

Omlèze / Léoncel (stage 14)

Gervanne - Omlèze

GTV



Cascade de la Pissoire (Omlèze) (S&M_Booth)

Discover the Omlèze gorges and the Gueulards canyon on this picturesque hike.

The combe d'Omlèze is a wild valley at the end of the world, isolated on all sides. It can only be reached by crossing the deep Omlèze gorges, a canyon forged by the green waters of the Gervanne. These gorges form part of a listed site, and are celebrated for their tufa waterfalls, high colourful cliffs, mineral draperies and giant's kettles.

Useful information

Practice : Itinerant hike

Duration : 4 h 30

Length : 13.8 km

Trek ascent : 799 m

Difficulty : Moyen

Type : Traversée

Themes : Agriculture et Savoir faire, Géologie, Histoire et patrimoine

Trek

Departure : Les Arbods (municipality of Omblèze)

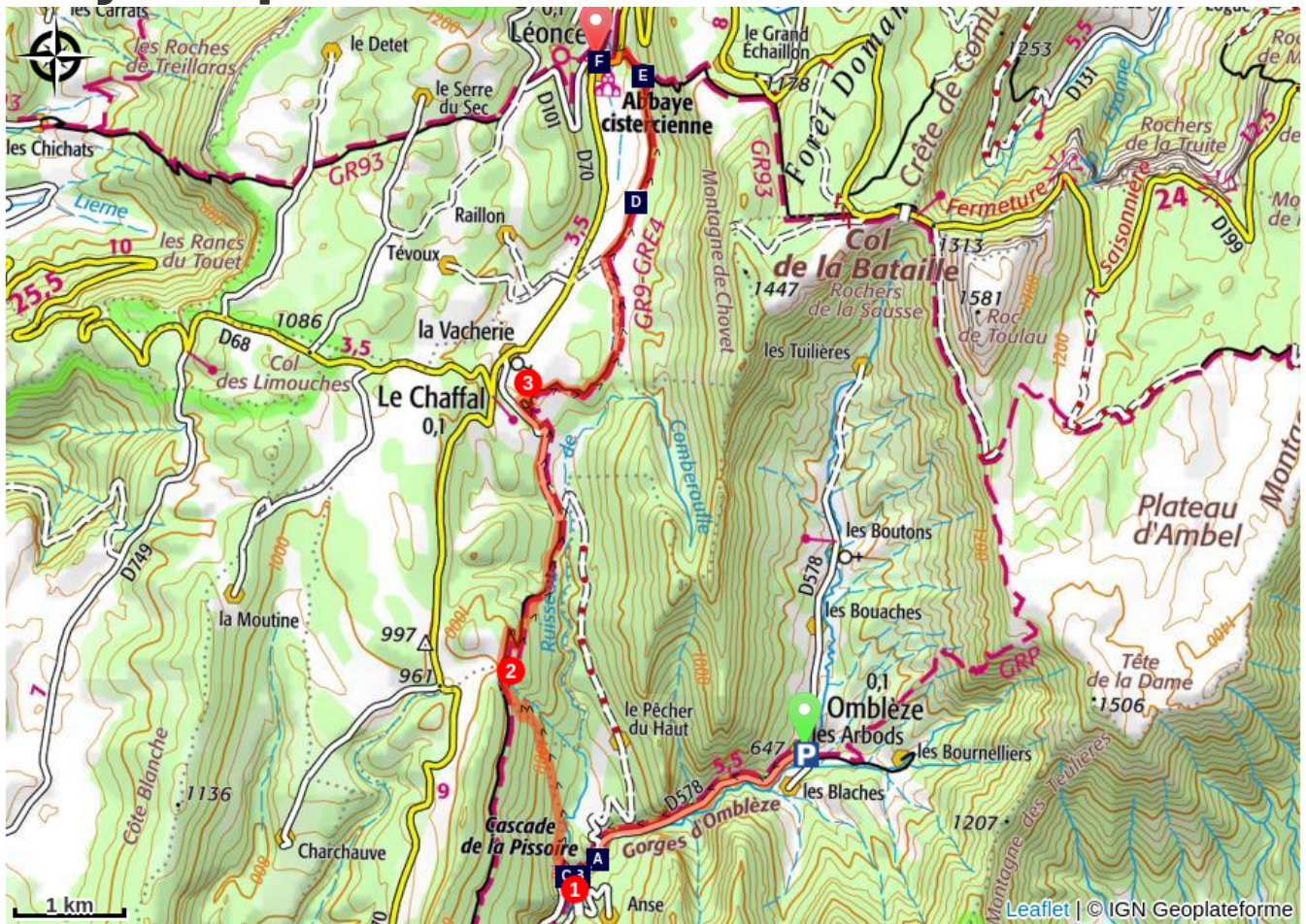
Arrival : Léoncel (Frachelongue)

Markings :  GTV à pied

Starting from the **Arbods**, the circuit follows a small tarmac road that winds its way through the magnificent Omblèze gorges—pleasantly cool in summer—until it reaches **Baume Noire (1)**.

Now you take a trail again to **Le Chaffal (2)** and on to Tête Noire **(3)**. This goes back up towards the village of **la Vacherie**, then via **le marais** before rejoining **Léoncel**. This stage, which climbs gently up the Vercors, boasts a mixture of Mediterranean vegetation (box and thyme) and more northerly vegetation on the latter part of the route (oaks and beeches).

On your path...



Waterfall of Tuf (A)

Waterfall of the Pissoire (C)

Léoncel (E)

The Gervanne (B)

Farmland (D)

Abbey of Léoncel (F)

All useful information

Advices

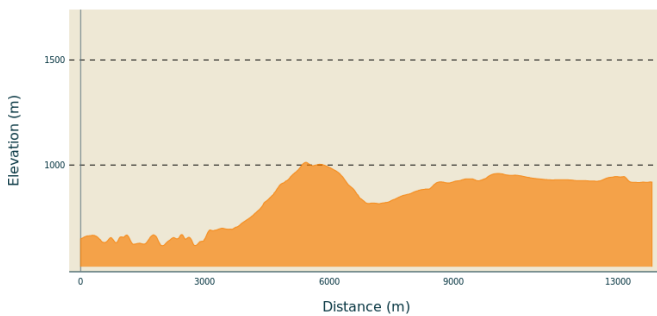
Be careful, as you are momentarily in mountain pasture areas, you may come across herd protection dogs, often Patous.

Make sure you always go around the herds, remaining calm while the guard dog identifies you, and don't pet or threaten them!

Use the passageways to cross the fences, close the gates and barriers.

Stay on the marked paths is also respect private property.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 616 m
Max elevation 1013 m

Transports

By train:

Crest SNCF station or from Valence

Transport on demand: A service provided by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region open to the general public for [journeys connecting with the regional road and rail networks](#), on presentation of a ticket justifying the connecting journey.

Reservations required on **+334 8000 7000**. *Open Monday to Saturday, 9am to 7pm (except public holidays). Reservations or cancellations must be made at least 24 hours in advance (excluding Sundays and public holidays).*

By hitchhiking :

You can hitchhike to and from Villard, Lans and Grenoble with Rezo Pouce (all Vercors stops can be found at www.rezopouce.fr). ↴

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Carpooling:

Offer or book your carpool with the [Mov'Ici](#) regional platform.

Access

From Saint-Jean-en-Royans, follow the D70 departmental road to Plan-de-Baix. At Plan-de-Baix, follow the D578 towards Chute de la Druisse (Druisse waterfall), then Gorges d'Ombrière.

From Crest, follow the D93 and then the D70 towards Beaufort-sur-Gervanne. Continue along the D70, and at Plan-de-Baix, take the D578 towards the Gorges d'Ombrière and the Chute de la Druisse (Druisse waterfall).

Advised parking

Car park at Les Arbods

Information desks

OTI Vercors Drôme - Bureau St Jean-en-Royans
13 Place de l'Eglise, 26190 Saint-Jean-en-Royans

info@vercors-drome.com

Tel : 04 75 48 61 39

<http://www.vercors-drome.com/>

On your path...



Waterfall of Tuf (A)

Within each cascade takes place a chemical reaction. Limestone, like sugar or salt, has the property of dissolving in water. Now the water that has just crossed the mountain is loaded with dissolved limestone, invisible. The water suddenly begins to deposit limestone because of the combined effect of the rise in temperature and oxygenation. The foams take advantage of the carbon dioxide released during the chemical reaction. Condemned to see the limestone deposited on them and transform them literally into stone, they grow incessantly. The tuff thus created is a material comparable to cellular concrete (lightweight but resistant) much used for construction locally.

Attribution : m_rocheblave



The Gervanne (B)

The Gervanne is a tributary of the Drôme, 30 km long, it takes its source at the foot of the Col de la Bataille, on the edge of the Vercors cliffs. It hosts a remarkable population of trout fario. Beavers are also found downstream of Beaufort. La Gervanne gives its name to this region of the South-East of the Vercors.

Attribution : S.M Booth



Waterfall of the Pissoire (C)

In a verdant setting, the Pissoire waterfall and its small lake offer a refreshing atmosphere. While upstream, in the Canyon des Gueulards, water is scarce here, it flows afloat because it comes from the ravine of the Grand Crot which flows downstream from the karstic loss.

Attribution : S&M Booth



Farmland (D)

Léoncel is historically a breeding ground, a tradition inherited from the Cistercians. Until the nineteenth century and the optimum population (more than 400 inhabitants in 1856, against about 70 today) deforestation was important to gain land, especially for sheep breeding. Then the forest gradually reconquered the space with the hand of the man, since the post-war it is the cattle breeding which has developed.
Attribution : S.M Booth



Léoncel (E)

The GTV passes a few cables from Léoncel, the village regroups a few houses around a very beautiful Cistercian abbey of the XIIth century. This Romanesque-style building, very stripped of its limestone, is perfectly suited to its surroundings. It is classified among historical monuments since the 19th century thanks to Prosper Mérimée.
Attribution : S.M Booth



Abbey of Léoncel (F)

It was under the abbey of Jean de Bonnevaux that Léoncel was created on August 23, 1137, with the arrival of 12 monks. The community was erected as an abbey, and its church was consecrated in 1188 by Robert de la Tour du Pin Archbishop of Vienna, the Pope's legate, the bishops of Die and Valencia. In keeping with the peculiar rules of simplicity, this Cistercian edifice of pure Romanesque style is in perfect harmony with the rigor of the landscape. The abbey church has been listed as a Historic Monument since 1854.
Attribution : S.M Booth