

Mont Aiguille circuit

Trièves - Chichilianne



Vue sur le célèbre Mont Aiguille (PNRV)

Mont Aiguille circuits

Hiking round Mont Aiguille, one of the symbols of the Vercors massif, will give you unforgettable memories. You will be able to admire all the angles of this unusually shaped summit.

You can start this hike from hamlets of La Bâtie or from Trézanne.

With Mont Aiguille constantly in sight, this hike showcases the architectural wealth and curiosities of Trièves, including the Trézanne chapel. Woodland alternates with meadows and picturesque hamlets.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 6 h

Length : 17.5 km

Trek ascent : 1116 m

Difficulty : Difficile

Type : Boucle

Themes : Faune, Géologie, Histoire et patrimoine, Point de vue, Accessible en transport en commun

Trek

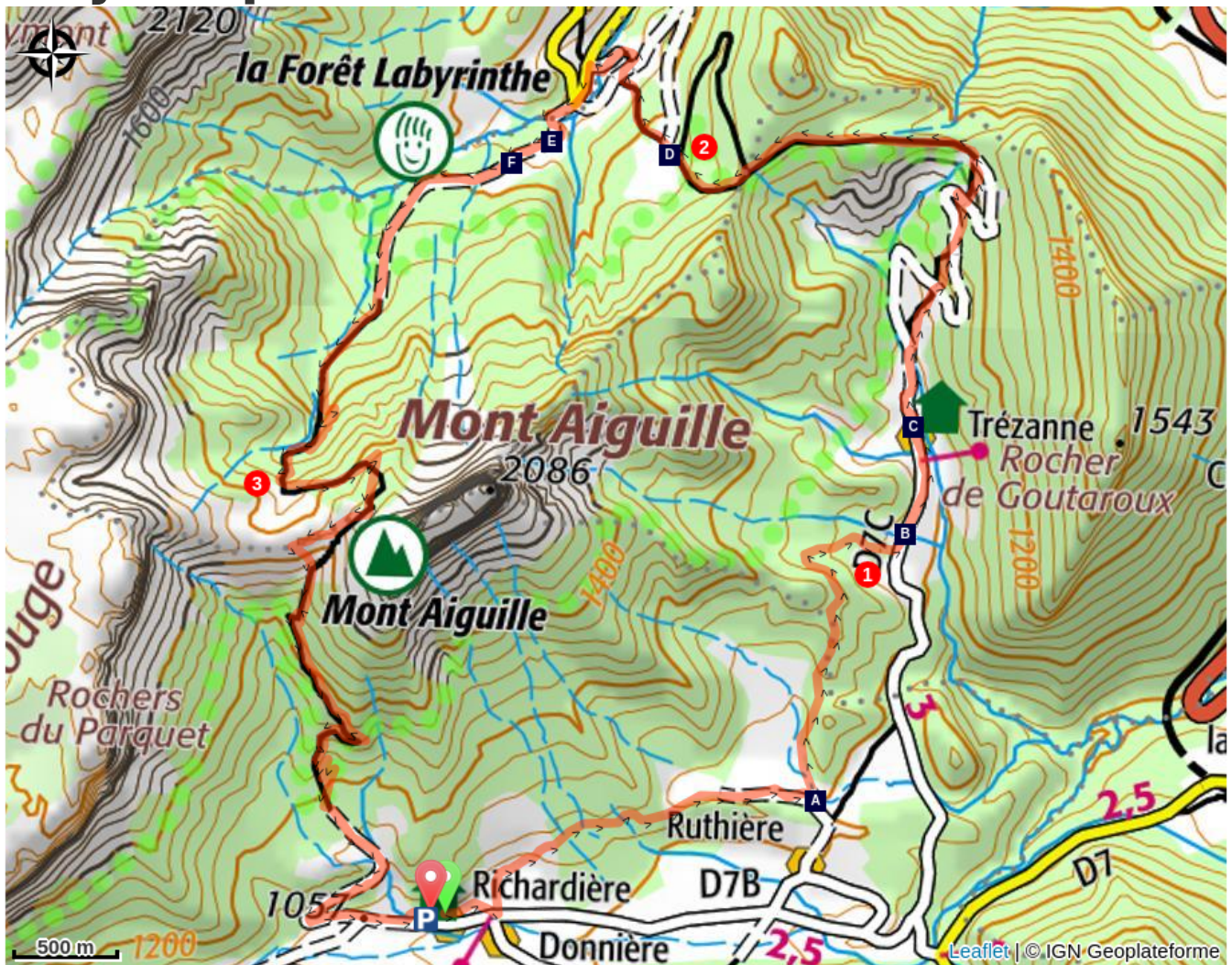
Departure : Richardière hamlet (carpark), Chichilianne

Arrival : Richardière hamlet (carpark), Chichilianne

Markings :  PR  GTV à pied

1. From **Richardière** hamlet (carpark), head for **Chichilianne** up to **Pont de Donnière** bridge. From there, go to the **Fontaines** intersection and join the Grand Tour du Vercors on foot circuit to reach **Trézanne** hamlet, via **Les Ruines**. From **Trézanne** and its beautiful thatched-roof chapel, keep walking north wards **Col de Papavet** pass. Go through **Seiterat** then **Les Brutinels** and **Les Sagnes**.
2. From **Papayet** pass, enjoy the breathtaking panorama of Mont Aiguille and then head for **Col des Pellas** pass. Head gradually to the **Chez Cotte** intersection via **Les Grands Clots**, **Caraby** and **Les Pellas**. Leave the Grand Tour du Vercors circuit which heads off to **Gresse-en-Vercors**, and instead turn left on the road then the trail heading for Les Granges.
3. Walk up to **Col de l'Aupet** pass via the place known as **Sous la Cascade de la Pisse** (under the Pisse waterfall). From this pass, you can feel so near to and yet so far from Mont Aiguille, and enjoy a beautiful view of the southern slope. Begin the descent via a pleasant path that winds through the forest to **Richardière**.

On your path...



Colossus with a foot of clay (A)
Chapel of Trézanne (C)
Font Rousse camp (E)

Torrent des Ruines (B)
Mont Aiguille (D)
The Mont Aiguille, object of fantasy (F)

All useful information

⚠️ **AdVICES**

Please note you are going to cross several times the limits of the Nature Reserve of the Vercors Hauts-Plateaux, which have specific rules you need to know and respect.

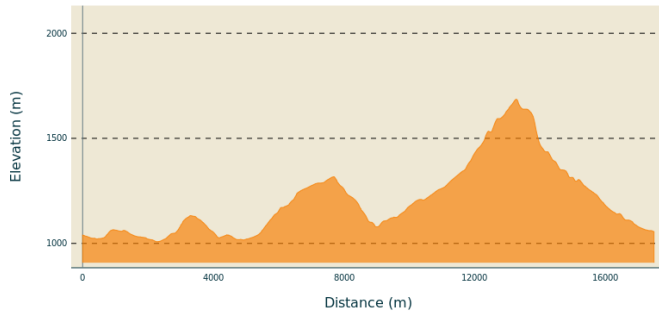


Be careful, when it's raining, some of technical sections can be tricky and slippery.

Please use the purpose-built gates and stiles to cross fences; shut gates and fasten behind you.

Keeping to the signposted paths means you'll respect private property.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1008 m
Max elevation 1686 m

Transports

By Train :

Train station [Clelles-Mens](#)

The OÙRA multimodal route planner provides information about all the connections between regional trains, urban transport and departmental bus lines: <https://www.oura.com/>

By Bus :

Scholar coaches line [MEN05](#) (only on weekdays) and descend at Chichilianne. Reach the hiking start walking or by hitchhike.

Carpooling :

Offer your services or book your carpooling on the regional [Mov'Ici](#) platform.

Access

From Monestier-de-Clermont, take the D1075 road, to Clelles, then follow the signs to Chichilianne via the D7 road, before taking the D7B road to Richardière hamlet.

Advised parking

Hameau de Richardière

Information desks

Point d'information Chichilianne
Le Village, 38930 Chichilianne
Tel : 04 76 34 44 95
<http://www.trieves-vercors.fr/point-d-information-chichilianne.html>

Office de tourisme du Trièves
300 chemin de Ferrier, 38650
Monestier-de-Clermont
Tel : 04 76 34 33 40
<http://www.trieves-vercors.fr/>



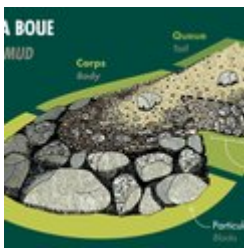
On your path...



Colossus with a foot of clay (A)

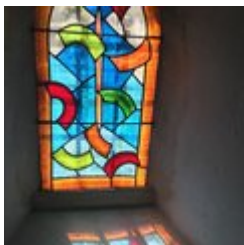
The foot of Mont Aiguille is shaped from marl, a sedimentary rock that is prone to gully erosion and scouring. These numerous ravines are clearly visible on the south-eastern side. At the foot of the rock wall, the keen eye can make out huge blocks that come from the mighty limestone wall of Mont Aiguille. An entire portion of this wall collapsed one day due to the retreating ravines. This is how Mont Aiguille disappeared little by little following one collapse after another.

Attribution : A. Poiraud



Torrent des Ruines (B)

The toponym “les Ruines” is common in the Alps, often referring to unstable terrain that suffers heavy erosion and torrential flooding: lava, a mixture of water, earth and blocks of stone. The floods move at speed (at tens of km/h) in a very straight, steep channel, but behave like a drift that can transport blocks several cubic meters in size (the equivalent of a car or even a van) just like volcanic lava.



Chapel of Trézanne (C)

Nestled at the foot of Mount Aiguille, the Chapel of Trézanne offers a magnificent view of this majestic mountain, overlooking it more than 1000 m. This small Romanesque chapel is characterized by its thatched roof which was rehabilitated in 2001 and recently renovated. Before the eighteenth century, the thatched roofs were numerous in the Trièves: they were gradually replaced by tile roofing, notably because of the fires.

Attribution : M. Rocheblave



Mont Aiguille (D)

The Mont Aiguille, from its 2087 meters, is a mound of the eastern barrier of the Vercors. Indeed, the Mount is composed of the same materials as the rest of the plateau (limestones and marls deposited by the sea before the rising of the Alps) to which it was formerly attached. The most tender limestones and the presence of numerous faults facilitated the dissolution of the limestone over time, leading to the isolation of Mount.

Attribution : S&M Booth



Font Rousse camp (E)

Shacks were built here to house young men as part of the paramilitary youth workcamps - Chantiers de Jeunesse - belonging to the Monestier-de-Clermont group, which were set up during the summer of 1940. The task was to instil a sense of discipline and duty together with respect for authority, since military service was no longer permitted under the conditions imposed by the Armistice (June 22, 1940). Working in the forest kept the young men busy, while festivals were held to glorify the commitment to the homeland. The group's workcamps closed in early October 1943. A short while later, members of the Resistance from Camp 2 (initially set up at Puit des Ravières in Corrençon) dropped down through the highland areas of the Vercors to the sheepfold near the sawmill before moving on to the premises deserted by the Chantiers de Jeunesse. Louis Kalck (André) took over command of the Font Rousse camp before handing it over to Jean Beschet in the spring. The latter orchestrated the ambush against the German convoy that was crossing the Allimas pass on July 3, 1944.

Attribution : B. Brun-Cosme



The Mont Aiguille, object of fantasy (F)

This grassy patch of barely 5 ha is an island of vegetation separated from the rest of the Vercors massif. In Medieval times, it evoked the idea of an earthly paradise, which God made inaccessible to humans because of original sin. The first ascent in 1492 made it possible to discover a beautiful garden, populated with chamois and birds, dotted with flowers, including the white lily, heraldic symbol of French royalty. This was taken to mean that this pristine space had always been promised to the King. Three crosses were erected, visible from below, to show that this plot of land was attached to the kingdom of France and the Christian world.