

Stroll under the watchful gaze of giant Mont Aiguille

Trièves - Chichilianne



(P.Conche)



Mont Aiguille routes

Come and enjoy a beautiful hike at the foot of Mont Aiguille.

Discover the extraordinary geological past which has shaped this mountain, vestige of a former ocean, shaped by tectonic forces and carved by glacial erosion.

A hike through various hamlets that reflect the architectural riches of Trièves.

Useful information

Practice : By walk

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 13.6 km

Trek ascent : 516 m

Difficulty : Difficile

Type : Boucle

Themes : Géologie, Histoire et patrimoine, Accessible en transport en commun, espaces naturels

Trek

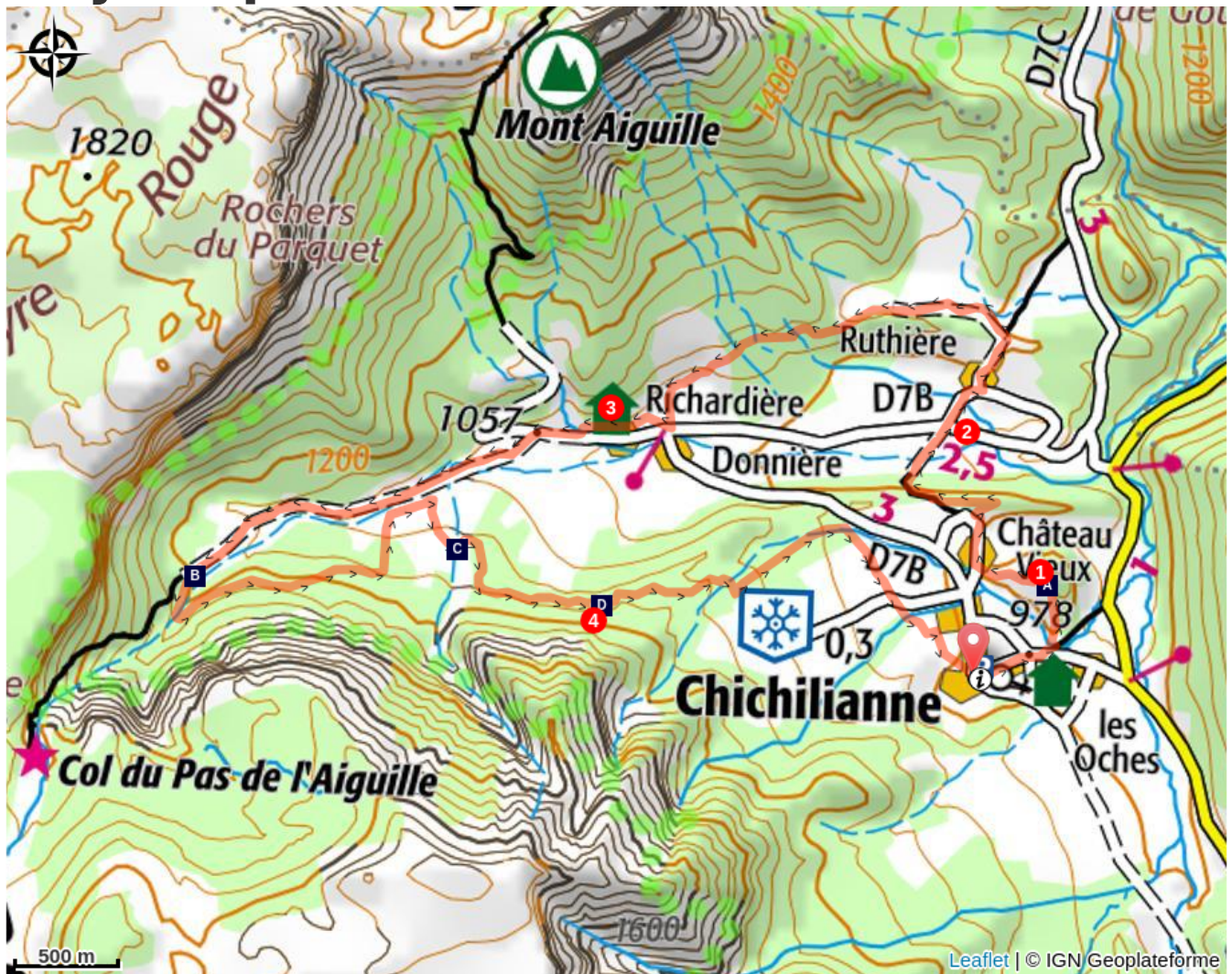
Departure : Chichilianne

Arrival : Chichilianne

Markings :  PR  GTV VTT  GTV à pied

1. From **Chichilianne**, head in the direction of **Près des Oches** followed by **Le Châtel** and **Chevalanche**.
2. Carry on towards **Pierre aux Corneilles** and **Les Crêtes**. Now take the GTV on foot to **Les Fontaines** via **Au Transformateur** and **Ruthière**.
3. Branch off to **Richardière** via the **Pont de Donnière** and continue until **Fourchaux**.
4. You will begin the walk back via **La Rimas**, **Les Frâches**, **Le Cros** and **Le Rapon** to get to your starting point at **Chichilianne**.

On your path...



Back to the past (A)

The Mont Aiguille, tectonic and erosion (B)

Work to contain the torrent's energy (C)

An underwater channel? (D)

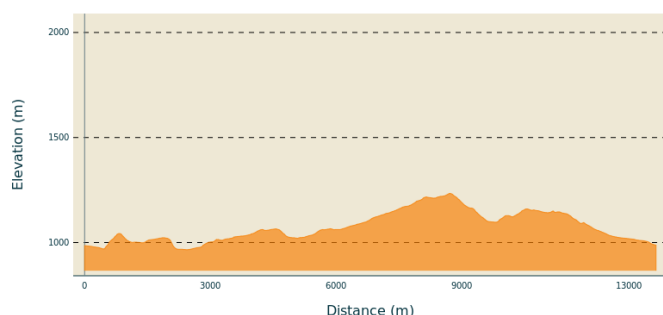
All useful information

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 966 m
Max elevation 1234 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 :

With Cars Région, take [line T95](#) towards Mens / Monestier-de-Clermont, and get off at La Poste of Monestier-de-Clermont; at the secondary school (collège), take [line MEN05](#) (only on weekdays) and descend at Chichilianne.

You can also reach the car park by hitchhike or carpooling.

Carpooling :

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

Access

From Monestier-de-Clermont, take the D1075 towards Clelles and then head for Chichilianne via the D7.

Advised parking

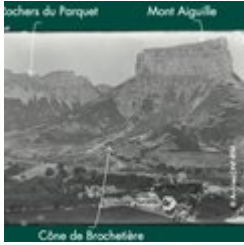
Chichilianne village

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/>

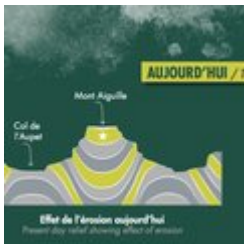
Point d'information Chichilianne
Le Village, 38930 Chichilianne
Tel : 04 76 34 44 95
<http://www.trieves-vercors.fr/point-d-information-chichilianne.html>

On your path...



Back to the past (A)

Compare with what you can see today! 150 years ago, the forest was sparse and confined to very steep slopes. Crops dominated the meadows, the plots of land showed a more complex field pattern and hedges were rare. The slopes of Mont Aiguille were bare or studded with rough moorland that hardly covered the large gashes caused by erosion. Attribution : RTM



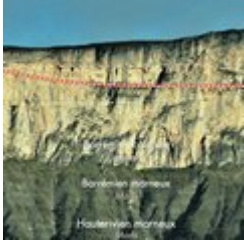
The Mont Aiguille, tectonic and erosion (B)

Mont Aiguille is really an isolated piece of the Vercors massif situated within the Trièves mountains! This can be largely explained by the tectonic history. The Vercors is the result of compression of the earth's crust due to closure of an ocean basin during Alpine mountain building over almost 40 million years. As a result, the rocks were folded and fractured, leading to anticlines, synclines and faults. While anticlines are more easily attacked by erosion, synclines remain resistant for longer. Attribution : A. Poiraud



Work to contain the torrent's energy (C)

The torrent of Les Fraches runs in a debris flow channel which joins the Donnière stream. The Mountain Land Restoration services carried out flood protection measures. The Allée Royale is a succession of 23 small dams built between 1987 and 1992 to limit the scouring effect and break the energy of the torrent. Attribution : A. Poiraud



An underwater channel? (D)

Limestone is formed on the seabed through an accumulation of skeletons and shells of sea creatures. The limestone of Mont Aiguille was fashioned in a shallow sea in a tropical climate and close to the continent. This limestone is “stratified” like a millefeuille cake or a pile of plates, each sheet representing a period of sedimentation.

You can see this stratified limestone on the south-east face of Mont Aiguille in front of you. However, on the its upper section you can very clearly make out one level that cuts through the stratification at an angle. This is almost certainly an old underwater channel that created ravines in the sediment that was already there.

Once established, sedimentation was able to restart and plugged this channel.

Attribution : A. Poiraud