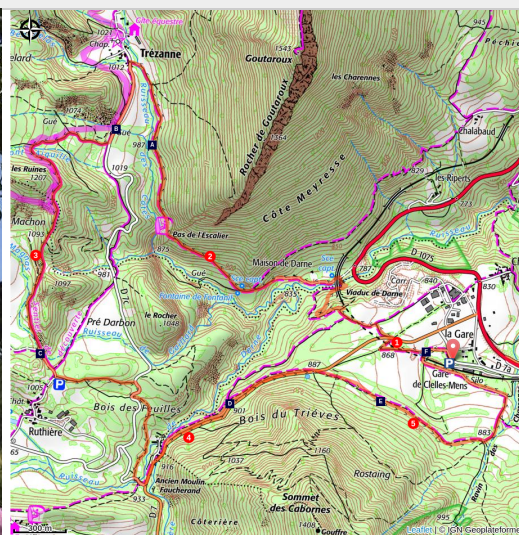


# The different faces of Mont Aiguille

Trièves - Clelles



(M. Rocheblave)



*A loop with plenty of surprises under the gaze of Mont Aiguille.*

This hike has a forest, bucolic atmosphere with some unforgettable sites along the way: the Darne viaduct and the hamlet and chapel of Trézanne not to mention splendid viewpoints for contemplating Mont Aiguille.

## Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 4 h

Length : 11.5 km

Trek ascent : 473 m

Difficulty : Moyen

Type : Boucle

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

# Trek

Departure : Clelles

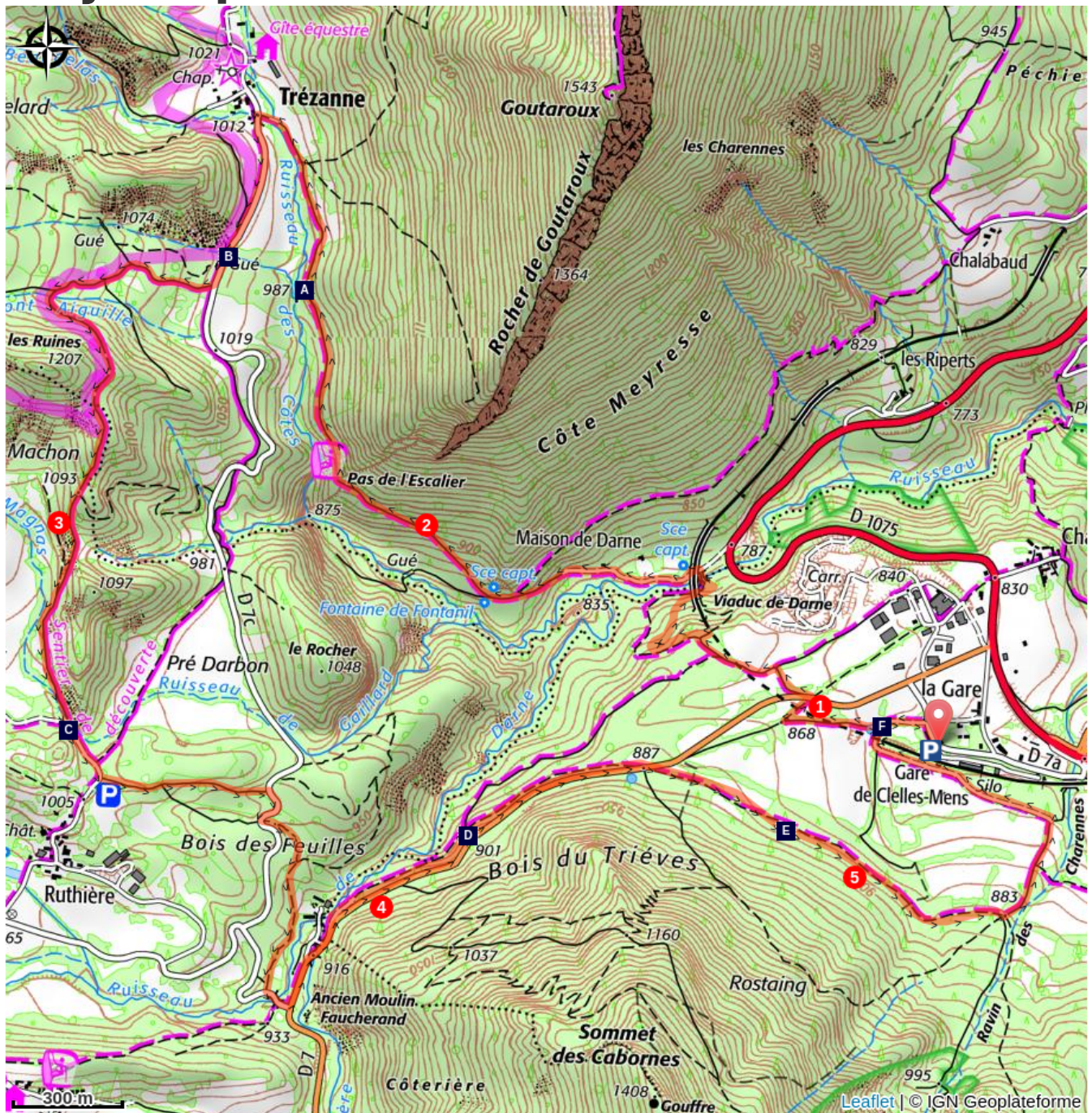
Arrival : Clelles

Markings :  PR  GTV à pied

1. On leaving **the train station**, take the street on the left (north-west) to head towards the **reservoir**. Carry on towards **Génie** and **Bois des Chaux**.
2. Continue until you get to **Darne**, where you will be at the foot of the **Darne** viaduct. Cross under the viaduct and climb up to the hamlet of **Trézanne** via **Au Fontaniou**.
3. In **Trézanne**, walk to the chapel of the hamlet so you can enjoy a breathtaking view of Mont Aiguille. Now return on the D7C towards **Ruthière** via **Les Ruines** (crossing a stream by a ford), **Aux Fontaines** and **Ruthière**. A little further on, take the path on your left in the direction of **La Scie/Clelles**.
4. At **La Scie**, carry on along the D7 in the direction of **the train station**. After you pass a huge rock, take the track on the left and follow the path along a canal and continue on the PR until you get to the D7.
5. Cross the road, and walk along the path in front of you to get to **Mailletère** and **the train station**.



# On your path...



Part of Mont Aiguille (A)  
 Colossus with a foot of clay (C)  
 The Clelles canal (E)

Torrent des Ruines (B)  
 An irrigation canal (D)  
 The mountain with a nasty sting (F)

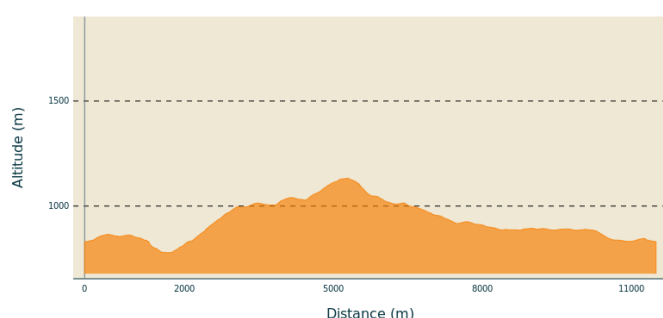
# All useful information

## **Advices**

Use the purpose-built throughways to cross fences; shut gates and barriers behind you.

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

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 778 m  
Max elevation 1132 m

## **Transports**

### **En train :**

TER SNCF ligne Grenoble-Gap - Gare de Clelles-Mens

### **En Bus :**

Avec les Cars Région prendre ligne T95 MENS-MONESTIER DE CLERMONT-GRENOBLE, Arrêt Clelles gare SNCF

## **Access**

Depuis Monestier-de-Clermont, suivre la D1075/ E712 en direction de Clelles.

La gare se situe en amont du village de Clelles.

## **Advised parking**

the train station

## **Information desks**

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...

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## Part of Mont Aiguille (A)

The alluvial fan is the lower section of a mountain stream where sediment is deposited. The fan is clearly visible in front of you, and its sediment comes from the northern foot of Mont Aiguille. The Côtes stream from Trézanne struggles to make its way through all the tributaries of the Ruines stream.

Attribution : A. Poiraud

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## 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.

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## Colossus with a foot of clay (C)

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

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## An irrigation canal (D)

In 1821, a group of local farmers constructed a canal to irrigate parts of their land and gardens in Clelles. The canal was fitted with numerous sluice gates, but only members of the Syndicate were entitled to have access to the water supply.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Mr Corréard, a local miller, leased part of the rights to operate an electric power plant. In addition to running his mill, he became an electricity producer and supplied the commune of Clelles. In 1948, the power plant was connected to the national electricity grid!

Attribution : M. Rocheblave



## The Clelles canal (E)

The piped water is a story of slope.  
Controlling the slope allows to control the regularity of the water flow.

Elevation at start : 897 m

Elevation at arrival : 880 m

Length : 3 km

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## The mountain with a nasty sting (F)

The name «Mont Aiguille» appears quite late on geographical maps, not before the 17th century. However, the mountain is not pointed like a needle, as suggested by its name. It is possible that the local dialect term «aguïo» for a pointed rock might have been confused with the Occitan term «eyguèyo» equivalent to «aiguière» in French, meaning a water vessel. Thus, Mont Aiguille would most likely come from the Occitan name for this mountain (Peiro Eyguèyo), which refers to a «Mountain of Springs», because of the numerous springs at the foot of its northern face (Francès, 1997).

Attribution : A. Poiraud