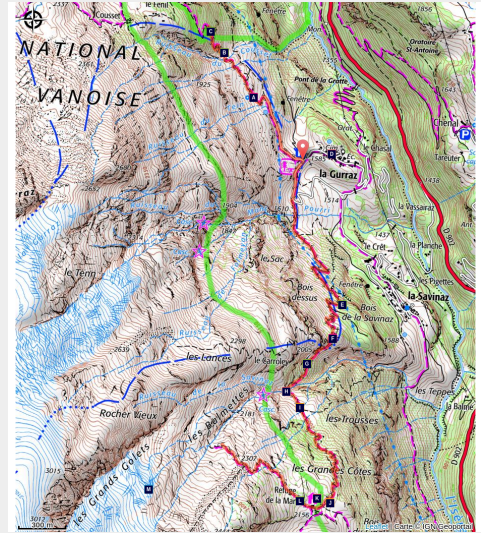


# Glacier de la Martin

Vanoise - VILLAROGER



sentier d'accès au refuge de La Martin, glaciers de La Martin et de la Savinaz. (Florian MAURER)



*Encountering a glacier, an initial step from the village of Gurrax on the borders of the moraines.*

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This hike on the vertiginous east face of Mont-Pourri, will lead you from the world of men, with the hamlet of Gurrax and Chevril dam up to the ""eternal"" kingdom of the glaciers, where only the ibex ventures.

"

## Useful information

Practice : Walking hike

Duration : 6 h

Length : 12.4 km

Trek ascent : 1031 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Return

Themes : History , Viewpoint

# Trek

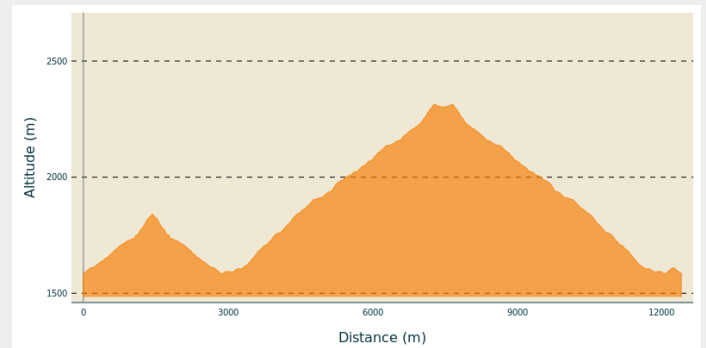
**Departure** : Chantel car park, Hamlet of Gurraz, Villaroger

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

**Markings** : → Parc

**Cities** : 1. VILLAROGER

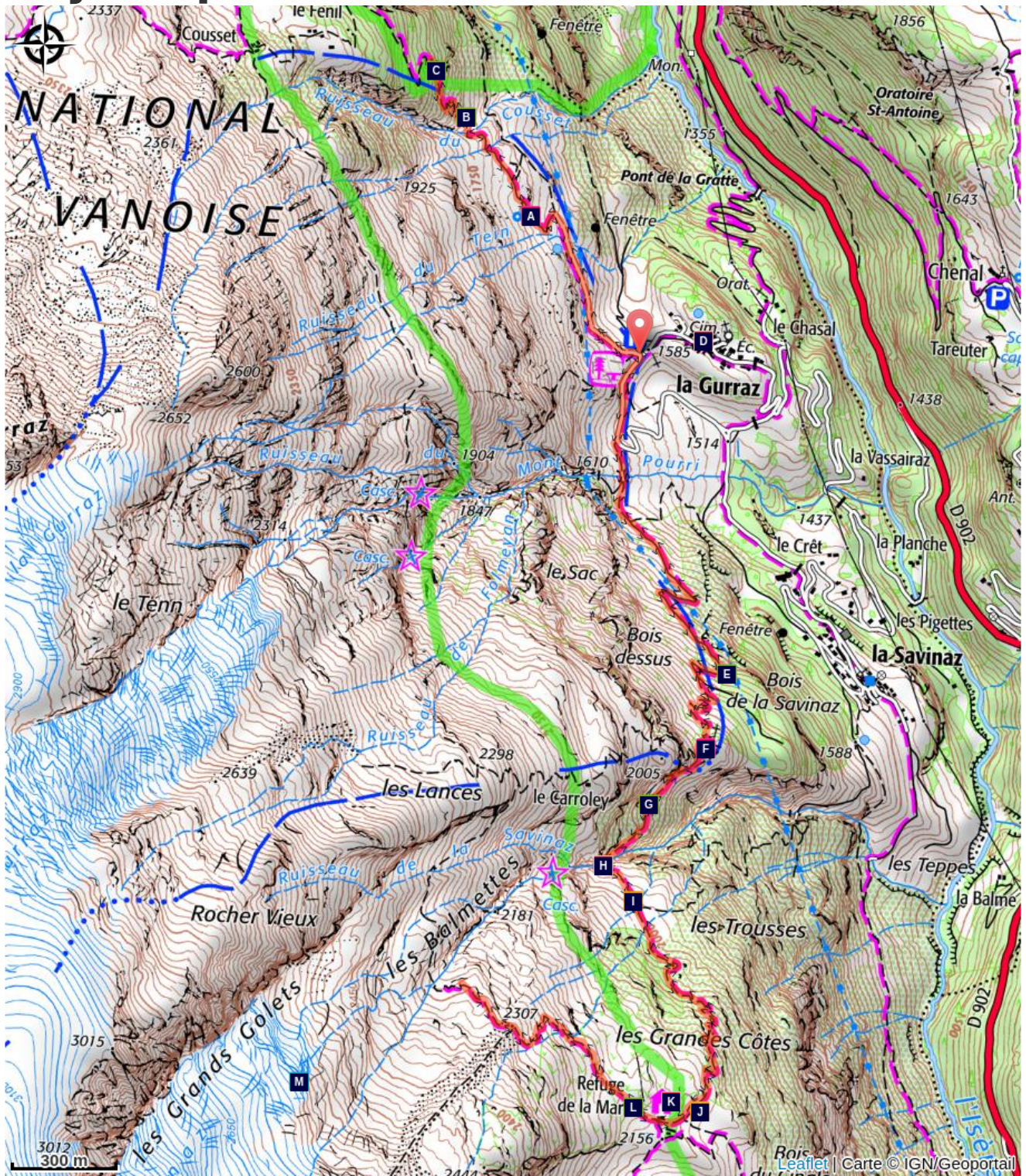
## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1584 m Max elevation 2313 m

From Chantel car park, follow the path which goes to the left. Follow it for about 280 m, then continue on the trail leading off it to the first hairpin bend. Cross the Mont-Pourri stream with EDF water intake. The trail enters the shrub vegetation and meanders. Once out of the forest, you arrive at Crêt (chalet). Follow the path into the mountain pastures. Cross the Savinaz stream over the wide footbridge. Continue until Refuge de la Martin. From the refuge, head in the direction of “Glacier de la Savinaz 0h20” The trail ends in the midst of moutonnées and moraines rocks. To return, follow the path in the opposite way.

# On your path...




 Balcony overlooking Mont Blanc (A)


 Barbs and woodpeckers (C)

 The alder grove (E)

 The orange lily (G)

 The alpine pastures of Savinaz (I)

 The glaciers of Martin and Savinaz  
(K)

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

 The hamlet of Gurraz (D)

 The panorama over the Nantcruet  
valley (F)

 The Passerelle des Balmettes (H)

 The Refuge de la Martin (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**

At the end of the trail, it is not recommended to venture further without being accompanied by a mountain professional (guide). In the summer, ice blocks can come loose from the glaciers without warning. You can take your dog with you, but only up to the Refuge de la Martin. Beyond the refuge, you enter the heart of the National Park. Please ensure you respect the park's special regulations.

## **How to come ?**

### Access

From Bourg-Saint-Maurice, follow the RD 902 in the direction of Val d'Isère; approximately 4 km after the village of la Thuile, turn right in the direction of La Savinaz/La Gurraz

### Advised parking

Chantel car park, Hamlet of Gurraz, Villaroger

 **Information desks**

**Tourist Information Office - Tignes**

Maison de Tignes-le-lac BP 51, 73321

Tignes

information@tignes.net

Tel : 04 79 40 04 40

<http://www.tignes.net/>

**Office de Tourisme de Bourg Saint Maurice**

Place de la Gare, 73700 Bourg-Saint-

Maurice

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 4,810 metres, 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



### The hamlet of Gurraz (D)

Under the protection of Saint-Roch and its church, the hamlet of La Gurraz nestles behind an old moraine, sheltered from the dreadful avalanches that sometimes hurtle down the north slope of the Mont-Pourri massif, causing windows and chimneys to rattle. In 1990, the village was cut off from the world for four days. Narrow alleys, stone houses with wooden balconies opening on to the hay barns, bread oven&hellip; infuse this alpine mountain village with authenticity and character.

Attribution : PNV - BALAIS Christian

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### The alder grove (E)

It is a forest-vegetation dominated by the green alder, also called “arcosse” in patois. Its highly flexible branches bend under the weight of the snow without breaking and allow it to establish in the avalanche slopes. The alder is often accompanied by plant formation that grows in fresh environments such as eutrophic tall herbs, recognised by their tall plants (Alpine sow-thistle, *Adenostyles alliariae*). Difficult to access by man, the alder grove is an area of tranquillity for many animals (deer, dunnock&hellip;).

Attribution : PNV - BALAIS Christian

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### The panorama over the Nantcruet valley (F)

From the cross looking eastwards, you can see the very steep-sided stream of the Nant Cruet, with the Aiguille de la Grande Sassi re at the bottom of the valley, culminating at 3,747 m. The left bank of the torrent on the cold and humid ubac slope (north-facing side), is little exploited by man, which has allowed the forest to establish. By contrast, the right bank, located on the adret slope, testifies to the strong agricultural activity characterised by numerous hamlets, hay meadows and mountain pastures.

Attribution : PNV - M L  St phane

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## The orange lily (G)

While hiking on this part of the trail from June to July, scour the cliffs upstream and your eye will be drawn to the flamboyant colour of the orange lily. You will easily recognise it with its long angular stem more than 25 cm high, adorned with one or more bright orange flowers at the top. Present up to 2,200 m in altitude, it is particularly fond of these rocky terraces on limestone soil well exposed to the sun.

Attribution : PNV - BALAIS Christian



## The Passerelle des Balmettes (H)

Composed of 4 wooden structures of approximately 600 to 700 kg, this footbridge is dismantled every autumn by helicopter and assembled at the end of spring. It provides hikers with access to the heart of the Vanoise National Park by allowing them to safely cross the Savinaz stream which is impassable in times of high flows. The footbridge was also designed to allow access to the farmer's pastures and his herd of heifers.

Attribution : PNV - MÉLÉ Stéphane



## The alpine pastures of Savinaz (I)

"Agriculture has been declining for several decades in the municipality of Villaroger because the sloping terrains are not favourable to mechanisation. The alpine meadows of Trousse (called the ""mauvais prés"" ) and their upper part, which are dependent on the mountain pasture of Martin, illustrate this reality. Where once hay was formerly used, agriculture is still maintained today with herds of goats and heifers which make it possible to prevent these alpine pastures from being filled with green alder."

Attribution : PNV - MÉLÉ Stéphane



## The Refuge de la Martin (J)

This shelter, kept from the end of June to the beginning of September (providing food and accommodation), remains open for self-catering for the rest of the year. Before becoming the property of the Vanoise National Park in 1972, it was a former alpine chalet which was built from materials extracted on site starting in 1932. It was home to the Alpage de la Martin for a period of thirty years during which Beaufort, Sérac and butter were produced.

Attribution : PNV - BUCZEK Jessica



## The glaciers of Martin and Savinaz (K)

The end of this hike offers an exceptional panoramic view over the glaciers of Martin and Savinaz. Access road to the Dôme de la Sache (3,601 m in altitude), this itinerary has been increasingly abandoned by mountaineers due to the major decline of glaciers, linked to global warming and furthering the opening of crevices and serac falls. In the early 1980s, their glacial tongues descended to the trail where you now stand.

Attribution : PNV - MÉLÉ Stéphane