



# Refuge de Turia

Vanoise - VILLAROGGER

Le refuge de Turia (GOTTI Christophe)



*A short day's hike where a welcoming refuge and a view of Mont Blanc await you in reward.*

Sheer slope, typical mountain village dominated by inaccessible glaciers which seem to touch the sky... A route full of personality, at the gates of the high mountain.

High above, there nestles a charmingly unspoilt refuge, barely disturbed by the silent flight of the golden eagle.

Christian Balais, Vanoise National Park ranger

## Useful information

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Practice : Walking hike

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Duration : 3 h

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Length : 7.7 km

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Trek ascent : 791 m

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Difficulty : Easy

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Type : Return

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Themes : Fauna , Pastoralism ,  
Refuge

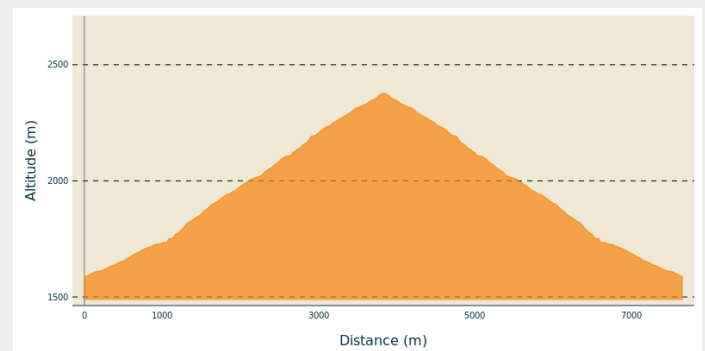
# Trek

**Departure** : Chantel car park, Hamlet of Gurraz, Villaroger

**Arrival** : Chantel car park, Hamlet of Gurraz, Villaroger

**Cities** : 1. VILLAROGER

## Altimetric profile



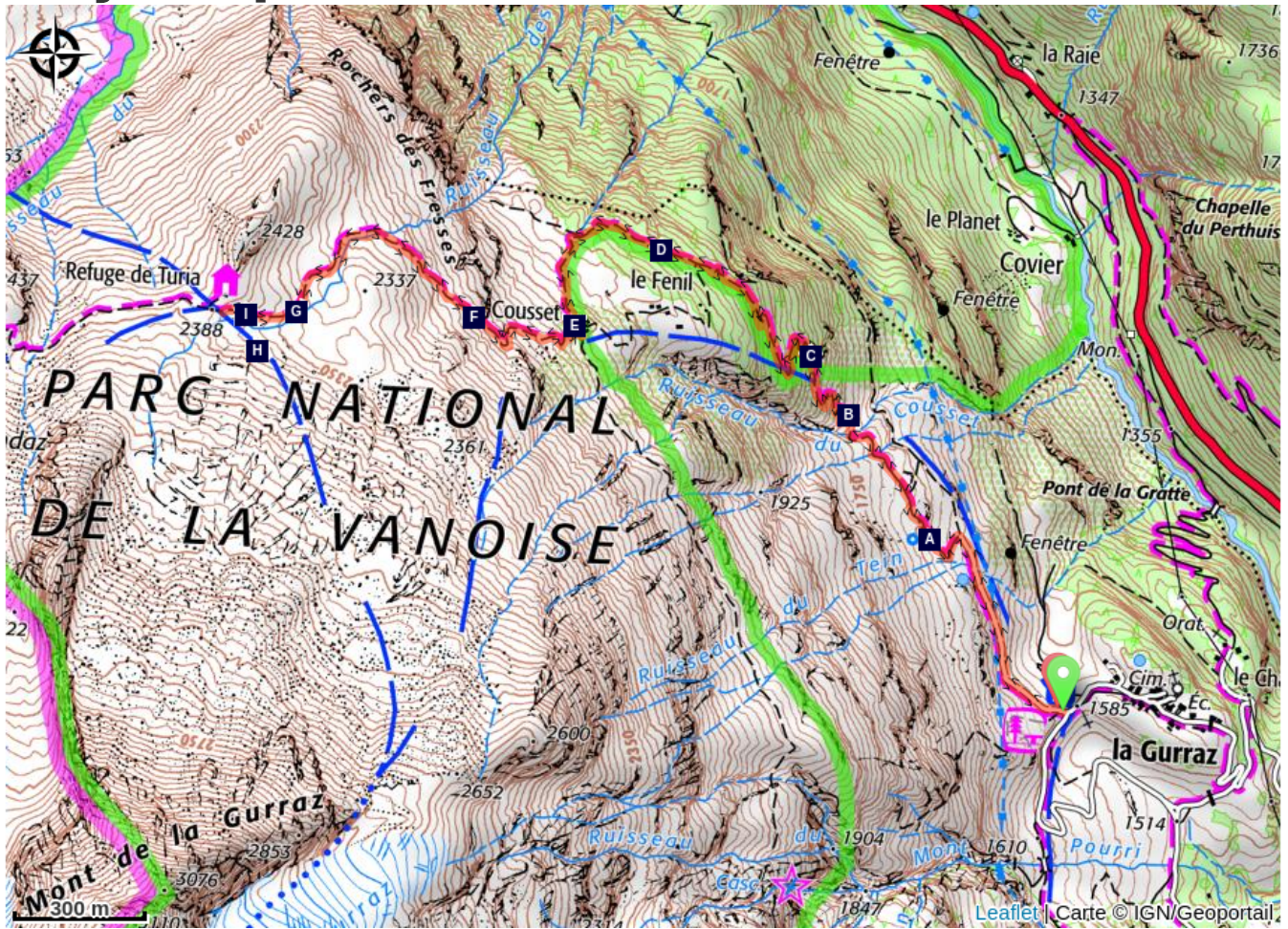
Min elevation 1587 m Max elevation 2378 m










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From Chantel car park, take the vehicle track on the right. About 100 m after 2 successive hairpin bends, the track turns into a trail. After the passage of the Cousset stream, the trail meanders while climbing through the forest. Follow the trail leading to the mountain pastures as far as the hamlet of Cousset, which you then pass. A signpost for ""Cousset 2015 m"" awaits you upstream of the buildings. There is about a 1 hour walk following the trail, with no intersection. To return, follow the trail in the opposite way.

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# On your path...



-  Balcony overlooking Mont Blanc (A)
-  The spotted nutcracker, guest of the conifer forests. (B)
-  Barbs and woodpeckers (C)
-  Martagon lily, pick with your eyes only. (D)
-  Cousset and Fenil: forgotten alpine pastures (E)
-  Heather moors and alpine clubmoss (F)
-  Cowbells in the alpine pasture (G)
-  The imprint of the glaciers (H)
-  A rustic and friendly refuge (I)

# 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**

Refuge également accessible depuis Arc 2000 (4 h) ou Villaroger (5h).  
L'itinéraire n'est pas très long, il présente en revanche deux endroits où il faut surveiller les jeunes enfants.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

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Rail connection to Bourg-Saint-Maurice. Information: [www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com)  
Then transport by coach to the administrative centre of Haute-Tarentaise.  
Information: [www.transavoie.com](http://www.transavoie.com)  
Also think about car-sharing with [www.mobisavoie.fr](http://www.mobisavoie.fr)

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### Access

On the D902 between Sainte-Foy Tarentaise and the Tignes dam, take the small road in the direction of the village of Gurraz. Cross the hamlet (narrow street) and park at its exit on the right (Parking).

### Advised parking

Before the last bends climbing up to the village of Gurraz, along the road to the village of Savinaz.

## **Information desks**

### **Tourist Information Office - Séez**

25 rue Célestin Freppaz, 73700 Séez

[accueil@otseez.com](mailto:accueil@otseez.com)

Tel : 04 79 41 00 15

<http://www.otseez.com/>

### **Office de Tourisme de Bourg Saint Maurice**

Place de la Gare, 73700 Bourg-Saint-Maurice

[contact@lesarcs.com](mailto:contact@lesarcs.com)

Tel : 04 79 07 12 57

<https://www.lesarcs.com>

# On your path...

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## ✿ Balcony overlooking Mont Blanc (A)

To the north, beyond the summits bordering the right bank of the valley of Col du Petit St Bernard, rises an imposing glacial massif. At a height of 4,810metres, Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the Alps, looms over the steep Italian slope. Glaciers and rock walls block the horizon in an awe-inspiring, wild landscape which proves difficult to access. It is the domain of the exceedingly high mountain.

Attribution : PNV - BALAIS Christian

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## ✿ The spotted nutcracker, guest of the conifer forests. (B)

Amid two trees, an enormous figure passes by discreetly, with a sharp beak, mottled brown plumage and white-striped tail. Then, from the top of a spruce, the spotted nutcracker launches its discordant, raspy cry. This sedentary corvid lives in the coniferous forests where it feeds mainly on coniferous seeds. In the autumn it will bury its provisions although will sometimes forget them.

Attribution : PNV - PLOYER Jean-Yves

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## ✿ Barbs and woodpeckers (C)

"The spruce flourishes on the ubac slope, dominating the hardwoods of the mountain zone. Often wrongly called ""fir"", it is easily identified by its cones which hang under the branches, with needles laid out around the twigs, prickly to the touch, while the tree is supple and soft under the hand. The trunk of the spruce is sometimes bored into by woodpeckers, in search of larvae or to house their brood."

Attribution : PNV - BALAIS Christian



## ✿ Martagon lily, pick with your eyes only. (D)

The martagon lily is an icon of the fresh woody slopes and does not go unnoticed, reaching one metre in height. At maturity (June-July) its large pink-violet flowers with purple spots have six large hanging stamens, crowned by six rolled up tepals (undifferentiated petals and sepals). Butterflies and other insects gather its pollen with their heads "upside down". It is said that the alchemists who used this plant, under the aegis of the God Mars, gave this lily the name of martagon.

Attribution : PNV - BOUCHE Michel



## 🏠 Cousset and Fenil: forgotten alpine pastures (E)

On fine summer days, some of the renovated chalets still welcome the inhabitants of Gurraz and Savinaz. These former dwelling houses testify to a bygone agropastoral past, a time when all mountain acres, even the more difficult to access, were farmed. The hay was harvested and then stored on site before being taken down on wooden sledges. This was tough and intense work but essential for feeding the cattle in the winter.

Attribution : PNV - BALAIS Christian



## ✿ Heather moors and alpine clubmoss (F)

The alpine moor is home to several species of sub-shrubs. Adapted to the snow-capped slopes, the hardy ferruginous rhododendron bursts with light from the beginning of summer. More fragile in appearance, the foliage of blueberries and cranberries is a tender green, before turning red in autumn. Their blue berries are enjoyed by a variety of fauna, from the fox to the black grouse. Hiding in the heart of this moor is the discreet alpine clubmoss, similar to ferns but with very primitive features.

Attribution : PNV - BALAIS Christian



## 🐑 Cowbells in the alpine pasture (G)

"During the summer a flock of transhumant sheep graze on the mountain pasture, near the shelter or on the slopes of the Hauts de Villaroger Nature Reserve. Present from June to October, the sheep and lambs are kept by a shepherd, accompanied by his sheep dogs, Border Collies more often than not, and by a "Patou", which is a watchdog and guard dog. The presence of these working dogs is permitted in the heart of the park."

Attribution : PNV - AUGÉ Vincent

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## ❄️ The imprint of the glaciers (H)

From the terrace, the view opens onto the glaciers of Fond and Sassi re. Still snow white, they are none the less victims of climate change, having receded over the years. As you climb up to the small promontory overlooking the shelter, you can see in the direction of the Grand Col, old heaps of material deposited during the retreat of the ice. These moraines, partially vegetated today, testify to an age when the glaciers were still masters of the landscape.

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## 🏠 A rustic and friendly refuge (I)

"Perched at 2,410 metres in altitude, the chalet-refuge de Turia showcases its Chaloin-type architecture, which is emblematic of the simple and friendly welcome of the ""small"" refuges of Vanoise built in the 1970s. These quickly assembled wooden refuges combine rusticity, sturdiness and rapid heating. The ""bachal"" water (trough-shaped water reservoir) is captured under a rocky glacier, several hundred metres away. Inside, the shelter is equipped with a UV filter to purify the water."

Attribution : PNV - BALAIS Christian