

Terraced trail of Carro

Parc national de la Vanoise - BONNEVAL-SUR-ARC

Vue sur le Lac Blanc et le refuge du Carro (Nathalie TISSOT)



A walk along the rocky alpine pastures, facing the majestic glacial cirques of the Arc springs.

“Come here to walk in October, when the wind ripples through the yellow grasses, and where there are only steppes, peaks and glaciers as far as the eye can see. And no reminders of the hustle and bustle in the valley below... You will feel so small amidst the spectacular Great Alps!”
Jérémie Jourdan, Vanoise National Park ranger.

Useful information

Practice : Walking hike

Duration : 8 h

Length : 18.6 km

Trek ascent : 722 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Crossing

Themes : Architecture, Lake and glacier, Pastoralism

Trek

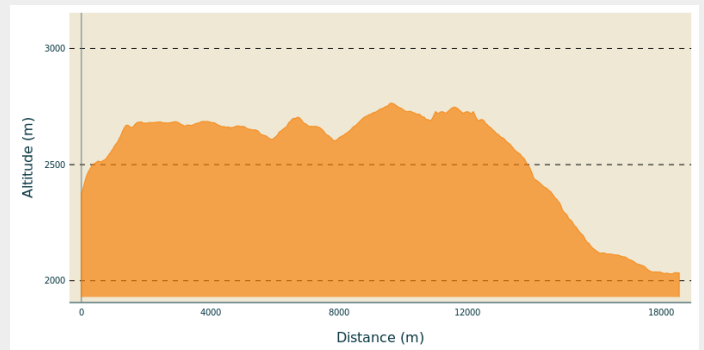
Departure : Ouglietta car park, Col de l'Iseran road, Bonneval-sur-Arc.

Arrival : Écot car park, or Bonneval-sur-Arc for seasoned walkers.

Markings :  GR

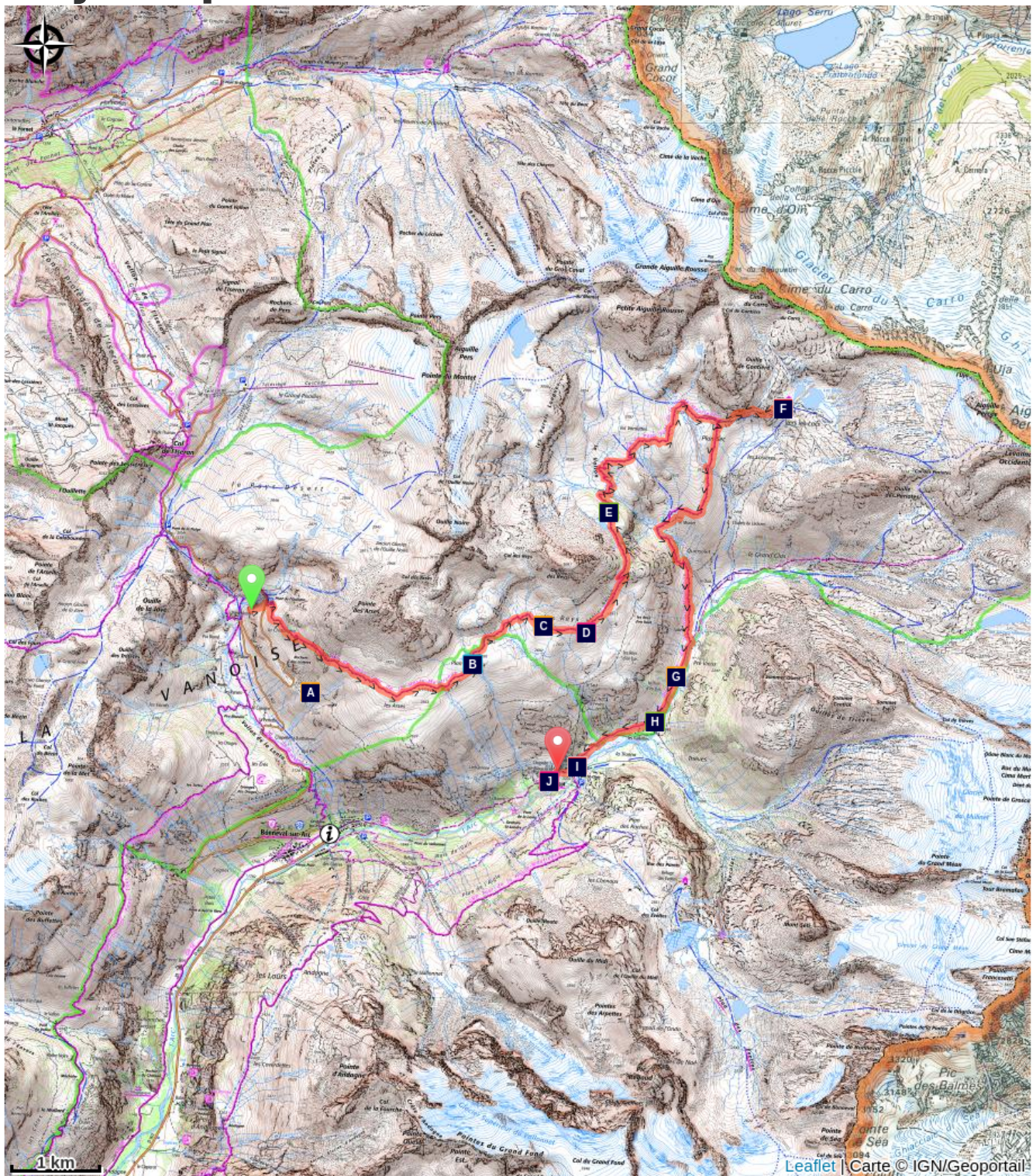
Cities : 1. BONNEVAL-SUR-ARC

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 2030 m Max elevation 2765 m

On your path...



 Lenta Valley (A)

 Flocks of sheep (C)

 The wheatear (E)

 The hay barns (G)

 The hamlet of l'Écot (I)

 The lakes of Plan des Eaux and Pys (B)

 View over the Evettes Glacier (D)

 Lakes and Refuge du Carro (F)

 The flower meadows (H)

 View over the Hamlet of Ecot (J)

All useful information

Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.

Advices

A long hike, leave in the morning or plan a night at the Refuge du Carro. Some passages can be covered in snowed in early summer.

How to come ?

Transports

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Rail connection to Modane. Information: www.voyages-sncf.com

Then transport by coach to Bonneval-sur-Arc Information: www.transavoie.com

In July-August, a shuttle bus connects Bonneval-sur-Arc to Ouglietta twice a day.

No public transport for l'Écot.

Suggested hitchhiking organised in the Haute-Maurienne valley. Information: www.rezopouce.fr

Additional information:

<http://www.haute-maurienne-vanoise.com/pratique/se-deplacer-sans-voiture>

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Access

Take the D 902 which climbs from Bonneval-sur-Arc towards the Col de l'Iseran. Once you've passed the Lenta valley, the road makes two bends and crosses the Pont de l'Ouglietta. Small car park upstream of the road.

Advised parking

Car parks at Ouglietta and Écot

Accessibility

Trail not adapted

Information desks

Vanoise Information Desk - Termignon

Place Vanoise, 73500 Termignon

Tel : 04 79 20 54 54

<https://www.vanoise-parcnational.fr>

Office de tourisme de Bonneval sur Arc

La Ciamarella, 73480 Bonneval-sur-Arc

info@hautemaurienne.com

Tel : 04 79 05 99 06

<https://www.bonneval-sur-arc.com>

Office de tourisme de Val Cenis Termignon

Maison de la Vanoise, Place de la
Vanoise, Termignon, 73500 Val-Cenis

info@hautemaurienne.com

Tel : 04 79 05 99 06

<https://www.valcenis.com>

On your path...



Lenta Valley (A)

On the slopes of this high-altitude valley, the people of Bonneval-sur-Arc continue to maintain the hay meadows. The alpine chalets scattered across the valley, now restored for use as secondary residences, were used primarily for making butter and cheese, or to store hay. Some chalets are semi-buried, so as not to stand in the way of an avalanche. Others are protected by a “tourne”, a stone bow built upwind of the building.

Attribution : PNV - BASSARGETTE Denis



The lakes of Plan des Eaux and Pys (B)

If you come across these small mountain lakes in the summer with their peaceful waters, you'll find it hard to imagine that a whole life grows there according to an annual cycle. At the end of autumn, the surface of the lake freezes over from the ice and snow. Its thickness increases and deprives the body of water of dissolved oxygen, essential to life. The lake will only resume its nurturing role when the ice-pack breaks down during the short summer. It is then that life suddenly resumes for the plankton, the dipteran larvae, the dragonflies, the damselflies, the common frog, and more rarely the introduced salmonids such as brown trout or arctic char.

Attribution : PNV - IMBERDIS Ludovic



Flocks of sheep (C)

In the summer you will be sure to come across the sheep grazing freely, sharing the pasture with the wild ungulates (chamois, ibex) often perched high up on the mountains. This is the local breed known as “Thônes et Martod” named after the village of origin. Rural and a good producer of milk and wool, this horned ewe is experiencing a renewed interest from local breeders. The recent return of the wolf to the French Alps has forced breeders to put in place means of protection which are not always adapted to these small flocks of Haute Maurienne.

Attribution : PNV - DELORME Michaël



🌿 View over the Evettes Glacier (D)

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Glacier des Evettes and the Petite Ciamarella depuis le Plan des Evettes

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Attribution : RTM - ONF Chambéry

🐦 The wheatear (E)

Typical of the alpine grasslands, this passerine is easy to spot as it seems to be pretty active. Its song will accompany you along your journey, provided that it has some rocks for keeping watch. Admire the fine livery of the male, entirely black, ochre and white. It is a migratory bird that flies to tropical Africa in the winter. It shares the alpine pastures with the water pipit and the skylark, that can be heard more than seen...



🏠 Lakes and Refuge du Carro (F)

At the foot of the Refuge du Carro of the Club Alpin Français built in 1925, there is a geological curiosity: two twin lakes, separated by a glacial moraine which are radically different. Lac Blanc has a milky colour due to the muddy waters of the glacier located upstream. Lac Noir is clear, fed by the gneiss outcrops. It's all about watersheds! Do not disturb this fragile ecosystem by introducing organic matter! The buoys anchored in the middle are used for scientific tracking led by the Federation of Fishermen and the National Park.

Attribution : PNV - BASSARGETTE Denis



🏠 The hay barns (G)

Barns can be spotted along the entire route up to Duis, which were previously used to store hay. Their architecture is particular to the Haute-Maurienne: the locals used the materials most available locally such as stone. This explains the dry stone walls as well as the lauze roofs. Large openings made it easy to store the hay, while other smaller openings allowed it to be aired. The upper parts of the barns and chalets are often semi-buried to merge into the slope and thus guard against winter avalanches.

Attribution : PNV - FOLLIET Patrick



✿ The flower meadows (H)

These hay meadows are vital for farmers, allowing them to provide for their animals during the winter. The mowing promotes biodiversity and makes these meadows colourful in July. How many different species can you identify?

Attribution : PNV - DEFFRENNES Benoît



🏠 The hamlet of l'Écot (I)

Wood became a rare commodity in Bonneval-sur-Arc, and so the builders of yesterday used the most abundant resource in this high valley - the stone. Walls, lintels, roofing, drinking troughs and even intermediate floors were mounted in lauze! Thanks to a wise restoration, the hamlet of l'Écot blends harmoniously into this landscape. Walk through the narrow streets and imagine how life once was when the hamlet was populated all year by men and their animals...

Attribution : PNV - BUCZEK Jessica



✿ View over the Hamlet of Ecot (J)

The abandonment of agropastoral activity also affects the habitat. Whether conserved or not by the original families, this built heritage is subject to regulatory measures aimed at preserving its original appearance, in the absence of any occupant to fulfil the role. These measures do not prevent the disappearance of suspended drying balconies for solarium terraced balconies, and the appearance of bays, shutters or double roofs to meet modern standards of comfort.

Attribution : Editions GEP Lyon