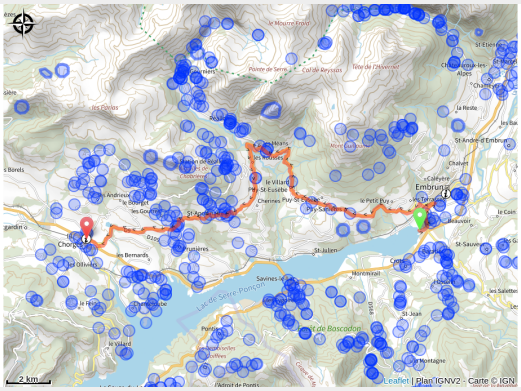
La Durance by Bike : Embrun – Chorges

Parc national des Ecrins

(Kina Photo)



From Briançon to Avignon, La Durance by Bike follows the V862 cycle route for 438 km, crossing four departments in the Région Sud. From the high-mountain landscapes of the Haute-Durance to the agricultural plains, orchards and lavender fields of Provence, the route passes through major historic sites, natural areas rich in biodiversity and several easily accessible urban centres.

In the Hautes-Alpes, the itinerary follows the Durance from the outskirts of Briançon, a fortified town listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before continuing towards Embrun, Lake

Useful information

Practice : Cycling

Duration : 3 h

Length : 28.3 km

Trek ascent : 804 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Stage

Themes : Lake and glacier, Panorama, Top

Serre-Ponçon, Gap and then Sisteron. Railway stations and transport connections punctuate the route, offering practical solutions for both touring cyclists and everyday journeys.

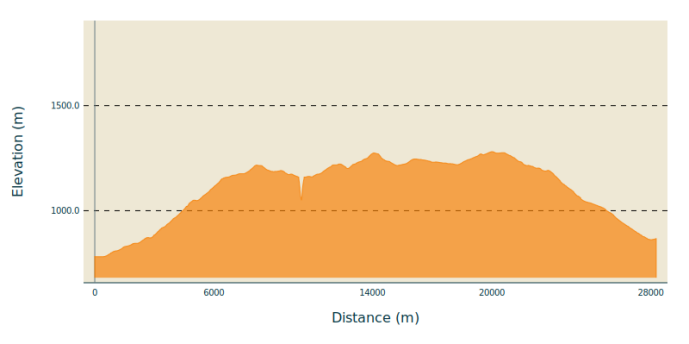
For more information and to discover all the stages, visit www.laduranceavelo.fr.

Where the impetuous Durance once flowed, human intervention has permanently reshaped the landscape, giving way to a vast expanse of water shimmering with shades of azure blue. Along the route, panoramic viewpoints, grey marl landscapes, mountain streams and larch forests follow one after another.

Trek

Departure : Embrun
Arrival : Chorges
Cities : 1. Embrun
2. Puy-Sanières
3. Puy-Saint-Eusèbe
4. Réallon
5. Savines-le-Lac
6. Saint-Apollinaire
7. Prunières
8. Chorges

Altimetric profile



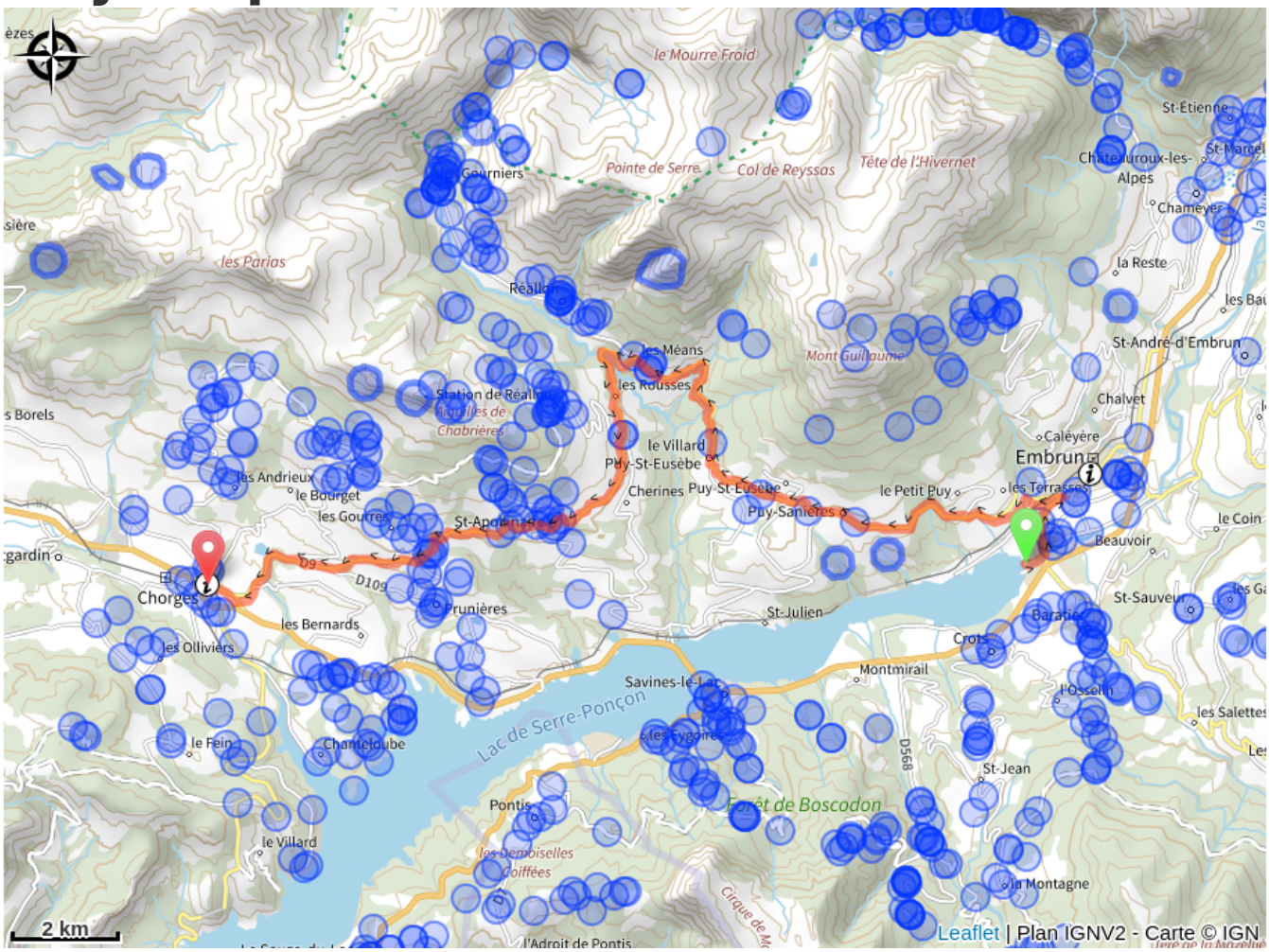
Min elevation 781 m Max elevation 1281 m

1) From the lake, head towards Embrun town centre, then at the roundabout turn right, following signs for “Hôpital – Urgences”. Follow Avenue Alexandre Didier for 1 km and, when you reach a large stone wall, bear right. Join the D9 towards Puy-Sanières and, after a short warm-up, the real effort begins with a 6 km climb at an average gradient of 7%. This road offers beautiful viewpoints while passing through wooded areas and grey marl landscapes.

2) Continue past Puy-Sanières and head towards Réallon, still on the D9. The view opens up, offering a beautiful outlook over the Écrins massif. Rock formations, mountain streams and marl landscapes follow one another in an environment where deciduous trees and conifers mingle. Continue past Les Méans and, at the next junction, turn left downhill towards Savines-le-Lac on the D9.

3) Continue past Les Rousses and, at the roundabout, carry on towards Chorges on the D9 for a pleasant, gently sloping descent to the village of Saint-Apollinaire. Take a short break at the viewpoint, which offers a very beautiful view over Lake Serre-Ponçon, before continuing towards Chorges on the D9. Ride 8 km downhill, taking care to control your speed — it is easy to get carried away — until you reach the centre of Chorges.

On your path...


le Mourre Froid
Pointe de Serre
Col de Reyssas
Tête de l'Hivernet
St-Étienne
Châteauroux-les-Alpes
Chamèyer
les Parias
Réallon
la Reste
les Méans
les Rousses
Mont Guillaume
St-André-d'Embrun
Station de Réallon
Aiguilles de Chabrières
Chalvet
le Villard
Puy-St-Eusèbe
Caléyère
Embrun
les Andrieux
le Bourget
les Gourres
Cherines
Puy-St-Eusèbe
le Petit Puy
les Terrasses
Puy-Sanières
le Coin
Beauvoir
Chorges
D9
D109
Prunières
St-Julien
St-Sauveur
les Bernards
les Olliviers
Crots
Montmirail
Savines-le-Lac
l'Osselin
Lac de Serre-Ponçon
les Salettes
le Fein
Chanteloube
les Eygoires
D568
St-Jean
Pontis
Forêt de Boscodon
le Villard
les Demoiselles Coiffées
la Montagne
2 km
l'Adroit de Pontis
Leaflet | Plan IGNV2 - Carte © IGN

All useful information

Advices

Signposting
The route is continuously signposted from Briançon to Sisteron, using standard cycle route signage featuring the “Durance à Vélo” route logo.

Surface / safety
La Durance by Bike is a cycle route that follows a network of paved secondary roads. You will be sharing the road with motor vehicles. This is not a route on dedicated cycle paths.

Gear

To ride safely and comfortably on the road, suitable equipment is essential. From tyres and mechanical components to clothing, choose your gear according to your level and the type of ride planned.

Useful accessories such as saddle bags, spare parts to improve your ride, and clothing adapted to road cycling should not be overlooked. Both the cyclist’s equipment and the bike itself need to be carefully prepared.

Specific road cycling gear is designed for this type of practice. Cycling shorts, a cycling jersey, gloves, glasses and a helmet suitable for road biking are strongly recommended.

How to come ?

Transports

From Gap:

Zou! regional bus network: Line 69 / Frequency: 5 times per day

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

Advised parking

Embrun lake 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.

Short-toed snake eagle

Sensitivity period: March, April, May, June, July, August, September

Contact: Parc National des Écrins
Julien Charron
julien.charron@ecrins-parcnational.fr

Nidification du Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Circaète-Jean-le-Blanc en période de nidification sont principalement les pratiques aériennes comme le vol libre ou le vol motorisé.

Merci d’essayer d’éviter la zone ou de rester à un distance minimale de 300m sol quand vous la survolez soit 1310m d'altitude !

Information desks

Tourist office Chorges
Grand rue, 05230 Chorges

chorges@serreponcon-tourisme.com
Tel : 0492506425
https://www.serreponcon.com

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