

## Loop 54 - Les Pinées

Parc national des Ecrins - Châteauroux-les-Alpes



(Emmanuel DANJOU)



### *A mountain route with an escape along the banks of the Durance to discover the Vague du Rabioux*

A mountain and forest ambience on the first part of the route, with cool, damp streams and the old steep road on the side of the Rabioux gorges. If you keep your eyes peeled you might even catch a glimpse of the Demoiselles Coiffées. The return journey, a jaunt along the banks of the Durance, is less difficult. A fairly difficult blue course.

### Useful information

Practice : Gravel

Duration : 1 h 45

Length : 20.5 km

Trek ascent : 802 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : History and architecture, Lake and glacier

# Trek

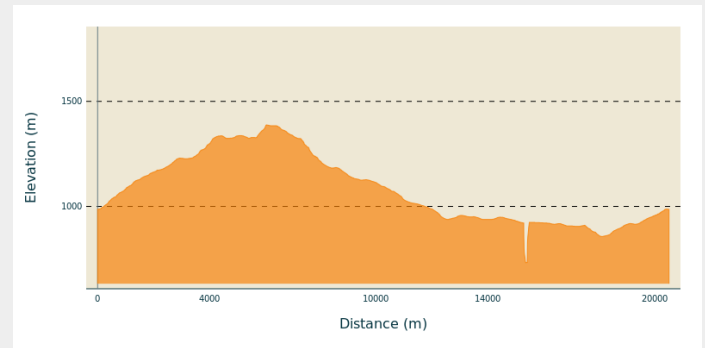
**Departure** : Châteauroux les Alpes

**Arrival** : Châteauroux les Alpes

**Markings** :  PR  GR

**Cities** : 1. Châteauroux-les-Alpes

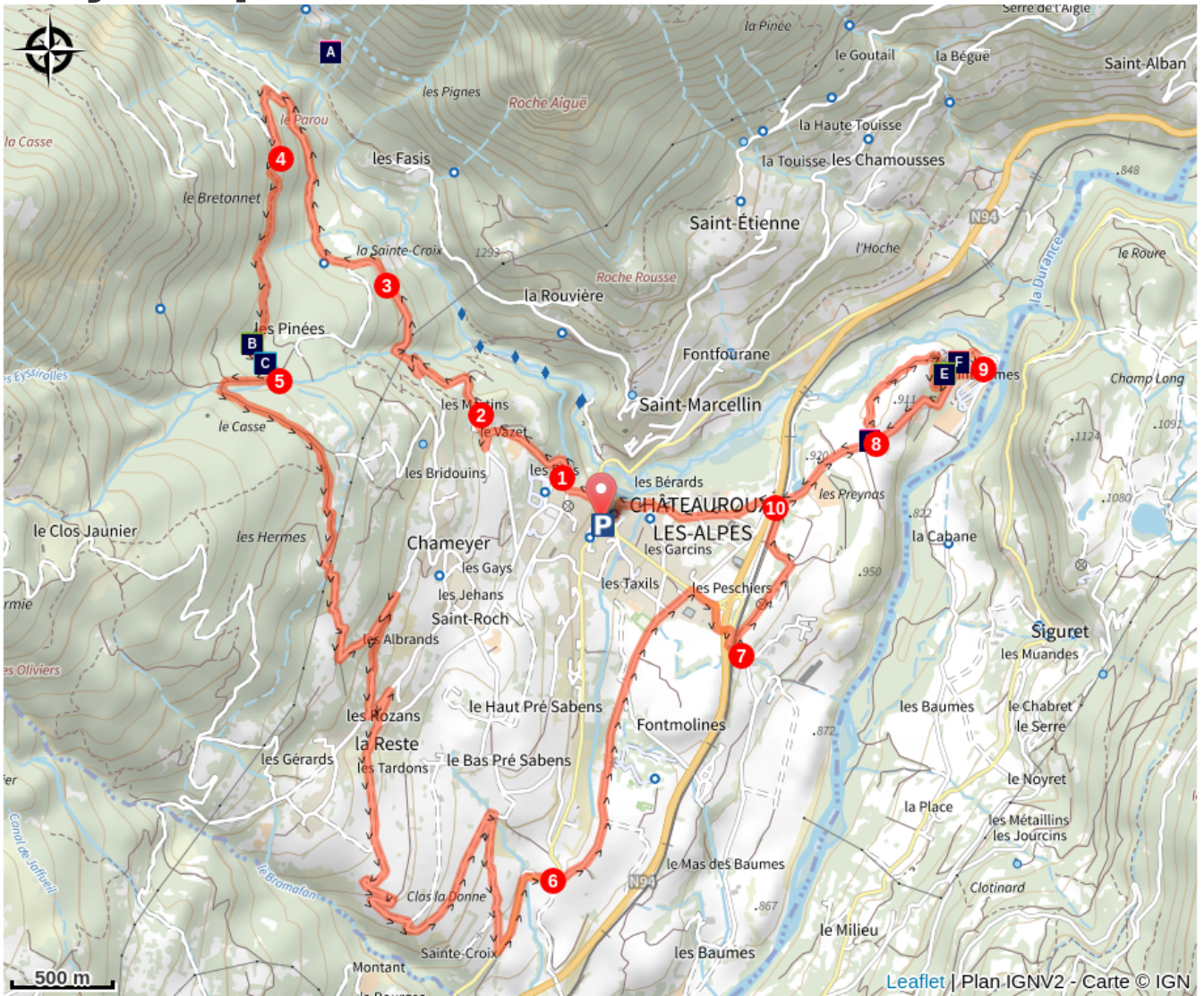
## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 733 m Max elevation 1389 m

1. Just after Châteauroux-les-Alpes town hall, turn left up rue sainte-Iriennée (D663). At the cemetery, skirt it to the right and head up the road to the right towards the 'Les Pins' camp-site.
2. At Le Vazet take the hairpin road to the right, then the path straight ahead.
3. At the road turn right towards the waterfall (DFCI G84). At the Auberge de l'Épinay road, turn right towards the Charançons gîte, Muandes car park and the Pisse waterfall.
4. At the lookout, ascend to the left and then turn left a second time. /!\ At the hairpin bend, leave the track and take a path straight downhill. Ride along the canal and dismount in a few places.
5. Then leave the canal to ascend 200 m to the right at the level of the torrent des Échirolles (steep climb) then turn left twice following the GR. Stay on the main track, then turn left onto the road when you reach the first few houses. /!\ Slow down on the downhill road: leave it at the hairpin on a track to the right. At the road, turn left downhill and then right through the hamlet of Les Rozans. Choose the most well-signposted options downhill as far as the road.
6. At the D994H, ascend to the left, then after 300m descend to the right the road of Fontmoline in direction of the camp-site les Cariamas.
7. 7200 m after the football pitch, descend to the roundabout on the right, take the 1st exit towards Briançon. After the bridge, turn right towards Les Baumes. After the railway bridge (Pont des Eygas), take the path on the left and stay on the road.
8. At the pisciculture des écrins, turn right onto the route de la vague. At 600m, take the stony track on the left until you reach the chapel of St Jacques, then descend on the right to join the road.
9. At the road descend to the left as far as the Vague du Rabioux and make a U-turn staying on the road
10. Returning to the fish farm, cross the railway line and then the bridge to reach the village, staying on the road.

## On your path...



-  Fairy chimneys (A)
  Common cuckoo (B)
-  Gramorel Canal (C)
  The Herbonne plateau (D)
-  Red kite (E)
  Chapel of St James (F)



# 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 maîtrisez 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 73

### 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

Parking de la Mairie, Châteauroux le Alpes

# 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 une distance minimale de 300m sol quand vous la survolez soit 1410m d'altitude !

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## Information desks

### Bureau d'information Touristique de Châteauroux-Les-Alpes

Place de l'église, 05380 Châteauroux-Les-Alpes

chateauroux.les.alpes05@gmail.com

Tel : 04 92 43 23 31

<https://www.serreponcon-tourisme.com/>



## On your path...

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### Fairy chimneys (A)

The Cheminées de Fée (fairy chimneys), also known as the demoiselles coiffées, are a reminder of the presence of ancient glaciers that long-since disappeared: these moraines, made up of sand, gravel and poorly cemented blocks of rock, were glacial deposits that eroded over time.

A block of hard rock protects the softer underlying conglomerate from erosion by run-off.

Attribution : CCSP

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### Common cuckoo (B)

This is a medium-sized migratory bird, identifiable by its «cuckoo» call heard between April and July in woods and open spaces.

The females seek out the nests of small passerine birds and when she finds a nest with eggs in it, she eats one of them and lays another in its place. In the parasitised nest, the cuckoo chick hatches first and ejects the other eggs from the nest so that it is raised, alone, by its adoptive parents

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE

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### Gramorel Canal (C)

Present all the way along the trail, the purpose of this canal is to irrigate the valleys. It is essential for farmers for the maintenance of their fields. This system enables 64 hectares of land to be irrigated. It was dug in the eighteenth century and is 5.5 kilometres long. In 1827, following significant damage caused by landslides, regulations were introduced to ensure that the canals were maintained as a collective effort.

Attribution : Etienne Charles



## The Herbonne plateau (D)

This plateau is representative of glaciofluvial terraces. They form a tabular promontory, bounded by vertical walls formed in the cemented glaciofluvial materials, at the foot of which the Le Rabioux mountain stream flows on one side and the Durance on the other. This glacial rock is a typical formation of the Haute-Durance valley, similar to the Roc d'Embrun or that of Mont-Dauphine. Its formation dates back to one of the last ice ages (100,000 years ago). At that time, the Durance glacier occupied the entire valley. Today, on its sedimentary rock base, the Roc is covered by vegetation which is highly characteristic of steppe grasslands.

Attribution : Pascal Saulay - PNE



## Red kite (E)

The red kite is a medium-sized bird of prey with a wingspan of up to 1.6 metres. In flight, the red kite can easily be recognised by its slender silhouette and its deeply forked tail. It has contrasting russet-brown and white plumage. Its diet is a relatively eclectic, made up of rodents, reptiles and invertebrates. It is also a willing scavenger. It is for this reason that red kites can sometimes be seen in large number near landfill sites, and often in the company of black kites.

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE



## Chapel of St James (F)

This small chapel stands on a rocky plateau overlooking the confluence of the rivers Durance and Rabioux. It was constructed with pebbles from the Durance and is roofed with stone slabs. « *It must once have served as a waypoint for pilgrims from Italy making their way to Santiago de Compostella. They would take shelter here, pause for a while and gather their strength for the rest of their journey. Today, this chapel is no longer used for religious celebrations.* » Monique MAYNÉ

Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE