

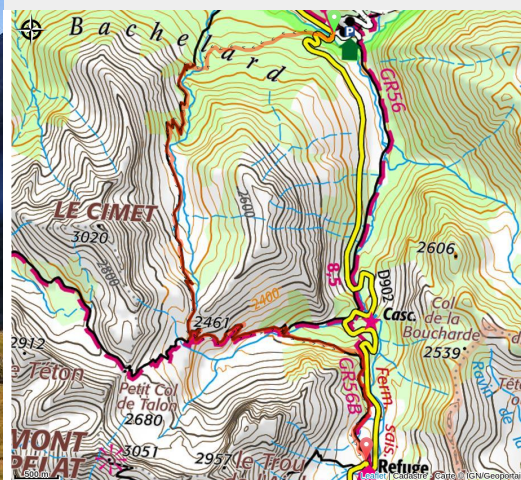


## 3 refuges walk - Stage 1

Vallée haute Ubaye - Uvernet-Fours



Randonnée col de la Cayolle. Le refuge du col de la Cayolle à la fin du mois d'août. (BENSA Marion)



*Travel at altitude along the two Mercantour sedimentary valleys, among the marmots and the spring gentians.*

During this walk between L'Ubaye the high Var, lakeside landscapes and exceptional panoramas are on the menu. You can set off on this itinerary from any refuge.

### Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 6 h

Length : 11.8 km

Trek ascent : 878 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Walking breaks

Themes : Archeology and history, Fauna, Flora, Geology

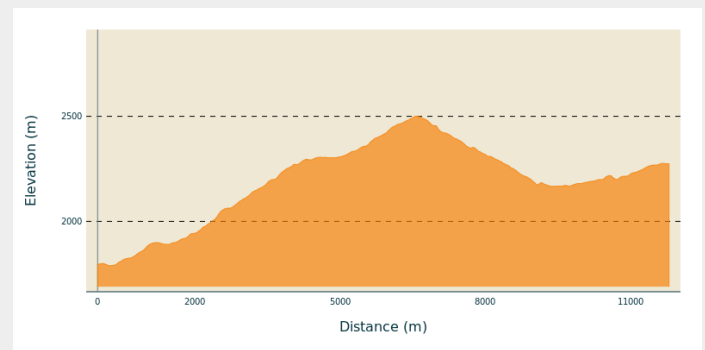
# Trek

**Departure** : Bayasse refuge

**Arrival** : La Cayolle refuge

**Cities** : 1. Uvernet-Fours

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1789 m Max elevation 2501 m

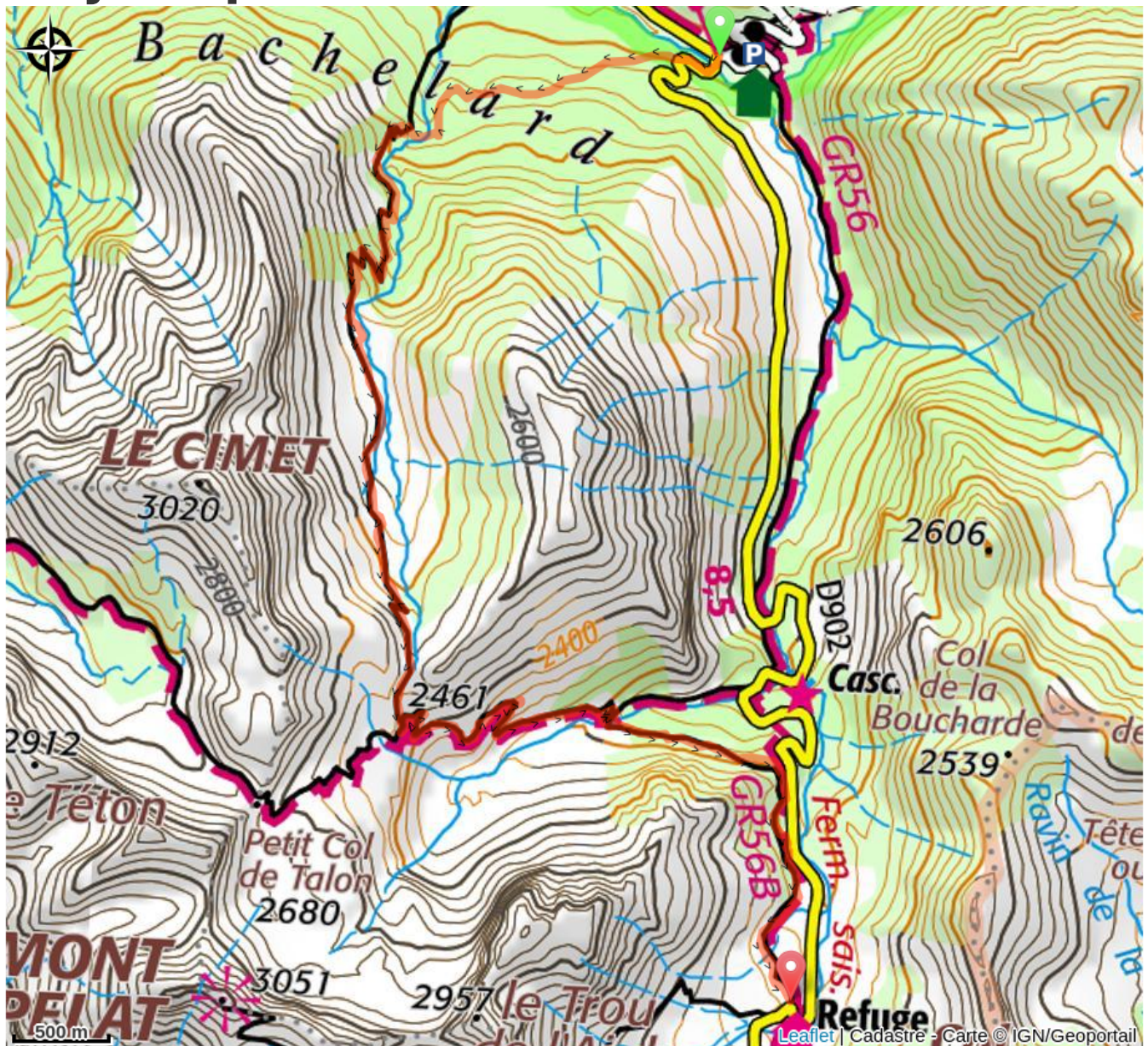
As you leave the Bayasse refuge, go across Le Bâchelard. At the first hairpin bend, take the path which leads towards Col des Esbéliousses. It heads through a larch forest with undergrowth which is provided with colour thanks to the woodland geraniums, the pink centauries and the darker *phyteuma halleri*. After the mountain stream and a few hairpin bends, you will reach the Petite Saume forest hut. Continue for 50m behind the house and you will discover, from up on the rocky cliff, the high Bachelard valley.

The path continues through the larch trees, tress of light, until you reach a remarkable avalanche zone. The damage on the opposite slope is easily visible. Further up, you will come out into the wide Grande Saume valley. Head alongside the mountain stream which winds its way through the grassy zone, which is a haven for wetland plants. You will come out at Col des Esbéliousses (2498m) where you can admire wild clumps of purple mountain saxifrage (be aware that snow patches can sometimes still be present as late as July). There is a clear view over Le Pelat (3050m) to the right and over Les Aiguilles du Trou de l'Aigle opposite.

Head down the Grande Cayolle valley until you reach the pastoral cabin of the National Forest Office. Go across the mountain stream, and head upwards, in the shade of the larches towards the Cayolle refuge, which is the endpoint of this first stage. The refuge will only become visible at the last moment, nestle in a natural hollow on the edge of a road, which became famous between the wars.



## On your path...



# All useful information

## **Is in the midst of the park**

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.

## **Advices**

A hike to go on during the summer months due to the fact that snowfall can make the circuit dangerous.

Col de la Cayolle is inaccessible during the winter months.

Make sure that you are aware of the weather forecast before setting out.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

No public transport to the refuge/hotel. By car is the best means of transport.

### Access

From Barcelonnette, head towards Col de la Cayolle, Nice(D902).

From Nice, head towards Digne (N202), then Col de la Cayolle via Guillaumes (D2202).

### Advised parking

Bayasse refuge carpark

## **Information desks**

### **Ubaye Tourisme / Office de tourisme d'Uvernet-Fours (Pra Loup)**

Maison du Tourisme, 04400 Pra Loup

Tel : 04 92 84 10 04

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