

10 - Vallon de la Buffe

Briançonnais - La Grave



Descente dans le vallon de la Buffe (M. Buffet)



Boucle sur piste facile

Circuit sur chemins roulants au cœur des alpages, avec vue sur la Meije et ses glaciers. Randonnée familiale, avec de nombreuses possibilités de pique-nique. Attention toutefois au dénivelé relativement important.

Useful information

Practice : Mountain bike

Duration : 2 h

Length : 14.4 km

Trek ascent : 433 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Pastoralism

Trek

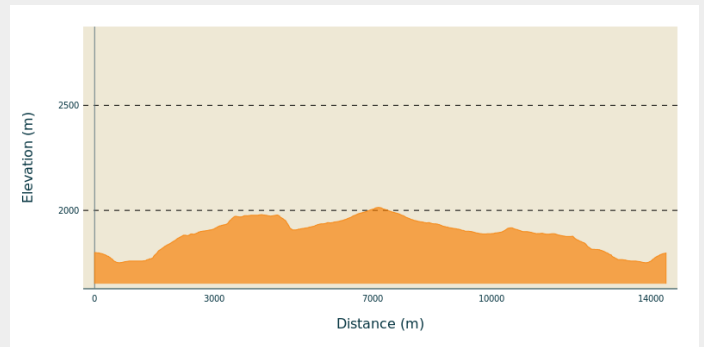
Departure : Le Chazelet

Arrival : Le Chazelet

Markings : ➡ VTT

Cities : 1. La Grave

Altimetric profile

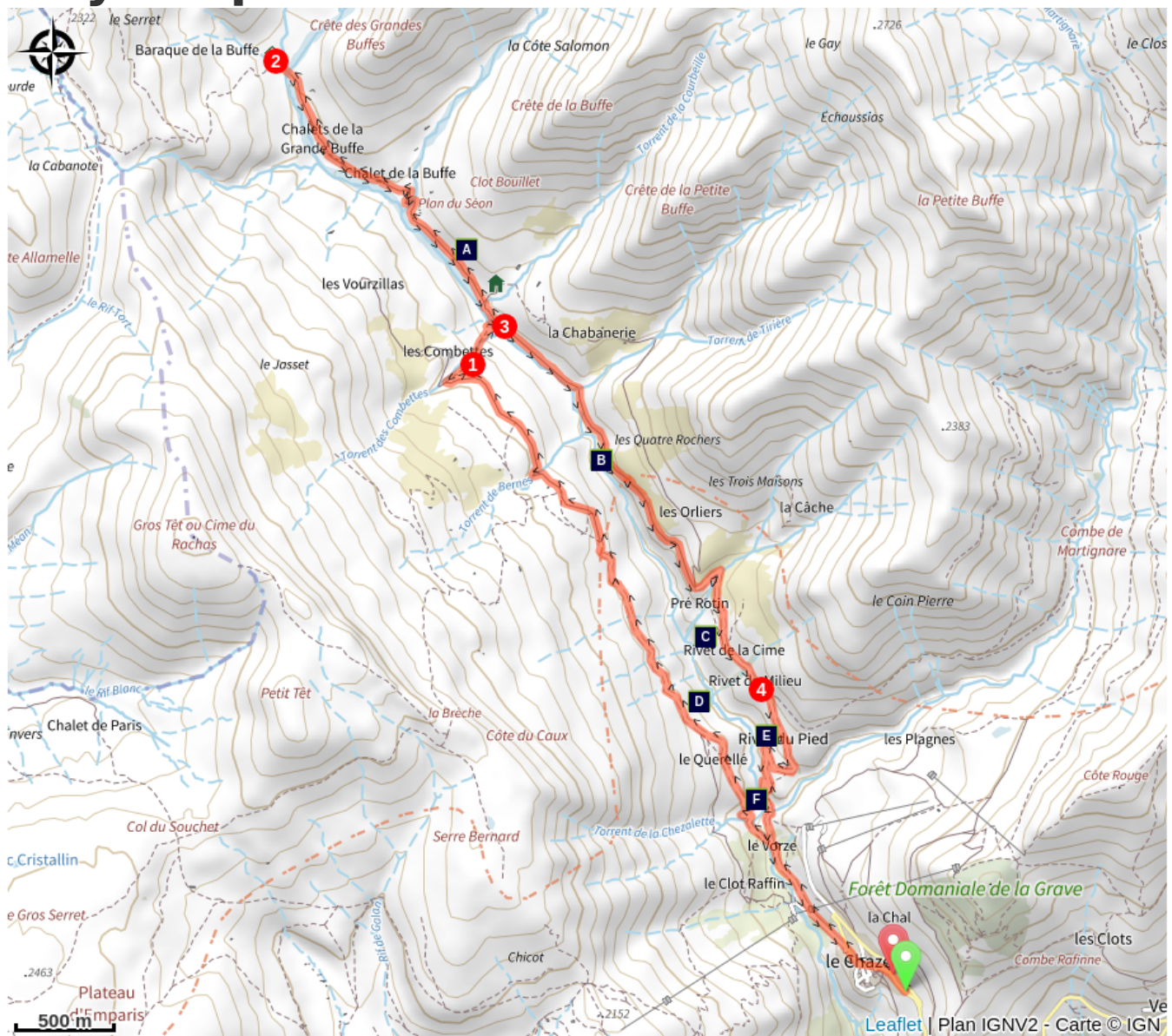





Min elevation 1752 m Max elevation 2015 m




Départ du Chazelet,

1. remonter en rive droite du torrent du Gâ, jusqu'aux Granges des Combettes.
Redescendre sur le torrent et le traverser par la passerelle.
2. Monter jusqu'à la Baraque de la Buffe, faire demi-tour,
3. descendre en rive gauche du torrent du Gâ.
4. Au retour, l'itinéraire traverse les hameaux d'altitude des Rivets.

On your path...



-  A "plague" of voles (A)
-  Common quail (C)
-  Altitude hayfields (E)

-  Small Apollo (B)
-  Viviparous lizard (D)
-  Campanula thyrsoide (F)

All useful information

Advices

Période praticable : Mai à novembre. Attention, le passage du Gâ peut être impraticable au printemps.

How to come ?

Access

A 6,6 kms de La Grave, depuis la D33, se garer à l'entrée du village du Chazelet

Advised parking

Parking à l'entrée du Chazelet ou sous le télésiège du Signal

Source

Briançonnais

On your path...



A “plague” of voles (A)

The European water vole, also called the rat taupier (mole-like rat) in French, is one of the biggest species of voles. Its breeding cycle is such that the species can undergo phases of infestation. Although the causes are not fully understood, this cyclic problem started a few years ago in the valley of La Buffe, at an altitude of 2,000 metres. Although the first signs of the presence of voles in a meadow are undoubtedly the "molehills" they create, when they constitute a plague, they can completely overturn the earth, which could be mistaken for ploughed land.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson



Small Apollo (B)

Very common in this valley, the small Apollo is a rare and protected butterfly. Its antennae are finely black-and-white striped. A tiny red spot decorates the edge of each forewing. With a wingspan of 60 to 80 cm, it reigns supreme among the orangey-yellow swathes of yellow mountain saxifrage, which provides protection and food for its caterpillars.

Attribution : Christophe Albert - PNE

Common quail (C)

Generally present in fields of cereal crops, the common quail also occupies the mountain meadows up to 2000 m or more. In the long grass, it pecks at insects and later on at the seeds as they reach maturity. A very discreet bird, it nests in the ground in a little dip, where it can lay twice to replace eggs in the case of destruction. Its song, that can be heard night and day, often gives it away: "pay your debts" is the male's song to keep its rivals at bay.



Viviparous lizard (D)

The viviparous or common lizard is present in the north of the park where it lives in cool, damp zones (moors, alpine and subalpine meadows, or at the edge of streams). It has this name as the females, in certain populations, keep the eggs in their abdomen until they hatch. Affected by any development that leads to the destruction of wet zones, it is a protected species all over France and considered vulnerable on a regional level.

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE



Altitude hayfields (E)

Natural hayfields are of great biological variety and are home to associations of plants that blossom freely. From this botanical variety come a multitude of insects and more particularly butterflies that find an ideal environment for their development. Maintaining the balance of these zones is essential, even more so at this altitude and in such a valley.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



Campanula thyrsoide (F)

This flower is an emblem of the area of La Grave and is recognisable among all others thanks to its yellow flowers that form a compact flower head also known as "thyrses". It is edible in a cheese-topped bake and is one of the rare biennial alpine plants. The seeds are scattered in the autumn and in the first year grow into big long leaves that form a rosette. Blossoming only occurs in the second year, when after ensuring reproduction, the plant dies.

Attribution : Bernard Nicollet - PNE