlet take care: there is an overhead cable then three steps and a gate!
   Go through Les Richards, noting the fine oven.
2. Continue to head towards La Coche (mountain biking ("VTT") route). When you leave La Coche, continue straight on towards the visitor area ("Aire d'Accueil") and the plateau (picnicking or bivouacking possible).
3. Fork left onto the PR (Petite Randonnée, short-distance trail), just after the car park.
4. At Le Robinet, fork right towards Champoléon along a fine grassy and flat track. This changes into a narrow winding footpath which drops down through the woods to Les Aryiés and Les Rolands.
5. When you come to Le Pied des Vignes, turn right and cross the Pont des Eyrauds and turn right onto the D944 road. In its recess on the right, take the track that extends it along the GR50; now follow the Drac Noir and go past the Gîte de Chauffarel until you come to the Orcières leisure base, straight ahead.

On your path...



Les Richards (A)

All useful information

⚠ Advices

Après Les Bonnets, le sentier qui quitte la piste en montant à droite vers La Baumette est un peu technique (étroit, un peu vertigineux pour les sujets sensibles, avec quelques passages pierreux). Pour les chevaux et cavaliers qui préfèrent : rester sur la piste forestière. Le sentier et la piste se rejoignent peu avant la cabane de la Baumette.
Le hameau des Richards est un site de départ des parapentes, qui se voit au dernier moment. Les chevaux peuvent être surpris donc, en sortant du bois, préférer mettre pied à terre.

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.

Golden eagle

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

Contact: Parc National des Écrins
Julien Charron
julien.charron@ecrins-parcnational.fr

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 2240m.

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 2200m d’altitude à une distance de 300m sol.

On your path...

Les Richards (A)

Perched up at an altitude of 1548 m above Pont-du-Fossé in the commune of Saint-Jean-Saint-Nicolas, the village of Les Richards is a haven of tranquillity. The view is breathtaking over the Autanes and the Champsaur woodlands. This is the starting point for a very popular hiking trail around the mountains or to the summit of the Palastre, and a take-off area for long-distance hang-gliders. It is not unusual for a hang-glider to land in Grenoble and sometimes even in Chamonix after a long day's flight from Les Richards! The record is 162 km, with a landing in Chamonix in 2002.