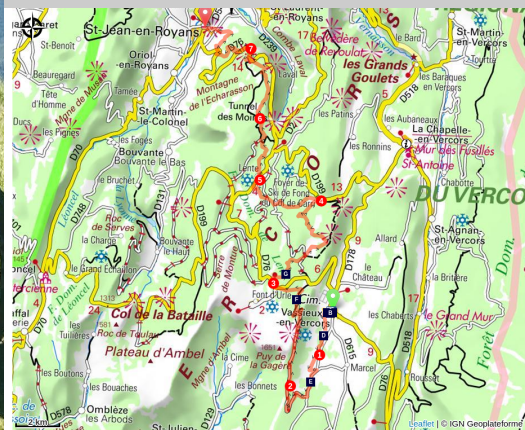


GTV by Mountain bike - Vassieux-en-Vercors / Saint-Jean-en-Royans (stage 2)

GTV

Vercors-Drôme - Vassieux-en-Vercors



Sur les crêtes au dessus de Vassieux (Matthieu Lessieur)

The GTV passes by the Museum of Prehistory—the perfect place to take a short break!

This is a very scenic ride with a great range of breathtaking landscapes!

Useful information

Practice : Itinerant hike

Duration : 4 h 30

Length : 42.3 km

Trek ascent : 1343 m

Difficulty : Difficile

Type : Traversée

Themes : Faune, Flore, Géologie, Histoire et patrimoine, Pastoralisme, Point de vue, Résistance, espaces naturels, Archéologie et préhistoire

Trek

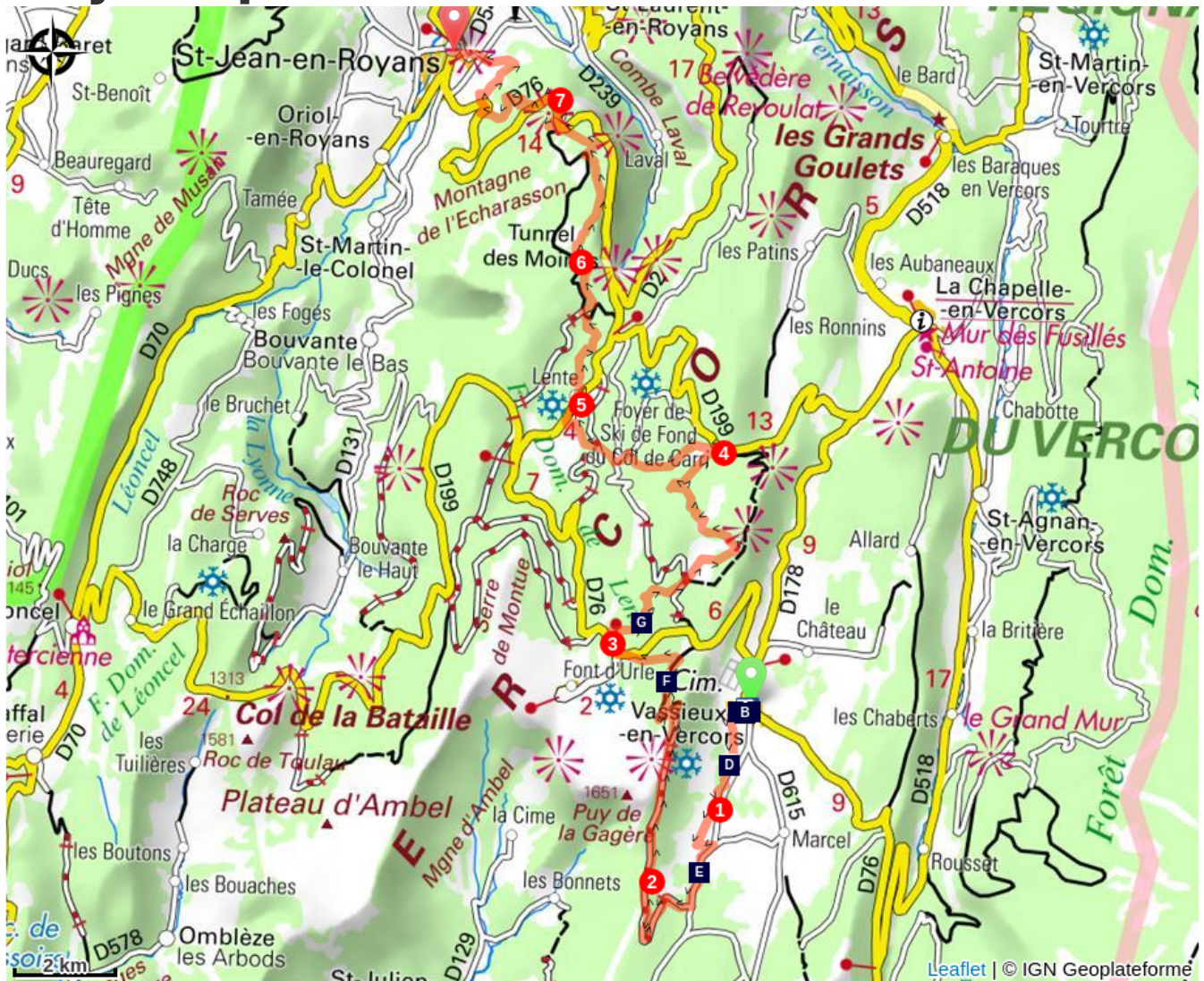
Departure : Vassieux-en-Vercors

Arrival : Saint-Jean-en-Royans

Markings :  PR  GTV VTT

1. The start is easy-going as it leaves the village of Vassieux along a scenic trail surrounded by meadows with a beautiful view of the plain of **Vassieux**. At the hamlet of **Cerisiers**, the ascent to the plateau of Font d'Urle starts slowly.
2. The GTV passes by the **Museum of Prehistory**, a major flint knapping site, before diving into the scenic forest of Vassieux along a wonderful forest track that makes for a great ride to **Col de Font Payanne**.
3. The track carries on climbing gently northwards with incredible views of Vassieux and the Hauts Plateaux Nature Reserve in the background, together with its highest point, the Grand Veymont (2,341m). After crossing the **Prairie de la Chau**, the GTV heads towards the hamlet of **Chaud Clapier**.
4. The route now crosses la **pelouse des Serpents**, the meadow of Derbounouse and **Col de la Mure** with its beautiful panoramas, before descending to **Col de Carri**.
5. The trail enters the heart of the Forêt Domaniale de Lente as it heads to the hamlet of the same name (**Lente**) along scenic, very smooth tracks without any difficulties.
6. The trail then climbs back to **Col de l'Echarasson**.
7. After this wild crossing of the forests of the southern Vercors, there is a captivating viewpoint over the plain of Royans from **Maison Jourdan**.
8. It's time now to go back down to **Saint-Jean-en-Royans** along a lovely single track as far as **Pids**, and then along a track and small village road to the centre. You've arrived! A well-deserved rest is now waiting for you on one of the village's many terraces!

On your path...



Vassieux-en-Vercors (A)
 Departmental Museum of the
 Resistance (C)
 Flint Workshop (E)
 The wolf (G)

Vassieux church (B)
 Plateau of Vassieux (D)
 Forest of Lente (F)

All useful information

Advices

Use the installed passages to cross fences, close gates and barriers.

Stay on the marked trails and respect private property.

The trails can be slippery in rainy conditions!

Do not cross hay meadows or cultivated fields.

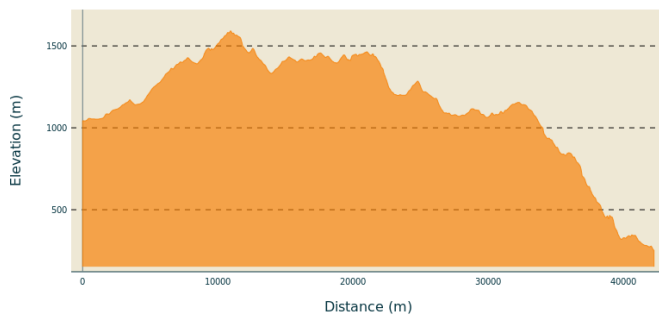
Ensure that the fauna is not scared by your presence.

Respect sheep farms, refuges and cabin shelters.

Collect your waste, think nature.

You are in summer pastures, and may meet herd protection and guard dogs (patous). Always ensure that you go a long way round the animals, calmly so that the dog can identify you, do not pat or threaten them.

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 252 m

Max elevation 1591 m

Transports

By bus, [line 5](#) from Valence, Saint Jean-en-Royans stop, then transport on demand (+334 28 61 26 26).

The OÙRA multimodal route calculator gives you access to all connections between regional trains, urban transport and departmental bus routes: <https://www.oura.com/>

Access

Plenty of parking in the heart of the village of Vassieux-en-Vercors.

Advised parking

On the village square in Vassieux-en-Vercors

Information desks

OTI Vercors-Drôme - Bureau La
Chapelle-en-Vercors
Place Pietri, 26 420 La Chapelle-en-
Vercors

info@vercors-drome.com
Tel : 04 75 48 22 54
<http://www.vercors-drome.com/>

Association des Grandes Traversées du
Vercors
<https://montourenvercors.com/>

On your path...



Vassieux-en-Vercors (A)

Vassieux-en-Vercors is a place of resistance, and remains forever marked by history. Vassieux is one of the 5 towns and villages of France named after the Companions of the Liberation by General de Gaulle. The village paid a heavy tribute to the help brought by its inhabitants to the maquis of the Vercors. In fact, while the maquis were waiting for a parachute of provisions and weapons, it was the Nazis who sprang up in gliders and landed in the plain of Vassieux, on July 21, 1944. The massacre that followed sounded the end Of resistance in the Vercors. In the central square, a commemorative plaque (a martyrologist) honors the names of the inhabitants, 76 women, children and men who lost their lives on the 430 inhabitants of the village. The Memorial of the Resistance invites us to reflection and to remember. But Vassieux also retains the traces of an earlier history: that of prehistoric men, using an important deposit of flint, evoked by the Museum of Prehistory.

Attribution : Focus outdoor



Vassieux church (B)

The church of Vassieux-en-Vercors was not spared during the bombing raids of World War II, and the bell tower is all that remains of the old building. The new church adjoining the bell tower (the only preserved edifice) was designed by the architect Pierre Myassard. The choir was reoriented to the west during the rebuilding work, and the decorative style was executed by the painters Aujame, Humblot and Borgès, the Grenoble glassmaker Montfallet and the sculptor Emile Gilioli. The painting of the choir was replaced by an altarpiece by the artist Carmelo Zagari; two stained-glass windows and the altar were designed by Jean-Marc-Cérino. The altar, which is made from Tavel stone, houses the relics of Edith Stein, a German Jew who became a Carmelite and died while being deported to Auschwitz in 1942.

Attribution : E. Georges



Departmental Museum of the Resistance (C)

The museum, which was founded by an old member of the Resistance, was renovated in its entirety in 2010. The museum tour is dotted with rich collections, connecting the revived history of the maquis and the rebuilding with the first-hand accounts of its founder. The tour is interspersed with a lavish collection of objects from the period and tactile terminals, and is structured around three themes: The Vercors before the Vercors, which presents the local and international context from 1918 to 1942; The Vercors Maquis, which contextualises the history of the Maquis from late 1942 to August 1944; and The Vercors after the Vercors, which details the post-war period, the reconstruction of the Vercors, commemorations and memorial buildings.

Attribution : Département de la Drôme



Plateau of Vassieux (D)

The plateau of Vassieux-en-Vercors is an open landscape characteristic of the karstic plateaus, the surface water is almost non-existent and the soils are not thick. However, dolines, which are depressions where the clay accumulates, thus allowing the cultivation of cereals, alongside these dolines, the stones are heaped up. The ruins of two old windmills are visible in the hamlet of La Mure.

Attribution : S.M Booth



Flint Workshop (E)

The southern part of the plateau of Vassieux is a flint-sized zone. The flint-sized workshop where the Museum of Prehistory was set up was discovered in 1970 by Dr. Michel Malenfant. It is then covered with a stone formed over the centuries by the plowing of the farmers. This is what protected and preserved it intact as abandoned by prehistoric men 4,500 years ago. After stripping and excavation, the workshop turns out to be a large blade production site (nearly 30 cm). It was exploited during three centuries, from 2700 to 2400 before J.C by Neolithic artisans-tailors. Tools of flint in Vassieux were found in the center of Germany and on the island of Ré. Farmers, occasional hunters, artisans and traders, these Neolithic men invented pluriactivity, which is still today a component of the economy of the mountain.

Attribution : M. Rocheblave



Forest of Lente (F)

With its 3000 hectares located between 1100 m and 1600 m of altitude, the forest of Lente is mainly composed of beeches exploited formerly for the coal, as well as softwoods exploited for the construction of mats for the navy. The forest home includes 5 types of ungulates: chamois, roe deer, deer, mouflons and wild boars.

Attribution : S&M Booth



The wolf (G)

The Wolf is a large canid with a brown coat, weighing up to 50 kilos. After disappearing from the Vercors late nineteenth, its presence is suspected in 1996, then confirmed in 1998, following the natural expansion of the Italian population. It is the superpower par excellence. Located at the top of the food chain, it does not hesitate to tackle large prey such as wild boars, deer, deer, chamois, mouflons, but also sheep ...

Attribution : PNRV