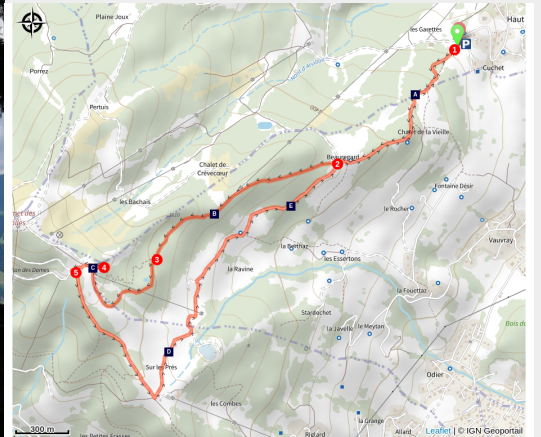


La croix de Salles, Demi-Quartier

CC Pays du Mont-Blanc - Combloux



Belvédère (@julietteBuret)



Facing Mont Blanc from the Croix des Salles viewpoint, this loop trail explores the heights of Demi-Quartier.

Learn about the signs of drought on fir trees and the dangers of campfires in the mountains.

Useful information

Practice : Summer hike

Duration : 2 h

Length : 7.6 km

Trek ascent : 440 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Flora, Ecogeste, Lac et glacier, Montagne sans voiture, Point de vue

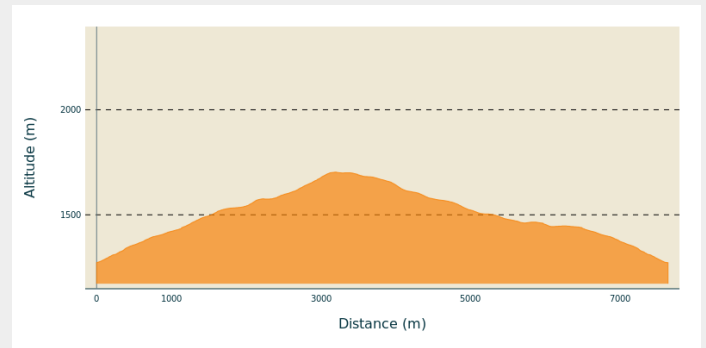
Trek

Departure : Cuchet parking area, Combloux

Arrival : Cuchet parking area, Combloux

Cities : 1. Combloux
2. Demi-Quartier
3. Megève

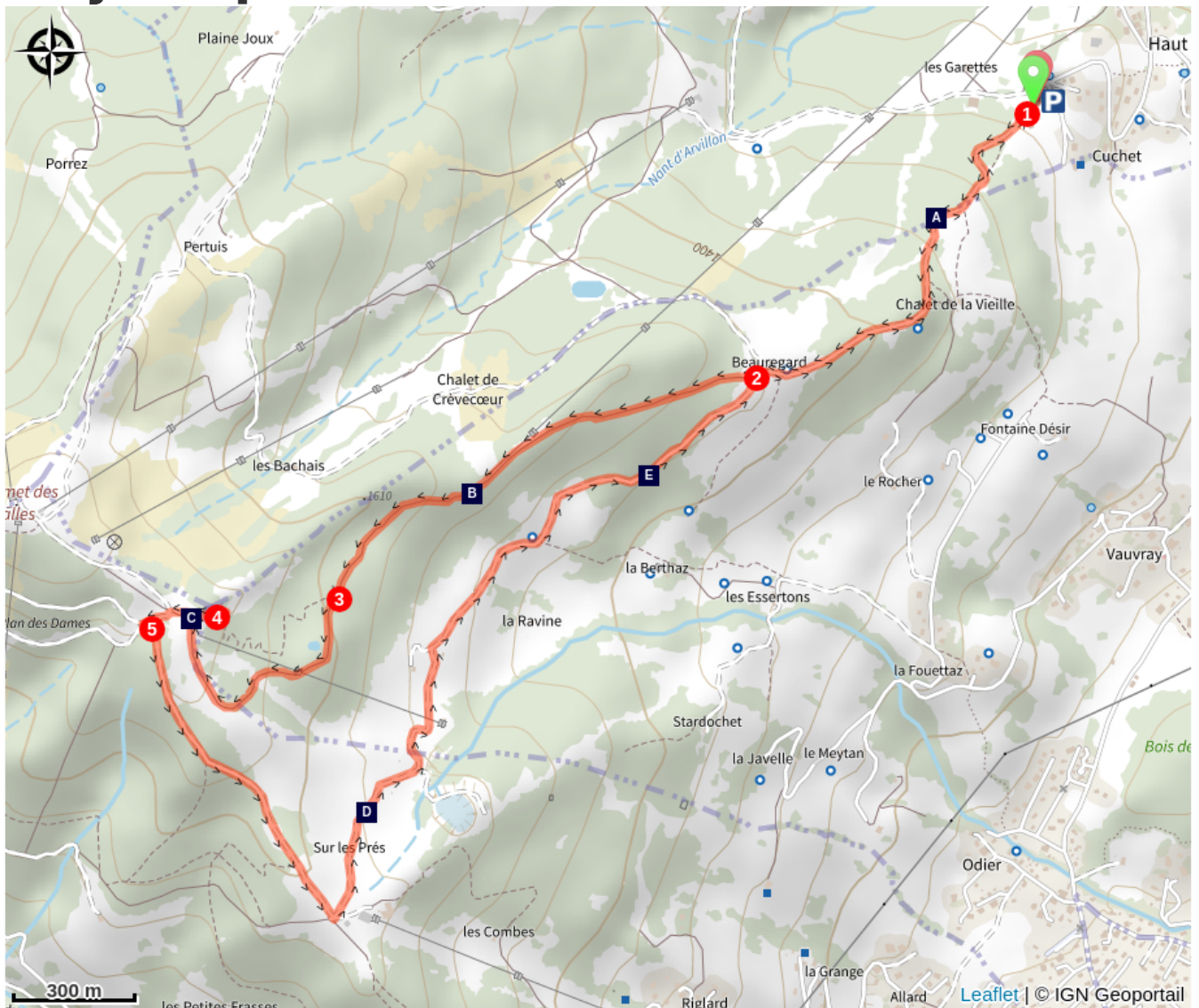
Altimetric profile








Min elevation 1272 m Max elevation 1703 m

At the Beaugard Alpage, turn left towards Le Jaillet, then take an immediate right to La croix des Salles. Beaugard is where the Milka company filmed one of its famous adverts slogans: "And the marmot puts the chocolate in the tinfoil". Along this trail, you can take a quicker and shadier ascent. After passing the Beaugard ski lift, keep left on the trail; you'll soon cross another trail; don't forget to close the gates. La croix des Salles is located on a forest lookout point next to the ski lift arrivals. Return down via Le Jaillet, La Ravine, then turn to the left on the trail leading to the Beaugard mountain pasture.

On your path...



-  The superstars of Haute-Savoie (A)
-  Why are campfires banned? (C)
-  Dehydrated trees: red colour is a sign of trouble (E)

-  The elusive Hazel Grouse (B)
-  Peat bogs and wetlands (D)

All useful information

Animaux acceptés

De manière générale votre chien, s'il est autorisé, doit être tenu en laisse en espaces naturels. Par sa présence, son odeur et ses déjections, votre chien peut perturber la biodiversité. Sa divagation dans la nature peut avoir des conséquences lourdes pour la faune sauvage et les troupeaux (transmission de germes, stress de la faune sauvage, destruction des couvées au sol). Les chiens sont interdits en cœur de parcs nationaux et dans la plupart des réserves naturelles.

Advices

Always be careful and plan ahead when hiking. Asters, CEN 74 can not be held responsible for the occurrence of any accident or incident on this trail.

How to come ?

Transports

Bus to the Cuchet parking area. It's free from July to September. [navette gratuite](#)

Access

It is the furthest car park found at the end of the Cry Cuchet road, on the heights of Combloux.

Advised parking

Cuchet parking area, Combloux

On your path...



🐾 The superstars of Haute-Savoie (A)

You're about to learn all you need to know about the two breeds of cow found in the Savoie region. The Abondance, also known as the bespectacled cheesemaker. It can be recognised by its mahogany-red coat and white head and belly. Its sturdy hooves make it suitable for walking on rocky ground. This breed is responsible for a number of exquisite cheeses, including Reblochon, Beaufort and the famous Abondance. The Tarine or Tarentaise is smaller, but its dexterity, resistance to temperature fluctuations and stamina make it a true mountain breed! Its tawny-coloured skin and fully black extremities protect it from the sun. It is bred for its milk, which is used to make Beaufort, Tomme de Savoie and Reblochon.



🐾 The elusive Hazel Grouse (B)

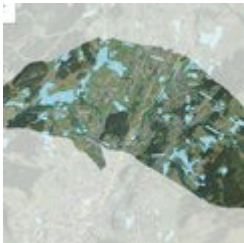
This is the smallest and most elusive of the mountain Galliformes species. It is much less well known than the black grouse or the rock ptarmigan because it lives exclusively in the forest! But it is just as important from a biological and scientific point of view: this species is an excellent indicator of environmental change. Its specific requirements in terms of vegetation and variety of tree species put it at risk in the face of poor forest management. This is one of the main causes of the species' decline.

Attribution : @JeanPaulLahache



🏕️ Why are campfires banned? (C)

Sitting by the fire, singing and roasting marshmallows sounds dreamy. But what are the consequences of campfires? 1. Renewal of the flora: the soil of alpine meadows is made up of fragile vegetation that has taken many years to build up, and the flora is therefore scarce. It takes time for vegetation to regrow following a fire, and more ordinary vegetation will grow back more quickly. At an altitude of 1600 m, it takes between 15,000 and 40,000 years to build up 10 cm of fertile land. 2. One visitor negatively impacts the environment only marginally but as there are so many visitors overall, the negative impact builds up exponentially. A single lone fireplace may not do much harm but if every visitor decided to make their own fireplace, the negative impact on the soil would increase very quickly. 3. Disturbance to wildlife: smell and noise. Wildlife is distressed by such disturbances at night (when they are actively searching for food), which affects their foraging and their ability to reproduce. 4. The risk of fire: even if you make your campfire with pebbles all around it and keep flare-ups to a minimum, an ember can still quickly ignite and cause a fire.



🌿 Peat bogs and wetlands (D)

By definition, a peat bog is a wetland, covered by vegetation, where the specific ecological conditions have led to the formation of a soil containing a deposit of peat. Peat bogs act as climate change buffers, particularly through their ability to trap carbon. An active peatland traps an average of 733 kg of CO₂ per hectare per year (Villa and Bernal, 2018). On a global scale, wetland soils store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests. Preserving these areas is therefore a real priority.



☘ Dehydrated trees: red colour is a sign of trouble (E)

The effects of climate change, water shortage and repeated droughts are weakening trees, particularly spruces and firs. Despite their ability to gradually adapt to the water shortage, several tree species are increasingly dying out. Trees regulate their transpiration by closing the stomates ("pores") in their leaves, thereby curbing their growth. This closure leads to overheating, which can be fatal for the species. Trees, already weakened by these factors, can no longer fend off attacks from parasites. Certain insects (bark beetles) dig burrows under the bark of spruce trees, feeding on the wood and sap, further exacerbating the death rate with alarming intensity. Attacked trees can be identified by the change in colour of their needles, which turn from green to brown. The rate of migration and adaptation of trees (which live for more than a hundred years) is too slow to keep up with the pace of change. Forest managers are experimenting with planting species that are more resistant to climate change.

Attribution : @Asters-CEN74