

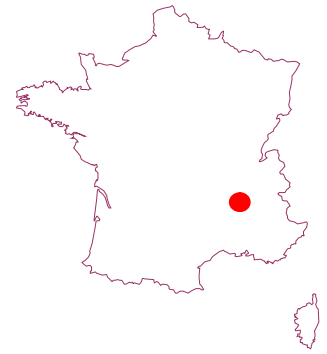
### Season

From May to mid-October.

We recommend you to book this tour 3 or 4 months before the departure date if you plan to walk it in summer time. Great demand and few rooms!

### Difficulty: grade 4

You walk more than 8 hours a day in mountains. Total ascent a day could be more than 1,000 m. It's quite challenging and you must have a high level of fitness.



### Itinerary

*9-day and 8-night self-guided walking holidays*

Day 1 : Arrival at AUTRANS. Situated at a height of more than 1000 meters, the city of Autrans offers a landscape that is very typical of Vercors : open, undulating spaces, numerous grazing lands surrounded by forests of spruce and beech trees, and scattered hamlets - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel

Day 2 : AUTRANS - RENCUREL (5 and a half hour walk – ascent : 450 meters). You will leave Autrans after having admired the lovely Romanesque church tower and direct yourself towards La Ferme de Blanc-Brude (farm). From there you will begin your ascent to Le Pas de Pertusson (Pertusson Pass, 1435 meters) by way of La Combe Garnet and La forêt des Clapiers. You will descend the other side to arrive in the village of Rencurel, passing several hamlets, all quite characteristic of the region! Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel

Day 3 : RENCUREL - PONT EN ROYANS (5 and a half hour walk – ascent : 350 meters). You will climb up to the hamlet of Les Glenats and make your way through La Forêt des Coulmes to the hamlet of Les Ailes and l'Abri de la Goulmandière. You will cross the Rochers du Ranc (rocks) from where you will have a lovely view of the Bourne Valley. You will descend into the valley until you reach the hamlet of Les Cuilleries and continue on to Choranche, a nice little village through which passes the Bourne River. Choranche nestles in the heart of a cirque delimited by Les Rochers de Presles (rocks). Near the village lie seven grottos that all amateurs of speleology know well. The path follows the meandering of the river up to Pont en Royans, famous for the vividly colored houses that overhang the river - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.



Day 4 : PONT EN ROYANS – COL DE LA MACHINE (6 hour walk – ascent : 900 meters). You will arrive in the small village of Sainte Eulalie en Royans and walk along the first foothills of La Montagne de Larp (mountain) before reaching the city of Saint Laurent en Royans and the hamlet of La Mucelière. From there, you will enter into La Combe Laval and begin climbing the slopes, following Le Chemin du Pas (path). The path then runs along the Rochers de Laval, the rocks which overhang the valley, and joins the Machine Pass, where lies your hotel. This building was founded more than a hundred years ago and was made to lodge the workmen who built the famous and gorgeous Laval Road, which made it easier to bring the precious trees used in ship construction down to the valley. Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 5 : COL DE LA MACHINE - SAINT AGNAN EN VERCORS (7 hour walk – ascent : 400 meters). This stage will lead you primarily through the forests. You will reach the village of Lente and La Ferme du Mandement (farm) and cross through Le Bois du Mandement de Saint Nazaire (wood), taking the central path to the Carri Pass. You will descend to and cross La Combe de l'Oscence (valley) before arriving at the hamlet of Les Griffes and crossing a flat, wooded area called La Plaine du Chargeau. You will end the day's walk by passing around the Massif des Claveyrons to reach Saint Agnan - Half-board accommodation in a small family-run hotel.

Day 6 : SAINT AGNAN EN VERCORS - GRESSE EN VERCORS (7 hour walk – ascent : 1100 meters). You will cross the high plateaus of Vercors, an area much like a desert, with no vegetation and little water. But what extraordinary wildness and beauty! The top of this plateau is covered in some places with a thin grass on which sheep graze and which is slashed by rain waters as they disappear into the depths of Vercors. The area is little visited and the path is often hard to make out! A few cairns (stone heap) mark the way, but the path is of little concern. If the weather is clear, you will see in the distance the large Croix de Lorraine (Cross) near the Berrièves Pass, reminding us that Vercors was once a terrible battlefield, and that many Resistance fighters died here during World War II! Before

climbing to the pass, you will near Le Refuge du Jasse du Play. Beyond the pass, you will walk down to the hamlets of Le Petit Deux and Le Grand Deux, before arriving in Gresse.

Half-board accommodation in a small guesthouse outside the village

Day 7 : GRESSE EN VERCORS - LA RICHARDIERE (Chichilianne) (7 hour walk ascent : 700 meters). This stage will take you to the high valley of La Gresse, nestling on the east flank of the Vercors. This valley resembles valleys of Savoy and is dominated by Le Mont Aiguille, a gorgeous tabular summit, isolated and detached from the massif. You will leave Gresse by way of the hamlet of La Ville and climb to the Allinas Pass. From here you will see the mount in all its magnificence and will have a wonderful view of Le Trièves. Passing through the forest, you will arrive at the hamlets of Chauplane and La Batie before climbing through woods and grazing lands to the La Richardière village.

Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel

Day 8 : LA RICHARDIERE – CHATILLON EN DIOIS (8 and a half hour walk – ascent : 950 meters). Today, you will discover again the high plateaus of Vercors and its fascinating sites. You will leave the hamlet of La Richardière, walking up the Pas de l'Aiguille Valley. Beyond the pass, you find yourself again on vast, arid expanses. You will walk to the Refuge de Chamouilloux and then arrive at le carrefour des Quatre Chemins de Jasneuf and le carrefour des Quatre Chemins de l'Aubaise (crossroads). You will descend towards the hamlet of Archiane, crossing La Combe de l'Aubaise (valley). You now find yourself in the Archiane Cirque, a fantastic space of beauty lined by steep cliffs which enclose the valley. The path then skirts around the Glandasse mountain, last ramparts of Vercors, running through Le Sapet and Glandasse forests before descending into the Chatillon en Diois city

Half-board accommodation in a guesthouse or family-run hotel

Day 9 : CHATILLON EN DIOIS. The tour ends after breakfast.

## Access to and from

### Outward journey

By train: Grenoble is easily reached by TGV. A bus will then take you to Villard de Lans.

By car: Go to Grenoble along motoways. Then, take D106 road (via Seyssins) to Lans-en-Vercors, and D531 road to Villard-de-Lans.

Where to park: free car parks are available in Villard but returning there after the hike is difficult. We suggest leaving your car in a pay car park with 24-hour surveillance in Grenoble, just near the rail station, and take a bus to Villard.

### Outward journey

By train: bus to the rail station of Dié

Getting back your car: transfer by taxi or bus to the Die rail station where several trains leave daily for Grenoble

## Accommodation

8 nights with accommodation in 1 or 2 star hotel or guesthouse on half-board basis

*Accommodation is normally in large bed or twin-bedded rooms, with en-suite facilities (at least shower, washbasin and toilet) when available, which is 95% of the time. However, you can stay in remote spots or small villages where there is little or no choice of accommodations and where facilities may be limited. In this case, you will share a bathroom or shower room and toilets with some other people on the same storey.*

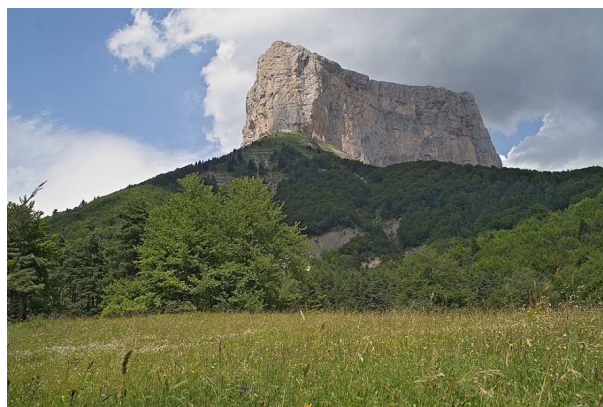
*Picnic lunches are not included in the tour but are available from the hotel on request the previous evening, alternatively picnic materials can be bought at the stop village or at each of the towns and villages along the route. We indicate in the route notes where there are suitable restaurants or cafés for lunch stops. We recommend you to carry food and drinks if there are none convenient to the trail.*

## Included

- Twin share accommodation with private facilities
- Baggage transfer between hotels (except for STD option)
- Route notes and maps
- 8 dinners
- Emergency phone number (8:00am to 7:00pm every day)

## Not included

- Visa fees, transportation fees to and from the walk area
- Insurance (strongly recommended on all trips)
- Transfers except those mentioned above
- Drinks
- Additional meals
- Spending of personal nature e.g. laundry, souvenirs, phone calls,...



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