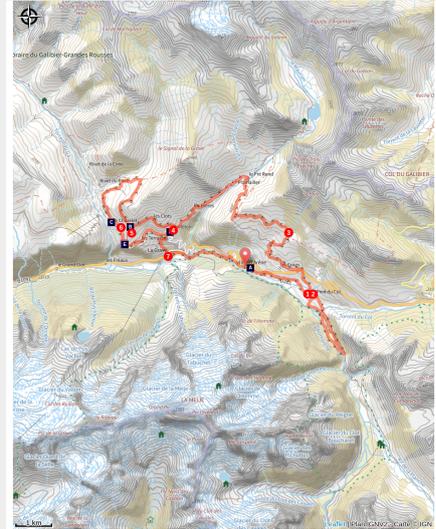


8 - Grand Tour du Canton

Briançonnais - Villar-d'Arêne



(©Thibaut Blais)



Boucle sportive autour de la Haute Romanche

Un tour en balcon, qui permet de découvrir l'ensemble des villages, la Meije et les glaciers sous tous les angles. Certains passages sont très aériens et exposés

Useful information

Practice : Mountain bike

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 30.5 km

Trek ascent : 1125 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Loop

Themes : Flora, Lake and glacier,
Pastoralism

Trek

Departure : Villar d'Arêne

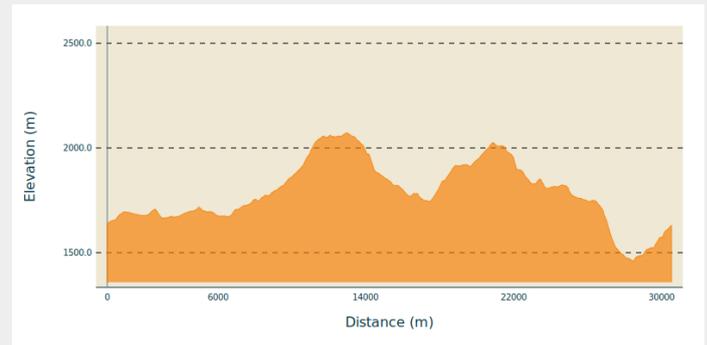
Arrival : Villar d'Arêne

Markings : 🚶 VTT

Cities : 1. Villar-d'Arêne

2. La Grave

Altimetric profile

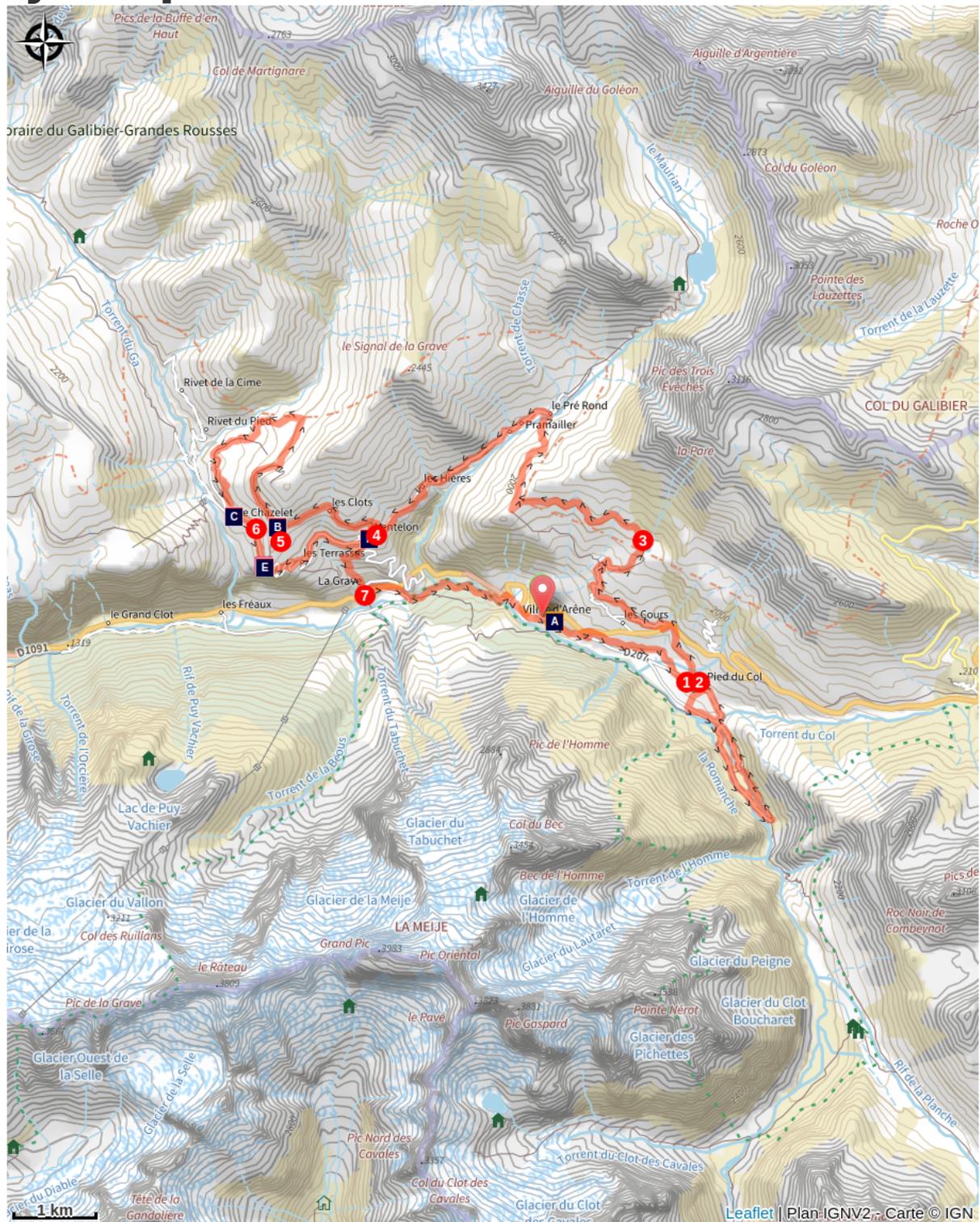


Min elevation 1459 m Max elevation 2072 m

Traverser Villar d'Arêne, direction le Pied du Col,

1. effectuer une boucle via le Pas de l'Âne et le fond de la Gravière pour s'imprégner de l'ambiance du pied des glaciers.
2. De retour au Pied du Col monter vers les Cours, le lac du Pontet.
3. Au Lac, prendre le sentier en balcon qui rejoint l'Aiguillon, et descendre vers Valfroide, les Hières puis Ventelon.
4. Depuis Ventelon monter (raide) à droite au Clos, traverser à gauche en balcons escarpés.
5. Sur la piste de l'oratoire, monter à droite sous le télésiège du Signal, couper vers le téléski des Plagnes, et revenir vers le snack et le Chazelet.
6. Redescendre par le GR qui traverse les Terrasses et la Grave.
7. A la Grave, descendre vers la Romanche et prendre la direction de Villar d'Arêne, par le sentier des Vernois qui longe la Romanche en rive gauche.

On your path...



-  Villar d'Arène communal oven (A)
-  The greniers of Le Chazelet (C)
-  Sainte-Anne du Chazelet oratory (E)

-  The terraces of La Grave (B)
-  Chazelet perch (D)
-  The oven in Ventelon (F)

All useful information



Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.



⚠️ Advices

Le passage entre La Grave et Villar d'Arène traverse le cœur du Parc national avec une autorisation exceptionnelle.

Période praticable : Avril à novembre. Autres départs possibles : Le Chazelet et La Grave (Arboretum).

Station lavage vélo gratuite sous la gare de départ du télécabine de la Grave.

How to come ?

Access

A Villar d'Arène, depuis la D1091, rejoindre le parking du cimetière de Villar-d'Arène

Advised parking

Parking du cimetière de Villar d'Arène

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 2500m.

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 2600m.

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 !

Attention en zone cœur du Parc National des Écrins une réglementation spécifique aux sports de nature s'applique : <https://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/thematique/sports-de-nature>

Source

Briançonnais

On your path...



Villar d'Arène communal oven (A)

Pies, raviolis and crozet pasta are some of the main culinary specialities in Villar d'Arène, but above all it is the famous Pô Buli (“boiled bread”) that has made the village’s reputation. Once a year, in November, the village inhabitants make this bread using an ancestral recipe. For over 500 years, it has been kneaded with rye flour and boiling water, and then baked in the communal oven in the centre of the village, near the Penitents’ chapel.

Attribution : Jean-Pierre Nicolet - PNE



The terraces of La Grave (B)

On the south-facing slope of La Grave, farming terraces and villages are inextricably linked. This is a landscape heritage recognised at European level, which incorporates numerous architectural, archaeological and natural elements. This high-mountain farming system is largely shaped by past and present agricultural activity. In earlier times, sloping ground necessitated the construction of terraces in order to be able to cultivate them. Today covered by natural meadows, these old farming terraces are cut for hay or grazed. Highly sensitive to this new usage for grazing, they have slowly been affected by erosion.

Attribution : Yves Baret - PNE



The greniers of Le Chazelet (C)

In Le Chazelet there are a dozen or so very distinctive buildings which are unique to this village, called greniers (the French word for granary or storehouse). These small buildings made from larch wood, all very similar in style, are found right across the village. They were built to hold the chests in which the peasants stored their most prized valuables. So, in the event of a fire in a house, the occupants' property was safe. The doors behind which the precious contents were locked away in the greniers are extremely sturdy and well-constructed; They are studded all over and have a large worked lock, a fareuille. When you return from a walk, take the time to explore the village and try to track down the 12 greniers!

Attribution : Eric Vannard - PNE

Chazelet perch (D)

To test your head for heights, there is nothing like this new, life-size game played facing the Meije a steel walkway suspended over empty space. The first few steps are daunting, but reaching the end of the walkway – or rather, empty space – calls for even more courage! Beneath your feet, all the way down below is the village of Les Fréaux, nestling against the Romanche, and above you, the giants of ice. If you add in the element of air, with gusts of wind blowing all around you, then strong sensations are guaranteed!



Sainte-Anne du Chazelet oratory (E)

Although it stands beside an ordinary road, the Chazelet oratory is famous for one of the most beautiful panoramas of the Alps and the Meije mountains. Built in dry stone, the edifice is at 1 834 m and overlooks the valley and the Ecrins and Meije mountains. It has been sketched, photographed and painted many times, including in the famous Meije by the Japanese painter Foujita.

Recently a new orientation table was placed a few metres above the oratory. In two parts, it shows the northern slope of the Meije and the southern slope in the direction of Chazelet and Savoie.

Attribution : PNE



The oven in Ventelon (F)

Because of a scarcity of wood, the inhabitants of the upper Romanche valley would only make bread once a year, to keep stored all year. In November, before the snow started to fall, a fournier, (oven master) and kneaders elected by the villagers would prepare black bread, or boiled bread, following a special recipe. Restored in 1998 by volunteers of the Foyer des Taburlins association, the oven in Ventelon has made it possible to perpetuate this tradition.

Attribution : Eric Vannard - PNE
