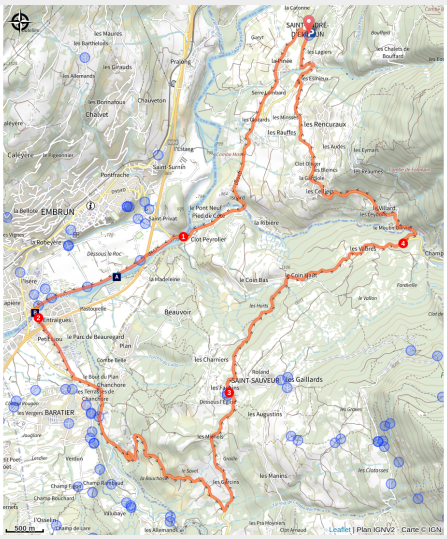
The balconies of Saint-André d'Embrun

Parc national des Ecrins

(Clémence DEBENATH)



A gentle loop! The peaceful banks of the Durance give way to a more undulating landscape with views of the Embrunais mountains and the turquoise waters of the lake.

The panoramic view from the heights is sure to be the highlight of this itinerary. The views of Lake Serre-Ponçon, the Durance valley and Embrun are well worth the effort. You'll also pass through typical hamlets with a certain charm.

Useful information

Practice : Cycling

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 23.1 km

Trek ascent : 548 m

Difficulty : Easy

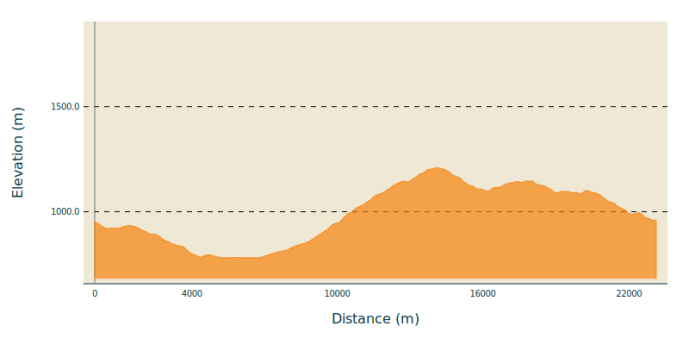
Type : Loop

Themes : Lake and glacier, Panorama

Trek

Departure : Saint-André-d'Embrun
Arrival : Saint-André-d'Embrun
Cities : 1. Saint-André-d'Embrun
2. Saint-Sauveur
3. Embrun
4. Baratier

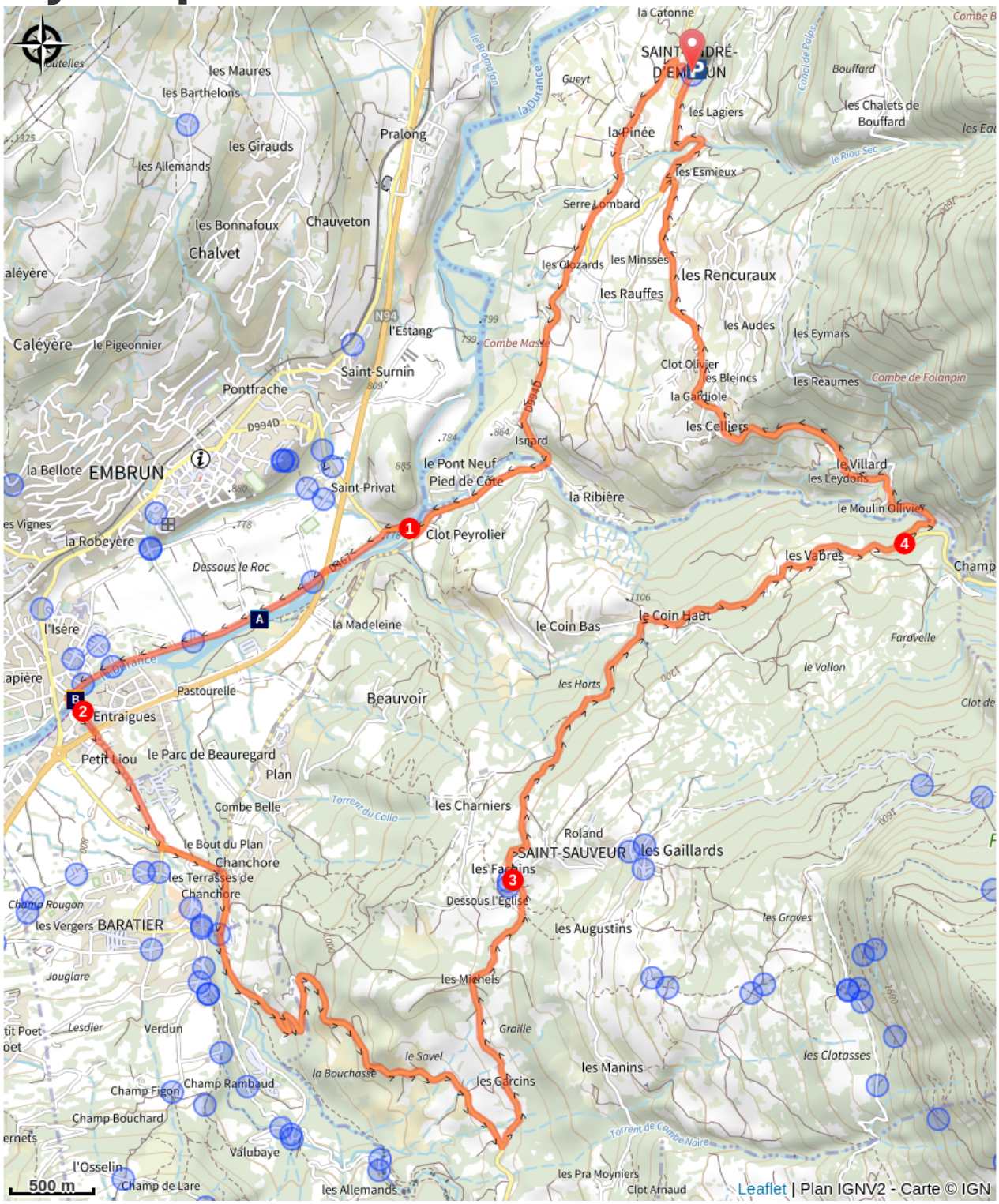
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 781 m Max elevation 1210 m

1. From the church, take the road downhill to join the D994d. Then turn left towards Embrun. Drive for 4 km and, at the STOP sign, turn right and 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.
2. The road runs alongside the river and provides a view of Embrun's citadel. Reach a footbridge and cross back over the Durance. Follow the cycle path towards Baratier (short section under the N94) and head towards a roundabout.
3. Take the third exit towards Les Orres (D40) and climb for 4km before reaching a fork. Now turn left onto the D39a towards Saint-Sauveur. You'll be rewarded with some beautiful views of the lake as you pedal along. Once in Saint-Sauveur, make a short stop to admire the breathtaking panorama.
4. Continue on this balcony road for 4 km, joining the D39 at a hairpin bend. Turn left towards Saint-André-d'Embrun to return to the starting point.

On your path...



The Durance (A)

Footbridge over the Durance (B)

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** or **Embrun**:

- Zou! Network : Line 69 / Frequency : Every 4 hours

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

Access

Follow the N94 from Gap or Guillestre towards Embrun, then St-André-d'Embrun.

Advised parking

Parking de l'Église, Saint-André-d'Embrun

Information desks

Tourist office Embrun
Place Général Dosse - BP 49, 05202 Embrun

embrun@serreponcon-tourisme.com
Tel : 0492437272
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