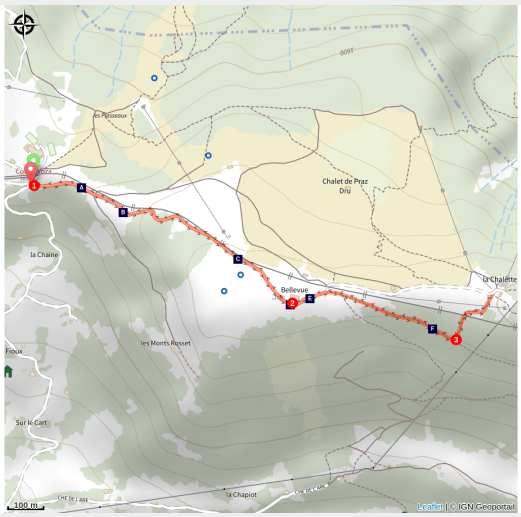
Walk from Bellevue to the col de Voza mountain pass

CC Pays du Mont-Blanc - Saint-Gervais-les-Bains



Vue depuis le col de Voza. Tramway du Mont-Blanc. (Lucie Rousselot - Asters CEN74)

Towering over the majesty of Mont Blanc, it's an easy walk in a pastoral ambience that's perfect for a stroll.

On an effortless trail through the pastures, you'll come across fields of flowers, marvel at the Hérens cows with their ornate collars (be careful not to disturb them and don't enter the grazing areas!) and listen to the chirping of crickets and the songs of the farmland birds. A delightful bucolic setting, just a stone's throw from the imposing Dôme du Goûter in the Mont-Blanc massif!

Useful information

Practice : Summer hike

Duration : 50 min

Length : 3.3 km

Trek ascent : 193 m

Difficulty : Very easy

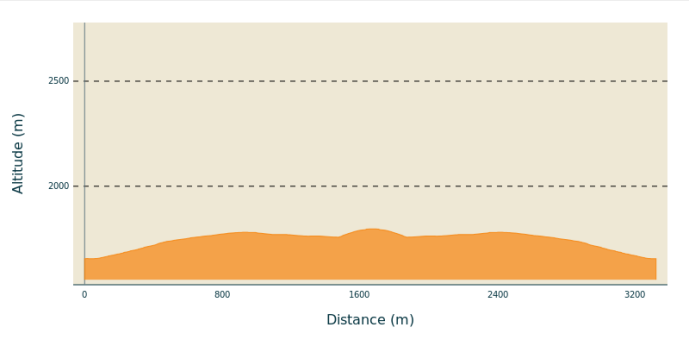
Type : Aller-retour

Themes : Flora, Archéologie et histoire, Montagne sans voiture, Point de vue

Trek

Departure : Tram station BELLEVUE, line TRAMWAY du Mont-Blanc
Arrival : Tramway du Mont-Blanc stop: BELLEVUE
Cities : 1. Saint-Gervais-les-Bains

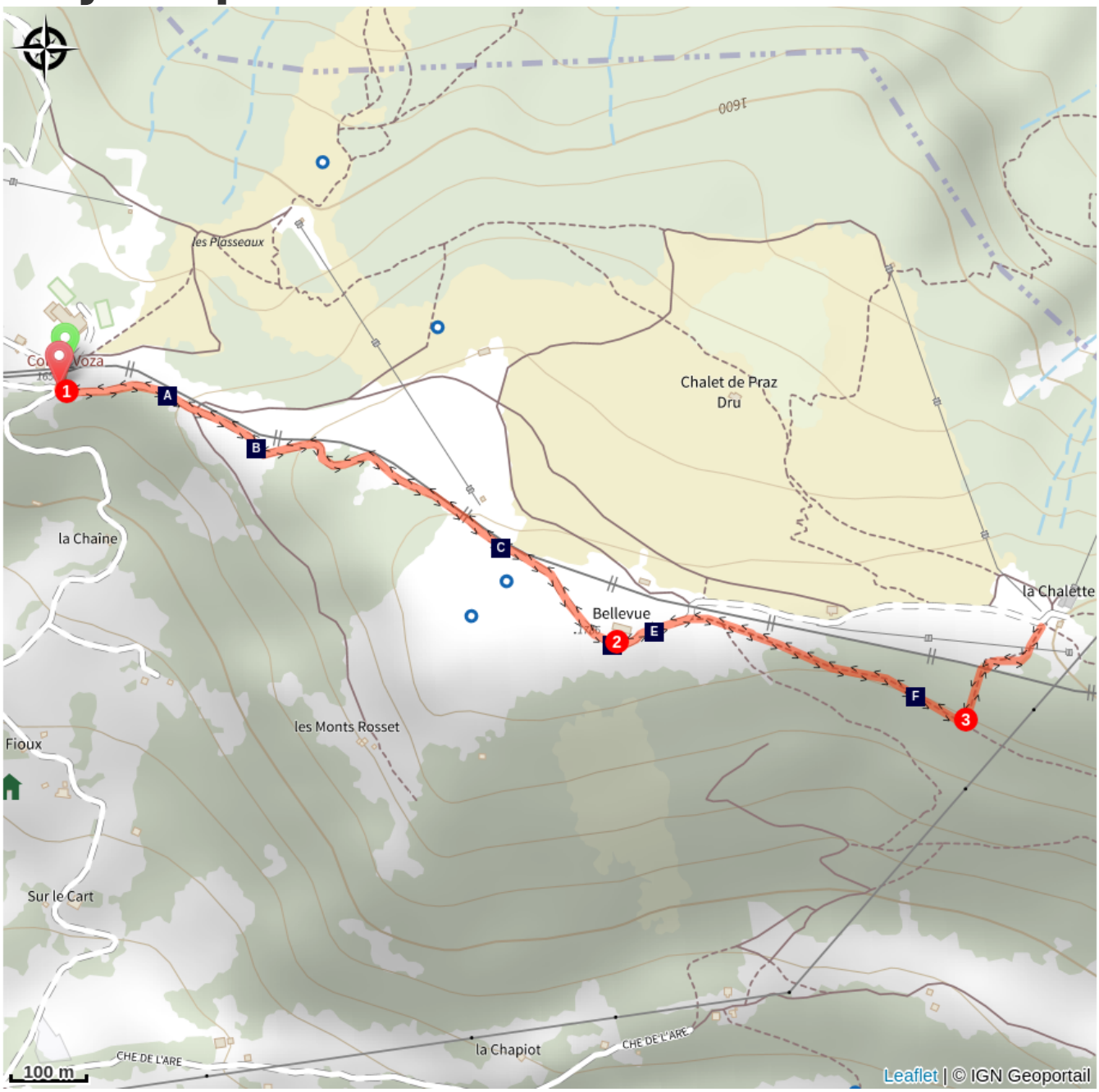
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1655 m Max elevation 1797 m

1. Quand on descend du Tramway du Mont-Blanc (TMB) à la gare du col de Voza, traverser la voie ferrée au niveau du restaurant et emprunter le sentier qui monte sur la droite.
2. Après une montée légèrement raide, vous arrivez à l’hôtel inoccupé de Bellevue. Un nom approprié pour ce belvédère dont la vue est à couper le souffle. Là se trouve une table d’orientation qui décrypte la succession d’aiguilles du massif du mont Blanc. Une pause est toute indiquée face à l'aiguille de Bionnassay et Mont Lachat au premier plan !
3. Traversez les voies pour remonter vers La chalette pour admirer la vue sur la vallée de Chamonix et sur le masif des Fiz à votre gauche et la réserve naturelle de Passy.

On your path...



L'Epilobe à feuilles étroites (A)

Combat de Reines or Swiss Cow fighting (C)

The Whinchat (E)

L'alpage, une prairie fleurie (B)

An empty Bellevue hotel... (D)

The Mont Lachat: a renatured area (F)

All useful information

Animaux acceptés

Votre chien est autorisé dans cette zone d'espace naturel. Il est conseillé de le tenir en laisse. À l'approche d'un troupeau, il est obligatoire de lui mettre une laisse. 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.

How to come ?

Transports

Tramway du Mont-Blanc (TMB)

Access

The best way to get there is from the BELLEVUE stop on the Mont-Blanc tramway.
Second best way : Les Houches-Bellevue ski lift
From the Le Crozat car park [+ 45 min walk] Le Crozat -
Bionnassay, Saint-Gervais

Advised parking

[+ 45 min de marche] Le Crozat - Bionnassay, Saint-Gervais

On your path...

L’Epilobe à feuilles étroites (A)

The perfect background for your memento photograph of Mont Blanc, fireweed populates the area with its beautiful bright pink spikes.
In addition to its aesthetic appeal, this nectar-rich plant attracts pollinators and grows easily. It is extremely useful for revegetating damaged alpine and northern environments. Its roots also help to strengthen the soil.

Attribution : Lucie Rousselot - Asters CEN74

L’alpage, une prairie fleurie (B)

The plants of the mountain pasture are mostly grasses (herbs) associated with multicolored flowers with pretty names such as Gentian, Willowherb, Holy Clover, Starthisles, Maidenstears, Bellflower...However, this enchanting scenery is a result of herbs' adaptation to the harsh mountain environment.

At this altitude, due to accumulation of snow over a period of several months, the optimal season for plant development is very short, so the plants have to be extremely resourceful to reproduce within this timeframe. One such trick is to have large, colourful petals to attract pollinators.

Attribution : @LucieRousselot

Combat de Reines or Swiss Cow fighting (C)

With their dark, stocky bodies and black-tipped horns, you'd think they were a herd of bulls. Wrong! These are fighting cows: Hérens. This Swiss breed from the Val d'Hérens in the Valais is also renowned for its meat and milk. They fight among themselves to establish the hierarchy in the herd. The dominant cows (the queens) in each herd compete in "queen fights" to determine the queen of the canton or valley.

Attribution : @JulienHeuret

An empty Bellevue hotel... (D)

A trailblazer in high-altitude accommodation since the early 19th century, it closed in 1980. At the end of the 90s, it was decided to rebuild the hotel, located on the Mont-Blanc massif. 10 years and 3 projects later, planning permission has finally been obtained! The hotel's goal is to be the first "passive" hotel in France: very low energy consumption, thanks in particular to the use of solar energy. The hotel was due to open in 2010! But because the building permit was not complied with, this new-generation hotel was never able to open...

The Whinchat (E)

It's a tiny bird, but an important one! A native of meadows and mainly feeding on insects and spiders, its presence is a sign that the meadow it occupies is in a good state of health. It can be found here on this mountain pasture. The male, an avid singer, perches on high plants and stands guard over the female as she lays her eggs. However, the nest does not protect them from all dangers. The nest built on the ground makes the chicks very vulnerable. So be careful! Remember to keep your dogs on a leash in spring!

Attribution : @JulienHeuret

The Mont Lachat: a renatured area (F)

Mont Lachat is a Sensitive Natural Area (ENS). This is an area recognised for its natural heritage, but which is threatened and/or vulnerable due to urbanisation or the proliferation of industrial activities. The Mont Lachat ENS has been the site of daring efforts to rehabilitate and renaturate the site. After dismantling an old wind tunnel, the soil was reseeded with a mixture of local seeds. A total of 5,000 square metres was restored by September 2015. For a site located at an altitude of 2,000 metres, at the foot of a glacier and exposed to the wind, this was truly an unprecedented scientific experiment.

Attribution : ONERA