

# At the foot of the Vanoise glaciers

Vanoise - VAL-CENIS



Lac du Perron. Vue vers le Mont Pelve et la Roche Ferran. Vue vers NO. (PNV ZC) (PNV - TISSOT Nathalie)

*Terraced path dominated by the Vanoise ice cap and the imposing eastern face of the Dent Parrachée.*

On the way up you will come across some old alpine chalets, while on the way down and in between, you'll find a mineral world interspersed with some grasslands. Beyond the domestic herds, you may surprise some herds of ibex and chamois quietly settled at the foot of the glaciers or in the gorges that you overlook. This is also the territory of the bearded vulture, the largest nesting bird of prey in Vanoise. Several lakes are to be discovered near the route, testifying to the retreat of the glaciers.

## Useful information

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Practice : Walking hike

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Duration : 8 h

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Length : 16.3 km

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Trek ascent : 728 m

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Difficulty : Difficult

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Type : Crossing

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Themes : Fauna , Lake and glacier, Viewpoint

# Trek

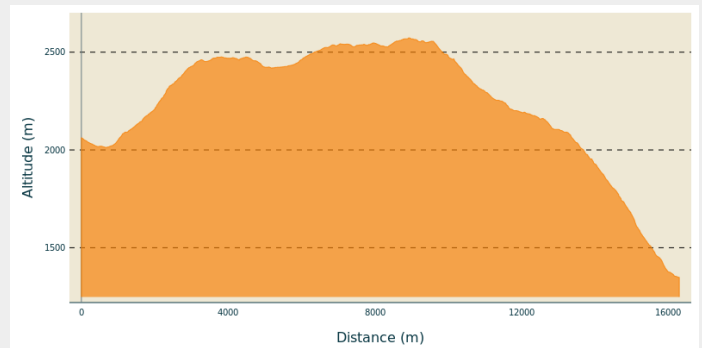
**Departure** : Shuttle bus stop of Entre-Deux-Eaux, Termignon

**Arrival** : Pont du Chatelard, Termignon

**Markings** :  GR

**Cities** : 1. VAL-CENIS

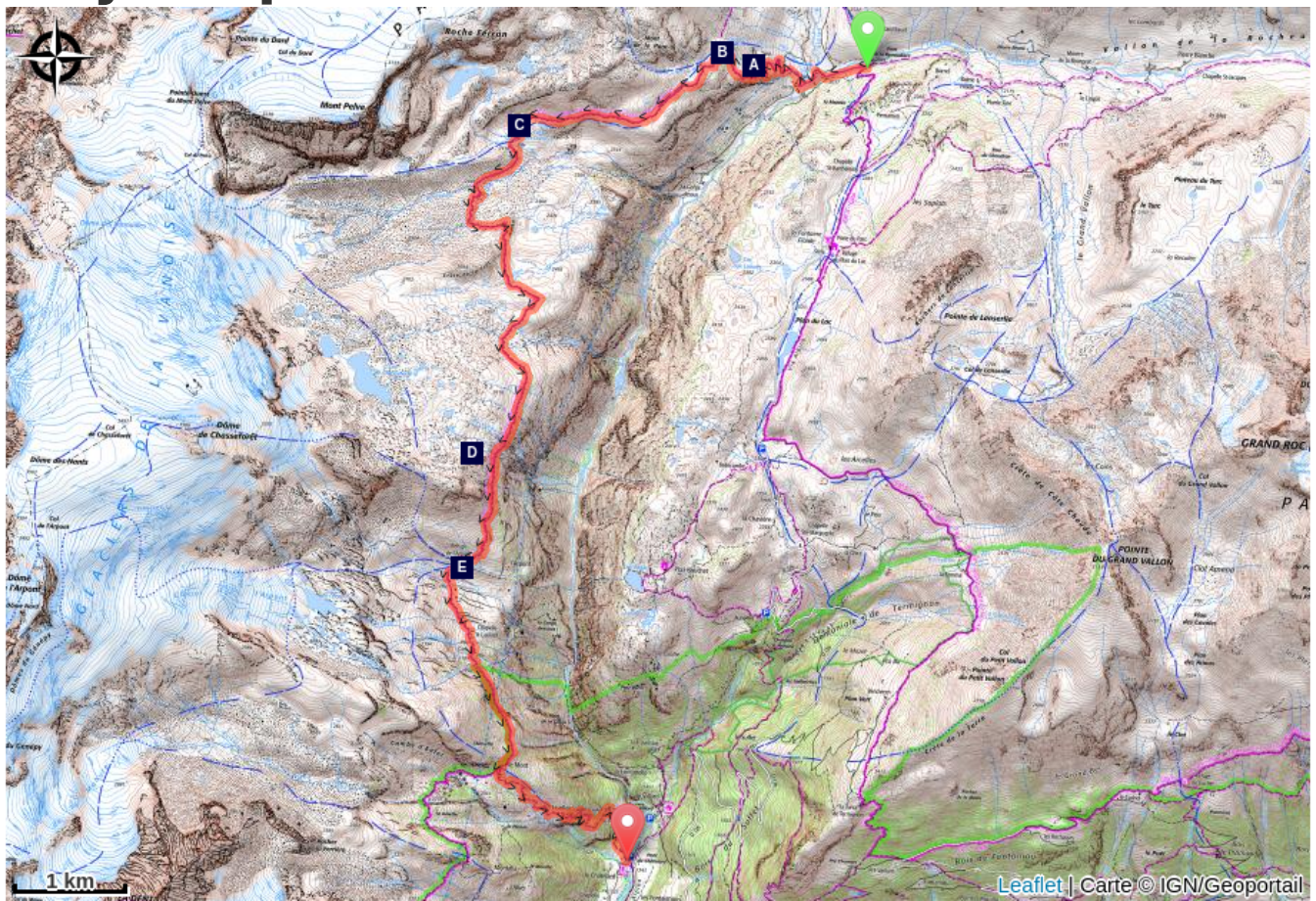
## Altimetric profile








Min elevation 1348 m Max elevation 2573 m

"From the bus stop at Entre-Deux-Eaux, Terminus, walk down the road to a footbridge upstream of the Gorges du Doron. The route leads up initially to a pastoral track near the mountain chalets of Para. The track very quickly turns back to a trail before going back to a terraced route of the GR®5 at an altitude of 2,329 m. At this crossing take the path that climbs gently towards the south, signposted ""Refuge de l'Arpont"". After two hour's walking it runs along the Lacs de Lozières then bypasses a moraine, crosses screes and alpine pastures. It finally slips in between rocky bars upstream and downstream of the Gorges du Doron where it makes its downward journey. Once at the Refuge de l'Arpont, the trail descends to the Saint-Laurent chapel and old alpine chalets to reach the chalets du Mont. From there, at 2,080 m in altitude, the route leaves the GR®5 to follow a steep descent path that will take you through alpine pastures and then the spruce forest, to reach the valley at Pont du Chatelard. Follow the small south-facing road that leads to the village of Termignon. Walk for 7 hours from the Entre-Deux-Eaux bus stop."

# On your path...



-  The Alpage de "la Para" (A)
-  The Lacs des Lozières (C)
-  The Refuge de l'Arpont (E)

-  Cup-shaped stones (B)
-  The Dôme de Chasseforêt, the Pelve moraine (D)

# 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**

The starting point for this hike is also accessible, without shuttle, from Bellecombe. The road between Bellecombe and Entre-Deux-Eaux is closed to traffic except for authorised vehicles. (Offence laid down and punished under Article R 163-6 of the Forestry Act).

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

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Rail connection to Modane. Information: [www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com)

Then transport by coach to the administrative centre of Termignon. Information: [www.transavoie.com](http://www.transavoie.com)

Then shuttle bus Termignon-Bellecombe-Entre-Deux-Eaux, from July to August and the weekends from 15th June to 14th September.

Shuttle bus information: [www.termignon.haute-maurienne-vanoise.com/pratique/se-deplacer-sans-voiture](http://www.termignon.haute-maurienne-vanoise.com/pratique/se-deplacer-sans-voiture)

Suggested hitchhiking organised in the Haute-Maurienne valley. Information: [www.rezopouce.fr](http://www.rezopouce.fr)

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### Access

Shuttle bus departure at Termignon-Bellecombe-Entre-Deux-Eaux to Maison de la Vanoise, from July to August and the weekends from 15th June to 14th September.

### Advised parking

Termignon, then shuttle bus to Entre-Deux-Eaux

# 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.

## Bearded vulture

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, November, Decembre

ATTENTION : nidification du Gypaète barbu !

En concertation avec les acteurs locaux, une zone de sensibilité majeure (ZSM) a été définie pour les Gypaètes barbus des gorges du Doron à Termignon.

Toutes les activités dans ces zones sont à proscrire : survol motorisé ou non motorisé, ski, randonnée, escalade, etc ...

Cette espèce est particulièrement sensible au dérangement. Afin de favoriser les conditions de reproduction jusqu'à l'envol d'un gypaéton, il s'est avéré nécessaire de mettre en place cette zone sensible.

## 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 Val Cenis Termignon

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

[info@hautemaurienne.com](mailto:info@hautemaurienne.com)

Tel : 04 79 05 99 06

<https://www.valcenis.com>

# On your path...

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## The Alpage de "la Para" (A)

"At the foot of La Leisse and La Rocheure valleys, the tarentaise and abundance dairy cows and the Thônes and Marthod sheep graze on the slopes, at first gentle and then very steep, of the "Para" pasturelands. The local alpine farmers transform the milk from the cows on the pastures into two types of cheese: the Termignon blue, a rare product which is thinly veined and crumbly, as well as the Beaufort, a pressed-cooked raw milk cheese. Originally from Beaufortain, from which it takes its name, the production of the "prince of the Gruyères" is now widespread in the valley of Maurienne. As for the sheep and their lambs, they follow the snowfall cycle from spring to autumn to enjoy the full benefits of the richness of the high-altitude pastures."

Attribution : PNV - VON CONTA Beatrix

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## Cup-shaped stones (B)

A little under the spot height 2,329 m, when you take the GR®5 Sentier Balcon (terraced path), you will discover an engraved stone dating from the Neolithic (3000 years BC). These were the first agropastoral communities that made these engravings by staking out erratic blocks or rock outcrops. The Maurienne valley conserves nearly a thousand highly diversified engraved rocks (engraved feet, battle or hunting scenes, abstract representations, roundels, names of shepherds, etc). They testify to the populations present in the high mountain in remote periods. The erosion and human induced degradations have weakened these stones over time. To testify to their history in the centuries to come, they deserve your attention.

Attribution : PNV - TISSOT Nathalie



## The Lacs des Lozières (C)

"The track merges between the natural lakes of Lozières. These depressions were originally formed by the hollowing of glaciers or moraine deposits, such as the "glacial lakes" of Roche Ferran and Pelve which are located upstream. But as they are older and lower in altitude than their neighbours, the "grassy lakes" of Lozières vegetate. You will therefore find aquatic vegetation, such as the bur-reed, a flowering plant which forms long filaments on the surface of the water. You can also see curious pompoms on an erect stem, the *Eriophorum scheuchzeri*. This plant species does not tolerate competition, it colonises only the lake shores on siliceous ground."

Attribution : PNV - TISSOT Nathalie



## The Dôme de Chasseforêt, the Pelve moraine (D)

At this point you go along the lateral moraine of Mont Pelve. This mass of rocky debris was torn from the mountain by friction from the glacier and freezing/thawing. As it retreated, the glacier revealed this moraine which is evidence of the ancient glacial area. The glacial ice cap of the Vanoise domes extends over 13 km in length and covers an area of 32 km<sup>2</sup>. In the 20th century, it retracted by 420 metres in 50 years. It continues today at a rate of one metre per year. A climb of up to 2,700 m in altitude is now required to reach the glacier.

Attribution : PNV - GARNIER Alexandre



## The Refuge de l'Arpont (E)

Built in two sections by the National Park in the early 1970s, it was deemed to be a benchmark for integration in the site. With the systematic use of stone, implemented by Maurienne firm Molinaro, the architectural language assumes the fundamental elements of local traditional architecture while adapting them to the constraints of accommodating the public in volumes much more substantial than those of traditional alpine chalets. This firmly modern extension delivered in 2014 preserves the historic building and gives us an indication of the various modifying steps that shaped the aesthetics of this former sheepfold given to the Park in the mid-1960s.

The new building, in reference to Savoyard military architecture, is integrated into the extension of the moraine to provide protection against the blast of an avalanche that can fall from the pass located under the Chasseforêt rocks. Built on two levels, this extension is wedged below the existing buildings, at an altimetry in keeping with the natural slope of the morainic cord and forms a semi-buried base for the existing refuge. Take the time to stop at the shelter and enjoy a good “bière des guides” while relaxing in the large panoramic room.

Attribution : PNV - DORNE Franck