

Short tour of Courchevel's secret hamlets

Tarentaise - BOZEL

Village de Courchevel Le Praz (Courchevel Tourisme)



The Courchevel-Bozel Valley might be famous as a skiing destination, but it is also awash with captivating secret hamlets... Set off to explore them!

The Courchevel - Bozel Valley is famous for its ski resorts which form part of the largest ski area in the world. But this circuit takes you through twenty or so of its small villages and hamlets. Set off from the pretty village of Bozel, along quiet roads and tracks, up to Courchevel le Praz where you'll find a natural lake with amenities laid out as well as a ski jumping hill! Take care to control your speed on your return as there is a very steep descent between Saint-Bon-Tarentaise and Le Grenier

Useful information

Practice : Mountain bike (electric)

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 19.1 km

Trek ascent : 758 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : History , Lake and glacier, Viewpoint

Accessibility : Chien autorisé

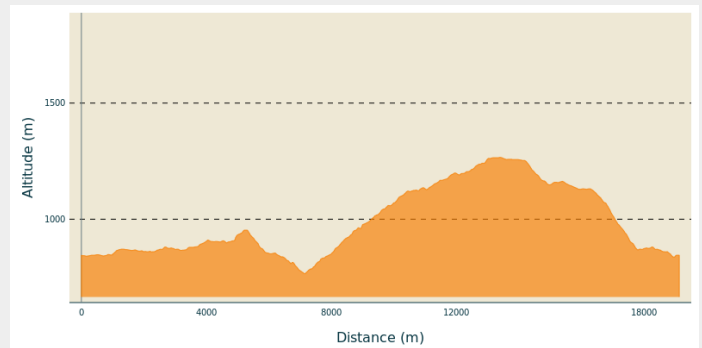
Trek

Departure : Bozel Town Hall, 73350 Bozel

Arrival : Bozel Town Hall, 73350 Bozel

Cities : 1. BOZEL
2. SAINT-BON-TARENTEISE
3. LA PERRIERE

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 765 m Max elevation 1266 m

Between Bozel and Courchevel, go sightseeing among twenty or so little villages and hamlets. Set off from the pretty village of Bozel, along quiet roads and tracks, up to Courchevel le Praz where you'll find a lake with amenities laid out as well as a ski jumping hill! Take care to control your speed on your return as there is a very steep descent between Saint-Bon and Le Grenier.

Follow the blue waymarks Hameaux Secrets.

E-bike rental shops:

Génération Road Trip (Sport 2000 La Cage O Sport)

Immeuble Les Soldanelles
73350 BOZEL
+33 (4) 79 55 00 39.

Espace VTT Bozel

Opening in September 2020.

ESPACE VTT

Alpinium
Le Praz
73120 COURCHEVEL
+33 (0)6.18.08.18.41

Espace VTT

Croisette Courchevel 1850
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On your path...



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
|  | The Doron de Bozel (A) |  | Le Fay hamlet (B) |
|  | Le Grenier hamlet (C) |  | Le Fontanil hamlet (D) |
|  | Le Grand and Le Petit Carrey hamlets (E) |  | La Perrière Saint-Jean hamlet (F) |
|  | Villafrou hamlet (G) |  | La Nouvaz hamlet (H) |
|  | Le Freney hamlet (I) |  | E-bike rental shop: Espace VTT (J) |
|  | Courchevel le Praz (K) |  | Saint-Bon-Tarentaise village (L) |

All useful information

Advices

Rando Vanoise has been designed to help you pick and choose your outings, but cannot be held liable where they are concerned. The mountain offers up a wide range of routes and trails for cyclists of all levels, but remember, it is a living, unpredictable environment and it is important that you head out suitably equipped. Ask advice from cycle rental operators.

If in doubt, you can take an introductory lesson in how to ride an electric bike with an instructor.

If you see a herd ahead, slow down and go round it. If there is a patou, a guard dog, climb down from your bike and walk, pushing it alongside you. Avoid making any sudden or aggressive gestures towards the dog and move away from the herd slowly and calmly. The dog will only be checking that you do not pose a threat to its herd. Respect the parkland and close gates behind you after you've gone through them.

The mountain is living, please respect it by staying on the paths and tracks.

How to come ?

Transports

Train services run as far as Moûtiers-Salins-Brides-les-Bains. Find out more at: www.oui.sncf.com

You can then get a coach to Bozel.

Find out more at: www.transavoie.com

Have you also thought about car sharing?

Access

From Moûtiers, take the RD915 road towards the Bozel Valley as far as Bozel.

Advised parking

Cemetery car park, 73350 Bozel

Accessibility



Chien autorisé

Information desks

Vallée de Bozel Tourisme

118 Rue Emile Machet, 73350 Bozel

info@valleedebozel.com

Tel : 04 79 55 03 77

<https://www.valleedebozel.com>

Courchevel Tourisme

info@courchevel.com

Tel : 04 79 08 00 29

<https://courchevel.com>

On your path...



The Doron de Bozel (A)

Its name means “stream” in Savoyard patois, and it’s at the origin of a great many of the valley’s activities, including, hydroelectricity upstream and recreation (rafting and fishing) downstream.

Attribution : Michel Pellicier



Le Fay hamlet (B)

This enchanting hamlet is one of the "Hameaux des Travers". The villages located at an altitude of between 860m and 970m on the North side of Saint-Bon Valley are so-called because they have been built across (travers in French) the northern slopes and were the first of the municipality's hamlets to be populated. Le Fay is the nearest hamlet to Bozel and set amidst woodland. It harbours a 17th century chapel dedicated to St Isidore, the patron saint of farmers, and to Our Lady of the Presentation. The hamlet's name perhaps refers to a place planted with fayards, a Savoyard term for beech trees.

Attribution : CourchevelTourisme



Le Grenier hamlet (C)

This is also one of the "Hameaux des Travers". It is one of the largest hamlets across the valley bottom. St Joseph's Chapel (17th century) stands at the village entrance. As you meander through its lanes, admire the myriad barn-stables and renovated houses. Families often had two properties: the village house for living in and the barn-stables for housing animals, and this is one of the distinctive features of this valley. The hamlet's name (loft) comes from the presence of these barns. There is a lovely view to admire over Bozel and Le Grand Bec (3,398m) mountain.

Attribution : Mairie Courchevel



Le Fontanil hamlet (D)

This is the only hamlet across the North side to have a rectangular central square. It was most likely created following the demolition of several houses and barn-stables. There is still a bachal (water basin) in this square, which gave villagers and their animals direct access to water. The hamlet also has a bread oven dating back to 1908 and is home to Notre-Dame de la Visitation Chapel. Built between 1857 and 1860 at the top of the village, it was knocked down then rebuilt at the bottom of the hamlet in 1987. Moving it meant that the road leading up to Courchevel could be widened.

Attribution : Courchevel Tourisme



Le Grand and Le Petit Carrey hamlets (E)

As the first populated site in Saint-Bon, Le Grand Carrey has the oldest chapel in the municipality, dedicated to St Catherine (predates 1584). She is the patron saint of seamstresses, wool spinners, clothiers and barbers. Her feast day is on 25 November. It was in this hamlet, not far from the road used in Roman times to travel from Moûtiers to Bozel, that a pot filled with ancient bronze coins was discovered. A few metres further up, you'll reach Le Petit Carrey which still has its orchard and traces of old hayfields. With orchards situated so close to their villages, locals were able to eat fruit and nuts every day (apple, pear, plum, cherry and walnut trees) and harvest the hay that provided fodder for animals in winter.

Attribution : Courchevel Tourisme



La Perrière Saint-Jean hamlet (F)

St Jean Baptiste's Church is included in the "Escapades Baroques des Alpes" initiative, aimed at showcasing Baroque heritage in the Alps. From this village, the lord governed the territory of La Perrière parish which was supervised by the Count-Archbishop of Tarentaise. The lord's residence can still be recognised today: look for a stately home bearing the date 1679.

You'll perhaps be surprised to see a 1940 blockhouse on leaving the hamlet, which resembles the one opposite, in Montagny.

These were structures along the Alpine Maginot Line to protect the upper Bozel Valley from Italian invasion via the Vanoise and Palet mountain passes, as well as the lower valley via the Petit Saint-Bernard pass.

Church open to visitors in the afternoons.

Attribution : D. Dereani



Villaflou hamlet (G)

Quintessential hamlet. Flowing through Villaflou, the old Roman estate of Fludualdus, is La Closettaz stream. The hamlet's guardian saint is St Anne, whose chapel stands opposite the renovated mill. The mill was used to grind grain for turning into flour (mainly rye, barley and oat flour).

Attribution : Mairie Courchevel



La Nouvaz hamlet (H)

The name of this hamlet refers to "newly cleared land". It is home to St Marguerite's Chapel, built in 1612 on land donated by residents. The hamlet's patron saint is celebrated on 20 July. Traditionally, she is the patron saint of pregnant women. In Latin, "Margaritae" means crown of pearls. You can have a peep inside through a gate. The façade on one of the houses in this hamlet is decorated with milk churns and a hay or lumber cart.

Attribution : Mairie Courchevel



Le Freney hamlet (I)

Next to La Perrière is Le Freney (1,190m), which is surrounded by orchards and still harbours a chapel dedicated to St Anne (1680). She is the patron saint of joiners and carpenters. On her feast day, 26 July, artists have often portrayed her giving her daughter Mary reading lessons. The hamlet's name perhaps comes from a place planted with ash trees.

Attribution : Courchevel Tourisme

E-bike rental shop: Espace VTT (J)

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Courchevel le Praz (K)

Le Praz is situated at the highest point of your route, at the first level of ski resorts in Courchevel Valley.

A pretty little village, typical of the Savoie region and steeped in history, it is the only village to be built on a projecting ledge and used to be one of the most active farming sites of the whole municipality. A gondola connects it to the slopes of the 3 Vallées ski area. It has retained an authentic, charming atmosphere with picturesque chalets, Sainte-Marie-Madeleine Chapel, narrow lanes and surrounding spruce forest. Rue des Beauforts is a street where a few traditional houses can still be spied as well as an old cheese dairy going by the same name. What's distinctive about the village are the Olympic ski jumps around it, which were used during the 1992 Winter Olympics. There are four in total, 25m, 60m, 90m and 120m, which makes it the best equipped ski jumping facility in France. The 120m jump is even unique in France. Major competitions are still hosted here, not least the Ski Jumping World Cup, and it is also a training centre for French and international teams. There is a permanent exhibition on display for learning more about the history of the site and this sport. You can even go up to the top of the Olympic jumps by climbing the steps. And why not treat yourself to a relaxing few hours around the laid-out banks of Le Praz natural lake, which is ideal for walks or fishing!

Attribution : Courchevel Tourisme



Saint-Bon-Tarentaise village (L)

Saint-Bon is divided into two distinct districts, separated by the B road running through it: Saint-Bon-Le-Haut and Saint-Bon-Le-Bas.

Set off to see the Baroque church of Saint-Bon and go for a wander around the little streets in search of Place du Mollard (where you'll be rewarded with a sweeping view over the valley), the village's old communal oven (which now houses the still), the old mill, the old cheese dairy and holiday homes mostly dating back to the 19th century. Admire the unassuming architecture of the houses and barn-stables built by local families who skilfully adapted their working tools to the harsh terrain, and made their living almost entirely from farming and livestock rearing right up until the mid 20th century.

Dating back to 1870, Saint-Bon Town Hall is a unique example of Sardinian neoclassical civil architecture in the Tarentaise area. Built in the 17th century, the Baroque church of Saint-Bon has been listed as a Historical Monument since 1972 and is included on the "Chemins du Baroque®" route, which illustrates the wealth of Baroque art in Savoie.

Attribution : Courchevel Tourisme