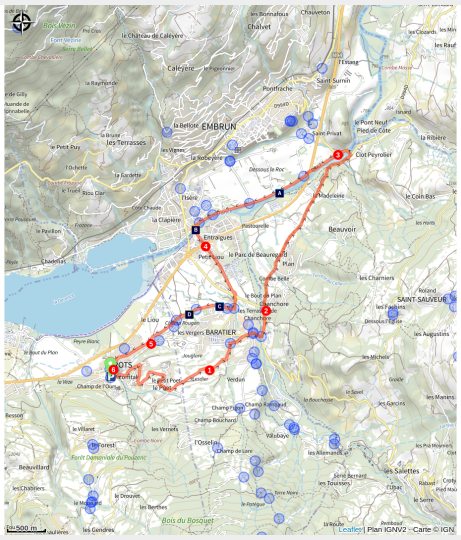
# Les hauteurs de Crots

Parc national des Ecrins

Château de Picomtal surplombant la route (Clémence DEBENATH)




*A landscape fit for a postcard! From the Château de Picomtal to the banks of the Durance, this route boasts a natural and built heritage that is full of interest.*

From the outset, at the foot of the medieval castle of Picomtal, the route begins with a climb, on which you can admire the panorama. Then it's on to the banks of the Durance, dominated by Embrun and its historic quarter. The return journey to Crots follows a landscape of arable fields, with no real difficulties.

## Useful information

Practice : Gravel

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 12.2 km

Trek ascent : 168 m

Difficulty : Very easy

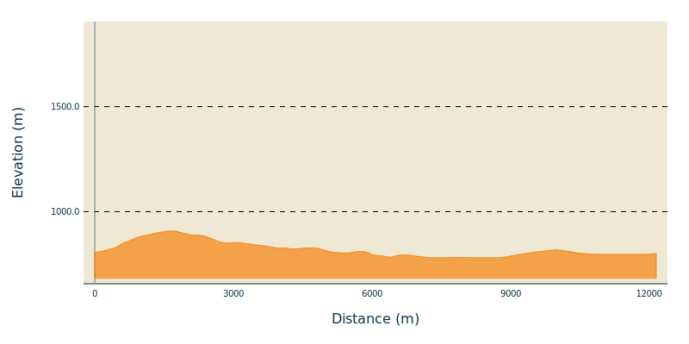
Type : Loop

Themes : History and architecture, Lake and glacier, Panorama

# Trek

**Departure** : Town centre car park, Crots
**Arrival** : Town centre car park, Crots
**Cities** : 1. Crots
2. Baratier
3. Saint-Sauveur
4. Embrun

## Altimetric profile




Min elevation 781 m  Max elevation 908 m

1. From the centre of Crots, follow the small road that runs alongside the château of Picomtal at the bottom in the direction of Le Poêt, gaining height fairly quickly through a succession of bends.
2. Take a short descent towards Baratier. Follow the D40 for a short stretch before turning right towards Crévoux.

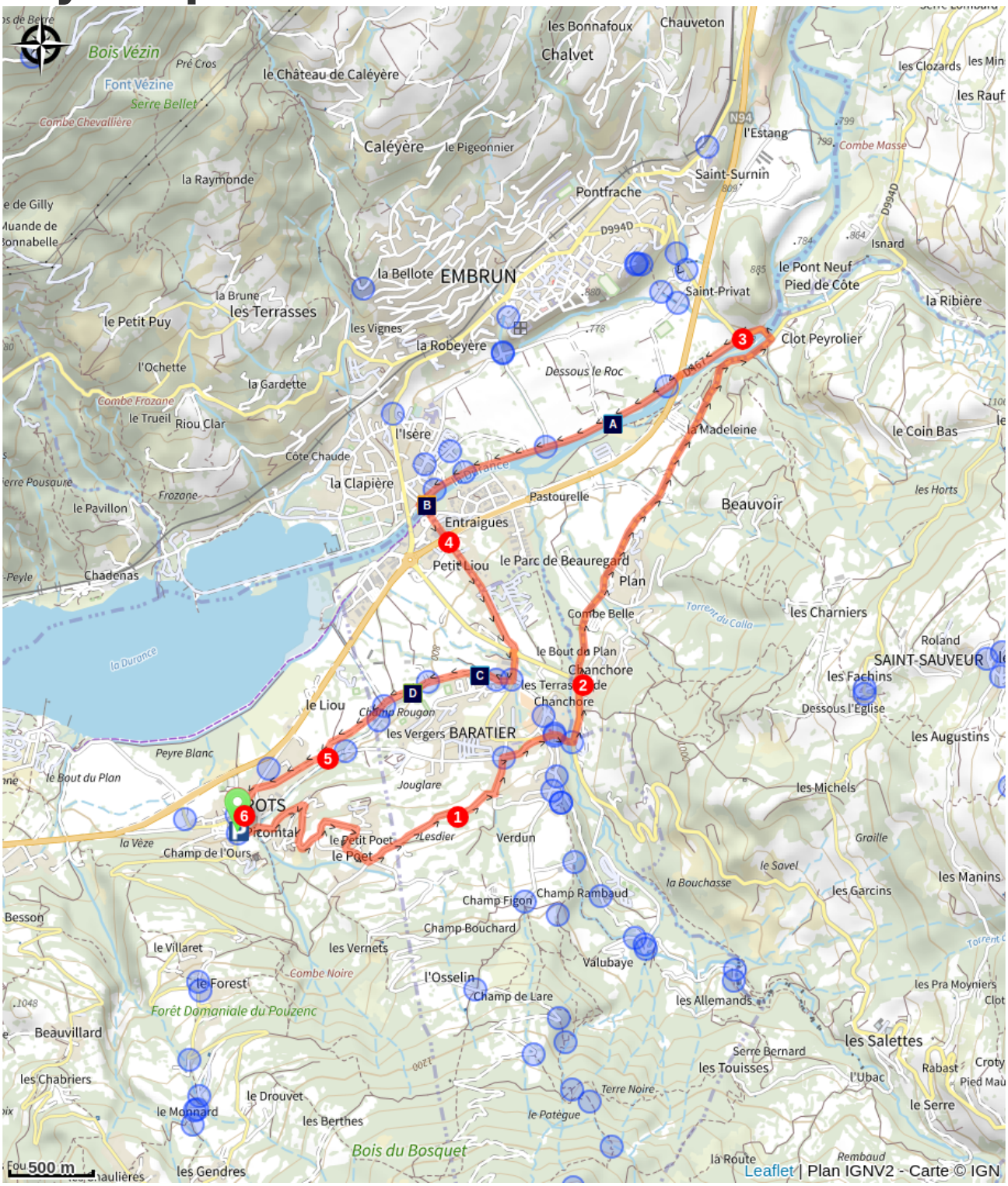
3. Carry on for nearly 3km then cross the Durance on a metal bridge (wooden floor) towards Embrun. Quickly, turn left and follow the route de la Digue, which is closed to vehicles.

4. This road runs alongside the river and joins a footbridge to cross over the Durance again. Follow the cycle path towards Baratier (short section under the N94) and head towards a roundabout.

5. Take the second exit towards La Mure (D240), drive 100 m then take another right fork. At the next crow's-foot intersection, take the Chemin du Grand Liou, which continues to the right.

6. Continue straight on, skirting fields, until you reach the village of Crots.

# On your path...




The Durance (A)
Footbridge over the Durance (B)
Irrigation canals (C)
Bladder campion (D)

# All useful information

## Advices

- Respecter le sens de circulation des parcours.
- Respecter les autres usagers de la route.
- Le port du casque est obligatoire
- N’hésitez pas à consulter info route 05 avant de partir

## How to come ?

Transports

From **Gap**:

- Zou! network : Line 69 / Frequency : 5 times a day

From **Embrun**:

- Zou! network : Line 69 / Frequency : 5 times a day

More information: https://zou.maregionsud.fr

Access

Follow the N94 from Gap or Embrun to Crots and then the town centre.

Advised parking

Town centre car park, Crots

## Information desks

**Tourist office Crots**
Place des Ballerins, 05200 Crots
Tel : 0492431305
https://www.serreponcon-tourisme.com/

## Source

Serre-Ponçon

https://www.serreponcon.com

# On your path...

## The Durance (A)

The Durance is the most important river in Provence and the third largest tributary of the Rhône, behind the Saône and the Isère. It rises in the Hautes-Alpes in the municipality of Montgenèvre and is soon joined by the Clarée and Guisane rivers, which flow past it despite being longer and having a greater flow at the confluence point. The Durance valley has been a major communication route for centuries, and its capricious nature has been controlled by the artificial lake at Serre-Ponçon and a canal running downstream. The old proverb from the Ancien Régime, which once claimed that "the three scourges of Provence are the Mistral, the Durance and Parliament", has now been forgotten, and the Durance now brings nothing but life to the land it irrigates.

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Attribution : Agence Kros_Rémi Fabrègue

## Footbridge over the Durance (B)

This footbridge, which was completed in 2019, links Embrun with Crots and Baratier. Although it is a recent development, it actually boasts a long history. It stands on the exact site of the temporary bridge that replaced the La Clapière road bridge from 1953 onwards, which was destroyed during the Second World War by resistance fighters from the Embrunais area after the failure of an American bombing to do so. The aim was to prevent German forces from sending reinforcements to Gap, whose liberation was imminent. Although the bridge managed to withstand the American bombs, several people were killed and an explanatory panel on the footbridge pays tribute to them today.

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Attribution : etienne.charles

## Irrigation canals (C)

You will come across numerous irrigation canals in the fields and along the roadsides. They are distributed strategically so that the various plots can be irrigated, by opening and closing valves. This age-old technique makes it possible to control the water flows according the farmers' needss.

Attribution : Amélie Vallier

## Bladder campion (D)

This plant is a member of the carnation family. This campion can be recognised primarily by the flower calyx. This is inflated into a roundish shape. A very common plant across the department of Hautes-Alpes, it produces white flowers from April to September. The petals of the bladder campion can lose their turgidity and wilt during the day, but they regain their shape at night.

Attribution : Amélie Vallier