

Refuge de l'Aigle at the Rocher de l'Aigle (3,450 m)

Parc national des Ecrins - Villar-d'Arène



Refuge de l'Aigle (Thibaut Blais - PNE)



Useful information

Practice : Mountaineering

Duration : 2 days

Length : 12.6 km

Trek ascent : 2251 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Multi-day trekking

Climbing up to the highest refuge in the massif of Les Écrins is like a mountain run, but here it is mountaineering. The Aigle offers an extraordinary view of the north slope of La Meije. You might treat this as a stage on the ascent of one of the three summits of La Meije, or a single day's foray into the high mountains, and also the chance to spend the night on La Meije

Taking in every alpine zone, from the Romanche mountain river to the Tabuchet glacier, this long ascent is a wonderful discovery of the high-mountain environment. It is not only about the ambience and the landscape but also following in the footsteps of the pioneers of late nineteenth century mountaineering. Clinging to

the Rocher de l'Aigle 3,450 m, initially a bivouac site, the refuge that bears its name was built in 1910 and completely rebuilt in 2014.

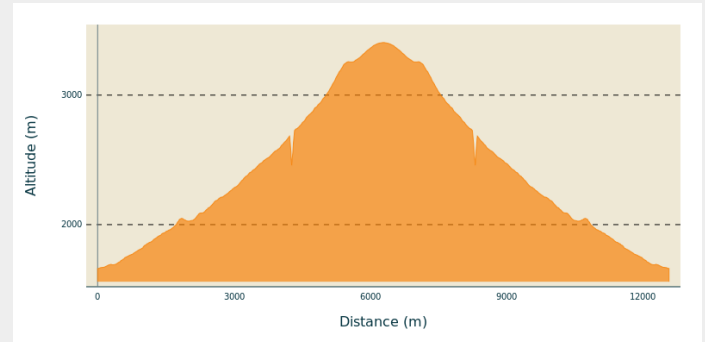
Trek

Departure : Villar-d'Arêne

Arrival : Villar-d'Arêne

Cities : 1. Villar-d'Arêne
2. La Grave

Altimetric profile



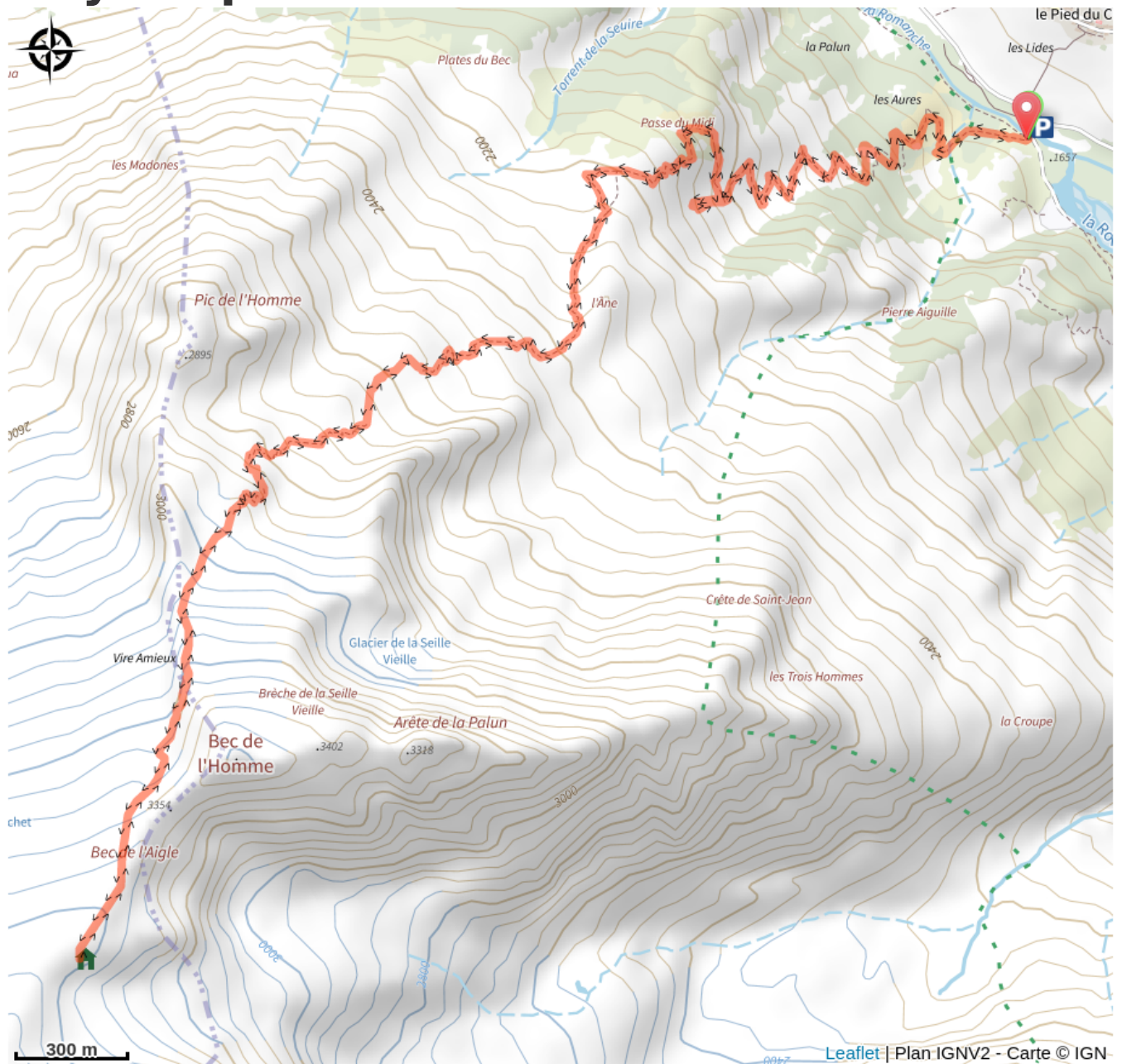
Min elevation 1660 m Max elevation 3407 m

The start of the climb to the Aigle refuge follows a well-marked path as far as the place known as 'l'Âne'. From there, the path is less obvious. Over rocky slopes and the névés of the Bec glacier, it reaches the col of the same name. The ascent then continues along the north ridge of the Bec de l'Homme before reaching the Tabuchet glacier. The Aigle refuge is not far away. The descent is by the same route.

Stages :

1. Aigle shelter from Villar d'Arène (mountaineering)
6.3 km / 2001 m D+ / 6 h
2. From Aigle shelter to Villar d'arène (mountaineering)
6.3 km / 252 m D+ / 4 h

On your path...



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

The climb to the Aigle refuge is long and the difference in altitude considerable. Start early to give yourself plenty of room and avoid suffering too much from the heat. Up to the Col du Bec, the route follows a well-marked path. Then it's into the realm of the high mountains, where you need to find the route and progress safely (crampons, ropes). After the Amieux cable, access to the glacier can be tricky in late summer when the mountain is dry. If you arrive late at the refuge, it is advisable to sleep there (booking essential). Without climbing one of the summits of the Meije, it is possible to do two short loops on the glacier before descending into the valley: the Tête des Corridors 3734m or the col du Serret du Savon 3571m.

"In the descriptions, you will find elevations which are intended as a reference point to locate your position on a gradient or slope. These should be taken with a margin of error ($\sim \pm 30$ metres), especially where they are not set or referenced by the IGN. In the last resort, it is your own experience that will guide you when, maybe at the foot of five dihedral corners all indistinguishable from one another, you are complaining bitterly about your guidebook or even a friend's sketch. It would be difficult to grasp all the complexity of a route using just a description or a photo view of the route. Only the three aids together (description/photo with a route overlay/IGN map) will give you a comprehensive picture.

The conditions of a route or the mountain can change, and sometimes the description will differ from what you encounter on the ground. Be your own guide. These descriptions are not absolute reality and sometimes intuition will serve you

better than a guidebook. So BONNE ROUTE, with or without a map to lead you through the maze!"

From the book by Sébastien Constant (2007), *Voies normales et classiques des Ecrins*, Éditions Constant, L'Argentière-la-Bessée, p. 18.



Gear

Standard equipment for snow and mixed itineraries: telescopic poles, crampons, ice axe, helmet, harness, 30m climbing rope, glacier safety kit, belaying and progress equipment, 30-litre bag, warm clothing.

How to come ?

Access

From Villar-d'Arêne, which can be accessed via the D1091 from Le Bourg d'Oisans or Briançon, take the minor D207 road towards Le Pied du Col. At the first intersection turn right and follow this road for 850 metres to the Pont Vieux ou des Brebis car park.

Advised parking

Pont Vieux or Pont des Brebis car park

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
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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>

Information desks

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