

Châtillon-sur-Cluses, La Rivière-Enverse, Mieussy - Sommand, Morillon, Samoëns, Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval, Taninges - Praz de Lys, Verchaix

THE GIFFRE MOUNTAINS

The Giffre Mountains stand between Lake Geneva and Mont-Blanc, offering a vast area of greenery close to the big cities. This 351 km² area stretches across eight towns: Châtillon-sur-Cluses, La Rivière-Enverse, Mieussy - Sommand, Morillon, Samoëns, Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval, Taninges - Praz de Lys and Verchaix.

This guidebook features 32 walks ranging from very easy to quite easy, without any steep climbs and with a maximum duration of 3.5 hours out and back

Leaving from the villages in the valley or the mountain resorts, you'll be able to enjoy the natural wealth and incredible heritage of the Giffre Mountains thanks to the wide range of routes available. If you would prefer to step it up and get into 'hiking' mode, a guidebook and map featuring 54 hiking trails is available to purchase from the Tourist Offices throughout the local area.

Enjoy your exploration of the Giffre Mountains.

Follow the guide

This document provides details of a selection of routes. They are all suitable on foot. The durations out and back are indicated for pedestrians, and calculated based on a leisurely pace (flat terrain: 3 km/hr, downhill: 4 km/h or 500 m elevation gain/hr, uphill: 2 km/h or 300 m elevation gain/hr.

Useful and valuable information

- The hiking departure points are the various parking areas in the villages or in the mountains (mountain passes, hamlets or lift arrival stations). They are clearly indicated on the maps.
- At each intersection along the waymarked route, you'll find a post with:
- information about the location with the name of this intersection and the altitude. You'll find these names in the guidebook so you will always know where you are.
- information indicating the main directions so you always know where you're headed.
- These signs will also provide the walking time to various locations. This will help you plan your route duration.
- The information on the maps will help you choose your route: whether you'll be walking along a road or a wide path, a footpath, a narrower, more varied section that can sometimes be more difficult.
- The altitudes of the varied places will help you estimate the difficulties of the chosen route.
- The legend will provide the necessary information to help you read the maps and the signposts and markings that you'll come across along the way.



Guided outings: so many discoveries to be made...

To gain a better understanding of life in this area, of the history and local wildlife, set off with a mountain guide. They will share their passion for the Giffre Valley. Find out more at the Tourist Offices, the contact details for which are on the back of this guide.

Using the lifts

Some of the lifts at the ski resorts operate during the summer to allow hikers to reach the mountains without having to take on the steep climbs to get there, and to then be able to walk around the Alpine pastures and enjoy the views. In some sectors, these lifts will allow easy access to the resort's peaks and MTB track departure points. Opening hours and prices are available from the Tourist Offices.



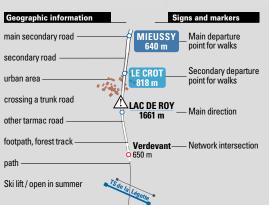


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THE GIFFRE MOUNTAINS



MAP LEGENDS (PAGES 6 TO 47)



Tourist Office Aurch/chapel/
car park 🤤 Navette 🚹 🕇 oratory/cross
route described elscovery trail
— others trails 📑 leisure complex
— GRP⊚ long distance swimming spot swimming spot
- «Au fil du Giffre» trail
🗼 campsite 📝 via ferrata
motor home parking area paragliding take-off/landing site
nountain refuge 🕜 shelter 🦰 horse-riding centre
major peak M museum
heritage site to visit 🔯 Nature Reserve
atural site to visit
iviewpoint viewpoint

***** orientation table

NO.	ROUTE	DEPARTURE	OUT AND BACK OR LOOP TRAIL	DURATION	ELEVATION GAIN	LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	PAGE
1	Tour of Mont Mailly	Mieussy / Dessy	Loop trail	1h30	+200 m	Easy	6
2	Chapel of saint grat	Mieussy	Out and back	1h20	+173 m	Easy	7
3	South hillside loop	Mieussy	Loop trail	3h	+346 m	Easy	8
4	Sur le coux trail	Mieussy	Loop trail	3h	+414 m	Easy	10
5	La charmette pastures	Mieussy / Sommand	Out and back	2h	+342 m	Easy	12
6	Chalet blanc	Mieussy / Sommand	Loop trail	2h	+260 m	Quite easy	13
7	Paragliding loop	Mieussy / Sommand	Loop trail	2h	+231 m	Easy	14
8	Chemin du calvaire (road to calvary)	Châtillon-sur-Cluses / Balmotte	Out and back	1h	+74 m	Very easy	16
9	Chapel of saint innocent	Châtillon-sur-Cluses / L'Arroz	Out and back	1h30	+235 m	Very easy	17
10	Les guers trail	Châtillon-sur-Cluses	Out and back	1h15	+104 m	Very easy	18
11	The lakes and villages trail	Taninges	Loop trail	2h30	+272 m	Easy	20
12	Banks of the foron and old town trail	Taninges	Loop trail	30 mn	+32 m	Very easy	21
13	Roy lake	Taninges / Praz de Lys	Out and back	50 mn	+105 m	Easy	22
14	Les munes pastures	Taninges / Praz de Lys	Out and back	1h	+209 m	Easy	23
15	Combe de gron via le petit planey	Taninges / Praz de Lys	Loop trail	1h	+107m	Quite easy	24
16	Loëx plateau	Taninges et Verchaix / Les Rossignols	Loop trail	1h	+209 m	Easy	25
17	Grands bois trail	La Rivière-Enverse	Loop trail	1h40	+130 m	Very easy	26
18	Les miaux / le châtelard	Morillon / Lac Bleu	Loop trail	2h	+100 m	Easy	27
19	The croix des 7 frères (7 brothers' cross)	Morillon / Les Esserts	Descent	1h30	- 614 m	Easy	28
20	Lornaz trail	Verchaix	Loop trail	1h30	+117 m	Very easy	29
21	Joux plane lake and la bourgeoise	Samoëns et Verchaix / Joux Plane	Loop trail	1h15	+79 m	Easy	31
22	Les rutines pastures	Samoëns / La Rosière	Loop trail	1h15	+206 m	Easy	32
23	Le bérouze - mathonex - vigny	Samoëns	Loop trail	2h30	+300 m	Easy	33
24	From Samoëns to verchaix	Samoëns et Verchaix	3 trails: 1h30 - 1h30 - 3h30				
25	Gouilles rouges lake	Samoëns / Samoëns 1600	Loop trail	1h15	+174 m	Very easy	36
26	Chantemerle and les suets forest	Samoëns	2 trails: 2h10 - 3h20				
27	Tour of giffre, lacs aux dames to the lac bleu	Samoëns et Morillon	3 trails: 30 mn - 40 mn - 2h10				
28	Le mont hamlet	Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval / Les Tines	Out and back	2h	+200 m	Very easy	42
29	The tines gorges	Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval / Les Tines	Loop trail	45 mn	+90 m	Quite easy	43
30	'Le bout du monde' trail	Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval / Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval	Loop trail	2h	+200 m	Easy	44
31	Frenalay walk	Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval / Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval	Loop trail	45 mn	+45 m	Very easy	46
32	Rouget waterfall	Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval / Nant Sec	Out and back	1h30	+180 m	Easy	47

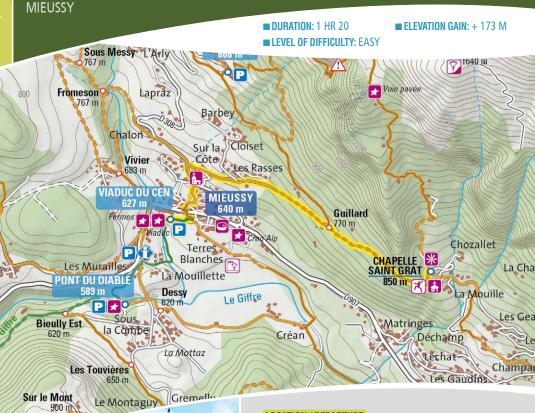


and then a path runs alongside the road on the right. Go left along the Mont Mailly forest track. After around 3 km, the track leads to the hamlet of Charjou. Carry on along a forest track where you'll pass by some ancient pools before heading down to the pretty village of Ivoray. The view over the ridges from the Pointe Perret to Marcelly peak is remarkable. Go back along the quiet Route d'Ivoray towards Dessy, and then join onto the same path you took at the beginning of the walk.

TO DISCOVER

A forest loop trail along the left banks of the river Giffre. There are some great views of the south side of Mieussy and the Pertuiset take-off site, where paragliding originated. The villages of Dessy and Ivoray boast some beautiful Savoyard farms. The Ivoray marshland is a remarkable natural area. There is an alternative route for the way back, alongside the river Giffre via the Pont du Diable bridge.

CHAPEL OF SAINT GRAT



LOCATION / DEPARTURE

Mieussy Church

ROUTE

Follow the road up to the right behind Mieussy Church, pass through the hamlet of Les Rasses and carry on along the Guillard forest track towards the Chapel of Saint Grat. You'll be walking up a gentle slope that isn't challenging.

There is a bench in front of the chapel, facing a great view of the Alps. Go back along the same route.

If you're feeling brave, you could carry on up to the Roche-Pallud / Sommand pastures along a very steep cobblestone path dating from the Middle Ages.

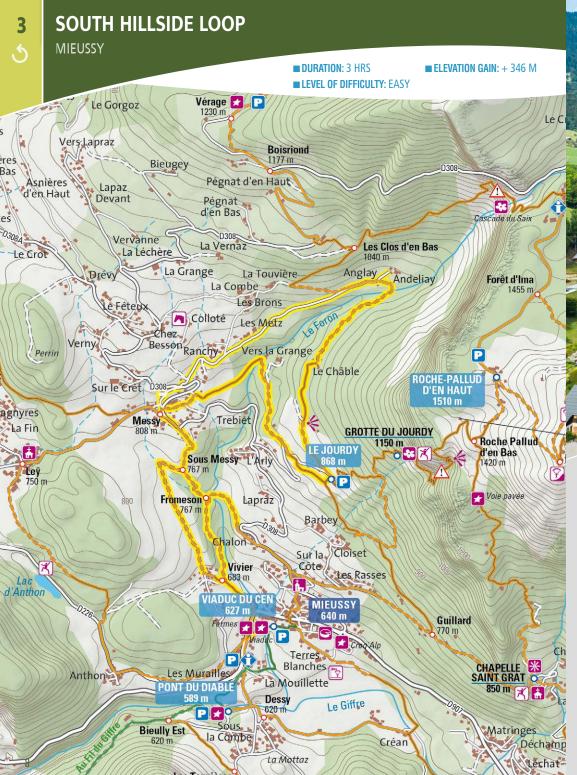
TO DISCOVER

- Along this route, you'll have some superb views of Mieussy, the entrance to the Giffre Valley and Mont Orchez.
- Mieussy Church, at the beginning of the route, can be recognised by its onion dome and Gothic-style door listed as a Historic Monument.
- The Chapel of Saint Grat (1697), devoted to the Holy Family and Saint Grat, protector of crops.

LOCATION / DEPARTURE

Dessy - From the centre of the village of Mieussy, near the viaduct, follow the signs for Ivoray. The village of Dessy is on the other side of the river Giffre.







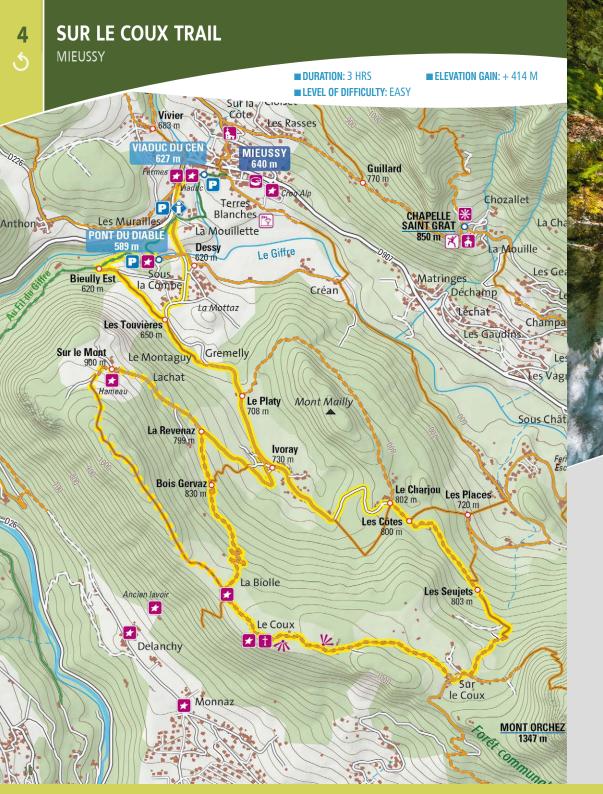
Mieussy community centre

ROUTE

From the car park, go across the viaduct and then go right onto the main road for around a hundred metres before joining onto a path in front of the Brasserie K&G. The route will lead you through the hamlets of Vivier and Messy. When you reach Messy, go along a path and cross the main road to the Route Communale d'Anglay, to the hamlet at the foot of the towering Bartou cliff. This small road will lead onto a forest road to Le Châble and Le Jourdy. Continue to the right along a small tarmac road and at the bend, follow signs to Messy, via the 'Moulin' (mill). Cross through the village of Messy and then get back onto the path to Vivier. 'Sous Messy', go left towards Fromeson and when you reach an isolated farm, go right on a path into the undergrowth, to Vivier. Then head towards Miessy viaduct.

TO DISCOVER

There is a variety of landscapes along this route, including the forest, pastures and villages, as well as views of the Giffre Valley and Mont Blanc. Treasures of Savoyard architecture can be seen along the way (farms, mazots, pools, etc.).



TO DISCOVER

Panoramic view of Mieussy hill, the Marcelly and Bargy mountains.

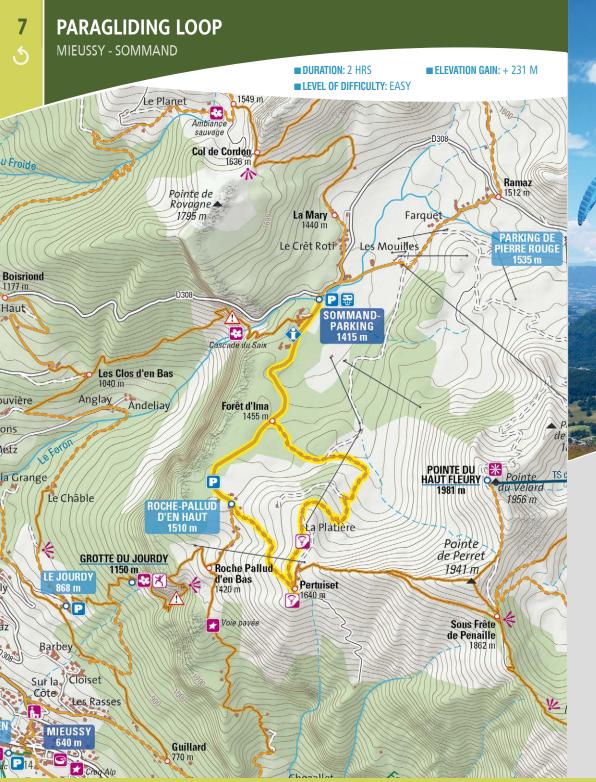
LOCATION / DEPARTURE
Mieussy community centre

ROUTE

From Mieussy community centre, go across the Pont du Diable bridge and head towards Bieully, Ivoray, Les Seujets, Sur le Coux. When you reach La Biolle, follow signs to Bois Gervaz where you'll pass by a pottery workshop, then follow signs to Ivoray and Dessy. You'll be able to enjoy a clear view of Mieussy hill and the Marcelly mountains.

From La Biolle there's an alternative route via Sur le Mont. It is a section across the fields with a barbed wire gate.







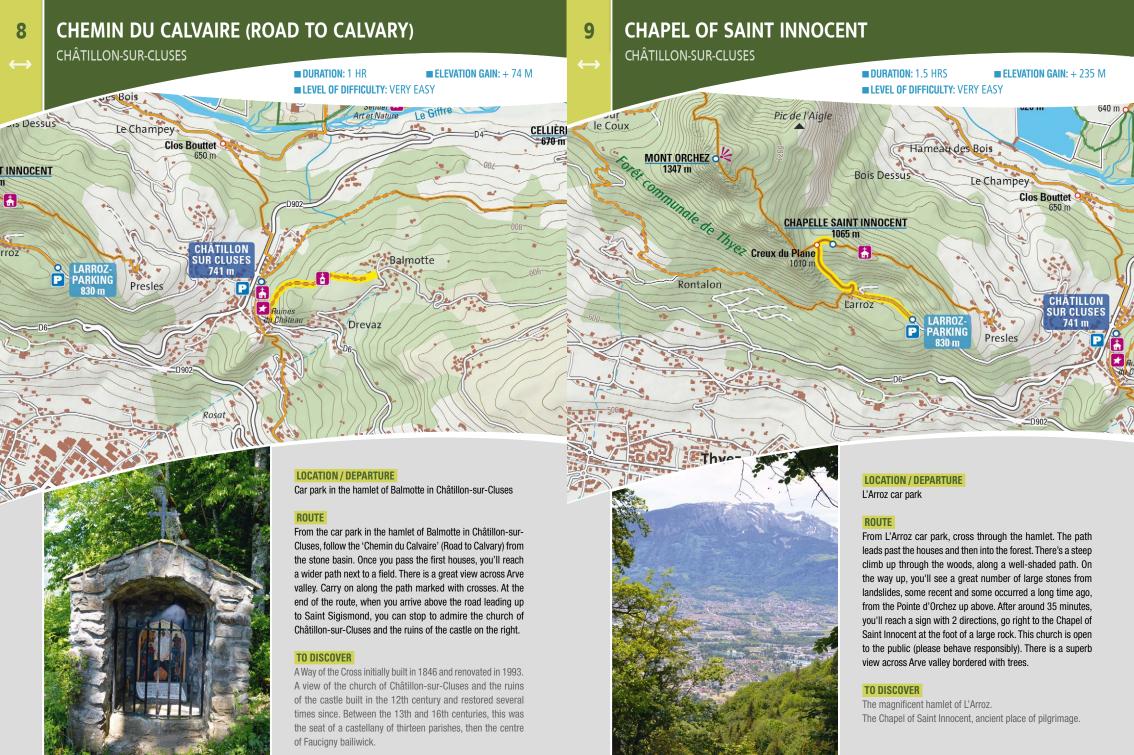
Résidences de Sommand car park (town of Mieussy)

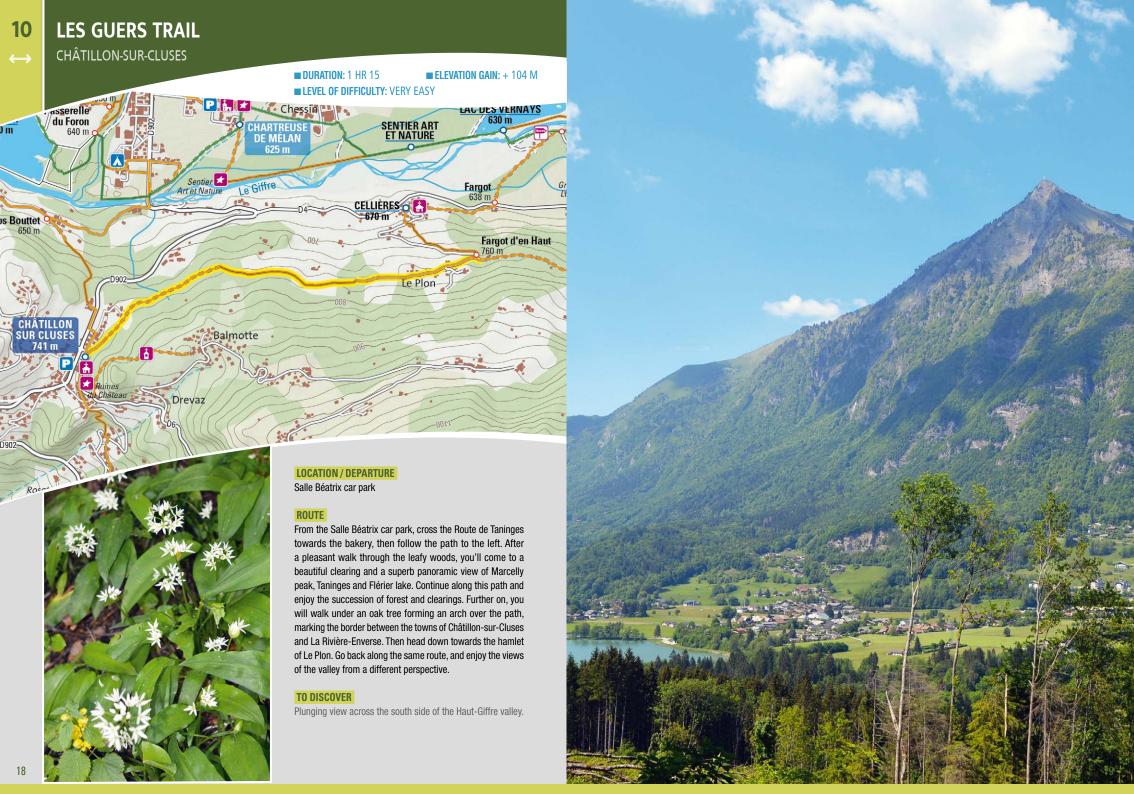
ROUTE

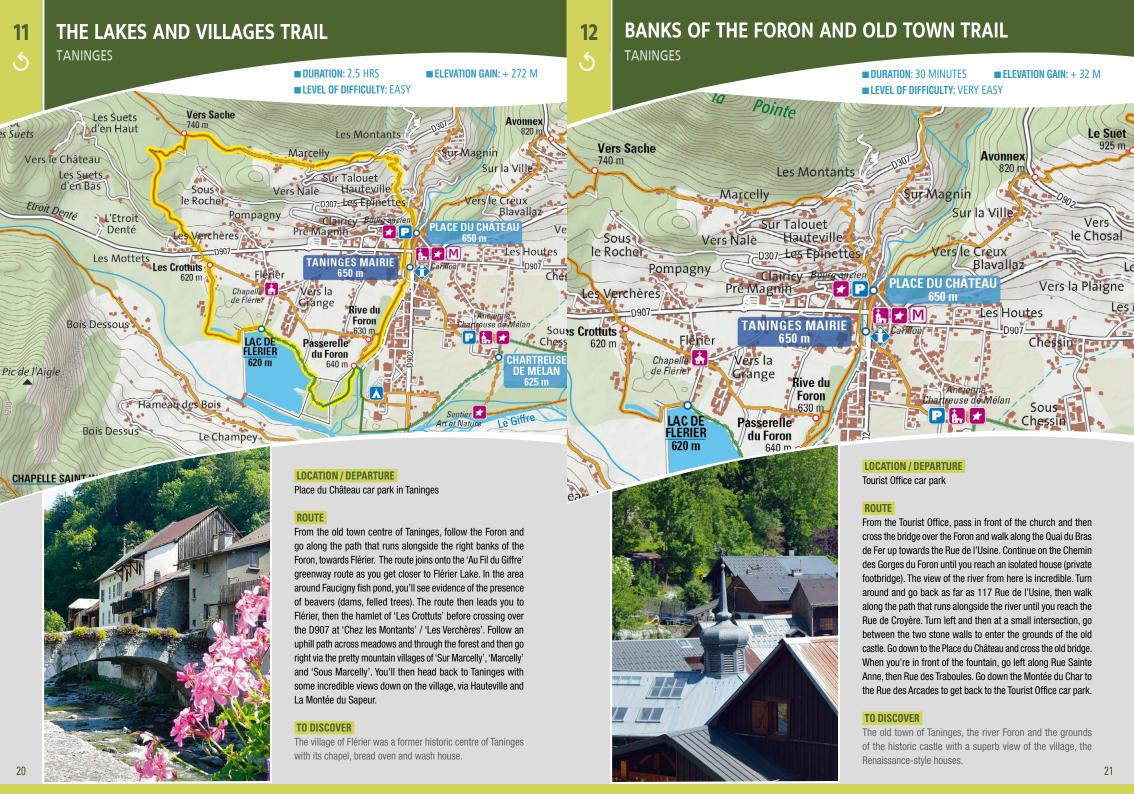
Follow the Route de Roche-Pallud into Ima forest with pine, fir and spruce trees, then go left along the forest track to Pertuiset. The route goes via the paragliding take-off site. After enjoying the superb view of Mont-Blanc and the Marcelly peak from in front of the Pertuiset chalets, go down towards Roche-Pallud. In Roche-Pallud, near the road, go to the cross up on a hill. From there, there is a spectacular view of the Bornes massif, the Aravis mountains, Le Bargy, Cenise, Le Môle, etc. You'll also see Sommand peatland at the foot of the Résidences de Sommand before leaving the plateau.

TO DISCOVER

You will most likely see paragliders taking off from Pertuiset, a historic site for this sporting activity, created in 1978.









time to observe them!

From the car park you have 2 possibilities: go up the path to the right to the Rosset chalets or take the wider path to the left that runs alongside the stream. Then go left, the path along the side of the pastures at the foot of the green Point d'Uble. The path leads to the torrent and near Les Munes waterfall. A few hundred metres further on, you'll reach the Les Munes pastures and traditional chalets. Herds of cows can be seen grazing here

■ ELEVATION GAIN: + 209 M

Uble

1600 m

Chatets & Uble

Chalets

de Parteset

A wild and silent valley, far from any signs of human activity! Paradise for those looking to admire wildlife. If you're patient, you might catch a glimpse of mouflons at the Pointe d'Uble. From Les Munes pastures, the view of the Praz de Lys plateau, the surrounding mountains and Mont-Blanc is breathtaking.

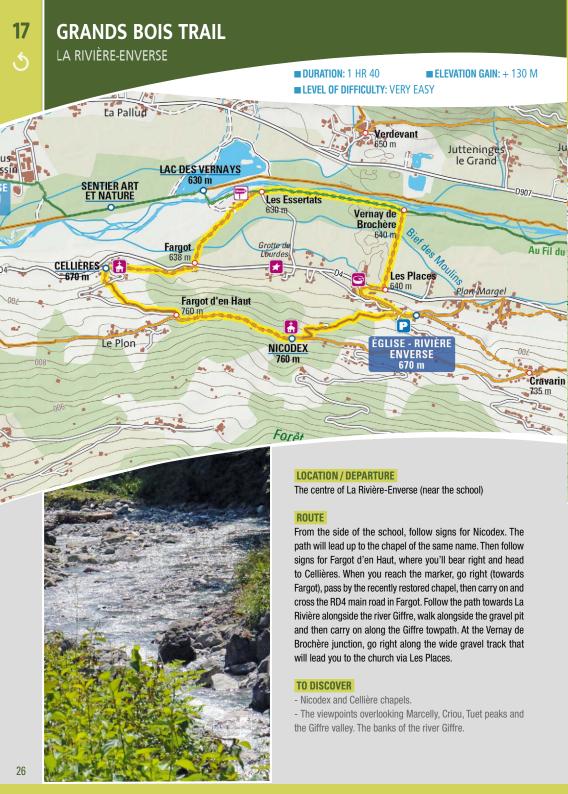
hairpin bend, a few metres after leaving the Route du Col de l'Encrenaz, on the way up - hamlet Les Côtes, between Fry and Praz de Lys)



25

Nâlet

Veruy



LES MIAUX / LE CHÂTELARD 18 **MORILLON DURATION: 2 HRS ■ LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**: FASY Cil Das des Rosières 650 m Le Plan Les Bois 655 m Stat Epur Crozet Pont Perrière Cravarin Vers le Pont CHAPELLE DES MIAUX jerres dressées 705 m CHAPELLE DU CHÂTELARD Chozal 758 m Raymond Les Rasses Enverse Chatelard Sud La Movière Chasselaz d'En Haut 940 m Les Feuillerats Les Puichins Les Praz

LOCATION / DEPARTURE

Les Follys

Les Ravines

The Pont du Giffre bridge is next to the Lac Bleu in Morillon.

■ ELEVATION GAIN: + 100 M

Hottes Est

Les Arcoss

LAC BLEU

La chilliaz

Honoraz

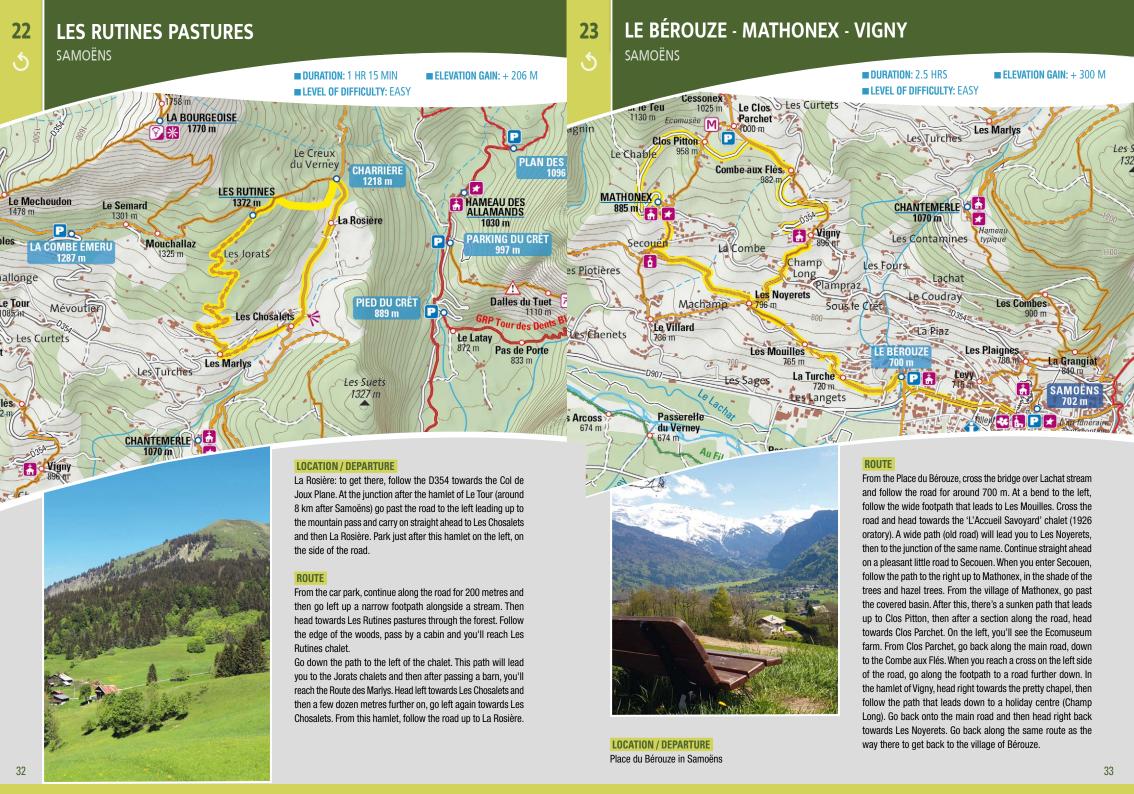
From the Pont du Giffre, follow signs for Les Miaux. The path follows the banks of the river Giffre as far as La Grasse footbridge. Follow signs for Les Miaux via the village of Vers-le-Pont. A narrow path leads to the village of Les Miaux and the chapel dating from 1529. Follow signs to Le Châtelard. Follow the path uphill through the woods to Les Rasses. Continue towards Le Châtelard with a brief section along the road and then a wide footpath. The path then goes down to Le Châtelard chapel, built in 1750, then leads to the Lac Bleu via Morillon church.

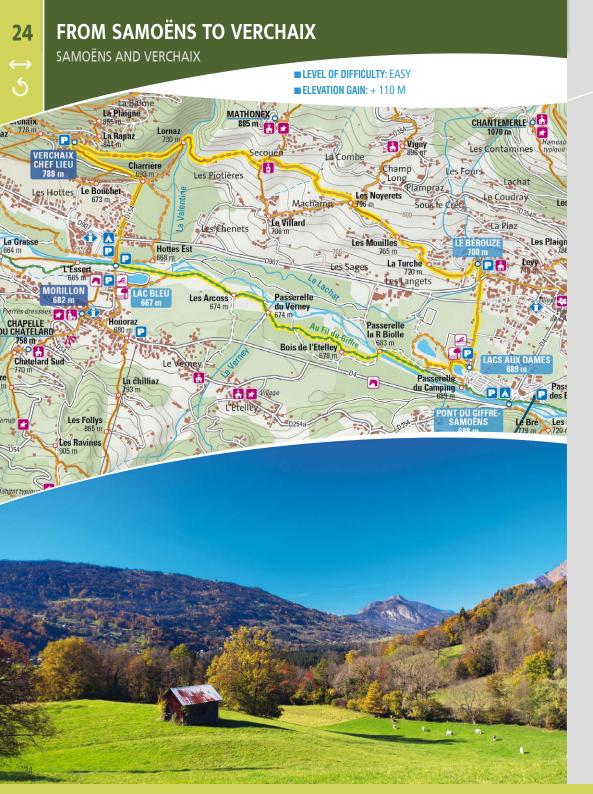
TO DISCOVER

- The village of Les Miaux with some beautiful restored chalets and a chapel dating from 1529.
- Le Châtelard chapel, built in 1750, with a superb panoramic view across the Haut Giffre peaks.
- An alignment of standing stones (in Sixt stone) by Michel Ducastel, between Morillon church and the Lac Bleu.









1ST ROUTE: FROM BÉROUZE TO SECOUEN: 1.5 HOURS

LOCATION / DEPARTURE

The Place du Bérouze (west entrance from Samoëns, on the Taninges side)

ROUTE

From the Place du Bérouze, cross the bridge on the left and follow the road for 700 metres. Leave the road and go along a wide path to the left that leads to the hamlet of Les Mouilles. Cross the main road and take the small road that passes by an oratory (built in 1926) and then the 'L'Accueil Savoyard' chalet. Carry on along the wide path (formerly the main road) as far as the hamlet of Les Noyerets. At the junction, follow signs to Secouen. At the next intersection, go left past a basin and then an oratory by Françoise-Marie Girod (blind sculptor) dating from 1826.

Go back along the same route.

2ND ROUTE: FROM SECOUEN TO VERCHAIX: 1.5 HRS

LOCATION / DEPARTURE

Park at the entrance to the village before the basin.

ROUTE

Carry on along the gravel track overlooking the valley. Walk past a renovated farm and then follow a narrower path that will lead to the footbridge over the Valentine torrent. After the torrent, go left and then right to follow the path that leads to Verchaix church. After the church, take the first road on the left. The route then bears to the left once again, back behind the church and along the 'La Voie Courbe' path.

Continue down through the woods to the hamlet 'Charrière-Lornaz'. After the cross, go along a small road and then a pretty footpath until you reach the intersection with the footpath leading to the footbridge over the Valentine. Go back along the same route.

3RD ROUTE: FROM BÉROUZE TO VERCHAIX AND BACK VIA THE LEFT BANKS OF THE GIFFRE: 3.5 HRS

LOCATION / DEPARTURE

The Place du Bérouze (west entrance from Samoëns on the Taninges side)

ROUTE

After combining the 2 previous routes, from the village of Charrière, head right and follow the path down into the woods to the main road. Cross the main road to the banks of the Giffre. Go right and follow the path to the bridge over the Giffre. Cross the bridge and then head immediately left. The path leads you past the Lac Bleu in Morillon and then to the Lacs aux Dames in Samoëns. When you leave the leisure complex, go left in front of the swimming pool and then keep going straight on until you reach Bérouze chapel.

■ DURATION: 1 HR 15 MIN ■ ELEVATION GAIN: + 174 M **■ LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: VERY EASY** PONT DE LÉDEDIAN 1135 m Les Parements 1520 m Chariande A600 m Morillon communale Crsmt Luge à Teran 1680 m Cremt du Lac LAC DES GOUILLES ROUGES 1780 m

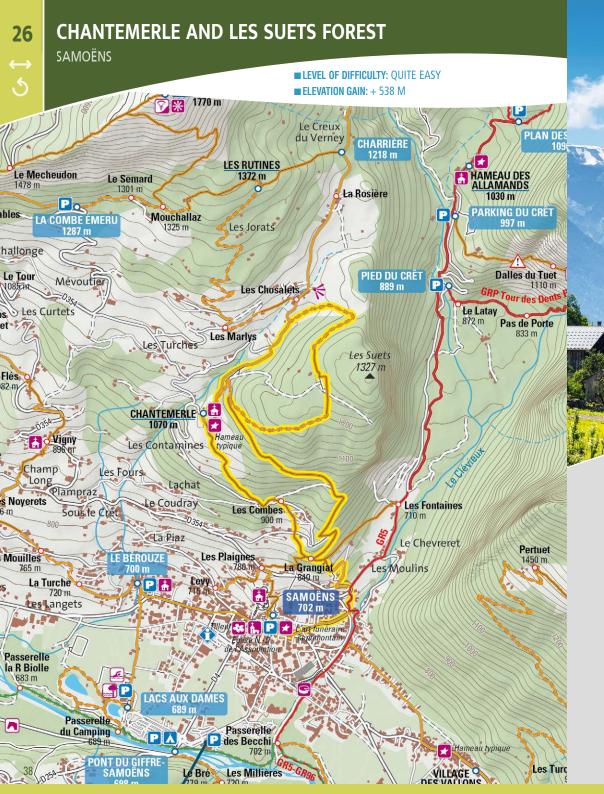
LOCATION / DEPARTURE

Samoëns 1600 (last car park)

ROUTE

On the far side of the car park, go along the wide path which bears left and passes under the Chariande chairlift, leading you across the peaceful surroundings, past blueberry bushes and rhododendrons to Gouilles Rouges lake. This 45,000 m3 artificial lake supplies the water used by the ski resort's snow cannons. From the lake, follow the path to the left which, after just a few metres, will lead you to a small outlook overlooking the cirque of Vaconnant. In winter, there are many avalanches down the canyons in front of you.







Place du Tilleul in Samoëns

SMALL LOOP: VILLAGE OF CHANTEMERLE: 2 HRS 10 MIN

ROUTE

From the Place du Tilleul (linden tree planted in 1438), head to the town hall.

Twenty metres after the main entrance, go left along the path that once led to the Château de la Tornalta (destroyed by the Valaisans in 1476). The path runs alongside the wall of the Botanical Garden, then past the impressive Simon farm (towards Chantemerle). After crossing the road, go along a pleasant shaded path lined with dry stone walls, which will lead you up over the hamlet of La Grangiat, to the village of Les Combes. As you leave the village, make sure you admire the oratory built in 1754. Continue along the wide stony path (former access road) and head to the village of Chantemerle*. Cross through and/or visit the village (which is just as charming as its name). When you reach the hamlet of 'La Pierre du Dînna' (literally meaning, the 'stone of dinner'), take the path to the right back down to Samoëns.

BIG LOOP: VILLAGE OF CHANTEMERLE, LES CHOSALETS, BACK THROUGH LES SUETS FOREST: 3 HRS 20 MIN

ROUTE

Follow the shorter loop trail route on the way up, then carry on along the path on the other side of the road, behind the chapel. A footpath and then a narrow road will lead you to the hamlet of Les Chosalets. Just before you arrive there, go right following the sign 'Samoëns par la Forêt des Suets' and follow the path up over the meadows. On the edge of the forest, go right along a logging road up to the ruins of a chalet. Very quickly, the path then leads down to the village of Chantemerle and past a path to the hamlet of 'La Pierre du Dînna' (literally meaning, the 'stone of dinner'). Follow this path to the left into the beautiful Les Suets forest, full of game. The path leads into a wooded area with some superb viewpoints overlooking Vallon plain, the Pointe de Sales and the Mont-Blanc massif. It continues on to the hamlet of La Grangiat. At Les Plaignes cross, head back to Samoëns along the same route as the way there.



Samoëns from the leisure complex at Lacs aux Dames

TOUR OF THE LACS AUX DAMES: 30 MINUTES

ROUTE

Samoëns leisure complex is spread over two lakes linked by a waterfall. The tour of these lakes alone is a short but very pleasant walk, with the Haut Giffre mountains serving as a backdrop, particularly the Criou.

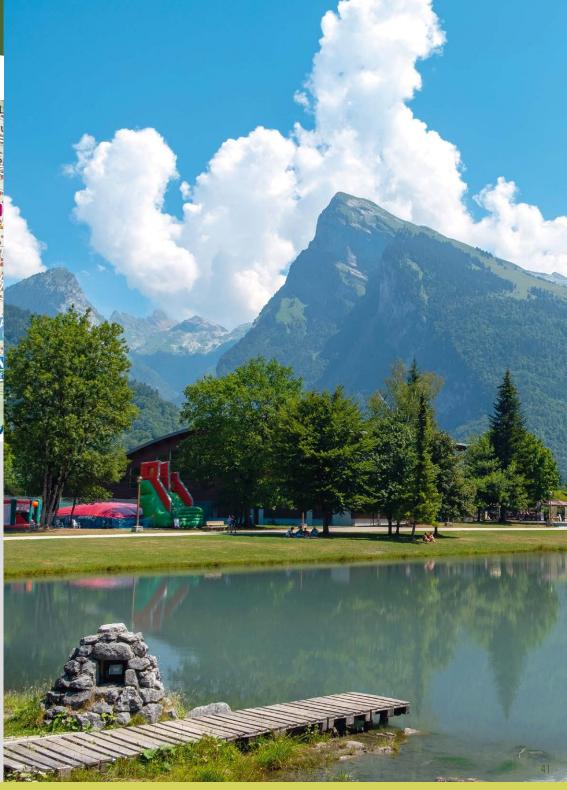
ROUTE

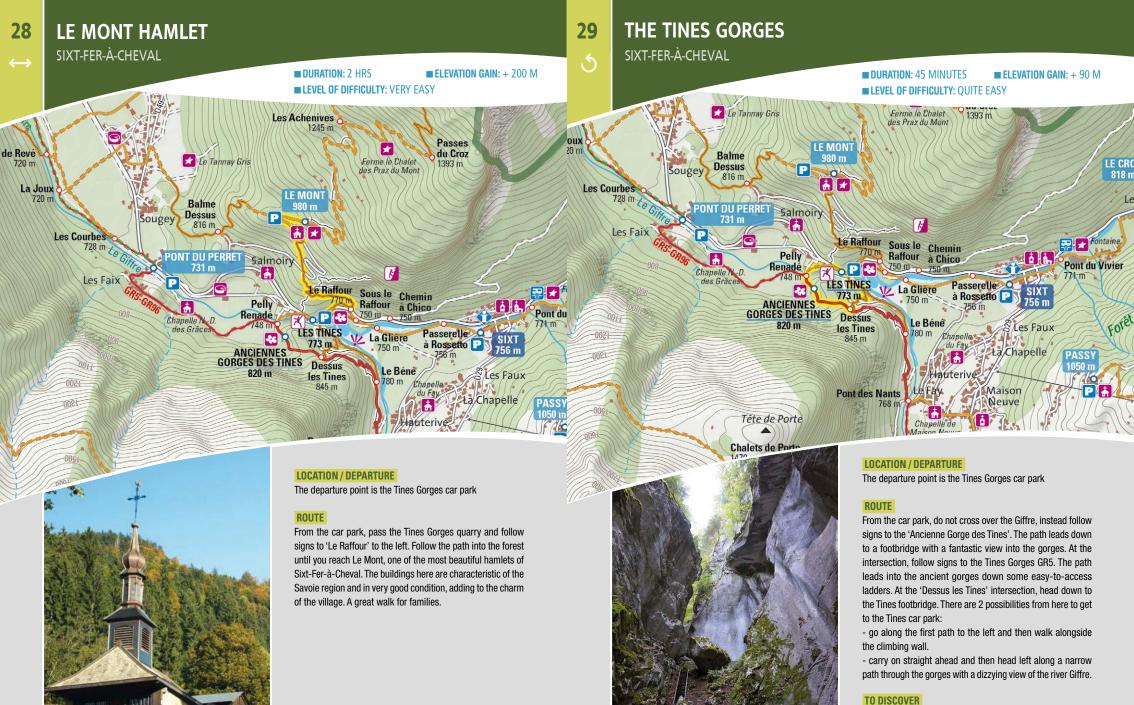
After going half way around the lakes from the restaurant and towards the treetop adventure trail, just after the footbridge, bear right and then left into a forest of spruce and beech trees. A wide path will then lead you to the R'Biolle footbridge which is 17 metres long and straddles the Giffre. Go back along the same route.

FROM THE LACS AUX DAMES TO THE LAC BLEU IN MORILLON: 2 HRS 10 MIN

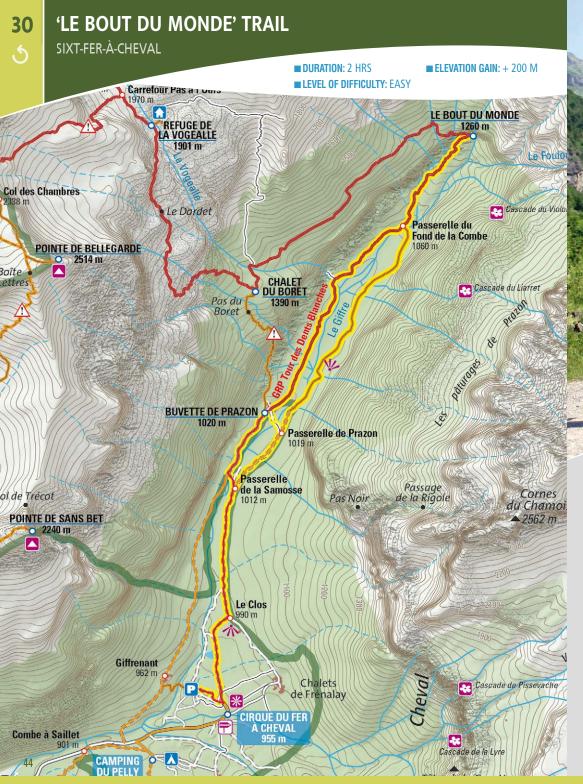
ROUTE

Follow the instructions for the 2nd route and then when you leave the R'Biolle footbridge, go right through L'Etelley woods and then alongside the river Giffre until you reach Morillon lake.





- The impressive Tines footbridge, 70 metres over the rushing waters of the river Giffre.
- The ancient gorges with harmonious curves shaped by the waters over centuries.





The Cirque du Fer à Cheval car park which can be reached from the village of Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval.

ROUTE

From the Cirque du Fer à Cheval, follow signs for the 'Chalet de Prazon'. After passing by a small lake and then over two footbridges, the path leads you to Prazon Chalet (bar/café).

The path continues into the combe until you reach the Fond de la Combe suspended footbridge. Waterfalls flow down the staggering limestone cliffs and along with the waters from Ruan and Prazon glaciers, flow into the river Giffre.

Cross over the footbridge and follow the left banks of the Giffre as far as Prazon footbridge. Cross this footbridge to reach Prazon bar/café. You are now in the Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval/ Passy Nature Reserve, the biggest reserve in the French department of Haute-Savoie. This protected area is regulated (see instructions), so make sure you respect the rules. Follow signs to the Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval.

Then cross the Fond de la Combe suspended footbridge back over to the left banks and walk up to 'Le Bout du Monde'.

- The Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval is a natural cirque. More than thirty waterfalls can be seen flowing down the sheer cliffs.
- The Combe du Bout du Monde is a unique and wild valley where you will most likely catch a glimpse of ibex.



Rules of good conduct:



No dogs permitted. They disturb the wildlife and pastoral life here.



No picking or collecting any plants or wildlife. Flowers, fruit, shrubs and fungi belong to the wilderness. Respect



No camping. Sleeping under the stars for one night is



No rubbish left behind. It is damaging to the environment and sometimes causes harm. Take any rubbish



No fires. They leave irreparable and catastrophic damage.



No motor vehicles, they disturb nature. Only service and farming vehicles are authorised.



ROUGET WATERFALL

ENGLÈNE

SIXT-FER-À-CHEVAL

■ DURATION: 1.5 HRS ■ ELEVATION GAIN: + 180 M ■ LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: EASY

850 m Salvagny LA FEULATIÈRE Hameau Poingue Nant Sec Cascade du Saubody 4 **LES FONTAINES** Nant Sec P Le Déchargeux Plan du Pnot Les Praz Pont REFUGE D GRENAIRO 1974 m Pointe des Places de Sales La Grande Joux Pother du Déchargeux 1072 Cascade du Rouget 960 m Les Frasses Brion **PARKING DES FARDELA** 1020 m Les Fardelay

LOCATION / DEPARTURE

Nant Sec car park in Salvagny, on the right after the bridge.

ROUTE

From the car park, go along the road and then down the dirt track immediately to the right, below the car park. Join onto the GR5 route and follow signs for Rouget Waterfall (Cascade du Rouget). The path leads back to the road to cross the bridge over the torrent. Carry on, then after a few dozen metres, go along a path to the left. The path leads through woodland, crosses over a small stream (bridge), then back up to the main road. Continue alongside the road. Around a bend, you'll suddenly catch a glimpse of Rouget Waterfall!

Go back along the same route.

TO DISCOVER

Rouget Waterfall, also known as 'the Queen of the Alps'.





As long as you keep a few rules in mind, hiking with children can be a great opportunity for quality time together to make some new discoveries. Adapt your hike to the age of the children (duration, elevation gain, altitude, etc.)

An activity suitable for children

Walking is a sports activity that requires endurance. It is suitable for children and can be very good for their health. While out hiking, children will become more independent and will act like responsible citizens. They will explore the natural environment and along with the adults, learn to deal with any unexpected surprises along the way.

Give your child their own backpack

At first this bag is more symbolic than anything else, it will make your child feel like a true hiker. Between the ages of 4 and 6, the backpack should be very lightweight (1 small bottle of water, a cereal bar), the rest should be in the parents' backpack.



Age-appropriate hiking

Very young children:

No minimum age, very young children will be carried by an adult, but try not to carry your child for longer than 2 hours at once. In a baby sling, the child is not moving and so you are advised to avoid very cold or very hot weather. In any case, make sure they are protected, especially from the sun. Never go above altitudes of 1,800/2,000 metres and make sure you stop for regular breaks from 1,500 m.

Between 4 and 8 years old:

Longer walks are possible. Keep in mind an average speed of $1\,\mathrm{km/hr}$ for younger children, up to $3\,\mathrm{km/hr}$ for older children. Children can walk between $3\,\mathrm{km}$ and $12\,\mathrm{km}$ depending on the age, at elevations of up to $2.000/2.500\,\mathrm{m}$.

Between 8 and 12 years old:

The child can walk up to 15 km per day. Hikes over several days could be possible as long as the parents carry any change of clothes.

Children aged 12 and over:

The hike is very similar to an adult's hike. The more the child gets used to walking, the easier it will be for them to accompany you.

Make sure you stop for regular breaks (around every 45 min to rest and drink plenty of water). Motivation is key for children so don't hesitate to play games or sing along the way. Bringing friends with them helps ensure your hike is a success and creates a good atmosphere.

This area has been shaped by past generations. Let's protect it for the future generations. Enjoy this environment but make sure you respect it.

Respect and courtesy

- Some of the paths are used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. To make sure everyone can enjoy this path, ensure you respect other users (farmers, foresters, local residents, etc.).
- Cyclists and horse riders, bear in mind that you go at a faster speed than pedestrians, so to avoid any accidents, slow down, be vigilant and give way to users coming the other way.
- On the mountainside with the lifts, special pedestrian and MTB routes have been created so that everyone can enjoy their chosen activity. Be careful at any intersections where these routes cross over one another. On downhill MTB routes such as Enduro routes, some sections are to be shared with pedestrians. Mountain bikers and pedestrians, remain vigilant to ensure everyone's safety.

Pleasure and safety

- In the mountains, an enjoyable walk can very quickly turn sour if you don't have what you need in your backpack to deal with the various circumstances: heat, rain, wind, fatigue, hunger, thirst. Clouds can appear suddenly, carried by strong winds, and you might not have time to get back to your departure point. Plan for your outing!
- If you are alone, imagine the consequences of twisting your ankle in the depths of the forest late afternoon! Always let someone know where you're going and what time you expect to arrive back.
- The Adret mountainside is south facing and is often very sunny. You are advised to go for a hike on this side in the mornings to avoid high temperatures.
- Some sectors are risky places for certain sports activities. Before setting off on a hike, check the route is suited to your ability.
- Respect your surroundings and always take your rubbish away with you. Remember to sort your waste in the specific bins available in the towns.
- During hunting season, signs will indicate any hunts underway. To guarantee your safety, respect the signs and do not enter the hunting sites.

Respect the natural and rural heritage

- Respect any current regulations in the Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval Nature Reserve and at Loëx plateau.
- Wild animals avoid human presence. To observe them, be discreet and keep your dogs on a lead!
- Some plants are fragile and endangered and so picking them is forbidden. If you'd like a souvenir of your findings, take a photo and let the next walkers admire these species too. Young trees are the future of our forests, respect them.
- Some natural sites such as wetlands are classified and regulated to ensure their protection. Respect these regulations, stay on the footpaths or marked-out routes. Most of these sites are very sensitive to trampling.
- Pedestrians and mountain bikers, do not cut corners. This causes erosion and damages the footpaths. It is complex and costly to repair this damage.





Farming and the Forest

- Farmers and foresters use these natural spaces and paths for their livelihood. Most of the paths cross through or near private property which is often used as farming land. Respect the work of these farmers!
- In Alpine pastures, do not scare the herds, keep your dogs on a lead.
- In the mountains, the grass in the fields and pastures is very important for farmers, and the same applies to recently planted trees for foresters. To protect these resources, stay on the footpaths, close gates behind you. If animals escape, they could be injured or cause an accident.
- Wood is a significant economic resource. The resources of the forest are used to produce wood for the lumber industry and heating, to protect the ground and make access easier for the various users of the forest. Respect the work of foresters.
- On private forest land, it is forbidden to take anything out of the forest, such as mushrooms for example. In a state-owned forest, any foraging must be done sparingly.

Access and parking

- With the protection of nature in mind, the Environmental Code forbids any motor vehicles outside of national, departmental and local public roads, country lanes and private paths that are open to the public.
- Farmers, foresters and maintenance workers use these paths to work. A badly parked vehicle can obstruct these workers and could be damaged. Please do not block any access roads when you park and use the authorised parking areas marked on the map.

In winter

- The suggested routes are not all feasible in winter. In mountainous areas, some sectors are at risk of avalanches. In periods of snowfall, signs might also be partly covered or hidden.
- Make sure you stay on the routes that have been specifically designed for pedestrians and for snow-shoeing. Ask at the Tourist Office for information, they have available documentation.
- If you plan on leaving the safe, marked-out areas, make sure you are aware of the risks, the snow conditions and dangerous areas that should not be accessed.

The patous: Pyrenean mountain dogs that will protect you

This big white dogs, commonly known as *Patous*, are trained to protect flocks from predators. They will react instinctively to any threat to the flock.

To avoid any protective reaction, make sure you respect the following precautions:

- When you are approaching a flock,
- give the animals a wide berth and walk around the pasture.
- Be aware of gestures that may seem harmless to you such as taking photos or trying to pet or feed a lamb. Be calm and passive around the dogs to reassure them.
- The 'patou' protects and defends their flock, respect their role.







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The Praz de Lys and Sommand branches are open in the summer and winter seasons.

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