



La Route
Napoléon
à Cheval

ROADBOOK N A P O L E O N R O U T E O N H O R S E B A C K

Alpes Maritimes
Alpes de Haute Provence
Hautes Alpes
Isère



Near val du Noyer
© B. Fontaine



La Région
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Fonds Éperon



www.route-napoleon-a-cheval.com





La Route
Napoléon
à Cheval



Vizille
Laffrey
La Mure

Corps

Le Noyer

Col Bayard



Gap

Lardier et Valença



La Saulce

Vitrolles

Ventavon

Le Poët



Sisteron

Volonne

Digne-les-Bains

Malijai

La Clappe

Barrême



Senez

Castellane



Séranon



St Vallier
de Thieu

GRASSE



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NAPOLÉON'S RETURN FROM ELBA ISLAND



Painter: DAVID Jacques Louis
(1748 - 1825)

After his abdication in April 1814, Napoleon was exiled to the island of Elba, between Corsica and Italy. The growing unpopularity of the restored royalty encouraged him to attempt to regain power. He disembarked at Golfe Juan on **March the 1st 1815**, with just a thousand armed men, a few horses and two cannons. The troop force grew stronger along the way.

The Emperor wanted to avoid the big royalist towns. He chose Golfe Juan because, in the year X (1801-1802), he had ordered that a road from Grasse to Sisteron be made suitable for horse-drawn carriages. The road had been mapped out but not completed.

On **March the 1st**, he bivouacked in Cannes.

On **March the 2nd**, Napoleon set off for Grasse, stopping off at Saint-Vallier-de-Thiery, then Escagnolles and sleeping at the *Bastide de Brondet* in Séranon.

On **March the 3rd**, Napoleon stopped off at the *Logis du Pin* in La Martre, and around 9 a.m. he arrived in Castellane, had lunch at the sub-prefecture and set off again in the direction of Barrême, where he spent the night at the home of magistrate Tartanson.

On **March 4**, he had breakfast at La Clappe, arriving in Digne-les-Bains around noon for lunch at the *Petit Paris* inn. The Prefect of the Basses-Alpes in Digne, Jean-Pierre Duval, with 132



Celebration of the bicentenary of the Emperor's landing at Golfe-Juan

garrison men, was unable to oppose Napoleon. Leaving Digne at 3pm, Napoleon reached Malijai at 9pm and spent the night at the chateau.

It was the most nervous night of the return journey, as Napoleon feared his passage over the Sisteron bridge, dominated by the *Citadel*, would be compromised. But Cambronne had him warned at 3am that he had arrived in Sisteron.

The next day, **March the 5th**, he had breakfast at the *Poisson d'Or* inn in Volonne, and around 10 a.m., he arrived in Sisteron, where he stopped off at the *Bras d'Or* hotel, where he received the mayor and members of the town council. Around one o'clock in the afternoon, Napoleon left Sisteron.

Napoleon stopped off at the village of Le Poët, then was welcomed in Rourebeau, commune of Upaix, by César Flour de Saint-Genis, surrounded by 3 to 4 thousand inhabitants. It was here that Napoleon responded to the mayor's welcome with these words: "I know the good spirit of the Dauphiné. I've been at peace since the hour I set foot on the territory of the Hautes-Alpes".

At around 8pm, he arrives at *La Tourronde*.
At around 10pm, he entered Gap and took up residence at the Marchand couple's inn.

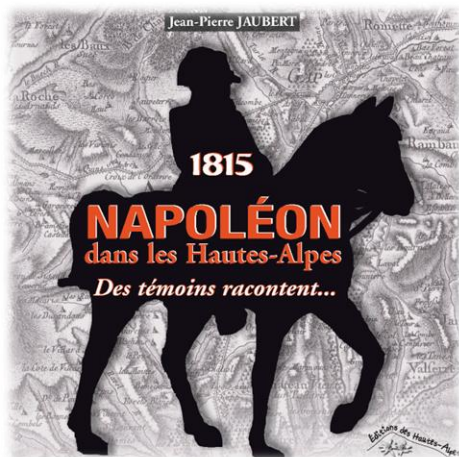
On **March 6th**, Napoleon left Gap in the early afternoon, via the *Col Bayard* and Champsaur. He reached Corps to spend the night there.

Napoleon arrived at La Mure late morning on **March 7**. Warned of the presence of royalist soldiers in a field at the entrance to Laffrey, Napoleon, accompanied by a small escort,

advances towards them. He identified himself and declared to the soldiers holding him at gunpoint: "Soldiers, brothers in arms, I am your father, the Emperor of your choice. Shoot me if you have the courage!" At these words, the soldiers of the 5th and 7th regiments put down their weapons.

In the afternoon, in Vizille, the population gave Napoleon an enthusiastic reception. In the evening, he triumphantly entered Grenoble.

From then on, he became de facto Emperor once again. King Louis XVIII took refuge in Belgium. The story of the "Hundred Days" begins. It ended at Waterloo on June 18, 1815.



Book cover - Jean-Pierre JAUBERT

THE NAPOLEON ROUTE ON HORSEBACK

Two centuries later, we're proposing an itinerary as close as possible to Napoleon's journey along this mythical route, taking into account the feasibility, safety and enjoyment that are essential to today's equestrian tourism.

This 350 km route passes through 2 regions, Sud-PACA and Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, and 4 départements: Alpes-Maritimes, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, Hautes-Alpes and Isère. This is France's first Grand Itinéraire Equestre. Label awarded in 2015.



We've divided the itinerary into 18 stages points (for guidance only) corresponding to today's leisure riding habits. You can adapt your route according to your technical skills and your desires.



Barrême - ©FraGphoto

PREPARING YOUR ADVENTURE

BEFORE DEPARTURE

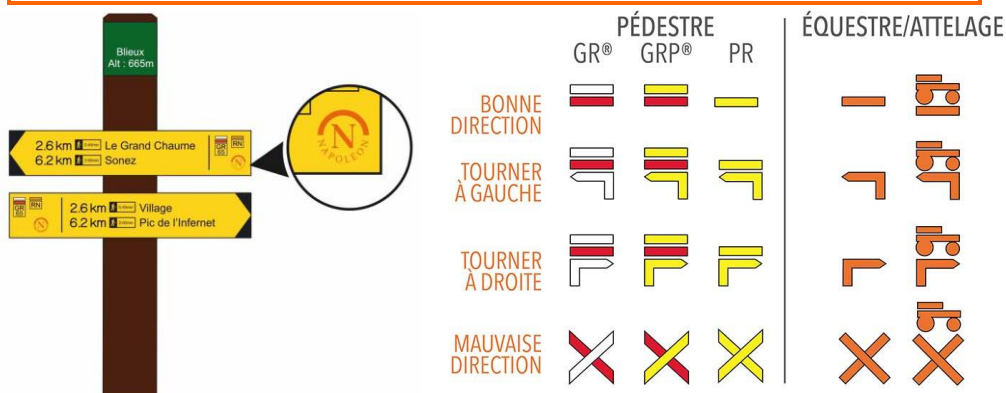
- (N) Check the weather forecast in advance (Météo France).
- (N) Prepare your route using local hiking maps or GPX points.
- (N) Inform a third party of your departure and the outline of your itinerary.
- (N) Contact tourist offices for more information.
- (N) Contact your accommodation and confirm your arrival.
- (N) Locate water sources along the route and arrange suitable horse feed.
- (N) Check your horse's health, ability and equipment.

MARKING AND SIGNAGE

The hiking itinerary follows the paths listed in the *Plan Départemental des Itinéraires de Promenade et de Randonnée (PDIPR)* of the 4 departments. Discreet markings in yellow paint (itinerary for short hikes (*petite randonnée*) "PR") or white and red paint (itinerary for long hikes (*grande randonnée*) "GR") guide your steps from the signposts, whose directional arrows make general orientation easier. These rectangles of paint are affixed to rocks or trees lining the tracks, paths or trails of the departmental plan. Stay alert!

When equestrian signposting arrives on a GR, for example, both are marked on 2 or 3 panels, then the equestrian signposting stops. When you leave the GR, the equestrian markings will appear a few times on the GR, indicating the change of direction, and will continue on their own off the GR.

Between Castellane and Digne-les-Bains, the route is also known as the *Voie Impériale*.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

	Alpes-Maritimes	Alpes-de- Haute Provence	Hautes-Alpes	Isère
Stages	2 or 3	7	6	2 or 3
Distance	37 km	140 km	127 km	64 km
Elevation gain	+1674 m -1556 m	+3433 m -5340 m	+4154 m -3661 m	+1241 m -1968 m
Time	11 h	30 h	30 h	13 h
Level	Easy	Medium	Difficult	Medium

COMPLEXITY

The level of each stage is given as an indication only, and the distance and altitude difference must be taken into account for a better interpretation. The itinerary has been designed for experienced riders who are used to riding in autonomy.

Ride times do not take into account breaks or the horse's burden.

Ask about the practicability of paths in winter and in bad weather (fords, frost, snow, etc.). You can obtain information from your accommodation provider or the CDTE in each department.

GROUND AND LANDSCAPE

Alpes-Maritimes: The route passes through mostly forest, but also through a lot of bare rock or rock covered with herbaceous plants. The magnificent panorama stretches all the way to the sea. Cultivated areas are sparsely developed, mainly around the towns of Saint-Vallier-de-Thiery, Escagnolles, Séranon and Malamaire.



Séranon - Alpes Maritimes - ©M. Dalmasso

Alpes-de-Haute-Provence: From Peyroules to Digne, the relief is mountainous and essentially forested up to Senez. The forest then tends to be replaced by bare rock or sparse shrubbery. Cultivated areas are found only around inhabited zones or in the Verdon and Asse de Blieux valleys. From Digne to Sisteron, the Bléone and Durance valleys are farmed. Forest is only to be found in the semi-mountainous massifs between Mirabeau and Malijai and Peipin and Sisteron. You'll encounter steep gradients over short distances, which is very characteristic of La Bâtie to Senez in particular.



Sébet sheepfold - Alpes de Haute Provence



Gleize Pass - Hautes Alpes - ©B. Fontaine

wooded landscape. To the north, the route crosses the Valgaudemar border into the cultivated Drac valley.

Isère: The Route Napoléon in Isère, crosses two major forests: the first to the south, from Corps to Quiet-en-Beaumont (10 km), populated by deciduous and coniferous trees and dotted with a few clearings; the second to the north, from Lac Mort to Saint-Pierre-de-Mésage (6 km), planted with deciduous trees. In the center, the Matheysin plateau is covered by meadows and crops.



The Drac river - Isère - ©M. Dalmasso

EQUIPMENT AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Horse riding, like any outdoor activity, involves certain risks, so you need to be well equipped and, depending on your level, accompanied by professionals or experienced riders. Never set off alone!

If you have any doubts about the equipment you need, consult the equestrian tourism and trail-riding professionals.

Don't forget that this 350 km itinerary passes through a variety of natural environments, and that you're in the mid-range of mountainous terrain.



Helpful tips

- (N) When crossing paths with hikers, cyclists or horse riders, slow down, give a courteous warning and keep your distance.
- (N) Dismount and pass in hand all areas considered difficult.
- (N) Keep the distance between horses (minimum 1.50 m).
- (N) When you ride a horse that kicks, signal it to the other riders by tying a red ribbon to the tail.
- (N) Don't trot downhill on asphalt because of the risk of slipping.
- (N) Don't disturb livestock, and ride around herds and guard dogs.
- (N) Remain visible in all weathers and at all the time.
- (N) On public roads, obey the traffic rules and ride in queues.
- (N) Take it easy on your horse, managing your pace according to your physical condition and the topography of the area.
- (N) Remain alert during the hunting season.
- (N) Don't pick anything and take your garbage with you.
- (N) Wearing a helmet is strongly recommended.

THE ROUTE



This route is listed on the PDIPR (*plan départemental des itinéraires de promenade et de randonnée*). Along the way, you'll find alternatives to suit your level of fitness. On some sections of the trail, it may be worthwhile to stray from the main route to enjoy the wilder sites.

If you encounter any irregularities on the trails, please let us know by e-mail or via the website/application [SURICATE](#).

Each department has created its own stage guides. Find them on:



Alpes-Maritimes



Alpes-de-Haute-Provence



Hautes-Alpes

This roadbook has been designed to help you prepare your hike, but it should not be your only hiking tool. Maps and/or GPX tracks are essential.

Find the entire itinerary on the Hudada application:



Download GPX tracks from our website: www.route-napoleon-a-cheval.com

IGN (*Institut national de l'information géographique et forestière*) map references for the route:

-  3543 ET Grasse
-  3542 OT Castellane
-  3441 OT Barrême
-  3340 ET Dignes Les Mées
-  3339 OT Sisteron

-  3338 ET Gap
-  3437 OT Champsaur
-  3337 OT Dévoluy
-  3336 OT Laffrey
-  3335 OT Grenoble



GRASSE => SAINT-VALLIER-DE-THIEY



10 km



2h30



+370 m
-205 m

Easy

To start your hike in Grasse, you can leave your vehicle at the ALTITUDE 500 tennis court, along the Hautes Chauves DFCI trail.

Before setting off, you can enjoy a snack at *Chez Calou*. If there's no parking space at the tennis court, you can park on the median strip bordering the RN85, 200 meters above the snack bar. This route alternates between narrow, undergrowth paths and a few road sections.

From the parking lot, take the GR51(*Grande Randonnée* path) down to the route de *Cabris* (b.81). Follow the path along the golf course, a former hunting estate completely surrounded by a wall, with a beautiful view of the sea (b.39). Then continue through the woods to the crossroads at *Croix de Cabris* (b.42) and finally reach Saint-Vallier-de-Thiey, a charming *Provençal* village that is very lively in summer.

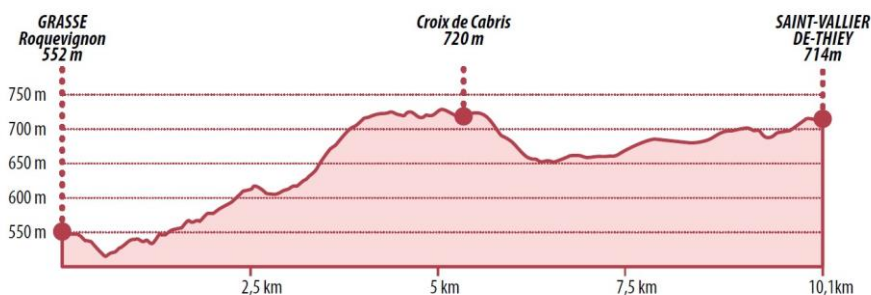


Tennis Altitude 500
30 Rte Napoléon, 06130 Grasse
+33 4 93 36 87 60
GPS : 43°40.108'N - 6°55.389'E.



Napoleon Route on horseback

10



USEFUL INFORMATION



Tourism office of Grasse
+33 4 93 36 66 66
www.tourisme.paysdegrasse.fr



Gîte le Cottage
49 ch de Préfontaine
06460 Saint Vallier-de-Thiey
+33 7 61 05 02 96



Gîte Communal Des 4 Saisons
Mairie de Saint Vallier-de-Thiey
Contact : Mme Jade Durix
+33 4 92 60 32 00



Fountain
GPS : 43°41'57.8"N 6°50'53.2"E



06460 Saint Vallier-de-Thiey



Dr. Charpiot Odile
54 Chemin. De Peyrebelle
06560 Valbone
+33 4 93 12 20 60



Equine clinic Hippodrome
2 Bd J F Kennedy
06800 Cagnes Sur Mer
+33 4 93 20 33 03



Grasse
Equisud Maréchalerie
JP Cédric: +33 4 93 70 23 07



Saint-Vallier-de-Thiey
André Quinonero
+33 6 80 23 34 83



DO NOT MISS!



- ✓ *Chêne de l'Empereur*: Route Napoléon D6085, Grasse.
- ✓ *Pierre Druidique*: Slab with twisted shapes unstably balanced on another block.
- ✓ *Bories*: Stone shelters for shepherds.
- ✓ *Saint-Vallier-de-Thiery*: Church tower, Napoleon's bench on the *Place de l'Apié*, and the *Chapelle Saint-Esprit* (built in 1635 by the white penitents).



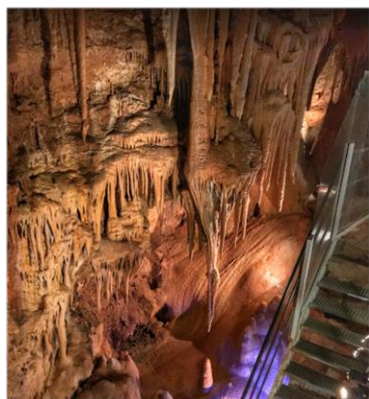
Banc Place de l'Apié à St-Vallier-de-Thiery



TO SEE AROUND!



- ✓ *Grasse*: Perfume factories, remarkable gardens, Musée International de la Parfumerie, Musée de Provence, Musée Fragonard, golf, "Napoléon and Grasse" guided tours. Information and booking: +33 4 97 05 58 70 or animation.patrimoine@ville-grasse.fr
 - *Parfumerie Galimard*: Founded in 1747, is one of the first French perfume houses.



Souterroscope de Baume Obscure

Their perfumes "Napoléon 1815" and "Princesse Pauline" demonstrate perfumery's involvement in history.

- ✓ *Saint-Cézaire-sur-Siagne*: visit to the Saint-Cézaire cave.
- ✓ *Grotte Le Souterroscope de Baume Obscure*: Geological discovery tours and treasure hunts.



SAINT-VALLIER-DE-THIEY => LA COLETTE => SÉRANON



20 km



4h30



+870 m
-958 m

Medium

On leaving Saint-Vallier-de-Thiery in the direction of Séranon, just after the roundabout, turn left onto the *Route de la Siagne*. Here you'll find a fine view of the surrounding mountains and the *Baume Obscure Souterroscope* site. Take the GR trail that runs alongside and over the *Siagne* on an old bridge, before heading upstream towards the Saint-Martin chapel. This is the part of the historic itinerary used by Napoleon and his troops and restored in 2014, which is best preserved with its low walls, kerbs and cobblestones. Arrive at the *Colette* site for a break at the picnic area. Water point on the square *Pons Rebuffel*.

From the *Colette* roundabout, take the tarred *Escarassoun* path downhill to the Saint-Pons chapel, 1 km away, which avoids Escragnoles. At the fork in the road, marker 95, take the paved *Chemin du Sambuc* up to the main road. At the stop sign, marker 100, turn left onto a new section of the historic route that winds under the main road. The itinerary climbs back up to the road. Carefully cross the D6085 at marker 96, and go up the other side of the embankment on the *Ancienne Route Napoléon*, marker 97, a well-preserved historic section, as far as Séranon.





USEFUL INFORMATION



La Source De Clars
1839 Chemin de Clars
06460 Escragnolles
+33 6 08 25 49 70 (Pierre)
+33 6 34 47 62 15 (Claudie)



Séranon 06750
Watering place next to the hamlet of
Les Asinas, just before the village of
Séranon
GPS: 43°27'52.7"N 6°25'20.2"E



Escragnolles 06460
Fontaine et lavoir
GPS: 43°43'53.9"N 6°46'55.4"E



La Colette 06460
GPS: 43°26'16.0"N 6°28'34.0"E



Collongues 06045
Frédéric Berger
+33 4 93 05 83 34



06750 Séranon
06460 Escragnolles



DO NOT MISS!



Escragnolles - Chapelle Saint Martin

- ✓ **Chapelle Sainte-Luce:** Built in the 11th century, it houses a 1776 painting of the Penitents of Grasse, who came to pray to rid the town of a calamity.
- ✓ **Pont vieux:** Also known as the Pont de Saint-Jean, built in 1736 to allow the new route of the Antibes/Castellane royal road to cross the Siagne.
- ✓ **Chapelle Saint-Martin:** Romanesque stone chapel dating from the late 11th century, recently restored.
- ✓ **Site de la Colette:** Remains of a paved road, beautiful stone drinking trough dating from 1908, viewpoint.
- ✓ **Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-Gratemoine, Séranon:** 11th-century Romanesque Benedictine priory with a military pillar converted into a holy-water font in front of it.



TO SEE AROUND!



- ✓ **L'arche de Ponadiéu:** Natural bridge created by the deposition of limestone (tuff) from a now extinct spring (2 hours' additional walk round trip).
- ✓ **Parc de La Moulière à Caille:** (7km from Séranon) with mountain bikes and chairlifts, Via Souterrata (Via Ferrata in a cave), accrobranche park and tepee camps (June to August).
- ✓ **Thorenc** (13 km from Séranon): Monts d'Azur wildlife reserve with bison and wild horses.



Biological reserve of Monts d'Azur

SÉRANON => PEYROULES



7 km



2h



+360 m
-412 m

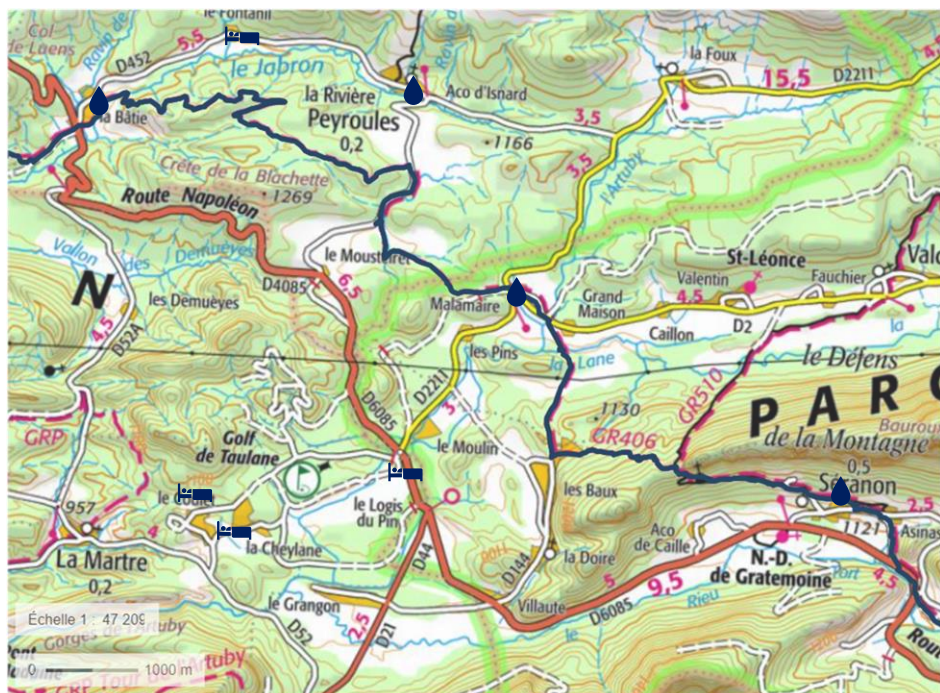
Easy

Start from the parking lot near the town hall, heading for the ruins of old Séranon on the GR. Pass by the ruins of the old *Bastide de Broudet*, Napoleon's bivouac area, then reach the church by the road before climbing up to pass the *Chapelle Sainte-Brigitte*. The route offers fine views over the Séranon plain and the *Notre-Dame-de-Gratemoine* chapel.

At the ruins of old Séranon, if you wish to shop for groceries, you can take the footpath down towards the *Doire* then *Villaute* and rejoin the route at the hamlet of *Les Baux*.

The route leads to a bucolic plain just before the river ford, where the horses can cool off. On foot, cross the footbridge and, as you leave the meadow, turn left onto the road to *Malamaire*. After the hamlet, at the crossroads with the D2/D2211 (be careful!), turn right towards *Saint-Auban* and go up a few meters to join a forest path opposite towards Peyroules. If you'd like to stop for lunch or an overnight stay, continue on to Peyroules.

Alternatively, turn left towards La Garde via *Trébec* and continue the route to Castellane (17 km further on).





Alternative: You can spend an extra day on this stage and make a detour to the village of La Martre and the *Chapelle de Saint-Pierre-en-Demueyes*. Discover the unique Var stage!

On a wide path, follow the *Golf de Taulane*, arriving at l'Adrech, follow the yellow and white markings to the village of La Martre. At the end of La Martre, take the *Chemin de Demueyes*, and after a few kilometers, turn right onto the green-and-white trail to *Coulet de La Martre*.



USEFUL INFORMATION



La Martre and Artuby tourism office
www.lacs-gorges-verdon.fr
+33 4 94 84 81 68



Equestrian farm La Grande Bastide
2305 Route de la Rivière
04120 Peyroules
+33 6 14 09 14 81



Halte Napoléon
RD 6085 Le Logis du Pin
+33 4 94 60 47 90
+33 6 09 09 09 93



La Bastide du Logis du Pin
Chemin du Coulet, 83840 La Martre
+33 4 94 92 59 85
+33 6 31 63 13 04



Valderoute
GPS: 43°47'39.0"N 6°39'36.1"E



Peyroules
GPS: 43°48'54.4"N 6°38'39.2"E



06750 Séranon
83840 La Martre



La Bâtie
GPS: 43°48'45.6"N 6°36'01.5"E





DO NOT MISS!



On **March the 2nd**, after passing through Grasse, Saint-Vallier-de-Thiery and Escragnoles, Napoleon and his cavalymen spent the night at the Bastide de Broudet in Séranon. Don't miss the Bastide ruins...

- ✓ **Chapelle Sainte-Brigitte**: Probably built in the late 16th, early 17th centuries.
- ✓ **Ruines du vieux Séranon**: With the fear of invasion banished, the inhabitants moved to the plains, which were more hospitable and better suited to farming.
- ✓ **La Doire**: Saint-Louis church (18th-19th century) and lavoir.
- ✓ **Malamaire**: San Juan Lou Burlou chapel.



TO SEE AROUND!



Bust Napoleon - La Martre
©LGV Tourisme



On **March the 3rd**, before continuing on to Castellane, Napoleon, accompanied by Empire generals Cambronne and Bertrand, stopped off at the *Logis du Pin* inn in La Martre. One of the oldest inns in France. Here you'll find a bust of Napoleon erected by Abbé Jules Chaperon to commemorate his arrival.

- ✓ **Le pont de la Serre**: Called *Pont de Madame*, built in the 18th century, and set off for an unexpected encounter with the *Gorges de l'Artuby*.
- ✓ **Saint-Pierre-en-Demueyes Chapel**: The 17th-century chapel seems timeless and remains a place of pilgrimage. Ideal for picnics.



Saint-Pierre-en-Demueyes chapel - La Martre
©Ph. Murtas



PEYROULES => CASTELLANE



17.3 km



4h30



+443 m
-900 m

Easy

From Peyroules town hall (1040 m), follow the D452 towards Malamaire as far as the *Aco d'Isnard* crossroads. Turn right onto a small road up to the plateau, and take the path to *Le Plan de l'Arbre* (1090 m). This is the junction with the GR®406 (red and white markings), which you will follow all the way to Castellane. Turn right onto the path leading up to the *Trébec* hill. Cross a wooded plateau and follow a path back down to the hamlet of *La Bâtie* (945 m).

Cross the RN85 (be careful!) and take the small road opposite. After 600 m, turn right onto an undergrowth path leading up to the *Sébet* hill. Cross a plateau, return to the *Col de Sébet* and follow the path down through the undergrowth on the other side. Join the minor road *D 132*. Follow it to the right, cutting off once before reaching the village of La Garde via a dirt path on the left. Pass the *Notre-Dame des Ormeaux* church and picnic area.

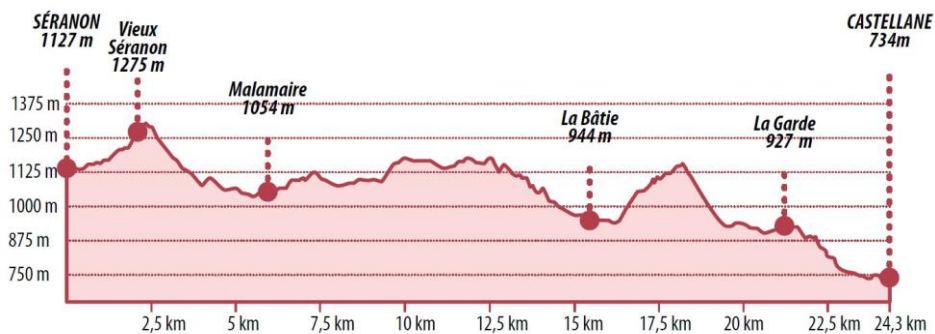
At *La Fontaine* (925 m), turn left through the village of La Garde onto the Route Napoléon. Follow the road as far as the *Saint-Sébastien* chapel, then turn left onto a path leading down to the plain. At the *La Ferme* campsite, follow the small access road that joins the Route Napoléon N85 at *L'hubac de la Lagne*. Follow the N85 and cross the Verdon at *Pont du Roc* to enter Castellane.



Sébet sheepfold, before the pass - ©M. Dalmasso



QR code or click on the map for further information



USEFUL INFORMATION



Castellane tourism office
+33 4 92 83 61 14
www.verdontourisme.com



La Bastide de Petra
Hubac de la Lagne
04120 Castellane
+33 6 64 23 89 29



Equestrian farm of Pesquier
Plan de La Palud
04120 Castellane
+33 6 09 96 75 16



Horses only
La chevauchée du Verdon
04120 La Garde
+33 6 10 80 03 72



La Bâtie 04120
GPS: 43°48'45.6"N 6°36'01.5"E



Fabrice Deprey +33 6 83 13 72 85
contact@fabricedeprey.fr
David Porterie +33 6 25 08 26 52
david.porterie@sfr.fr



La Garde 04120
GPS: 43°49'48.3"N 6°33'26.8"E



Castellane 04120
GPS: 43°50'45.6"N 6°30'52.7"E



Verdon veterinary clinic
Av. Le Plan de la Palud
04120 Castellane
+33 4 92 83 00 00



04120 Castellane



La Garde fountain - Google view



DO NOT MISS!



On **March 3rd 1815**, Napoleon entered Castellane via the Roc bridge. He discovered a small Provencal town enclosed within its ramparts. The Emperor dined with sub-prefect Francoul and mayor Saint-Martin at the sub-prefecture (memorial plaque on the façade of the building; 34 rue Nationale). In the early afternoon, he left

Castellane in the snow and climbed to the *Col des Lèques*. His troops bivouac at *Taulanne*.



- ✓ **La Garde:** Notre-Dame-des-Ormeaux church (13th century), former Sébet sheepfold.
- ✓ **Castellane:** Guided tour of the town, Chapelle Notre-Dame du Roc (listed site), Pont du Roc, former sub-prefecture where Napoleon lunched on March 3, 1815.



TO SEE AROUND!



Sirènes fossiles

©maison nature patrimoines

- ✓ **Verdon canyon and Lake Castillon:** Water-based activities (rafting, canyoning, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, etc.) and aerial activities (paragliding, bungee jumping, etc.).
- ✓ **Réserve Naturelle Géologique de Haute-Provence:** A veritable open-air museum, Europe's largest geological nature reserve, covering an area of 2,000 km². 8 km from Castellane, at the Col des Lèques, lies the [Vallée des Sirènes fossiles](#).



CASTELLANE =>SENEZ



18 km



5h



+870 m
-810 m

Medium

Departure from Castellane (700 m) from the downtown *boulodrome* parking lot. Join the *Pont du Verdon* and follow the signs for *La Colle*. Leave Castellane along the banks of the Verdon (shared markings with GR® 406 along the entire route).

La Colle (770 m) - Cross the hamlet of *La Colle* and climb to *Brayal*. Continue along an undergrowth path up to *Les Combes*, then take the path to *Les Passages* and *La Bonne Font*.

La Bonne Font (1,208 m) - Descend gradually to the picturesque hamlet of *Taulanne* (bivouac site for Napoleon's troops).

Taulanne (1,050 m) This is where Napoleon's troops bivouacked - follow the road for a few meters (be careful!) then take the bridge and climb to the left above the *Roche Percée* clues along the historic route taken by Napoleon in 1815 (viewpoint)

Oratoire St-Pierre - Take a narrow path down the north-facing slope of the mountain. Pass an ancient Roman milestone dating from the 3rd century, a reminder of the existence of the "*Via Salinae*", used to transport salt between Castellane and Digne-les-Bains. Continue downhill through the *Bois de Saint-Pierre*, join a small road and continue downhill along it until you reach the small road to *Blieux* (D21). Turn left.

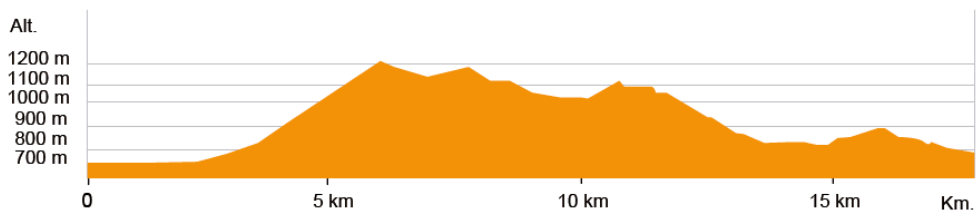
Pont de Blieux (818 m) - Cross the bridge and turn right through the hamlet of *La Maurelière* to reach the village of Senez via *Les Aires*.



Senez - ©M. Dalmasso



QR code or click on the map for further information



USEFUL INFORMATION



Gîte Communal de Senez
Place Coulet, 04330 Senez
+33 6 30 87 42 21



Bistrot de Pays L'Azimut
36 Les Ferais, 04330 Senez
+33 6 74 43 67 13



Fontaine de Senez
83 Pl. de la Fontaine
04330 Senez
GPS: 43°54'48.3"N 6°24'29.2"E



Parking camping-cars
04120 Castellane
GPS: 43°50'45.6"N 6°30'52.7"E



DO NOT MISS!



The bivouac in the picturesque hamlet of Taulanne. Napoleon's troops stopped here on March the 3rd, 1815 to spend the night.

- ✓ **Roman military milestone:** This milestone is located by the roadside in the cross valley of Taulanne, 607 miles from Rome. It dates from the reign of Caracalla (between 211 and 217 AD). It is the 6th milestone on the "Via Salinae" between Castellane and Digne-les-Bains. This Roman road was used to transport salt from the Castellane salt spring. The Latin inscriptions engraved on it have been translated into 1993: "The emperor Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antonin Augustus, pious, happy, very great conqueror of the Parthians, very great conqueror of the Bretons, clothed in his sixteenth tribunic power, consul for the fourth time, father of the fatherland, proconsul, had this road, damaged by the ravages of time, restored by the care of Julius Honoratus, procurator of the emperor, former primipile. Six miles."
- ✓ **Senez:** Notre-Dame de l'Assomption fountain and cathedral (16th century) and sundial (17th century)).



Roman military milestone
©ACRIAM



SENEZ => LA CLAPPE



20,7 km



5h



+1020 m
-760 m

Difficult

Senez (780 m) - Leave Senez on the minor road of the *Melle* cross valley, then take the path on the right leading to the *Chaurits* farm (a shared route with the GR® 406 until the foot of the *Col du Corobin*). Pass through the hamlet of *Le Riou d'Ourgeas* and then *La Grande Bastide*. Turn right down the *Asse* valley to Barrême. Cross the *Asse de Blieux* river by the footbridge into Barrême. **Warning:** in the event of a storm, the river's volume can be multiplied by 100.

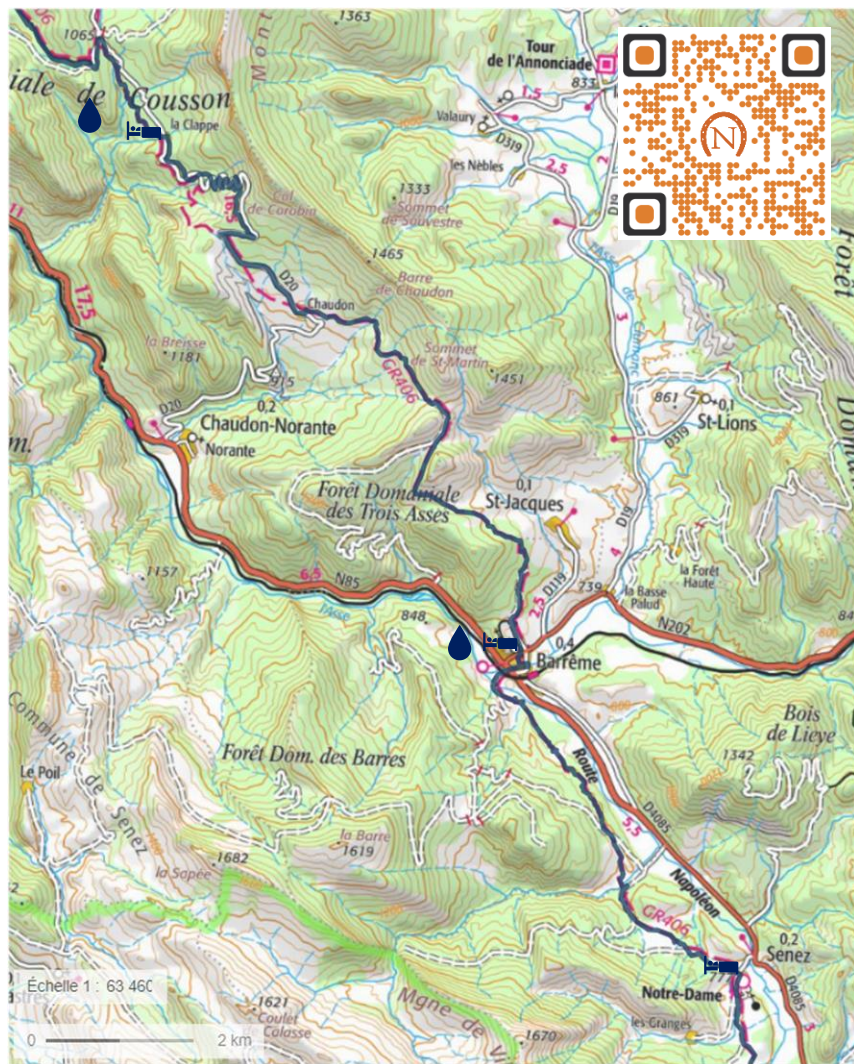
Barrême (721 m) - In Barrême, pass the *Ammonite* fountain, then the house of Judge Tartanson, where Napoleon slept on March 3. Go through the village and up the small road, past *Les Vignes* and *Le Vignal*, then take the path (you can also go over the hill, via the *Oratoire Saint Jean Baptiste*). Follow the path on the left up to *Entre Puy* and around the *Pied Marcellin* summit, then *La Gardivoire* to the pass.

Chaudon pass (1,224 m) - From the pass, continue along the edge of the Chaudon bar to cross the two ravines and descend to the hamlet of Chaudon via the *Arène* spring. At the hamlet, take the road D20, pass the *Col du Corobin* and you'll arrive at La Clappe...

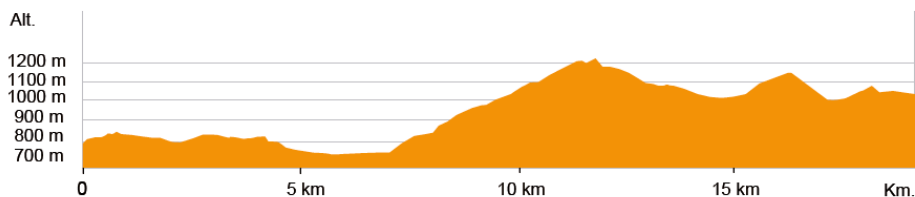
WARNING: do not follow the GR path, which is a narrow and then steep path!



Chaudon pass - ©M. Dalmasso



QR code or click on the map for further information



USEFUL INFORMATION



Saint-André-les-Alpes tourism office
+33 4 92 89 02 39



Horses only
Fabienne Mey (Mairie Barrême)
+33 4 92 34 20 04



Stopover lodge l'Agnelun
Le Bourg, 04330 Barrême
+33 6 82 09 13 49



Domaine de la Clappe
RD20, 04330 Chaudon-Norante
+33 6 21 31 39 10
(not availability on weekend)



83 Pl. de la Fontaine,
04330 Senez
GPS: 43°54'48.3"N 6°24'29.2"E
Rivers and streams lie in your path
on this stage



Place François Beraud,
04330 Barrême
GPS: 43°57'13.9"N 6°22'10.5"E
04330 Barrême



Arriving to Barrême - ©M. Dalmasso



DO NOT MISS!



Barrême: On **March 3**, when Napoleon arrived at 8 p.m., the streets were lit up and the entire population was waiting for him. He talks to the Judge, the Mayor and his advisors. Cambronne takes care of Napoleon's meal. To complete the family menu at Judge Tartanson's, vegetable soup and cod dish, Cambronne orders a roast kid from the *Auberge du Cheval-Blanc*, run by Joseph Abbès, as well as fruit and jams. Wanting to compensate Judge Tartanson for the expenses incurred, the latter replied: "I'm not an innkeeper, I don't do bills! Pierre Cambronne leaves five napoleons on the table, along with a note specifying that he will give the servants ten francs. Judge Tartanson's house still exists. There's a small plaque on the gable to commemorate the night.



Barrême: Its museum, the fine lavender distillery, the Pignes tourist train...



La Clappe: On the morning of **March 4**, Napoleon ate an omelette and a bottle of wine at the Gîte de la Clappe. Surprised by the price the innkeeper quoted him, the Emperor asked, "Are eggs so rare here?" "Not eggs, but emperors," replied the innkeeper. After La Clappe, one of the mules stumbled and let slip a trunk containing 200,000 pounds of gold (wasn't the innkeeper right to raise his bill?)



TO SEE AROUND!



- ✓ The **Nummulites fossil site at Saint-Jacques**, north of Barrême. Nummulites, a genus of discoid protozoa (smaller than 30 mm) known mainly in fossil form, played a major role in the formation of geological strata from 65 to 25 million years ago.



LA CLAPPE => DIGNE-LES-BAINS



14,7 km



4h



+511 m
- 1030 m

Medium

La Clappe (1,039 m) - Follow the GR®406, take a small path under the road and reach the *Col de Pierre Basse* through the forest.

Col de Pierre Basse (1,065 m) - Follow the forest trail to the left, pass the *Chemin du Pas de l'âne*, *Les Condamines* and *la Sériège* and reach the small village of Entrages (viewpoint).

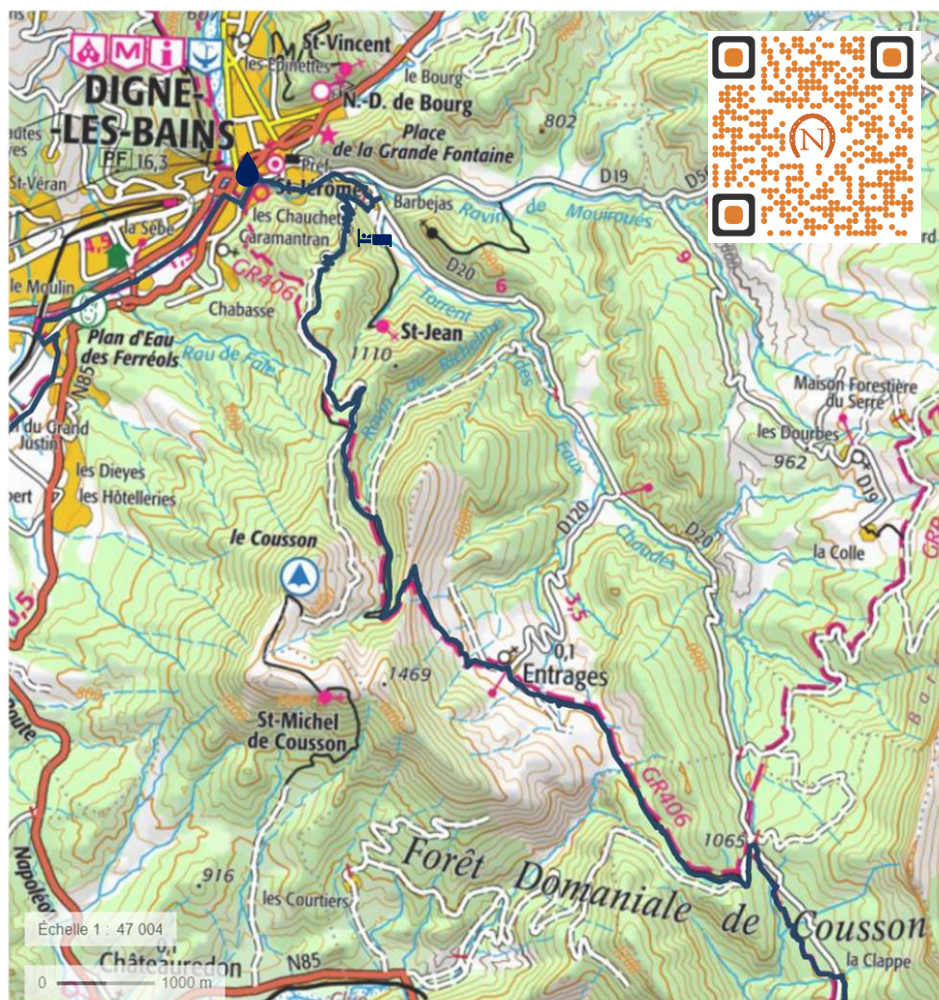
Entrages (962 m) - Turn left onto the road, then left up a path to Pas d'Entrages.

Pas d'Entrages (1,215 m) - Descend along a narrow path that passes the *Ravin de Richelme* to the *Hautes Bâties de Cousson*. The descent continues along an undergrowth path to *Chemin de St Jean*. Continue along the forest trail on the left.

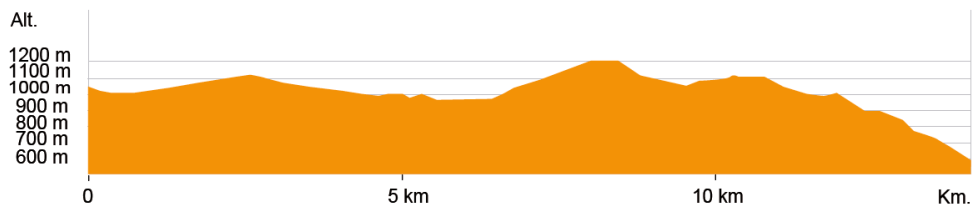
Chemin des Basses Bâties (960 m) - Leave the GR®406, which descends to the left towards *Oreilles d'Anes*, and continue on the equestrian trail (yellow markings). Join the *Chemin de Caramantran* and follow the bridle path down to the *Barbejas* neighborhood.



Entrages pass - ©M. Dalmasso



QR code or click on the map for further information



USEFUL INFORMATION



Tourism office Digne-les-Bains.
+33 4 92 36 62 62
www.dignelesbains-tourisme.com



Theolissat Mélody
5 rte des Fonts de Gaubert
04100 Digne-les-Bains
+33 6 81 46 33 40



Camping les Eaux Chaudes
Route des Thermes
04000 Digne-les-Bains
+33 4 92 32 31 04
+33 6 43 83 58 91



Water trough domaine de la clappe
04330 Chaudon-Norante
GPS: 44°01'70.13 N 6°30'88.78 E



Fountain
04000 Digne-les-Bains
GPS: 44°05'29.5"N 6°13'52.9"E



Fountain du Galoubet
Rte des Dourbes
04000 Digne-les-Bains
GPS: 44°00'22.3"N 6°24'43.1"E



Veterinary Clinic Grand Pont
6 Av. Demontzey, 04000
+33 4 92 31 42 84



04000 Digne-les-Bains



Clinic St Christophe
10 bis Rue Denis Papin, 04000
+33 4 92 31 10 36



Digne-les-Bains - view from the Promenade museum - ©S. Lagier



Digne-les-Bains: arriving at noon on Saturday **March 4, 1815**, market day, Napoleon entered Digne via *rue Mère de Dieu*. He lunched at the former *Hôtel du Petit Paris*, owned by Louis Bausset (commemorative plaque on the façade: 2 rue du Jeu de Paume). Troops camped on the *Pré de Foire* and *Cours Arès*. The Emperor leaves Digne around 3pm via boulevard Gassendi (formerly Chemin Neuf) and the Grand Pont. Préfet Duval, who had been warned of Napoleon's arrival the day before, did not believe in such a rapid progress. With only 32 garrison men, he was unable to put up any armed resistance to the Emperor's progression.



Ammonite slab - Digne
©S. Lagier

> Tie-up line and drinking trough at the bottom of the indoor parking lot of the museum-promenade, *route de Barles*, 2 km north of the town center.

✓ **Digne-les-Bains**, spa town:

- The Gassendi Museum,
- Alexandra David-Neel Foundation,
- Ammonite slab,
- Promenade museum, Geopark Unesco: this large wooded park features themed trails including the Cairns Trail (Land Art), the Butterfly Trail (139 species in mixed alpine and Mediterranean vegetation), a contemporary art museum and a fossil museum.



Promenade museum - Géoparc UNESCO
©S. Lagier

DIGNE-LES-BAINS => MALLEMOISSON



15 km



3h30



+180 m
- 260 m

Very easy

This stage of the Route Napoléon à Cheval is the most urban, with less relief as it winds along the *Bléone* valley bottom. Leaving Digne-les-Bains, the route follows the cycle path along the *Bléone* before reaching the hamlet of Gaubert, the golf course and Mallemoisson via the plain.

Barbejas (615 m) - From the soccer pitch in the Barbejas neighborhood, on the *route des thermes*, head for the center of Digne-les-Bains

Tourist office (600 m) - Follow the cycle path and GR® 406 along the left bank of the *Bléone*. Follow the *Plan d'Eau des Ferréol*. At the railway viaduct, turn left and follow the minor roads across the plain to reach the hamlet of Gaubert (viewpoint).

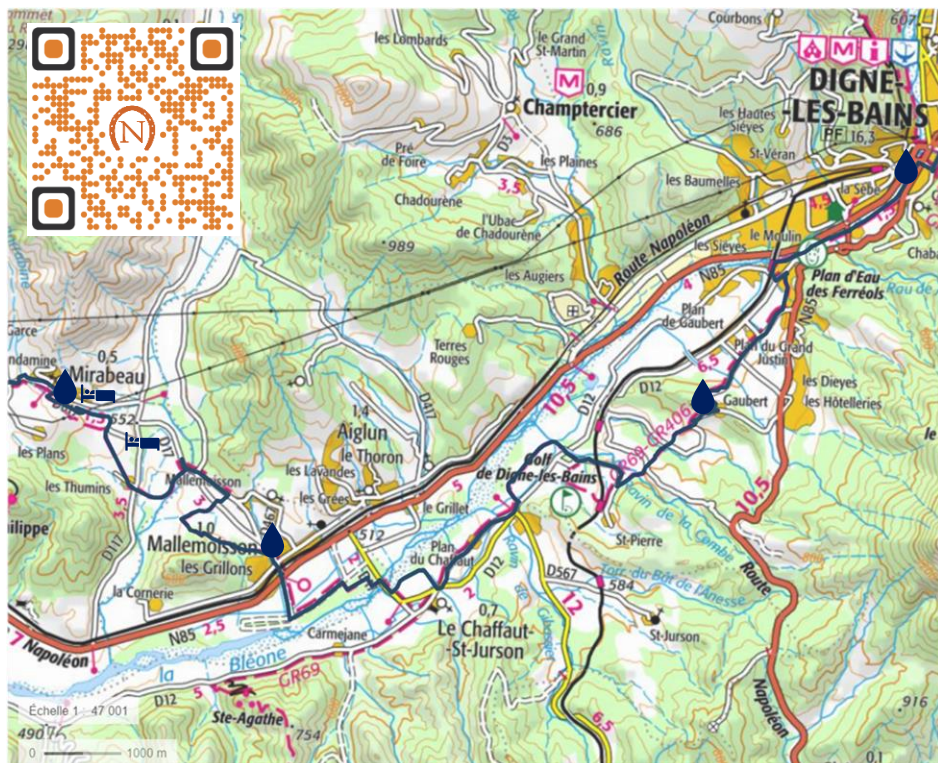
Gaubert (664 m) - Descend the small road on the north side. Leave it at the *Pigeonnier* for a path down to the valley, before climbing back up to the *Route des Fons* and plunging down to the *Chemin de Saint Pierre*. Be careful as you cross two bridges, the first of which you can ford and the second of which you can cross.

Chemin de Saint Pierre (580 m) - At the small road above the hamlet of *Saint-Pierre de Gaubert*, leave the GR and turn right to bypass the golf course. Cross the railroad line and join the *Ravin de la Combe* (junction with the GR®). Pass over the departmental road. At *Les Enfants Perdus*, turn left onto a path through the fields that leads back to the D17. Follow the D17 to the right for 150 m, then take the small road through *Plan du Chaffaut*.

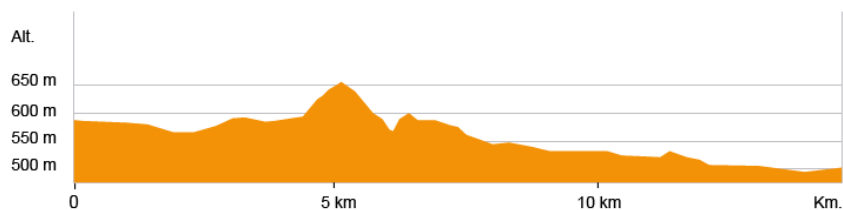
La Distillerie (520 m) - At the entrance to the village of *Le Chaffaut*, leave the GR and take a farm path on the right. Rejoin the GR and the D17 at the *Ravin de Saint-Barthélemy* sign. Follow the road along the D17 and cross the bridge over the *Bléone* on a safe crosswalk. Once over the bridge, turn left into the Mallemoisson state forest. Pass *Les Paluds* and *La Coussière*, then reach the village of Mallemoisson.

The guest houses are in Mirabeau. Continue for a few kilometers, following the description of the next stage.






QR code or click on the map for further information




USEFUL INFORMATION

 Riders
Guest house Les 4 Chemins
4chemins, Les Sales
04510 Mirabeau
+33 4 92 35 68 81

 Horses only
Joël Garcin
Rue Provence, 04510 Mirabeau
+33 4 92 34 69 26
+33 6 58 91 65 96

 Fontaine-lavoir
04000 Digne-les-Bains
GPS: 44°03'57.1"N 6°09'01.8"E

 04510 Mirabeau
GPS: 44°03'46.1"N 6°05'23.3"E

 04510 Le Chaffaut-Saint-Jurson

 Maison de produits du Pays Dignois
La Cornerie, 04510 Mallemoisson
+33 4 92 34 49 56



DO NOT MISS!



- ✓ *Digne-les-Bains*: The waterside, the hamlet of Gaubert, the *train des Pignes*, the Lavandes golf course.
- ✓ *Le Chaffaut*: Picturesque village, 15th-century castle.
- ✓ *Mallemoisson*: Remarkable forest, house of local products.



Digne-les-Bains water parc - ©S. Lagier

MALLEMOISSON => MALIJAI => VOLONNE



25 km



5h



+630 m
- 680 m

Very easy

Mallemoisson (514 m) - From the parking lot beside the RN85, follow the D17 towards *Thoard*, then at *La Combe* take the small road on the left (shared with the GR® 406 to Volonne). After an uphill climb, the path leads back down to the hamlet of Saint-Pons. Turn right and cross the D17 to join the *Chemin de Chabrières*. Follow the path to the left and pass *Champ de Seyne*.

Plan Pourri (528 m) - At the hamlet, cross the *Duyes* stream by the bridge and follow a path to the left along the edge of the fields. Reach the hamlet of *Les Thumins* (road crossing), then the Château. Take the small road on the left up to *Le Colet*. Follow the path to the right, which leads to the village of Mirabeau.

Mirabeau (615 m) - Turn left and cross the village via *Rue de Provence* and *Chemin du Prieuré*. Cross the *Riou* by the bridge and climb to *Les Graniers*. Follow the small road towards *Les Lombards* and continue straight ahead on the dirt path. This path passes a commemorative stele and climbs to the *Col des Pénitents*.

Forêt des Pénitents (731 m) - At the pass, take a path to the left towards *La Pourachère*. Descend along a ridge path and join the *Combe Julienne* trail to the village of Malijai. Cross the RN 85 (be careful!) and follow the *Pescadous* and *Barricade* paths to the heart of the village, where you'll find the Château.

Malijai (425 m) - Turn away from the château and take *Rue André Vagnol*, then *La Draille* to cross the RN 85. After 100 m, take *Avenue Gombert* on your left and continue as far as the *EDF canal* (access to the banks is strictly forbidden). Turn right onto the footpath crossing the *Canal du Moulin* via a footbridge. The path skirts the orchards and rejoins the EDF canal a little further on. Continue straight ahead on the small road passing in front of the *pigeonnier* (fountain) and at the 1st roundabout turn right onto Route Napoléon. Cross the village of *L'Escale* via *Rue Trabuc* and *Place de l'église*. When you reach the D4, cross the road (be careful!) and join the *Tour du Lac* circuit.

Le Crouas (433 m) - Turn right along the path beside *Lac de l'Escale* for 3 km (picnic area). Pass through the reed beds to reach the campsite. Just outside the campsite, at *Ravin de la Grave*, the itinerary leaves the GR® 406, which climbs to the right into the village of Volonne. Continue straight ahead to reach the Volonne bridge.

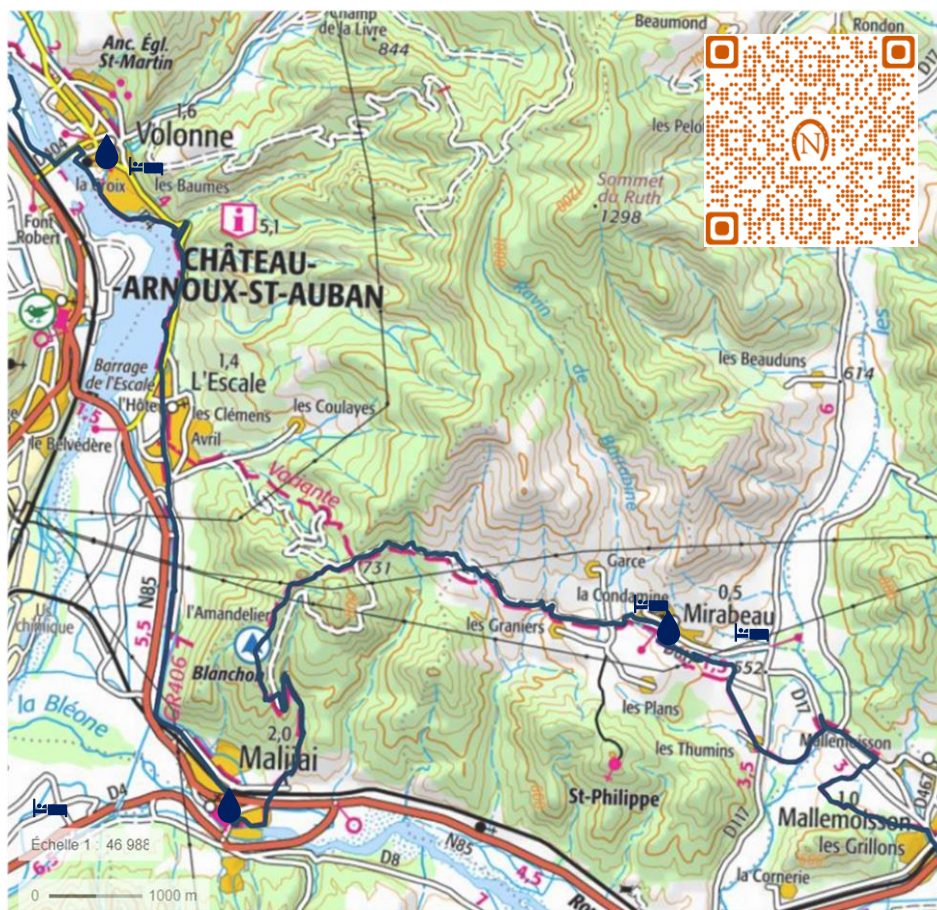




Alternative 1: At Forêt des Pénitents you can continue to the right towards the village of L'Escale. This shortens your route by 7 km.

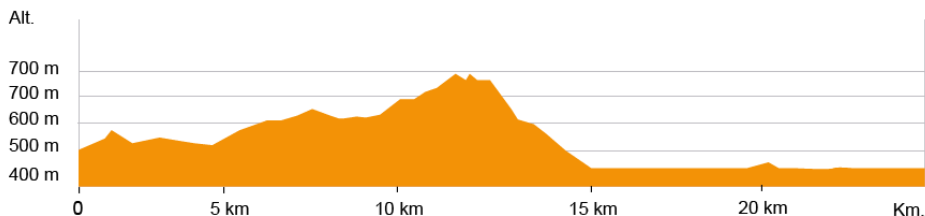


Alternative 2: Another option for this stage is to stop off at Les Mées from Malijai. Horses can stay at the Centre Equestre La Fenière. It's well worth the detour to see the Pénitents des Mées. Please note that this stage will lengthen your journey.



QR code or click on the map for further information





USEFUL INFORMATION

 Gîte de France Campagne du Barri
Chemin des Varzelles
04190 Les Mées
+33 4 92 34 36 93
+33 6 29 02 97 69

 Horses Only
La Fenièrre
04190 Les Mées
+33 4 92 34 34 60

 Camping L'Hippocampe
Mme Rosemary Turin
7 rue de la Durance
04290 Volonne
+33 4 92 33 50 00


 Fontaine Village Mirabeau
04510 Mirabeau
GPS: 44°03'46.0"N 6°05'23.5"E

 Rivière La Bléone
Traversant Malijai

 04190 Les Mées
GPS: 44°01'46.8"N 5°58'41.7"E

 Dr Dast et Maupetit
Av. Charles Richaud
04700 Oraison
+33 4 92 79 91 02

 Dr Jdanoff Patrick
3 avenue Calendal
04160 Chateau-Arnoux
+33 4 92 64 16 61

 04350 Malijai

 04190 Les Mées



Durance valley - ©M. Dalmasso



DO NOT MISS!



Napoleon spent the night of March 4 at the **Château de Malijai**. He slept part of the night in an armchair on the second floor of the château. Fearing a surprise attack by the royalists, he ended the night in the château grounds with his troops (souvenir plaque on the château facade). Château de Malijai was built between 1635 and 1643, and purchased in 1759 by Pierre Vincent Nogier. His grandson Edouard sheltered Napoleon on the evening of March 4, 1815. The interior features a number of gypseries.

> Tying rings in the wall at the end of the château parking lot. Horses can drink from the Bléone.

✓ **Mirabeau:** Château de Fontenelle (15th century)

✓ **L'Escale:** Lake and reedbed, home to over 160 species of birds (Natura 2000 zone, birdwatching site)

✓ **Volonne:** Napoleon mural (fountain); souvenir plaque "Eishi lou 5 de mars 1815, Napoléon 1er P.P" translated as " Here on March 5, 1815 Napoléon 1er passed and pissed " at the village exit; Watchtower (13th century); Aqueduct (16th century). Also worth seeing is the early Romanesque church and the staircase decorated with gypseries



Malijai Chateau - ©OT Digne



TO SEE AROUND!



Les Pénitents - Les Mées - ©S. Lagier

✓ **Les Mées:** The *Pénitents* or Mées rocks, overlooking the village. Poudingue is an unusual rock, formed a few million years ago by the consolidation of rocky debris torn from the Alpine chain and rolled by the Durance River. This 2.5 km-long geological curiosity overlooks the village.



VOLONNE => PEIPIN => SISTERON



22 km



5h30



+1000 m
- 900 m

Difficult

Reach the Volonne bridge and cross the Durance using the protected crossings (upstream side).

Pont de Volonne (437 m) - Follow the itinerary on the right bank of the Durance upstream through the orchards (red and white markings). The path leads to a viaduct bridge, which you can bypass on the left. Continue on the main road. At the freeway toll booth, the route passes twice under the railroad bridge and continues into the plain. You will pass a gravel pit. When you reach the road, pass under the freeway and join the *Aire d'Aubignosc*. Turn right and follow the rest area. The route descends into a valley, passes the edge of a field (2 km) and reaches the *Saint Pierre* shopping area.

Saint- Pierre (455 m) - Turn left, cross the industrial zone and at the roundabout reach the village of Peipin on the D703. Leave the road and take a footpath on the left to return to the village via *Grand rue*.

Peipin Place du Bon Vent (490 m) - At the roundabout (junction with the GR®653D to *Santiago de Compostela*), take the 1st right and cross the D703. Go straight ahead to reach the hamlet of Les Granges. At the crossroads, take the *chemin de Valbelle* rising to the right towards *Pas de Peipin*. Follow the path up the hill until 200 m before the crest. Take the path on the right to reach the highest point of the itinerary.

Pas de Peipin (1,030 m) - Descend along the trail to the right. Pass the *Crête de Chapage* and descend to the Jabron. The trail crosses the dirt path several times before joining the road at *La Loubière*. Turn right to reach the bridge.

Pont du Gournias (471 m) - Cross the road (be careful!) and take the path opposite. Follow the path to the right and climb up to the *Chapelle St Domnin*. Take the road on your right to reach the *Plateau du Thor*.

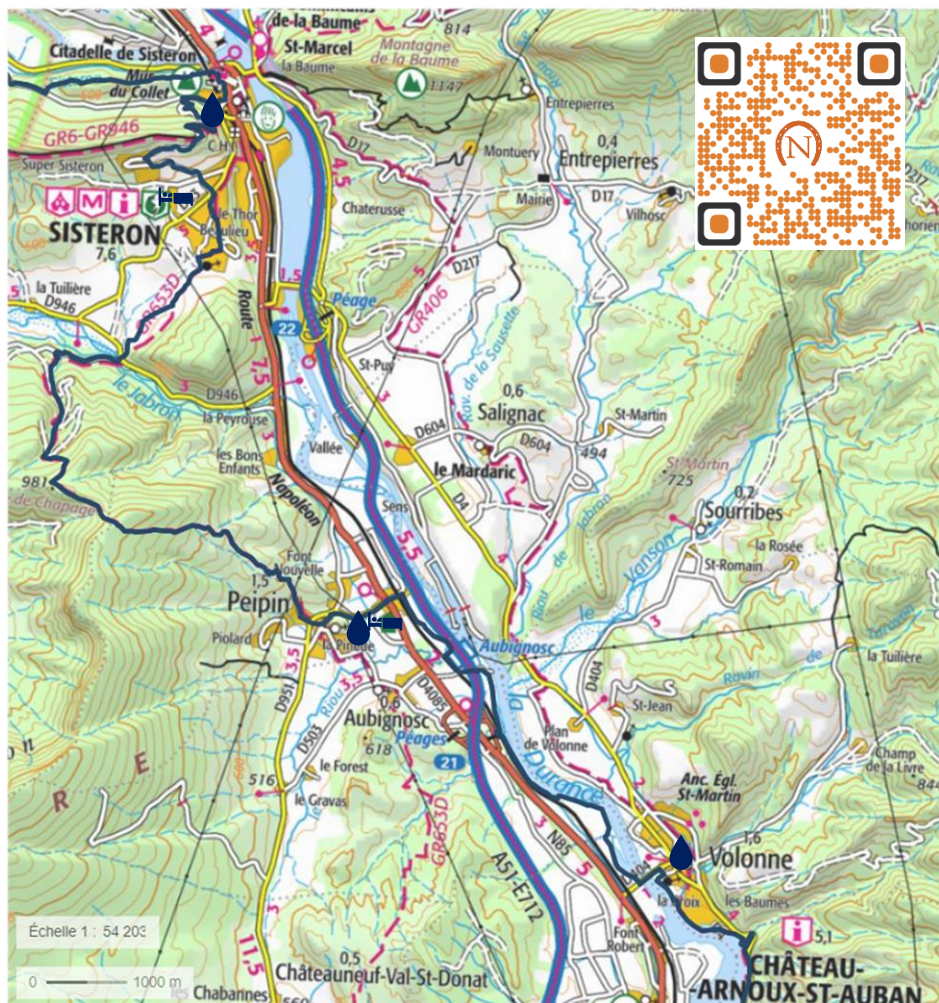
Plateau du Thor (556 m) - Leave the GR® on your right and take the road opposite to *Super Sisteron* (yellow markings). Climb the narrow road between residential areas and fields. At the top, turn right onto the forest path and climb to the top of the hill. Opposite, take the GR®6 path down to Sisteron (red and white). Further down, leave the *Montée du Molard*, which is a little steep for horses, on your right and join the *Ubac des Combes* (yellow). Take the road on your right into Sisteron town center.





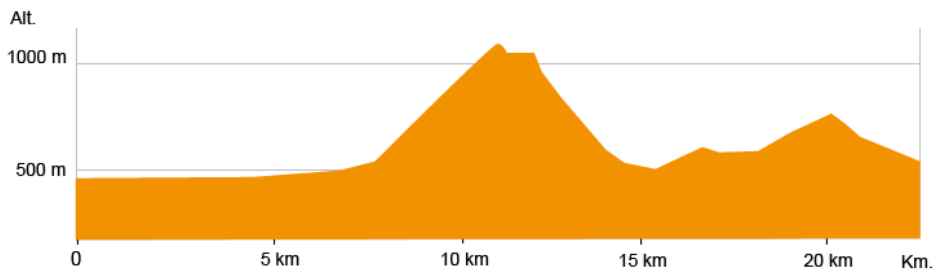
Alternative: If you have chosen to spend the night in the village of Les Mées, and if you have an IGN map, you can cross the Durance, the railroad and the Nationale road (be very careful!). Be careful, this first part is on the road. Then take a Roman road that leads you along steep paths to Peipin (GR653D).

This is a fairly long stage, and we recommend that you cut it in half by spending the night in Peipin.



QR code or click on the map for farther information.





USEFUL INFORMATION



Tourism office Sisteron
www.sisteron-buech.fr
 +33 4 92 61 36 50



Equestrian lodge la Fenièrre
 2 Impasse de la Fenièrre
 04200 Peipin
 +33 4 92 62 44 02
 +33 6 76 97 47 78



Le Claux de Rubis
 140 Av. du Jabron, 04200 Sisteron
 +33 6 85 24 08 47



Dr Manwaring Nicolas
 55 Av J Jaurès, 04200 Sisteron
 +33 4 92 61 02 01



Peipin, La Forge de Banon
 4 rte Durance
 +33 6 83 13 72 85



04290 Volonne



04200 Peipin



04200 Sisteron



40 Rue Victor Heyries
 04290 Volonne
 GPS : 44°06'36.7"N 6°00'53.9"E



Place du Bon Vent
 04200 Peipin
 GPS : 44°08'14.5"N 5°57'25.4"E



04200 Sisteron
 GPS: 44°11'40.8"N 5°56'30.0"E

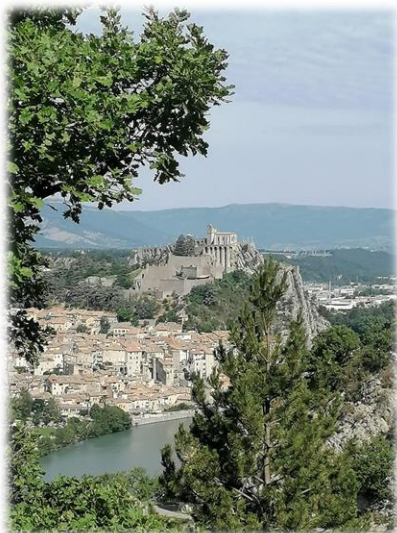


Road to Peipin - ©M. Dalmasso



Volonne is a village with a rich heritage on the banks of the Durance. Napoleon stopped off in Volonne on March 5, 1815 to enjoy a meal of duck with olives at the Poisson d'Or inn. In the center of Volonne village, a mural in front of the fountain commemorates the Emperor's visit.

- ✓ **Volonne:** The early Romanesque church of St-Martin and its staircase decorated with gypseries. 17th-century castle.



Sisteron - ©S. Lagier

the fortress is a collection of works from very different periods: 13th, 14th, 17th (Vauban) and 19th.

- ✓ **Clue de la Durance** Dauphiné gateway

> Wall-mounted attachment rings and fountain next to the parking lot at the entrance to the citadel.



- ✓ An essential stage on the Route Napoléon, **Sisteron** is where the Emperor could have been arrested. Cambronne and his soldiers charged into Sisteron on March 04, 1815, while the Emperor was in Malijai. Encountering no resistance, they returned to give the Emperor the green light. The troops, under the orders of the royalist mayor who had run out of gunpowder, were unable to stop him. Napoleon entered Sisteron at 11 a.m. on March 05, 1815, via the *Pont de la Baume*. Sitting on the parapet, he exclaimed: "Soldiers, we're saved, we're in Paris! He lunched at the Auberge du Bras d'Or in Rue Saunerie, while the town's cries of "Vive l'empereur!

- ✓ **Sisteron citadel:** The rock on which the citadel stands has been fortified since Roman times.

Today,



©S. Lagier

SISTERON => RIBIERS



10.8 km



3h



+193 m

-185 m

Easy

From the city center of Sisteron, take the *Montée de la Citadelle* between the cemetery and the *Citadelle* garden, then westward along the *Chemin de Chambrancon*, which offers fine panoramic views of the Citadelle, *montagne de la Baume* and *montagne de Gache* (to the north). Leave the road before the private property at the end of the road and take the rocky path, marked by a cairn, which leads off to the right at *champ Brancou*. This leads to the road known as *Chemin de la Marquise*: turn right downhill towards Ribiers for 1 km, then fork left onto the path that runs alongside the *Canal de Sisteron* towards *Les Eymarrons*.



Leaving Sisteron - ©M. Dalmasso

Below *Rocher du Turc*, *Rocher de Saint Etienne*, *La Colle* and *Collet*, continue (west/north-west) on the roads of this well-watered plain, where the orchards of the *Alpes de Haute-Durance* grow.

At the *Ovin'Alp* factory, turn left. Leave the road at *Franchironnette* and turn right up a grassy path between the stone houses of this tiny Provencal-style hamlet. As you take the path north towards *Châtillon*, the horses will greet their fellow horses from *Ecurie de Ribiers*! Continue straight on, still heading for Ribiers, along the orchard-lined trails beneath the *Ubac* mountain and the *Jabron* forest.

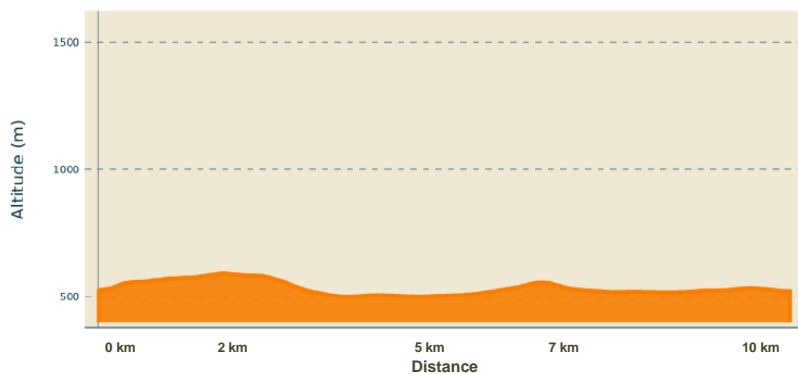
At *Notre-Dame des Faysses*, at the entrance of Ribiers, take the road on the left, skirting the cemetery and continuing due north on the *Route de Préparadis*, which joins the D948, known as the *Route de Laragne*, and passes through Ribiers. Stopover at one of our accommodation in Ribiers.

For a stopover in *Saint-Aubert-Haut*, continue on the D948 beyond Ribiers and turn left after the *Zone d'Activités du Planet*. The equestrian center is well signposted. Alternatively, you can continue on to the village of *Le Poët*.






QR code or click on the map for further information



USFUL INFORMATION

 Gîte Les Coudoulets
La Silve, 04200 Mison
+33 4 92 62 25 22
+33 6 67 53 17 76

 Gîte les Iscles
694 Route de Mison
05300 Ribiers
+33 6 75 04 22 69


 Ecuries Le Peyron
Quartier Saint Aubert
05300 Ribiers
+33 6 19 30 66 66

 Gîte du Boissillon
Les Boissillons Antonaves
05300 Val Buech Méouge
+33 6 82 35 35 54

 05300 Ribiers

 Place de la Fontaine
05300 Val Buëch-Méouge
GPS : 44°13'52.0"N 5°51'24.0"E

 2 Imp. de l'Ancienne École
04200 Mison
GPS : 44°15'51.4"N 5°50'29.5"E

 Aire de camping-car
3 Les Armands S
04200 Mison
GPS : 44°15'55.5"N 5°51'28.1"E



DO NOT MISS!



Ribiers

- ✓ Fountain in the village square: dating from the 16th century, history tells us that in 1550 the Lord of Ribiers granted the inhabitants the large square they enjoy today.
- ✓ *L'Assomption* parish church: this church, formerly a priory, was first built in the third quarter of the 13th century (completed before 1279). It was rebuilt after the Wars of Religion. The entrance porch is Romanesque. The lower part of the bell tower is 13th-century, with a 16th-century side door.



Leaving Ribiers - ©M. Dalmasso

RIBIERS => VENTAVON



22.2 km



5h



+521 m
-428 m

Easy

To continue along the Route Napoléon à Cheval from the center of Ribiers, go down the *Rue des Granges* and continue along the small embankment that runs alongside the *Clarescombes* torrent and the D522, known as the *Route de Mison*. Cross the *Buech* and continue on the D24 to *La Plaine*: the road bends to the left and, in a curve, to the right. Go left down the road, which ends in a grassy path in the middle of the meadows. Continue along the *Buech* for 1km: after a stretch of road under *Le Cugarel* and then a path towards *Les Guillaumesses*, turn right up a dirt path to discover the mysterious atmosphere of the *Bois de Doumenge*.

At the end of the wood, cross the Armands housing estate onto *Chemin de la Forêt*. Beware of poor visibility when crossing the *Gran'Rue*!

After the covered fountain-washhouse, turn right down the *Route de Saint Jean* (North/North-East), where you'll find the orchards. From *Les Combes*, the road becomes a carriageway.

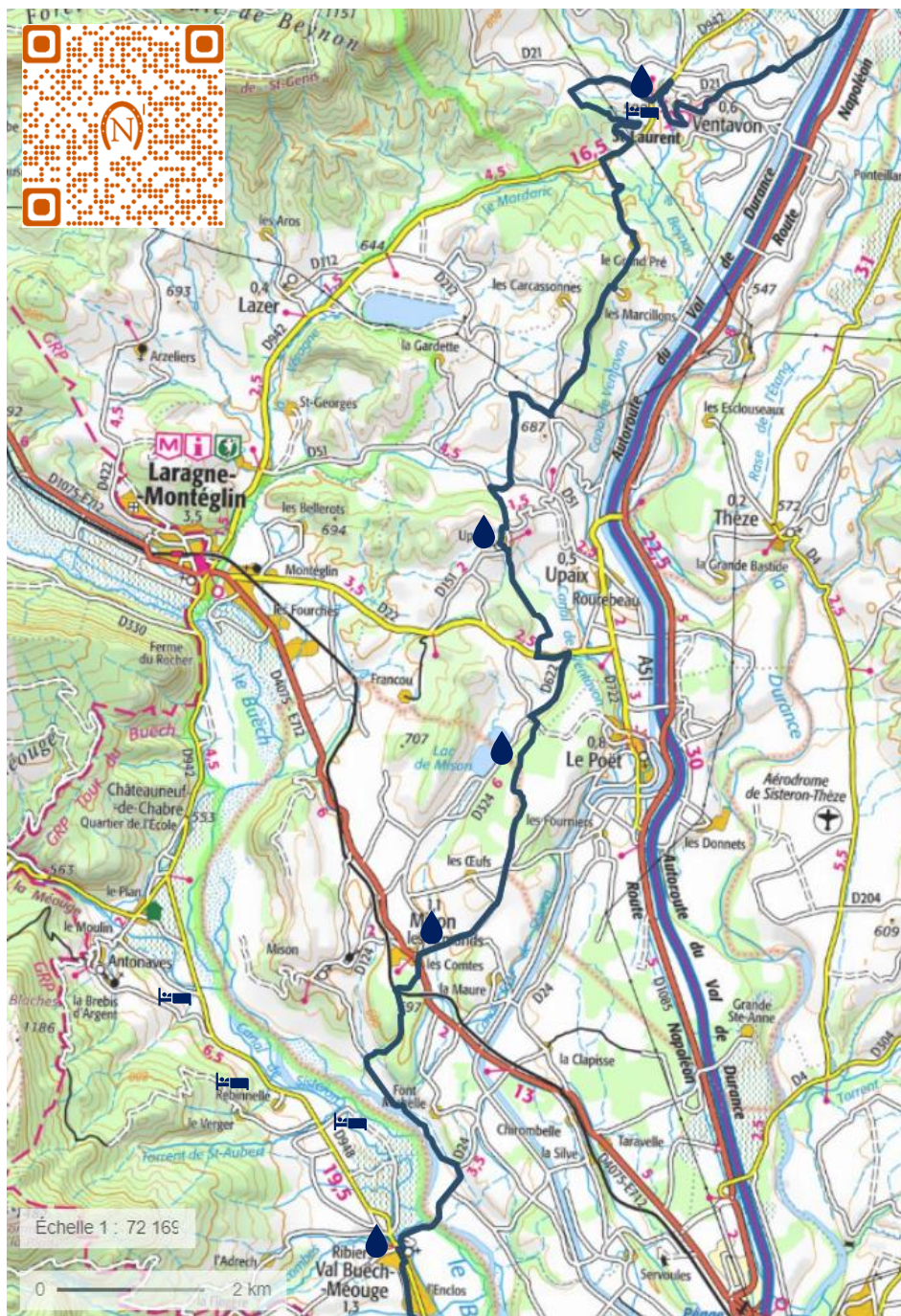
Pass the ruins of *Paillade* and continue due north, overlooking the Mison lake. The path becomes a road and joins the D622. Turn your back on the lake and join the D22. Turn left, then take the first right (north) to *Les Buissons*. At Les Buissons farm, climb the path to the left and continue straight ahead until you reach the path which forks to the right and passes under the cemetery. After the cemetery, continue up this path, which leads to the Upaix church (L and R). Behind the church, detour left to *Place de la Mairie* and visit the village.

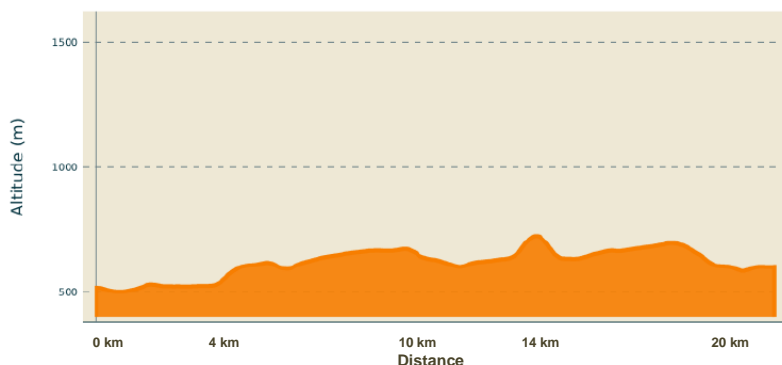
Cross the village of Upaix in the direction of Laragne (north) and walk down the grassy path at the end of the esplanade, equipped with litter garbage cans. Go downhill along the orchards and at the bottom turn right onto the D51 road. At the crow's-foot, continue due north towards Les *Gîtes d'Eliane*, between flocks of sheep, horse pens and orchards.

After *Bourcier*, turn right at the crossroads and, at the cattle farm, turn left (north/north-east) towards *Bois d'Aris*, *Les Marcillons* and Ventavon. This small ridge road offers fine views of cultivated fields and orchards in a hilly landscape. After the small bend in the road at *Les Marcillons*, continue straight on towards Ventavon on the path.

At *Le Grand Pré*, a beautifully restored building and donkeys are another reminder of Provence. At the end of the road, after *Le Trouquet*, turn right onto the D942 for 500m. **Beware:** cars drive fast! Cross the road and stop at *Equiterra/Le Relais du Terrail*, equestrian center and stopover lodge.







USEFUL INFORMATION



Equestrian center Poët
Camping Domaine de Santana
05300 Le Poët
+33 4 92 65 71 34
+33 6 67 28 29 02



Gîte de la Petite Sainte Anne
05300 Le Poët
+33 4 92 65 72 16
+33 6 13 41 16 87



Le Relais du Terrail Equiterria
471 Route de Laragne
05300 Ventavon
+33 6 70 52 19 59
+33 6 32 64 92 43



10 Grand Rue
04200 Mison
GPS : 44°16'03.1"N 5°51'31.3"E



Place de la Mairie
05300 Ventavon
44°22'15.3"N 5°54'21.0"E



Fontaine Upaix
D151, 05300 Upaix
GPS : 44°18'59.5"N 5°52'18.2"E



Relais du Terrail - ©M. Dalmasso



On **March 5th**, a crowd of several hundred people gathered in the commune of Upaix, led by the mayor, César de Saint-Genus, who had remained loyal to the emperor. Napoleon responded to the mayor's welcome with these words: "I know the friendly nature of the Dauphinois. I've been at peace since the hour I set foot on the territory of the Hautes-Alpes".

- ✓ **Le Poët:** Saint-Pierre church.
 - Village center about 4 km from Le Poët accommodation.
- ✓ **Upaix:** Admire the charm of this hilltop village, with its well and old gates; the 1638 Chapelle des pénitents; the former seigneurial residence; the 14th and 17th-century Notre-Dame-de-la-Nativité church; the 14th-century pointed-arch porch; the medieval tower and orientation table.
 - After leaving the horses at the horse tether, climb up to the water tower, now converted into a [Panoramic Tower](#), and enjoy a 360° panoramic view over 126 communes and a number of peaks (Montagne de St Genis, Crêtes de la Selle...), including the Ecrins massif. The area is equipped with several picnic tables and a fountain. You can also watch the horses below.
- ✓ **Ventavon:** The Gothic-style Saint-Laurent church dating from the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the sundial on the wall of the town hall, the Notre-Dame-de-la-Pitié chapel (next to the cemetery), owned by the Tournu de Ventavon family. The village center is full of picturesque buildings. Beautiful views over the Durance.
 - Pont du Beynon: Napoleon unsuccessfully attempted to destroy it, declaring it to be made of gold. Bridge below present-day bridge on RN85, further south..
- ✓ **Mison:** [Mison feudal castle](#) In the 13th century, the Mévouillon family had this fortress built. The building is organized around a central courtyard and four main buildings flanked by square towers. Two gates provided access to the interior. We know that the abandoned castle was already in ruins by the end of the 18th century. It has been undergoing restoration since 2005.



Upaix - ©M. Dalmasso

VENTAVON => LA SAULCE



23.1 km



6h30



+656 m
-647 m

Dificult

From Ventavon, at the sewage treatment plant, continue straight ahead on the C186 forest path up to the village. When you reach the road, turn right towards the cemetery and enjoy the view from the fountain at the foot of this picturesque hilltop village.

Then descend the D21A, before the cemetery (north/north-west) to join the Haute-Durance valley, amid orchards, between the *Pic de Crigne* and the *Canal de Sisteron*, which you follow for 4.5km. At the end, at *Plan de Vitrolles*, the road climbs up on the left and crosses *La Déoule* on the right. Take the first path on the right. At the end of the road, at *Prémien*, turn right and take the first left towards Valença. Just before Valença, a path along the edge of an orchard rises to the left and, as it narrows, becomes a footpath to the small panoramic grassy lookout near the antennas.

Climb up to the heart of the village of Lardier: to the left of the fountain, a path leads to the orientation table, where you can pause to admire the Lardier plateau and the Durance Valley. Continue up the *Route de Foreyssasse*, turning right for *Serre-Botier*, from where you can enjoy a final panoramic view of the Durance Canal, the *Pic de Crigne* and Lardier, with Cézûze behind.

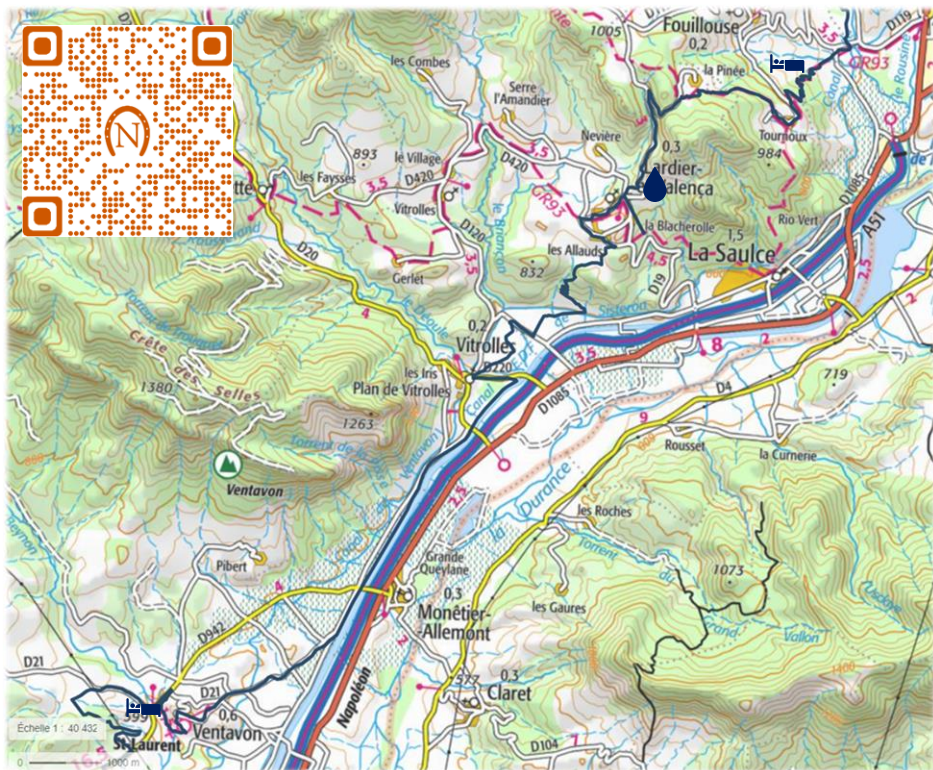
Then, before the antennae, take the path on the right towards a stone house and cross the *Bois de la Pinée* beech forest, following the mountain bike signs. The ridge path offers views to the north of the Cézûze cliffs, Pic de Bure, Vieux Chaillol, etc., and to the south of meadows and orchards. The path leads to a ridge road, offering breathtaking views to the east (Tallard) and south (La Saulce).



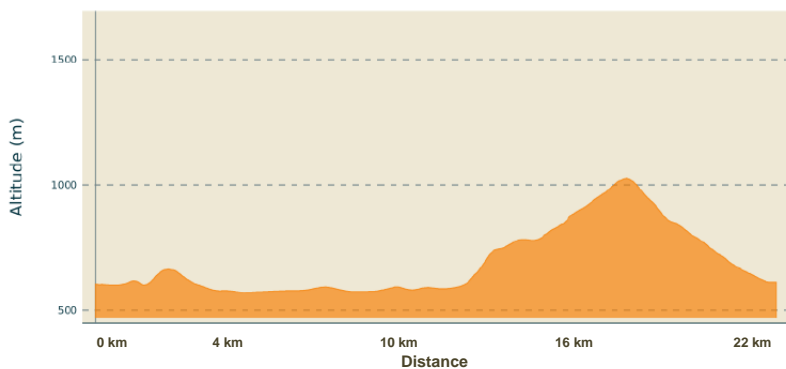
Road to Lardier et Valença - ©B. Fontaine

Go down to the right on an undergrowth path and, at the end of this path which has become a footpath, go down a stretch of road in the middle of orchards and take the track opposite. Wide and soft, even muddy, under the pines, it includes several fords, crosses a secondary road and leads you to the Baudon bridge hitching post, an ideal stopping place: horses can dip their feet or drink the water from the Baudon, graze in the shade of the pines and oaks.





QR code or click on the map for further information



USEFUL INFORMATION



Le Petit Chariot
Gandière, 05110 La Saulce
+33 6 83 36 86 63
+33 4 86 73 97 74



Fontaine de la marie
Plan de Vitrolles
05110 Vitrolles



Lavoir-fontaine de Ventavon
Datant de 1872



05130 Tallard



DO NOT MISS!



Vitrolles: On **March 5th**, it must have been around 6 p.m., and night had fallen, when Napoleon stopped at the Auberge du Vivas in the commune of Vitrolles. The inn was owned by Eugène-François-Auguste d'Arnaud de Vitrolles, appointed Baron by Napoleon in 1812 and Secretary of State to Louis XVIII in 1815. The mayor of Upaix, César de Saint-Genis, who accompanied the emperor, pointed out that he was crossing the lands of a man who, having received everything from his kindness, had contributed to his downfall by the most unworthy means. Napoleon replied, "I want him to know that I paid him a little visit."

- ✓ Orientation table and viewpoint: on the road to the Col de Foureyssasse (1042 m), an orientation table offers a magnificent view of the surrounding area..



Way down to la Saulce - ©M. Dalmasso



TO SEE AROUND!



- ✓ **Tallard:** Tallard's 14th and 16th-century château (featuring a Gothic chapel) and historic town center
 - > It is possible get there on horseback. You can tie horses to trees in the castle grounds.



LA SAULCE => GAP



30.3 km



6h30



+970 m
-447 m

Medium

Join the Tallard road and cross it following the Trespiauhaut road in a Provencal atmosphere, with views of both Céüse and Pic de Bure. Turn right after a villa onto a rolling, sandy path that winds under pine trees, crosses a ford and rejoins the D219, which you cross. Climb up to the picturesque village of Les Parots. At the top of the village, continue straight ahead (north/north-east) on the wide path, which becomes sandy and leads to the road at the Equestrian Center of Les Parots parking lot. Continue due north on the *Route de la Blache* through the orchards, keep straight on and descend on a dirt road in the undergrowth, where you will cross several fords. The road then widens, joins a path (turn left), then joins the *Route de Neffes*, which you follow uphill to the left..



La Tourronde, Gap
©M. Dlamasso

Follow the path due north to the end, then follow the PR through the pine forest, along the campsite fence and the *Merdarel* torrent. When you reach the road, turn right and continue straight ahead. At *Pré Longet*, turn right (north) and continue on the GR93/GRP Between Céüse and Durance. Continue on a path, then a stony footpath which descends, crosses a ford and climbs back up to a small road. Don't take the path opposite, but the road on the left to reach the roundabout for the *Plaine de Lachaup* industrial estate.

At the roundabout, turn left and leave the road, turning left onto a path that climbs into the undergrowth. After a few houses, the path joins the road known as *Chemin des Chênes*, and continue straight on until you reach the crossroads.

To shorten your stage, you can stay at the entrance of Gap at *Ecuries de la Luye*: continue on *Chemin des Chênes*, which turns right. At the crossroads, continue on *chemin des Grands Bois*. At the end, continue on the main road, which forks right and passes the *Chapelle St Jacques de Compostelle*. Cross the Nationale on the green bridge and continue down the main road known as *chemin des Poncets*. Cross over and follow the D900b for 200m, then turn right onto the



D244. Take the *Moulin du Pré* road to *Ecuries de la Luye*. The next day, retrace your steps to the *chemin des Chênes* crossroads.

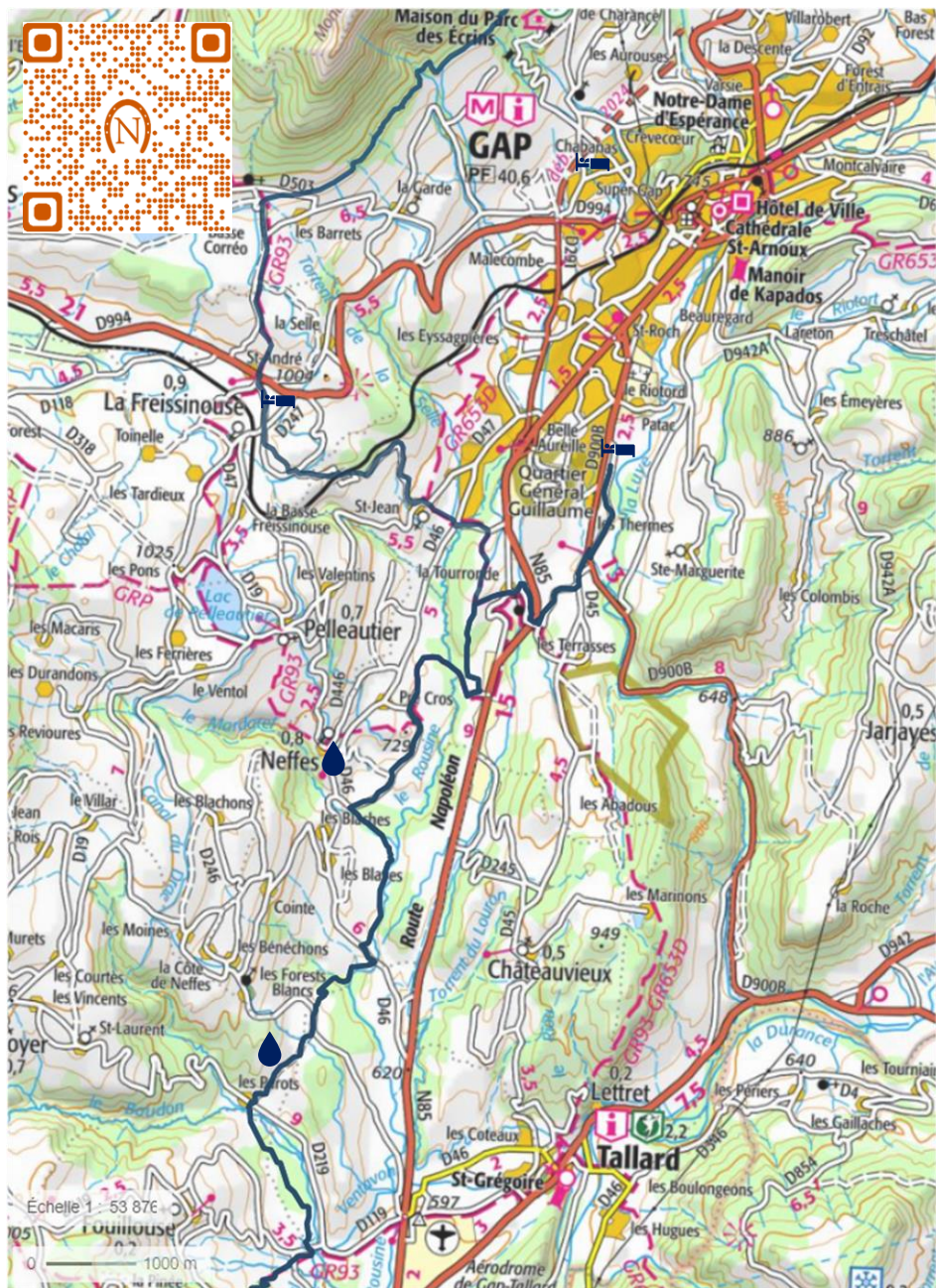
Towards Gap Nord: continue due north. At the last house, the road becomes a stony path that climbs towards *Haute-Tourronde*. On the path known as the *chemin de Baroncelli*, turn left, cross the *Route de Neffes* and continue straight ahead. At the end of the road, a shortcut leads up through the undergrowth to the *Route de St Jean*: go up to the left, then fork right towards *Les Richiers* on the *chemin des Hauts de St Jean* and continue on this road to Les Richiers. At the hamlet, turn right onto the grassy path, then, back on the road, continue straight on northwards and cross (carefully!) the D994.

Go left, skirting the D994 for a short distance, then fork left and continue straight ahead, heading north. Take a break at the Château to admire the buildings, the staircase embedded in the stone wall, the bench... then continue on a road that offers an open view of Céüze, as far as the *Canal du Drac* (known as the *Canal de Gap*). At *Basse Coréo*, take the grassy path to the right towards *Les Jaussauds* on the *Gapençais Balcons* itinerary. At *Les Barrets*, cross the D503 at a picnic area (table, bench, fountain, information panel) and continue along the canal, with its fine old bridges and views of the Pic de Bure and Céüze cliffs. The path has a few stones and roots at torrent du Touvet level.



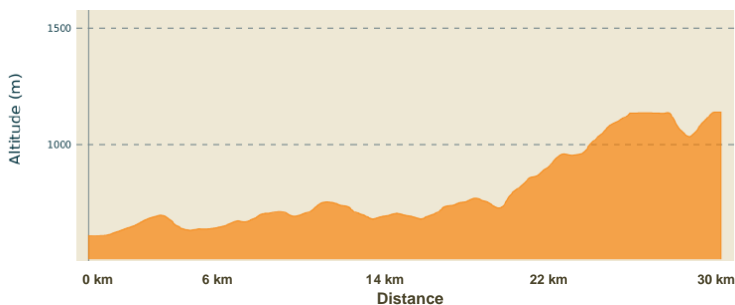
Canal de Gap - ©B. Fontaine

At the Ponchet crossroads, continue along the canal using a few footbridges or, if you want to avoid them, leave the canal bank and head down towards La Garde and the *Mille Pattes* farm (equestrian center and educational farm). Once on the road, turn left three times to go up through the hamlet of Méyères and join the canal, which you will follow in a north-westerly direction. At *Ecluse de l'Œuf*, it's time to branch off for a stopover at Pavillon Carina, or continue along the canal.



QR code or click on the map for further information





USEFUL INFORMATION



Gap tourism office
1 Place Jean Marcellin 05000 Gap
+33 4 92 52 56 56
www.gap-tallard-vallees.fr



Horses only
Les Écuries de La Luye
Route du Moulin-des-Pré
05000 Gap
+33 6 17 18 31 29



Hotel Carina Pavillon
27 route de Chabanas, 05000 Gap
+33 4 92 52 02 73



Une cabane pour deux
Les Brunets, 05000 Gap
+33 6 73 50 98 89



Hotel Azur
05000 La Freissinouse
+33 4 92 57 81 30



Clinique Fauqueux-Maurer
79 Av Embrun 05000 Gap
+33 4 92 52 63 27



Veterinary Clinic Des Ecrins
22 Avenue Emile Didier
05000 Gap
+33 4 92 53 72 76



Dr Justine Villanueva
Equine veterinarian
At home by appointment
Emergencies 24/7
+33 6 22 56 43 91



Clinic Gaillet G et Folacci O
12 Bd de la Libération
05000 Gap
+33 4 92 53 79 00



Dr Finat and Dr Faider
La Vigie, 1 Av F. Mitterand
05000 Gap
+33 4 92 53 76 00



There are several water points on this stage. Some fountains and fords.



Sylvain Brunet,
Res Treschatel, Les Jouberts
05000 Gap
+33 4 92 21 96 14
+33 6 81 55 58 29



As you approach Gap, you'll see a round tower that gives its name to this district of Gap, la Tourronde: erected on a hill in the Middle Ages, it was a landmark for Napoleon, enabling him to gather his troops and arrive triumphantly in the town of Gap. Just below it, after crossing the bridge on the RN 85, is a statue of an eagle, a reminder of the Emperor's passage. Napoleon received a hero's welcome here, spending the night at the Marchand inn on March 5, 1815.

Pierre-Antoine Farnaud, General Secretary of the Prefecture, describes Napoleon's arrival at around ten o'clock in the evening: "The procession arrived; Bonaparte on horseback with some of his generals, covered in his coat, occupied the middle of two lines formed by his soldiers. It was definitely Bonaparte. In fact, his little three-horned hat was enough to convince me."



Auberge Marchand - Gap
©B. Pavie

✓ **Gap**

- The departmental museum (6 avenue Maréchal Foch): contemporary art, photography, music, plastic arts, archaeology, ornithology, temporary exhibitions, local history.
- Eymery Barn (historic center): contemporary art exhibitions.
- La chapelle des Pénitents Blancs: built in 1846, now a concert hall.
- The cathedral (2 place Saint- Arnoux), built between 1866 and 1905, features the remains of a pagan temple and the 3rd-4th-century church of Saint-Démètre, an ancient aqueduct and the 3rd-century ramparts that encircled the Gallo-Roman city. The cathedral is a harmonious blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles, with Byzantine influences and the art of polychromy.



Emperor's Eagle - Gap
©B. Pavie

GAP => LE NOYER



34 km



8h30



+1232 m
-1059 m

Difficult



Canal de Gap - ©B. Fontaine

Continue along the canal, where you'll enjoy fine views, especially from the picnic area, until you come to a hairpin bend on the road to Les Bassets.

Turn left onto the road and continue straight ahead, due north, towards Bayard. Pass the wooden cross and admire the view of the Charance gap, Col du Tourrond and Mont Colombis. Fork left towards Les Sérigues and Les Brunets on a road/path that winds upwards, taking in the view of the Gapençais basin, the tête de Clappe, the Chapeau de Napoléon, the Puy de

Manse, the Piolit, the Aiguilles de Chabrière, the Saint Mens hill, the Avance with Mont Colombis and the peaks of the Massif des Ecrins. Climb to the Brunets cross (with the option of a stopover at *Une cabane pour deux*).

Take the Brunets Forest Road (D54) to the *Col de Gleize*, between the Courmian and Gleize peaks. Take the wide, flat, grassy path marked PR to the right of the Cabane de Folletière, towards *Notre-Dame de Bois Vert*, below the Pic de l'Aiguille. The path joins the *Route Forestière de Lauzon* after a sharp bend and continues through the larch forest.

At *Clot du Lauzon*, continue on this pleasant main path towards Lauzon and the resort of Laye, where the view of the Bayard plateau and Champsaurin bocage is breathtaking. As you

cross the ski paths, enjoy the view of Vieux Chaillol opposite. Continue towards the *Coulée des Adroits* and head for La Cuque. Continue in the direction of *Clot des Fascines* on the charming undergrowth path of *La Cuque*.



Col de Gleize - Gap - ©B. Fontaine

Follow the signs for *Sagnassou* on the La Cuque path, then at Sagnassou continue on a flat, grassy path to *Notre Dame du Bois Vert*, but at Les Croussières follow the signs for La Fare, Laye, Les Chaumattes (not Notre Dame de Bois Vert).



At the bottom of the path, turn left towards La Fare and Les Selliers on a wide, gravelled path that offers fine views of the opposite slope (Saint Bonnet en Champsaur, le Vieux and le Petit Chaillol). At Les Selliers, continue towards La Fare and Les Farelles. The footbridge over the torrent is easy to cross before arriving at Les Farelles (fountain).

Before leaving the hamlet of Les Farelles, take the path to the left, through the undergrowth, which is closed to motorized vehicles and leads to *Notre-Dame de Bois Vert*. Here, chapel, cemetery, statues, bell tower with exhibition canopy, oratory, cenotaph, fountains, tables and benches plus grass and shade invite you to take a cultural break and/or picnic.

Continue on the forest road to Pignalet, in the *Grand Bois de Poligny*: watch out for the two Canadian crossings (which can be bypassed).

At Pignalet, continue on the main path towards Les Pins and Les Allards: the path gradually becomes wilder.

At Les Pins, turn right down a dark undergrowth path towards Les Bruyères (Route Napoléon logo).

At Les Bruyères, continue towards Preyts and Bouillons. Following the meadows, you'll enjoy a breathtaking view of the Faraut mountain and its characteristic breach..

At Preyts et Bouillons, turn left towards Fournache. When you reach the Grand Bois forest road, turn left up 2 hairpin bends, then right down into the undergrowth on a carpet of dead leaves. In the wood, at the "Y" with 2 equivalent paths, take the one on the left and rejoin the road at *La Croix*.

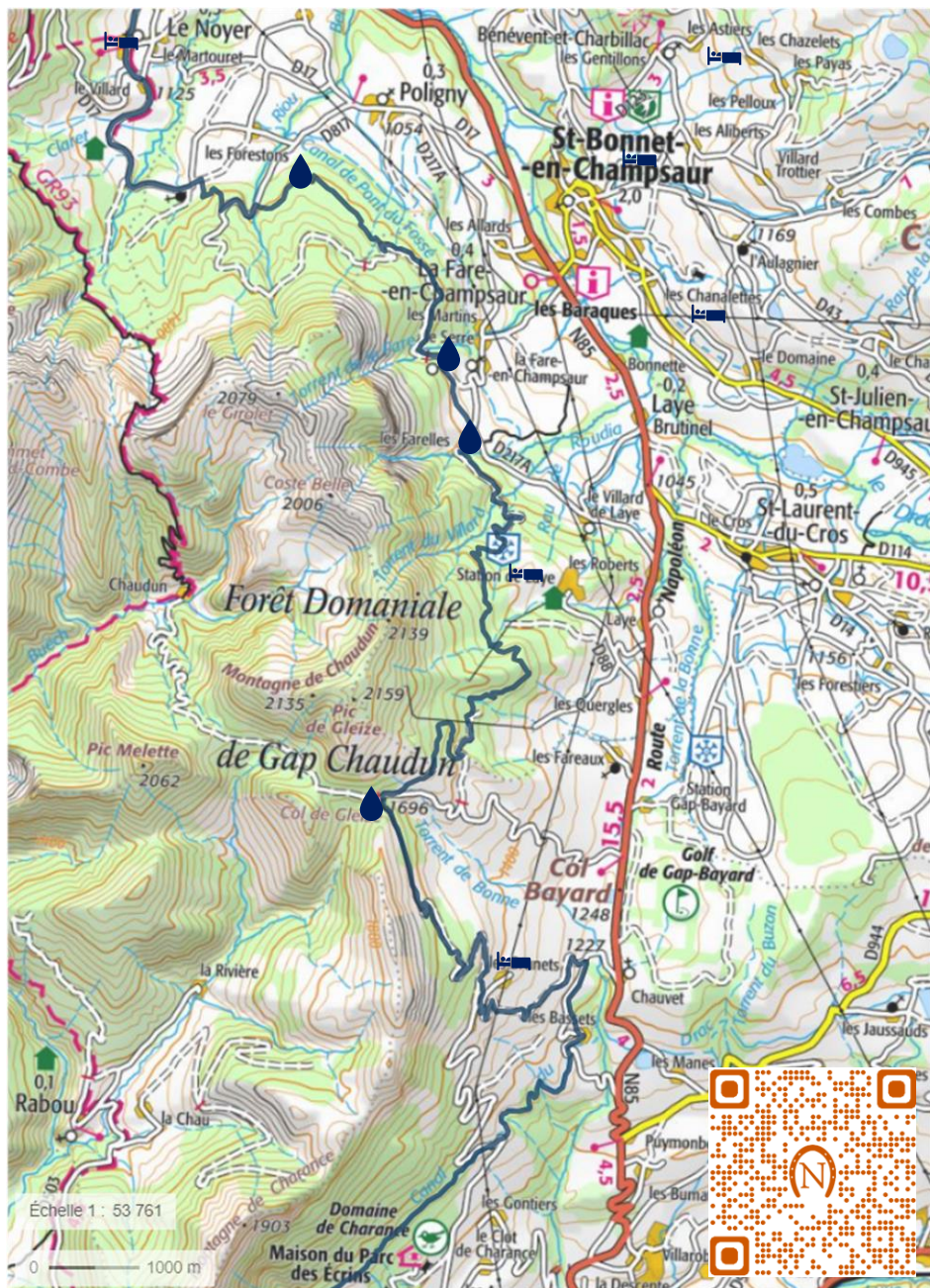


Chapelle Saint-Etienne, Le Veyre - ©M. Dalmasso

Here, turn left and continue to Chapelle St Etienne, a place of pilgrimage since 1685. At the foot of the *Bec de l'Aigle*, the *Tête de la Madeleine* and the *Crête de Liériver*, natural borders with the Dévoluy, tables, benches, monuments and information panels invite you to take a break. Horses will find grass and trees, and you'll notice the contrast between the limestone of Montagne de Faraut and the crystalline rock of the mountain opposite: *Banc du Peyron*.

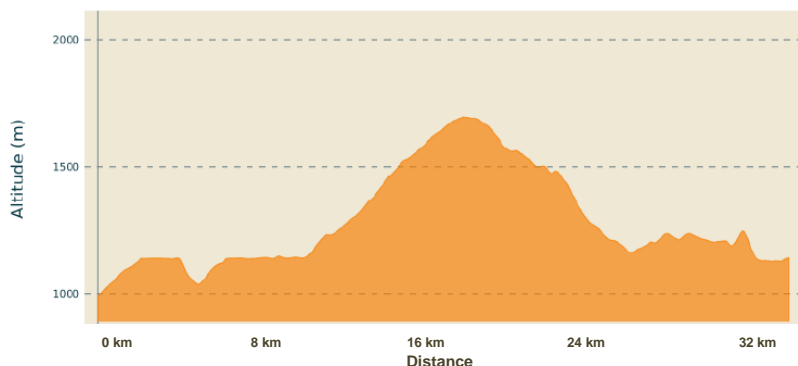
A beautiful stone fountain topped by an antique-inspired metal sculpture of two cherubs carrying a lion-headed jar will refresh you.

Finally, continue along the road towards Le Noyer.



QR code or click on the map for further details.





USEFUL INFORMATION



Une Cabane pour Deux
Les Brunets, 05000 Gap
+33 6 73 50 98 89
www.cabane-pour-deux.fr



Maison l'Aiguille
3, Rue Plein Vert
05500 Laye Station
+33 7 63 99 87 83
+33 6 56 68 34 84



Riders only
La Combe Fleurie
43 Route de Chaillol
05500 Saint-Bonnet-en-Champsaur
+33 4 92 50 53 97



Relais équestre de Champsaur
Route de la Riolo,
05500 Saint-Bonnet-en-Champsaur
+33 4 92 50 01 30
+33 6 69 40 41 22



Horses only
Ferme équestre Le Rocher
Les Payas 05500 Saint-Bonnet
+33 4 92 50 54 87



Gîte L'Aventure
Pisançon, 05500 Saint-Bonnet
+33 6 70 01 89 01
+33 4 92 50 50 95



Refuge du Claret,
05500 Le Noyer
+33 6 71 27 40 80
+33 06 74 67 55 77
www.refugeclaretnoyer.fr



Riders only
Comme un Ecrin
Les Barbeyroux Les Richards
05500 Saint-Bonnet-en-Champsaur
+33 4 92 23 17 82



Dr Sionnet Durand Béatrice
19 route des Prés 05000 Gap
+33 6 86 62 60 82



There are several water points on this stage. (visit our website for further details).



05500 Saint-Bonnet-en-Champsaur



On **March 6**, before leaving Gap, Napoleon wrote a proclamation to the inhabitants of the Hautes and Basses Alpes departments at the Marchand inn: "Citizens, I have been deeply touched by all the sentiments you have shown me. Your wishes will be granted. The cause of the Nation will triumph once again. You are right to call me your father; I live only for the honor and happiness of France. My return dispels all your worries [...] In whatever circumstances I may find myself, I shall always remember, with keen interest, all that I saw as I passed through your country."

- ✓ *Refuge Napoléon at col de Manse (now bar/tabac)* Built between 1854 and 1865 under Napoléon III, along with 5 other refuges. The construction was financed by a bequest left by Napoleon to the most mistreated provinces when he passed through in 1815.
- ✓ *Saint-Bonnet-en-Champsaur, (Sanctus Bénétus en 1152):* The city walls were destroyed in 1700, but a few traces remain.
 - The medieval village; the chapelle des Pétètes in the hamlet of Auberie, (it owes its name, which in local dialect means little dolls, to the naive stone statuettes inside (1740-1743)); and the ferme de l'Histoire (hamlet of Pizançon, an eco-museum on the history of Champsaur and Valgaudemar).
- ✓ *Noyer:* You'll find the house where Dominique Villars was born. Born in 1745, he became interested in botany at an early age, before devoting himself to medicine and surgery. Today, the house is an eco-museum dedicated to alpine flora and the botanist's work, with a herbarium, garden and exhibitions. On the 4km Dominique Villars botanical trail, you can read interpretation panels on natural environments, discover plant species and admire a panoramic view of the Champsaur (on foot, duration 2 hrs.).
- ✓ *Refuge Napoléon du Noyer:* Now a renovated bar/restaurant and one of 6 refuges built in the region thanks to Napoleon's gift..



Path to the col du Noyer - ©B. Fontaine

LE NOYER => CORPS



21.1 km



5h



+582 m
-895 m

Medium

At Le Noyer, pass behind the church and continue due north towards the new cemetery as far as Les Escloutous, then follow the signs for Le Plat and Le Glaizil on a flat, wide, fine-gravel path that allows you to make good speed while enjoying an unobstructed view of the surrounding countryside.

At the ford of the torrent du Plat, the path becomes a narrow trail through undergrowth. Continue towards Le Pinet and Pouillardenc, fording the Rif Manel and then the hamlet of Pouillardenc. Continue due north to Le Glaizil, then fork right to La Condamine and Les Meillières. Join the D571 just before the Château de Lesdigières ruins and museum.

Continue due north towards Aspres-Les-Corps, on a flat grassy path at the foot of Rocher des Ducs. Before reaching the road, climb up towards Boutière on the undergrowth path. Admire the *Grande Tête de l'Obiou* before returning down the road and crossing *Le Pont du Loup*, under which flows Le Drac.

At Lapral, take the left-hand path towards Corps and Grimaudais. On this path, when you see two options, turn right (left: landslides). The path leads to the road, turn left for Grimaudais. In Grimaudais, appreciate the charming chapel with its crenellated gable.

Continue straight on towards Corps on a grassy path that becomes a narrow, winding trail overlooking Lac du Sautet. Continue straight on until you reach the *Centre de Vacances La Tuile aux Loups*.

Alternatively, you can stop off at La Grange de Brudour; in this case, don't go to Grimaudais, but continue straight ahead on the road, crossing the N85 to reach the hamlet of Aspres-Les-Corps. Turn right onto the D58 towards the Magnan statue. Leave the D58 at the Brudour junction.

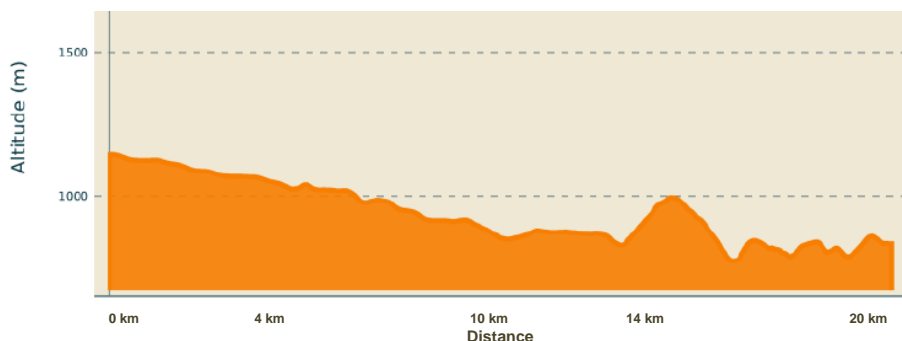


Arriving to the Sautet Lake - ©B. Fontaine



QR code or click on the map for further information.





USEFUL INFORMATION



Tourism office Corps
Grande Rue, 38970 Corps
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Valgaudemar equestrian relay
Le Clos, 05800 Le Glaizil
+33 6 69 40 41 22



La Grange de Brudour
05800 Aspres les Corps
+33 6 71 70 07 82
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Vacation center La Tuile aux Loups
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St Roch - 38970 Corps
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Lac du Sautet camping
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+33 4 76 30 00 97



There are several water points on this stage. (visit our website for further details).



05800 Le Glaizil



DO NOT MISS!



- ✓ **Le Glaizil:** Remains of the Château de Lesdiguières. Built in 1580 by François Bonne (1543-1626), who was appointed leader of the Champsaur Protestants in 1576 and fought many battles, including the capture of the Catholic towns of Gap and Grenoble (1590). He ordered many works in Grenoble, including the Pont-de-Claix. He became Marshal of France in 1609, Duc de Lesdiguières in 1611, and Constable of France after his conversion to Catholicism. In 1600, he built a new residence that would become today's Château de Vizille.

- ✓ **Sautet Lake:** A clear pebble beach, a lake glistening in the sun, the imposing silhouette of the Obiou on the horizon. Still wild and authentic, this reservoir boasts an exceptional panorama. The nautical base offers a wide range of activities accessible to all.



Remains of the chateau de Lesdiguières - ©CDTE05



Corps: March 6, after

crossing the snow-covered Col Bayard. Napoleon arrives in Corps along the old road, and enters through one of the 4 gates, the Porte de Lara. The battalion enters late in the evening and sleeps in a building on Grande Rue, which was the Gendarmerie at the time. A commemorative plaque appears on the building's façade.



This is the last stop before arriving in Grenoble. As soon as he arrived, Napoleon received warm expressions of sympathy, particularly from former soldiers who had come to renew their offers of service.

In the early evening, Cambronne set off for La Mure with a few chasseurs as scouts. In the early hours of **March 7**, the Emperor received a dispatch from Cambronne informing him of the need for his presence further afield..

- ✓ **Napoleon's house at Corps:** This 17th-century building, once home to the gendarmerie, now houses photo exhibitions and other historical information about the town
- ✓ **Belvedere Chapelle Saint-Roch:** Dead-end street on the left as you leave the village, on the road to Gap. Charming little chapel, panoramic view of Lac du Sautet, the dam and the Obiou massif. Orientation table.



TO SEE AROUND!



- ✓ **Notre-Dame de la Salette sanctuary:** A majestic site on the edge of the Ecrins National Park, the surrounding area is rich in Alpine flora and fauna. Nestled deep in the mountain, the panorama of the Dévoluy massif is exceptional.



CORPS => LA MURE



29 km



6h30



+1046 m

-1018 m

Medium

The ride lies between the *Parc du Vercors* and the *Parc des Ecrins*. After the beautiful scenery of Lac du Sautet, you enter the forest, overlooking the Drac (alt. 800-900 m).



Drac river - ©M. Dalmasso

From corps you cross the D537 (route du Sautet) and leave the village on the *Route du Coin*. From the hamlet of Le Coin, continue on *chemin la Grange*. A fairly steep descent, over 17%, to the Sezia river. Cross the river to reach the hamlet of Quet-en-Beaumont, which you cross and continue towards the hamlet of Chambon. The forest becomes less and less present and you pass through numerous hamlets: hamlet of Les Martins, hamlet of Les Souchons (where you take the N85 for a few meters to the left) and then to the right towards the village of Les Meyers, Saint-Laurent-en-Beaumont, Les Miards.

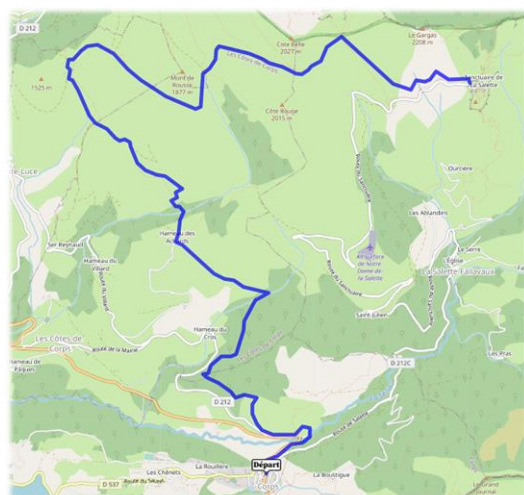
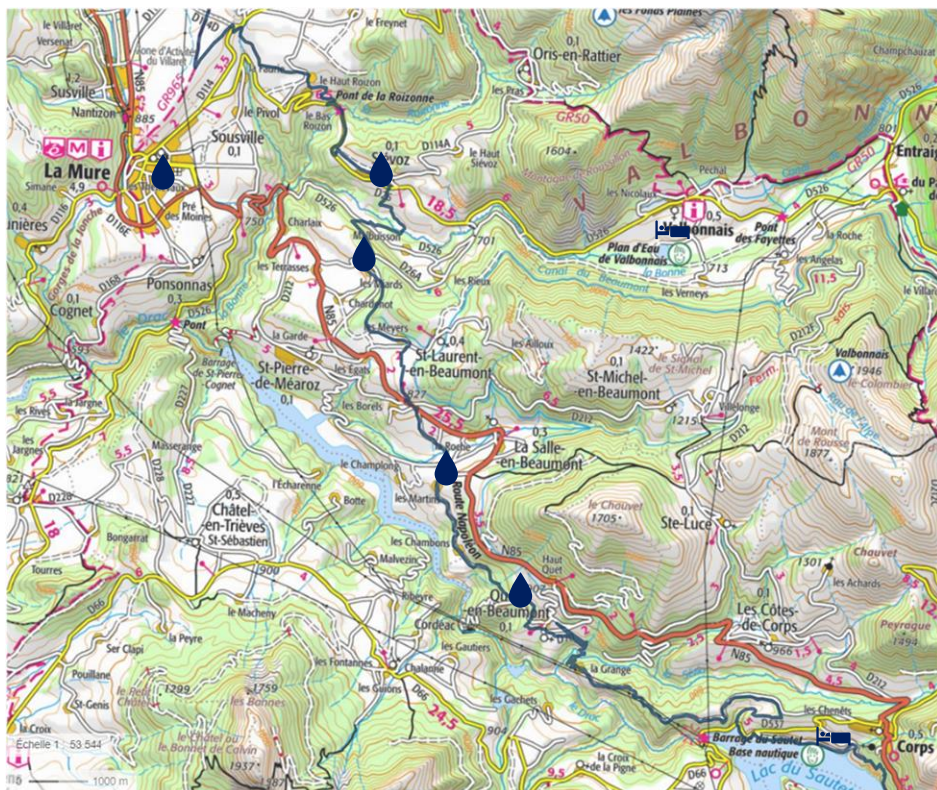
In *Bois Jeton*, you'll find a new, fairly fast descent before Les Chapeaux and the Bonne river. Cross the river to reach the village of Siévoz.

Follow the D26 for 1 km. Turn right off the D26 (just after the Roisonne river). Pass north from the hamlet of Roizon Le Bas through Roizon Le Haut. At the end of the hamlet, take the left-hand path onto an agricultural plateau at 950 m altitude, La Matheysine.

Just before La Mure, you come to a picnic area with an orientation table and *un calvaire*, where Napoleon set foot. An ideal spot for a break!

Descend towards La Mure on the *chemin de La Mure à Saint-Honoré*, which then becomes the *chemin du Calvaire*.





Alternative: you can add an extra day to this stage and make a detour to the sanctuary of Notre-Dame de la Salette.
14 km / +1047 m -214 m / 3 h

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Hameau Les Miards
38350 Saint-Laurent-en-Beaumont
GPS : 44°53'20.4"N 5°50'07.9"E



20 Rue du Bon Pain
38970 Quet-en-Beaumont
GPS : 44°50'00.9"N 5°52'26.5"E



Fontaine
1087 Les Martins
38350 La Salle-en-Beaumont
GPS : 44°51'25.9"N 5°51'04.0"E



214 Rue Siméon Freynet,
38350 Siévoz
GPS : 44°54'11.7"N 5°50'20.7"E



9-5 Rue des Geules Noires,
38350 La Mure
GPS : 44°54'03.6"N 5°47'25.1"E



38970 Corps



38350 La Mure



La Mure - ©G. Cussac



...On **March 7**, as soon as he arrived in La Mure, the Emperor was informed that the King's troops were plotting against him. Cheered by the crowd, the Emperor took advantage of his stopover to have something to eat, and set off for Laffrey without delay!

- ✓ **Matheysin museum:** Tells the story of the local people, who for a long time had a double occupation: farmer, stockbreeder, peddler, glove-maker, nail-maker and miner. It also tells of the Wars of Religion (Duc de Lesdiguières) and the Revolution.
- ✓ **Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption church:** Built between 1887 and 1900 under the direction of the architect of the La Salette sanctuary, Alfred Berruyer.
- ✓ **Calvaire de La Mure:** A group of three crosses on a hill to the north of La Mure, at an altitude of 930m. An orientation table allows you to identify all the surrounding mountains. This is a place steeped in history and memories, where a Gallo-Roman road once ran between Vienne and Montgenèvre..
- ✓ **La Mure town hall:** Built between 1891 and 1892 under Mayor Alfred Chion Ducollet.



La Mure town hall - ©S. Lagier



La Matheysine between La Mure et Laffrey - ©M. Dalmasso

LA MURE => LAFFREY => VIZILLE



32 km



7h



+566 m
-950 m

Medium

From La Mure, retrace your steps from the previous day to the hamlet of Ser Bouvet, which you cross on the *chemin du Tilleul* towards Saint-Honoré (left). From Saint-Honoré you can take the direction of Pierre-Châtel for the alternative route on the west side of the Lacs.

You continue on and ride over the gradually rising plateau, with the lakes below to your left. After passing Pierre-Châtel, you ride between lakes and mountains. Below the peaks of Tabor and Grand-Serre, you follow the stream flowing from Lac de Laffrey, Petichet and Pierre Châtel.

Arriving at the hamlet of Les Troussiers, take the *chemin* which runs alongside the *Route des Thémeaux* on the lake side, until you reach the hamlet of the same name. Continue along the *chemin de La Via* alongside Lac de Petichet. You arrive on the *Route de la Fayolle*, which you leave after a few metres on the right onto the *chemin du Sabot*.



Laffrey lake - ©M. Dalmasso

Continue along the Grand Lac de Laffrey as far as the village, where you can stop off if you wish. Stop off at the lakeside *Prairie de la rencontre*, the scene of the face-off between Napoleon and the King's army. Here, you can admire the statue of Napoleon on horseback (with attachment rings).

To continue towards Vizille from Laffrey, head off in the direction of Lac Mort, which you follow on the left-hand side. In the woods between Lac Mort and Saint-Pierre-de-Mésage, you start a 5 km descent from 900 m to 300 m, with a few sections at 20% gradient. Then cross the Romanche via the hamlet of Pont.

After crossing the village of *Le Péage de Vizille*, follow the *Domaine de Vizille* on the right, *chemin des Murs*, to reach the Château de Vizille.





USEFUL INFORMATION



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12 Rte du Pre Nouvet,
38350 Saint-Honoré
GPS : 44°56'25.2"N 5°47'43.9"E



Fontaine Chologne
95 Rue des 4 Fontaines
38220 Cholonge
GPS : 45°00'13.4"N 5°47'46.6"E



Toilettes
366 Rte du Maquis de l'Oisans
38220 Vizille
GPS : 45°03'25.8"N 5°46'16.3"E



Fontaine
107 Chem. des Murs
38220 Vizille
GPS : 45°04'27.8"N 5°46'39.4"E



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Veterinary clinic Moucherotte
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38800 Le Pont de Claix
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La Maison des Producteurs
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38220 Vizille



262 Montée de la Venelle
38220 St Pierre de Mésage
+33 4 76 68 21 79



Hamlet St Sauveur
38220 Notre Dame de Mésage
+33 6 72 79 82 79



Laffrey lake - ©M. Dalmasso



On March 7, On March 7, Napoleon resumed his route to Laffrey, only to learn that the royal troops of the 5th Line had stationed themselves on this meadow, later named "*Prairie de la Rencontre*", to block his path to Grenoble. Seeking to avoid confrontation, Napoleon stepped forward to face the soldiers, unarmed and with open arms, and proclaimed: "Soldiers, if there is one among you who wishes to kill his Emperor, here I am". The soldiers, most of whom had served him, dared not fire, despite the injunctions of Captain Randon (nephew of General Marchand, governor of Grenoble) to do so. They lowered their weapons and shouted "Long live the Emperor". Napoleon thus rallied the royalist troops of the 5th Line. The road to Grenoble is now open to him..



Prairie de la Rencontre - ©S. Lagier

- ✓ *La Pierre percée:* Arche formed by the erosion of Triassic limestone, it is one of the Seven Wonders of the Dauphiné. It is located on the Creys hill at an altitude of 1,200 m, between Pierre-Châtel and La Motte-d'Aveillans.



Vizille Chateau - ©S. Lagier

- ✓ *Vizille chateau and the French Revolution museum:* Transferred by the State to the Isère department almost 40 years ago, the presidential chateau of the 3rd and 4th Republics has become a place where citizens can meet, enjoy culture and relax, thanks to the beauty of its park, the landscaped part of which has been awarded the "Remarkable Garden" label. Free admission.

NOTES



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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Regional Transports PACA
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Regional Transports Auvergne-Rhône-
Alpes
www.carsisere.auvergnerhonealpes.fr

This itinerary is given as a guide only. You must study each stage and adapt it to your level and knowledge of the territory.

If you are not accompanied by a guide, you follow the itinerary under your own responsibility. The co-authors of this document cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur.



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Other sources:

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www.tourisme-alpes-haute-provence.com/

www.dignelesbains-tourisme.com/

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www.isere-tourisme.com/

www.routes-touristiques.com/

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<https://isere-attractivite.com/>

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www.villedecorps.fr/section.php?id=27

<https://tourismequestre-auvergnerhonealpes.fr/itineraires/la-route-napoleon-a-cheval/>

<http://napoleon-monuments.eu/Napoleon1er/18150303.htm>

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b69545073.item>

THE ASSOCIATION

In 2015, the regional equestrian tourism committees of Provence-Alpes, Côte d'Azur and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, with the support of the departmental councils of the 4 departments concerned, decided to honor the commemoration of the Emperor's landing at Golf Juan in 1815.



To achieve this, a long process of identifying and marking the route was undertaken upstream by the departmental equestrian tourism committees (CDTE). The ceremony took place on March 1, 2015, in front of several thousand people.

Throughout the following month of May, events were organized after a reconnaissance of the route by the lancers led by Bernard SYMZAK

In 2018, the same players decided to create an association to support the project to develop equestrian tourism on the first route to be awarded the GIE label by the FFE/CNTE. The 350 km itinerary, steeped in history, is an invitation to roam!



The main objective is to promote horse-riding, while fostering the development of the areas concerned.

In 2022, the association publishes the first road book and creates a new website to contribute to the development of gentle tourism along this mythical route.