

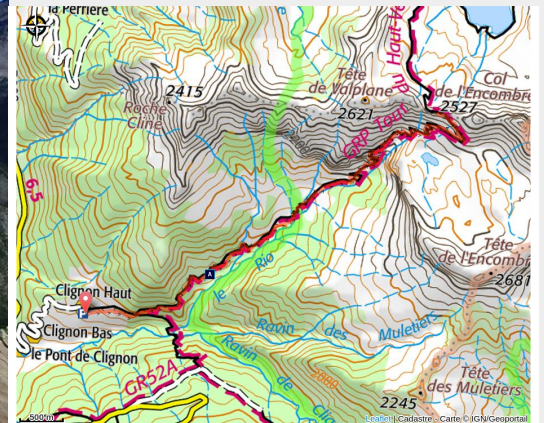


# Cirque de l'encombrette

Vallée haut Verdon - Colmars



Vaste paysage du haut-Verdon en été, l'Encombrette et le col des Champs. (CHARRON Julien)



*You will need to be in good physical condition if you want to marvel at the Cirque de l'encombrette, which is remarkable for its geology, its lakes and its rocks which were polished by the former glacier. The Pas de l'Échelle, a rocky guardian which protects access, can be climbed via a picturesque zigzagging path, extended with a ledge hewn into the cliff face.*

High above the verdant slopes colonised by man, you will discover a vast glacial cirque. Here we are in the high mountains with fierce sunshine, sudden thunderstorms and unstable screes.

## Useful information

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Practice : Hiking

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Duration : 8 h

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Length : 15.4 km

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Trek ascent : 1158 m

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Difficulty : Hard

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Type : Round trip

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Themes : Geology, Lake, Viewpoint

# Trek

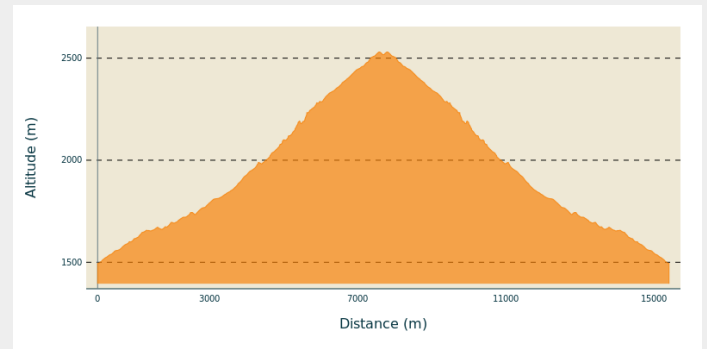
**Departure** : Hamlet of Clignon Haut

**Arrival** : Cirque de l'encombrette

**Markings** : ■ PR

**Cities** : 1. Colmars  
2. Allos

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1495 m Max elevation 2530 m

The path is bordered by deciduous trees and crosses fields which were formerly cultivated. Once you have gone between the boulders known as "La Portette", you will see the view over the Eichanet ravine, enclosed by the Muletiers mountains.

The path provides access to areas which were formerly inhabited and the land used: Girard, les Chapelles, Lamberet and les cabanes du Maître. On the other side, the splendid forest of Raterly comes to an end on the col des Champs, an ancient passage to le Val d'Entraunes.

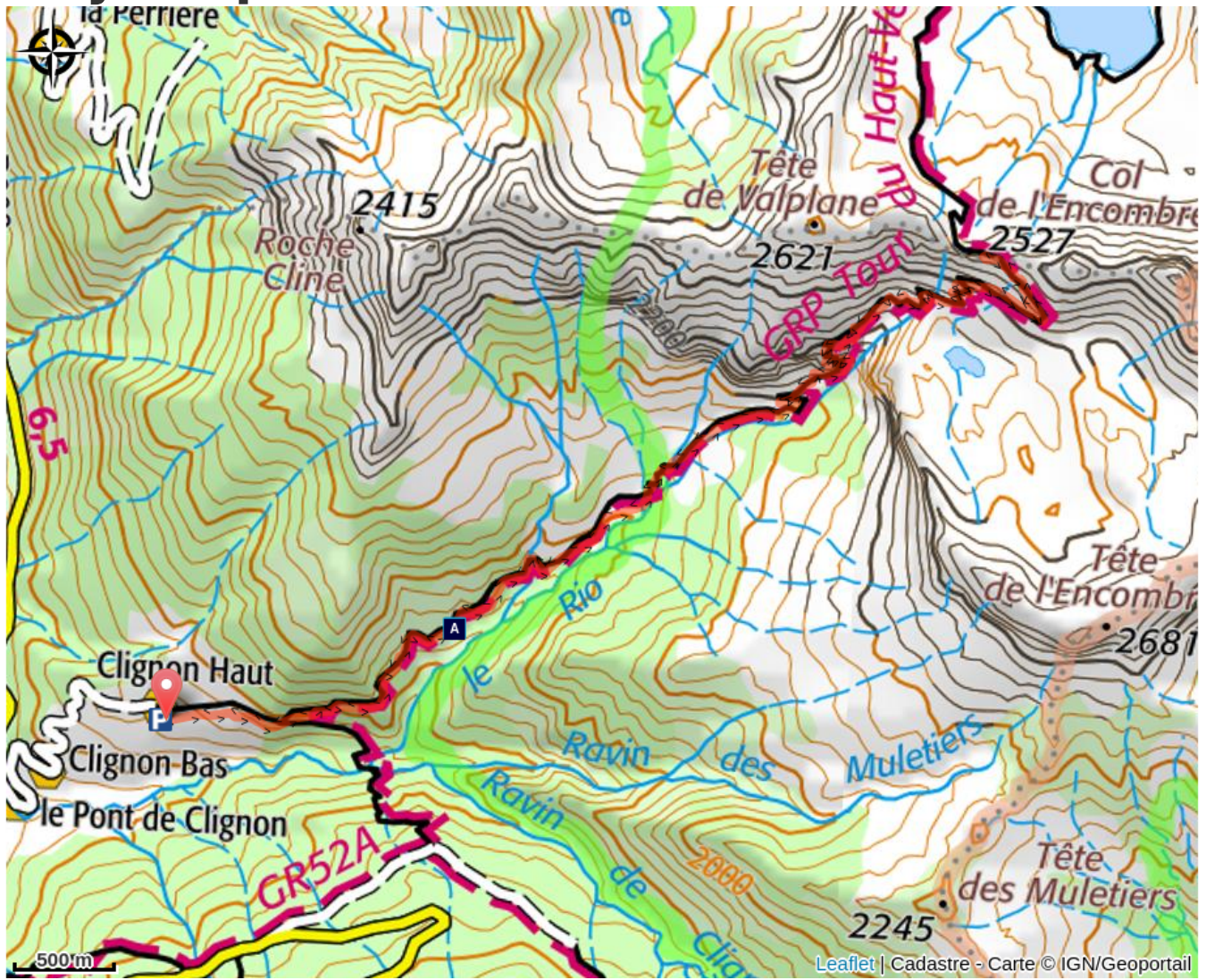
L'Adroit des Muletiers is so imposing that it appears to put an insurmountable end to the hike. But the Pas de l'Echelle path makes into a mere obstacle course, allowing you to reach le cirque de l'Encombrette with a degree of ease.

Just like a giant shell, the glacial cirque spreads out; beautiful lakes carved into the rocks gleam below it. The hike comes to an end on the shores of these lakes.

However, the path does continue, allowing the most adventurous hikes to reach the col de l'Encombrette, with views spreading over the lac d'Allos cirque.

Follow the same route on the return journey.

# On your path...



 L'Adroit des Muletiers (A)

# 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.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

Lignes départementales dans les Alpes-de-HauteProvence, Lignes régulières / hebdomadaires Digne-les-Bains, Barcelonnette, Larche et Digne-les-Bains, Colmars, Allos.

Service de navettes gratuites dans le Val d'Allos (Transports Haut-Verdon Voyages) : <https://www.valdallos.com/bus-station.html>

### Access

Valley of Haut Verdon. Before Colmars, turn right onto the D320 towards the hamlets of Clignon. Park at Clignon Haut. The path starts behind the pretty chapel.

### Advised parking

Hamlet of Clignon Haut

 **Information desks**

**Office du tourisme du Val d'Allos**

Place de la coopérative, 04260 Allos

info@valdallos.com

Tel : 04 92 83 02 81

<https://www.valdallos.com>

**Verdon Tourisme - Bureau  
d'information touristique de  
Colmars-Les-Alpes**

Ancienne auberge fleurie, 04370

Colmars les Alpes

colmarslesalpes@verdontourisme.com

Tel : 04 92 83 41 92

<http://www.verdontourisme.com>

# On your path...

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## ❄️ L'Adroit des Muletiers (A)

L'Adroit des Muletiers is a huge dam behind which ice accumulated. As it moved slowly, the ice broke through it and came out as a huge frozen waterfall. Because it was probably not carrying much matter which could cause erosion, the ice joined with the resisting obstacle rather than forcing against it. Then, the rock emerged from the ice tongue. A great scree clogged up the foot of the cliff, showing the importance of frost wedging, a process which is still currently ongoing.

Attribution : Parc national du Mercantour