



Parc national
de la Vanoise



Difficult (loop)



4 h



8,2 km



+ 471 m



*Fauna, History,
Refuge*

Tour of Planlebon

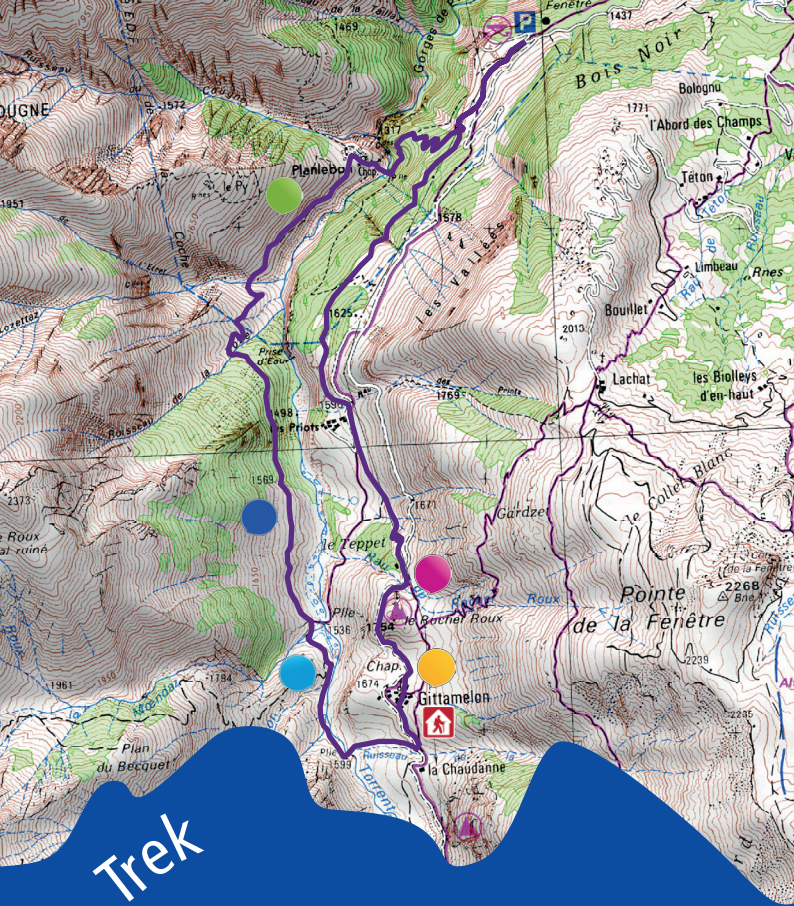
Tarentaise
Les Belleville

A pleasant journey unaffected by the passing of time in a wild valley imprinted by human life.

«I remember one cool early morning when my steps took me to Planlebon. Just before crossing the Encombres torrent over the footbridge, the robin came to greet me. It was at the foot of the chapel that I decided to rest, taking my time to immerse myself in the setting and imagine how life here used to be in this small isolated mountain hamlet..»

Céline Rutten, Vanoise National Park Ranger





Trek

- From the car park, take the slightly uphill grassy path. This path becomes narrower and enters the undergrowth. Leave the trail on the left and go down into the forest. The path winds steeply to a footbridge. Cross this footbridge and go up on the other slope of the gorges as far as the village of Planlebon. At the top left of the village, follow the trail that runs along the slope. After crossing two streams and a steeper section, walk through the undergrowth. The valley then widens and you go down to the Pont des Priots.
- Continue along the left bank of the torrent until you reach another bridge, cross it and climb the bends to reach "Route des Encombres". Follow the road until Refuge de Gittamelon. From the Refuge, take the path leading to Rocher Roux. Then go down, cross the vehicle track and turn off the path that leads to Priots and ends at a stony track.
- After the last house, turn left onto the grassy path that runs along the valley. At the fork in the path, choose the descending path. Leave this path at the next turn to take a right onto the undergrowth trail. This then joins the departure path and car park.

- **Departure** : Frachettes car park (Le Châtelard)
- **Arrival** : Frachettes car park (Le Châtelard)
- **Markings** : PR



Min elevation : 1369 m

Max elevation : 1693 m

On your path...

The hamlet of Planlebon

In the 18th century, as the population of the Belleville Valley continued to grow, even the most remote villages became permanent habitats and all usable plots were cultivated. Consequently, the hamlet of Planlebon had 36 inhabitants in 1773. They spent their winters cut off from the world. The Encombres valley takes its name from the heavy avalanche activity in the area.



The Vallée des Encombres

The hamlets of Priots and Gittamelon have also been restored. By contrast, they were only ever summer habitations used for a pit stop on the path of Encombres which at that time was an important route linking Maurienne to Moûtiers. At the time, all journeys were made on foot with mules carrying the loads. Imagine this valley covered by peddlers and merchants who came to buy the Belleville cheeses, pilgrims on their way to Notre Dame de la Vie, or farmers leading their flocks to the famous Saint-Martin fair?



The chamois

From the crests to the torrent, the left bank of the Encombres valley is part of a hunting reserve which brings together about 1,300 chamois as well as roe, deer and ibex. Susceptible to avalanches, this valley naturally protects them from winter disturbances which would be fatal to them in this time of rest. The animals occupy the southern slopes during the cold period as the snow doesn't hold there for long. In the spring, the greenery attracts them near to the ruins of Planlebon.



Gittamelon

Sheep, goats and cows... Herdsmen, cheese makers, refuge keepers, ... the Encombres valley is definitely always lively! Follow the herds by the sound of their cowbells, these bells of varying size hang around the animal's neck and make them easier to find. The Refuge de Gittamelon welcomes hikers for short coffee breaks, a meal or an overnight stay. These are the Aiguilles de la Moendaz (2,697m) which will wish you good night.



The Conservatoire de l'Abeille Noire

The black bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) is a subspecies of the honeybee. Savoy's ecotype, adapted to the climate and local flora, is used by the valley's bee-keepers. The creation in April 2016 of a black bee Conservatory in the Encombres valley has led to the establishment of mating apiaries. These apiaries allow young queens to be fertilised only by males of this ecotype.





Y aller...

Access and transport



From Moutiers take the D117 in the direction of the "Vallée des Belleville". Pass Saint-Jean-de-Belleville and continue until the administrative centre of Saint-Martin-de-Belleville. At the entrance to the administrative centre, take the small road on the right leading to Châtelard. At the entrance to the hamlet of Châtelard, turn left in the direction of the «Vallée des Emcombres» and follow this road to the signpost for Frachettes car park. Park on the right below.



Rail connection to Moutiers.



Then transport by coach to Saint-Martin-de-Belleville. Departure for the hike approximately 3 km from the village centre.



Suggested hitchhiking organised in the valley : www.rezopouce.fr

Information desks

- ✓ Office de tourisme - Place de l'église
73440 Saint-Martin-de-Belleville (04 79 00 20 00)

Useful information

Be particularly careful on the trail overlooking the torrent after passing the village of Planlebon. It is possible to shorten the hike by taking the Pont des Priots (1,535m in altitude) to reach the village of the same name and finally the departure car park.

More hikes on rando.vanoise.com

