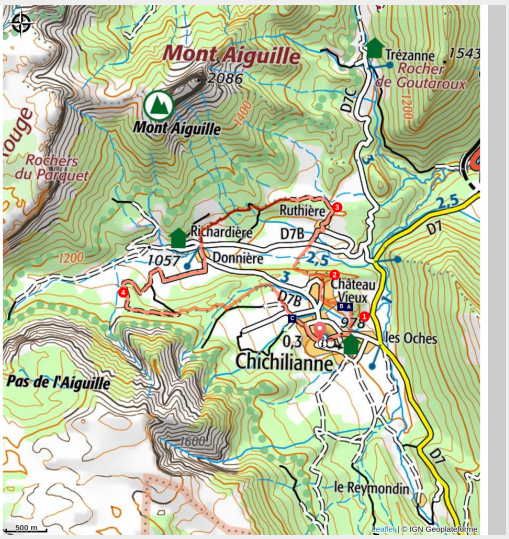
Stroll under the watchful gaze of giant Mont Aiguille

Trièves

(P.Conche)



Mont Aiguille routes

Come and enjoy a beautiful hike at the foot of Mont Aiguille.
Discover the extrordinary 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 : 2 h 30

Length : 10.5 km

Trek ascent : 369 m

Difficulty : Moyen

Type : Boucle

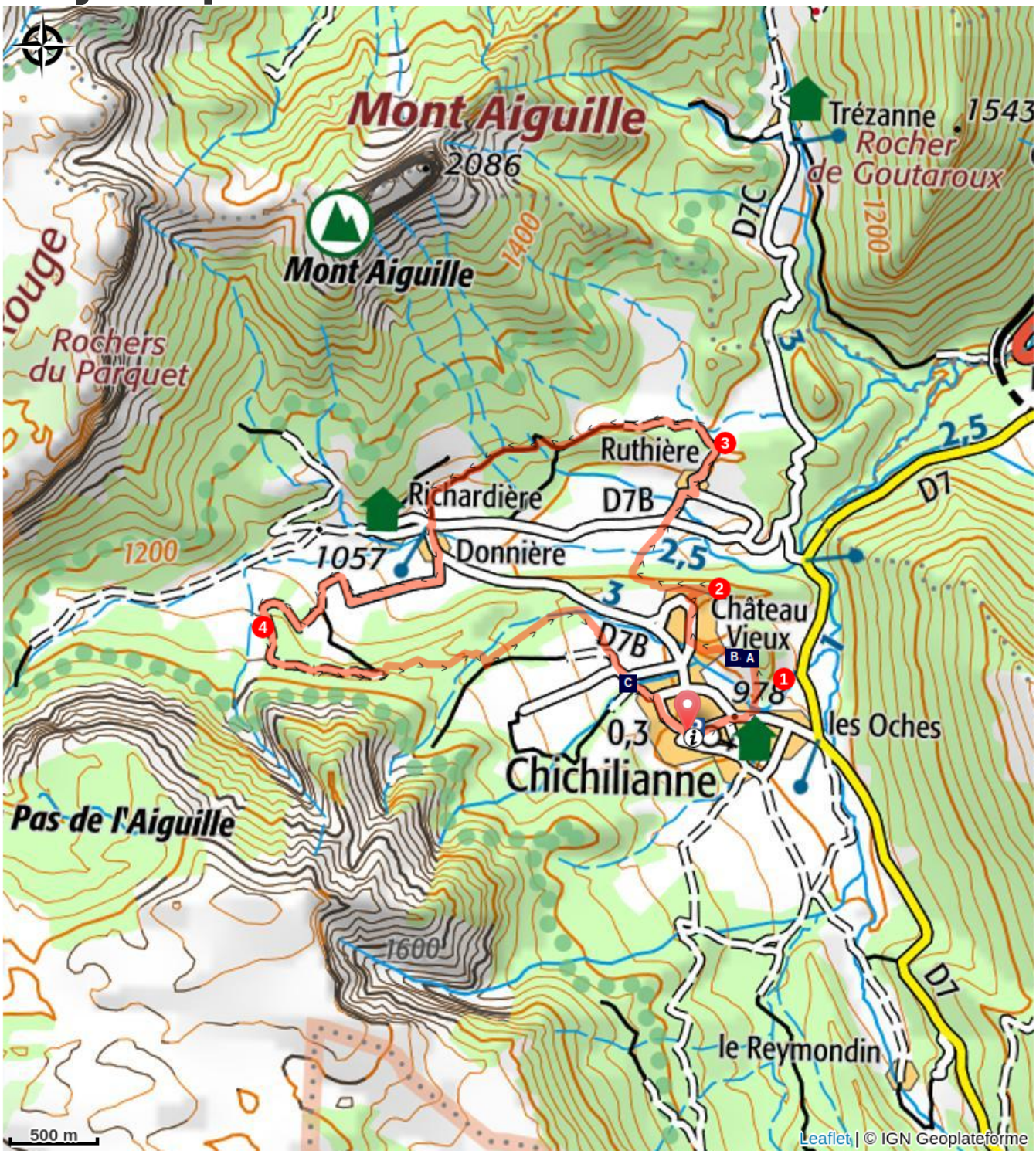
Themes : Géologie, Histoire et patrimoine, Accessible en transport en commun, espaces naturels

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)

Colossus with a foot of clay (B)

An underwater channel? (C)

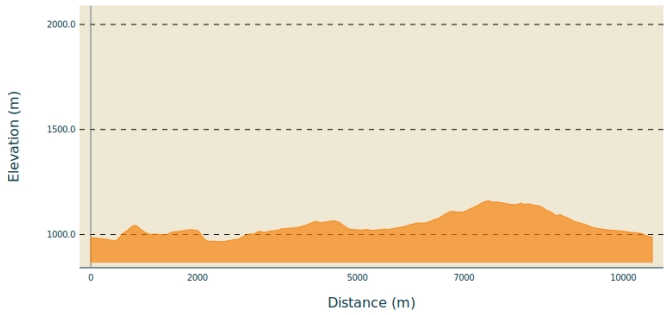
All useful information

⚠ 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 1160 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

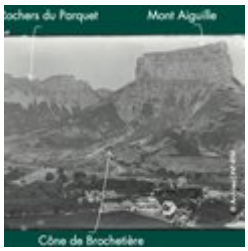
Chichilianne village

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...

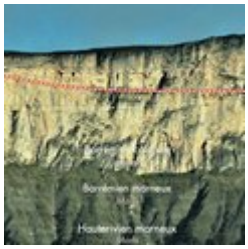


Back to the past (A)

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

Colossus with a foot of clay (B)

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



An underwater channel? (C)

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