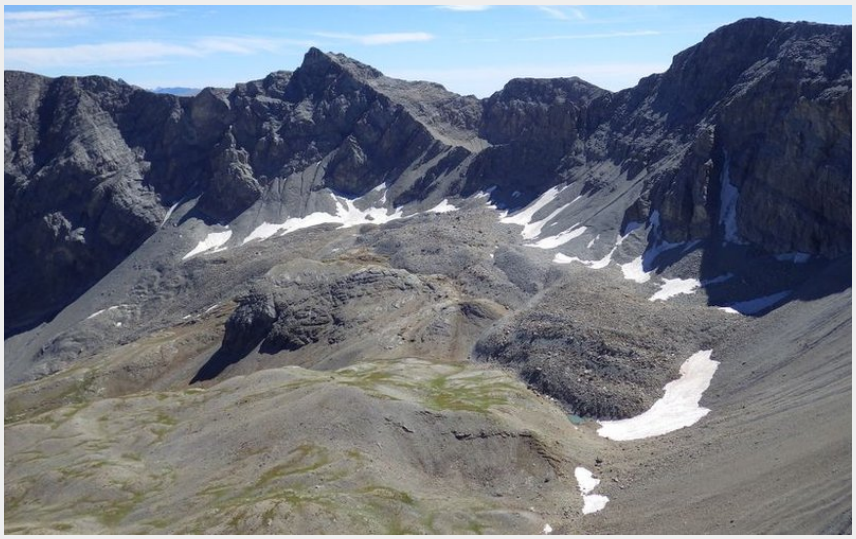
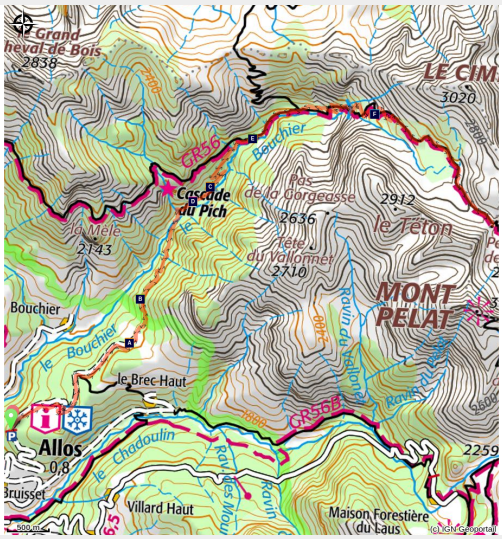
The waterfalls of Le Pich and Le Cimet

Vallée haut Verdon - Allos





Depuis le Petit Col de Talon, on peut admirer le cirque de la grande Cayolle et son glacier rocheux niché au pied du Mont Pelat (François BRETON)

A very demanding hike which leads to an impressive waterfall in a Mediterranean setting which varies between wooded and dry terrain. The Verdon griffon can be seen soaring above this area if you keep an eye on the sky!

The Bouchier waterfalls won’t last for ever. They have a past and a future. Their existence is the result of the actions of water, wind and sun on more or less fragile terrain. This perpetual combat has shaped the landscape: erosion.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 10 h

Length : 22.9 km

Trek ascent : 1233 m

Difficulty : Hard

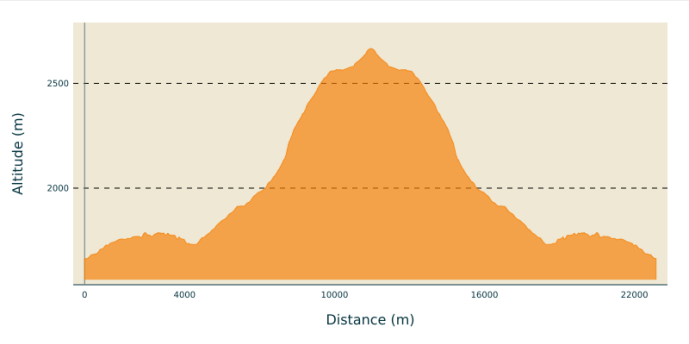
Type : Round trip

Themes : Flora, Lake, Viewpoint

Trek

Departure : Allos
Arrival : The waterfalls of Le Pich and Le Cimet
Markings : PR
Cities : 1. Allos
2. Uvernet-Fours

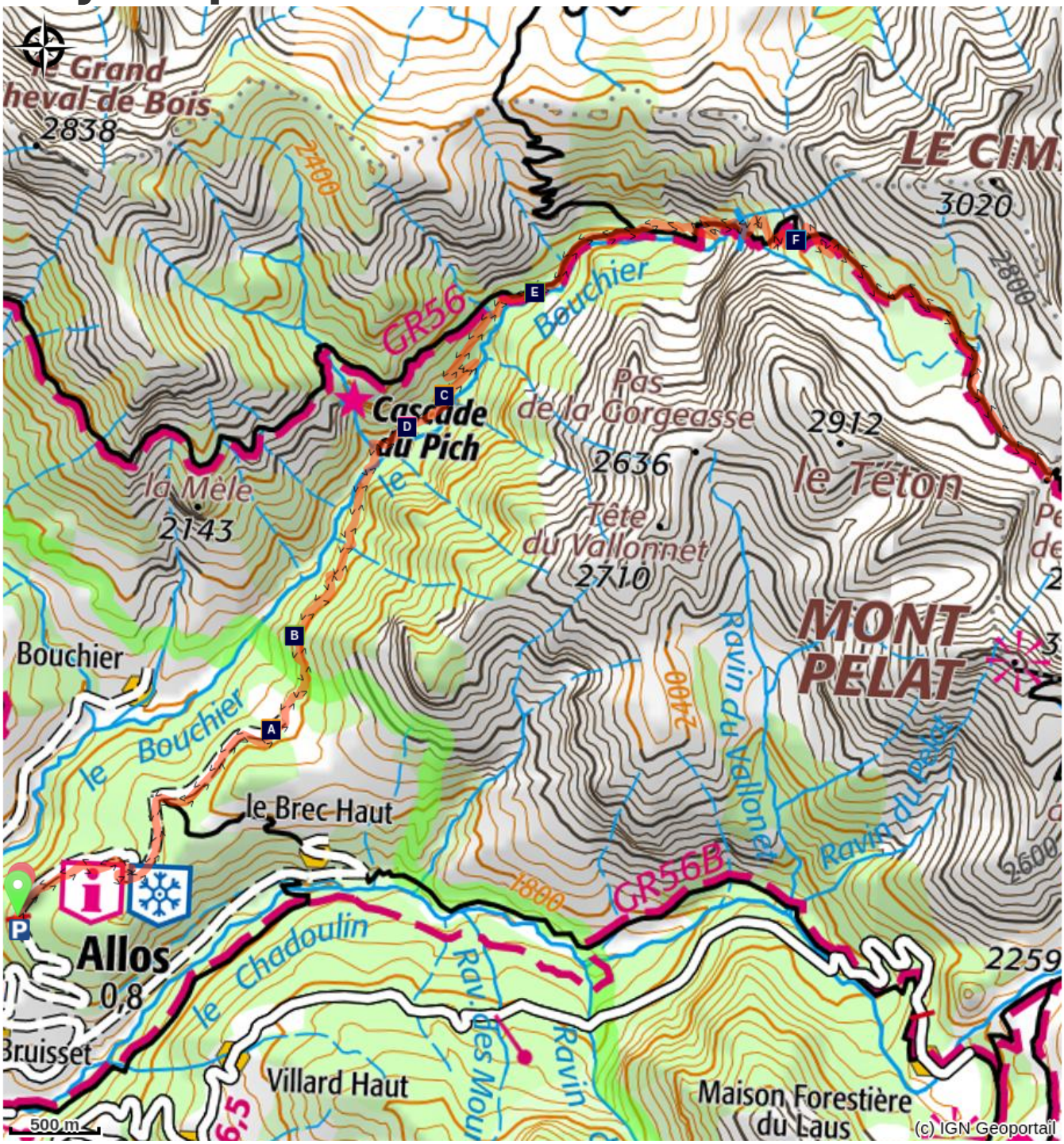
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1663 m Max elevation 2666 m

Follow the forest track after the gate until it comes to an end (it widens) and continue via the path which follows (Mercantour National Park sign). This path has yellow and green markers.
Go past the farm in the woods and follow the path which initially climbs through the meadow before heading through a larch forest until you reach a forest track which you should pick up.
When this track suddenly begins to climb, take the path on the left which heads downwards. Go through the meadows at Combes and the valley begins to narrow (National Park sign).
The path heads downwards towards the valley floor and the Pich waterfall becomes visible on the opposite side. When you reach the valley floor, cross a footbridge at the bottom of the waterfall.
The path climbs up the other bank and heads over a steep hillock via two big curves. It then flattens out almost completely. The end of the path is at the huts which can be found at Talon (sign).
From here, the path is denoted with red and white markers (GR56). Continue along this path at as you leave the forest (sign), the Cimet waterfall comes into view in front of you.
Reaching the foot of the waterfall is not difficult. Those with energy to spare can go up to the top of this waterfall as long as the presence of ice doesn’t make this impossible.
Follow the same route on the return journey.

On your path…



- Le clapier (A)
- Screes (C)
- Reforestation (E)
- Larch tree (B)
- Pich waterfall (D)
- Cimet waterfall (F)

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

The paths on this hike are good with yellow and green then red and white markers. This the atmosphere of the high mountains and the weather can change quickly. You will therefore need warm clothes, waterproofs in addition to a good pair of shoes.

The final part of the itinerary (the way up alongside the Cimet waterfall) can become extremely dangerous due to ice in spring and autumn: only go up there in good conditions.

If a sudden shower should fall, the huts at Combes and Talon can provide you with temporary shelter. In the embankment below the Talon hut, 10 metres below the level of the building, there is a spring where you can fill your drinking bottles if you need to.

How to come ?

Transports

Service de navettes gratuites dans le Val d'Allos (Transports Haut-Verdon Voyages) : http://ete.valdallos.com

Access

You can access the path as you are leaving Allos. Head up to Super Allos, then take the track towards Vacheresse. Follow this track until the National Forests Office gate where you can leave your vehicle.

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

On your path...

Le clapier (A)

This heap of stones next to the track (clapier) shows how hard people worked to remove stones from the fields. In the past, this area was cultivated, but now only the abandoned farm shows that this era ever existed.

Attribution : BOUVIER Martial

Larch tree (B)

The larch, archetypal tree of the southern Alps, allows grass to grow beneath it, unlike other evergreens, and it is the basis for bright wooded meadows. These zones have been used for pasture by the inhabitants of Allos and Le Bouchier for many years.

Attribution : Anthony TURPAUD

Screes (C)

A cliff which is crumbling under the effects of freezing weather makes stones fall, which in itself feeds a perpetually mobile scree. When the slope of this scree is not steep enough, the ground stabilises and vegetation can establish itself. Look around you and you will see these two forms of scree, an active one and one which is stable and which has vegetation growing on it.

Attribution : ORMEA Patrick

Pich waterfall (D)

More than 140 million years ago, the sea covered this entire region. The sediment which was deposited ultimately shaped this limestone bar (Tithonian bar). The action of the glaciers revealed it and the Pich waterfall provides a remarkable spectacle thanks to it. But this spectacle will have consequences in the future: the water is cutting through the cliff which, despite its solidity, will one day be cloven in two by a craggy gorge and will be admired in turn by future generations.

Attribution : Parc national du Mercantour

Reforestation (E)

At the start of the century, humans deforested almost all of the mountains for fuel and building materials and the consequences were catastrophic. (avalanches, disastrous flooding downstream, etc). A gigantic reforestation operation with Austrian pines, Swiss mountain pines and larch was launched, during which this hut was built for the workers undertaking this task. A nursery, irrigated by a channel was even set up and its parallel furrows still exist above the track, just before the hut. The hut is today used by shepherds.

Attribution : MALTHIEUX Laurent

Cimet waterfall (F)

Glaciers have shaped the landscape, as this vast bowl with rounded slopes towering over the Cimet waterfall shows. Later on, erosion has occurred in various ways. The vast screes of La Gorgeasse are the result of freezing weather and then the following thaws whereas wind and water attack the more fragile rocks, shaping the sharp cliffs which tower over the footpath.

Attribution : Parc national du Mercantour