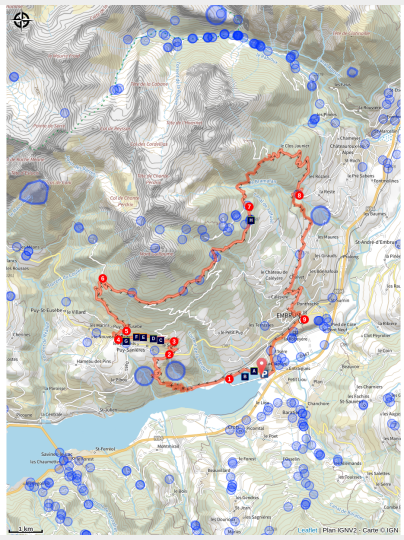
Loop 52 - The Balconies of Mont Guillaume

Parc national des Ecrins

(Emmanuel DANJOU)



An unmissable spot just a short drive from Embrun, the Mont Guillaume state forest offers a range of tracks ideal for the little crampon-riding queen.

After a warm-up along the lake, there is a steady climb towards Les Puy as you reach the balconies of Mont Guillaume and the lookout point at La Para (ideal for a picnic break). The final stretch: a long descent on tracks and roads.

Useful information

Practice : Gravel

Duration : 3 h 15

Length : 39.0 km

Trek ascent : 1342 m

Difficulty : Medium

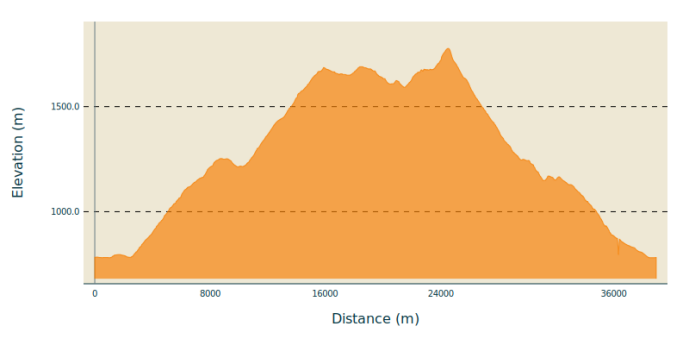
Type : Loop

Themes : Lake and glacier, Panorama

Trek

Departure : Embrun
Arrival : Embrun
Markings : PR GRP GR
Cities : 1. Embrun
2. Puy-Sanières
3. Puy-Saint-Eusèbe
4. Châteauroux-les-Alpes

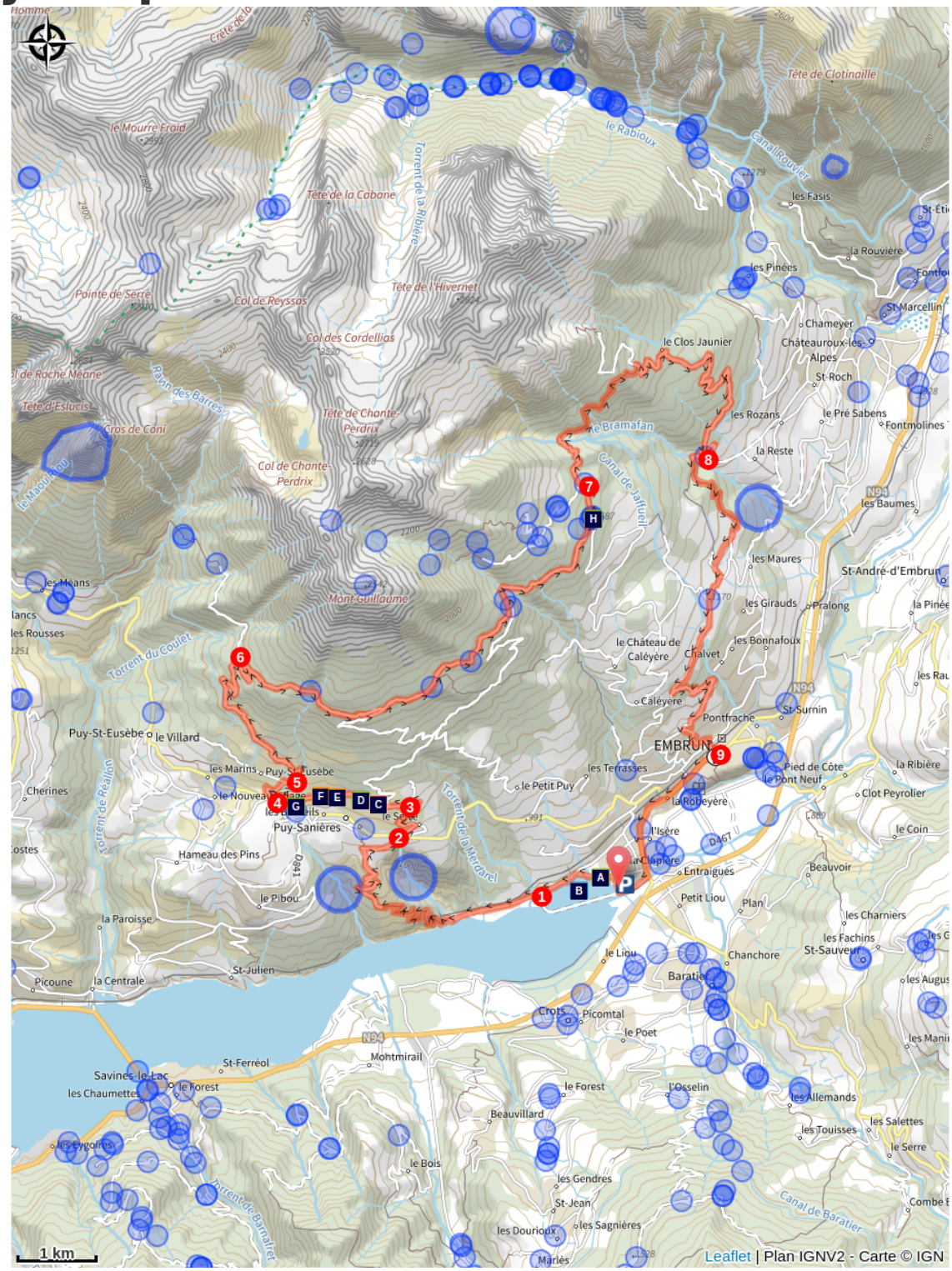
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 781 m Max elevation 1777 m

1. At the start of the mountain bike circuits, join the dam and follow it to the right. After the Club Nautique Alpin, follow the road to the left towards the Chadenas holiday park. Then continue up the main winding path. (/!\ Please close the fence)
2. At the bus stop, follow the route des Puy to the left (D9) and climb to the right towards Serres (D309). At the fountain, continue up a hairpin bend to the left.
3. At the bend, turn left onto DFCI track G2 (Viewpoint). Continue straight ahead on the main track to join the Route des Puys (D9). Follow it to the right.
4. At Puy Saint-Eusèbe, turn right up the Route de l'Eglise (D309a).
5. Leave the road for the Chemin des Clauséards on the right (DFCI G1) towards Embrun via the Lookout of la Para. At the crow's feet intersection continue along the track to the left. Stay on the main track until you reach the Piste de la Baume.
6. At the route forestière de la Baume, continue uphill to the right (DFCI G1). Stay on this track and enjoy the view from the Para lookout. Continue straight on until you reach the car park.
7. At the Porte de la Forêt car park, turn left onto the route forestière des Fontainiers. At the Route forestière du Bosquet, keep right (DFCI track G82). Before the steep climb, take the path on the right towards Châteauroux, 9 km. /!\ Quite a steep descent. When you reach the path under the larches, turn right. Stay on the main road until you reach the hairpin, then /!\ watch your speed.
8. /!\ slow down: at the hairpin descend to the right and take two left turns down the less steep options. Then turn right at the edge of the wood onto the path on the right, which is carpeted with pine needles. (/!\ Several short sections with roots and stones). After the houses, continue to the right on the less visible flat track. Above Les Barthelons, descend to the left, then take the first right onto the road. After the hamlet, turn left down the road towards the centre of Embrun. (D465)
9. At the Station, join the roundabout. Turn right and then slightly left onto the pedestrianised street towards the tourist office. At the end of the road, turn right and cross the supermarket car park on your left. At the end of the supermarket car park in Les Moulineaux, head down a small tarmac path towards the lake. /!\ steep path, tight bends and the lower part has a few stones. At the Chaffal turn right and then left to reach the dam. The lake is on your right.

On your path...



- Grey wagtail (A)
- Clapiers (C)
- Grazing (E)
- The Grey Cuckoo (G)
- Reservoir (B)
- Common Kestrel (D)
- Retaining walls (F)
- The larch (H)

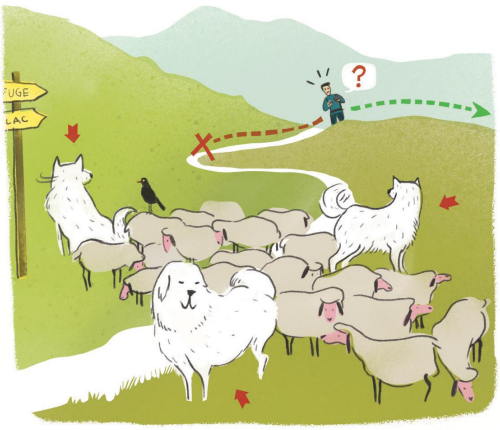
All useful information

Herd protection dogs

In mountain pastures, protection dogs are there to protect the herds from predators (wolves, etc.).

When I hike I adapt my behavior by going around the herd and pausing for the dog to identify me.

Find out more about the actions to adopt with the article "Protection dogs: a context and actions to adopt".
Tell us about your meeting by answering this survey.



Advices

Avant de partir vérifiez l'état de votre vélo, surveillez la météo et équipez vous selon la saison et la durée de votre randonnée.
Vous évoluez en zone de montagne, privilégiez des pneus de Gravel large, des freins à disque hydraulique et maitrisez votre vitesse.
Prudence dans la descente du Hameau de Vière et pour rejoindre la vallée de la Durance.
Pour plus de confort faites appel à un moniteur de cyclisme
Secours : 112

How to come ?

Transports

SNCF: Chorges station, Embrun https://www.sncf-connect.com/
Bus : Valserres, La Bâtie Neuve, Chorges, Puy Saint Eusèbe, Puy Sanières, Embrun Baratier, Les Orres, Remollon, Theus, Espinasse
Marseille-Briançon : (LER29)
Marseille, Nice : Lignes Express Régionales (LER) +33 (0)809 400 415
Grenoble : Transisère +33 (0)4 26 16 38 38
Gap-Barcelonnette (LER535)
Carpooling area : Rond point des Orres - 05200 Baratier
Plane:
Marseille Provence Airport (188km) - +33 (0)820 811 414
Grenoble Alpes Isère Airport (158km) - +33 (0)4 76 65 48 48

Lyon Saint Exupéry Airport - (203km) +33 (0)826 800 826
Turin Caselle Airport - (178km) + 39 011 567 63 71

Access

From Grenoble, Lyon, Paris : RN 85 or RN 75. At Gap, take the RN 94 towards Briançon.
From Marseille, Montpellier A51 to La Saulce, continue towards Tallard (D942) and Briançon (RN 94).

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 1470m d'altitude !

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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...

Grey wagtail (A)

Size:
L : 16.5 - 18 cm
Around: 25 cm

Attribution : etienne.charles

Reservoir (B)

The reservoir was filled in 1962. It is fed by the Durance river. The reservoir owes its unique nature to the surrounding landscape, with views of the Morgon, Mont Guillaume and the resort of Les Orres. The area offers a host of services to enhance your visit. The route along the dam has been reforested and improved for everyone's peace of mind.

Attribution : Naturographe - OTSP

Clapiers (C)

"Clapier" is the term used in the southern Alps to describe a pile of stones. They are evidence of former farming activities. The stones were once removed to clear the fields. This made it easier to work the soil and saved space. Back then, everything was done by hand.

Attribution : Amélie Vallier

Common Kestrel (D)

The Common Kestrel is medium-sized. The underside of the wings has a cream colour with black spots. The male’s head and top of its tail is blue-grey. This bird of prey flies rapidly, beating its wings fairly continuously, alternating changes of trajectory, short glides and sudden dives. Its characteristic feature is that it comes to a halt in flight, tail open like a fan, wings beating very rapidly, on the lookout for prey. This is known as the "flight of the Holy Spirit".

Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE

Grazing (E)

Pastoralism is an extensive farming technique practised by livestock farmers. It exploits natural resources to feed the herd. This practice is now thought to have begun around 10,000 years ago. Certain animals with a natural tendency to group together are then domesticated. The search for food led mankind to raise these herds with a nomadic lifestyle. This practice is very important in terms of maintaining open environments and encouraging certain specific species.

Attribution : Faure Joêl - PNE

Retaining walls (F)

The retaining walls are made of dry stone. They are called restanques in Provence. In steep areas, they can be used to create farmed terraces by retaining the soil. At the time, their construction enabled generations of farmers to make a living from their land, which became fertile and arable. Today, many researchers and craftsmen are trying to bring back this age-old technique.

Attribution : Amélie Vallier

The Grey Cuckoo (G)

This is a medium-sized migratory bird, identified by its "cuckoo" song, from April to July, between woodland and open spaces. The females seek out the nests of small sparrows and eat one of the eggs of the occupied nest before laying their own. In the cuckooed nest, the cuckoo chick, which is born before the others, will eject all the other eggs so it can be raised by its adoptive parents!

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE

The larch (H)

The king of mountain trees in the Southern Alps, the larch is the only conifer to drop its needles in winter. In spring, its cones are a characteristic dark purple. The larch is one of the few European tree species that is imputrescible, that is to say, it does not rot. This is why, despite the fact that it twists as it dries out, it is widely use in frameworks, drinking troughs and other water holding vessels in the mountain villages. Incapable of germinating in its own undergrowth, it needs natural openings such as avalanche corridors for the young shoots to develop. It is found at altitudes in excess of 2,200 metres, adopting dwarf forms in these "combat" zones. The larch tree growing at this point on the trail is several hundred years old.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE