



Parc national
de la Vanoise



Very easy (loop)



3 h 30



4,3 km



+2 17 m



*Architecture, Fauna,
Flora*



*In part : Pushchair,
Wheelchair*

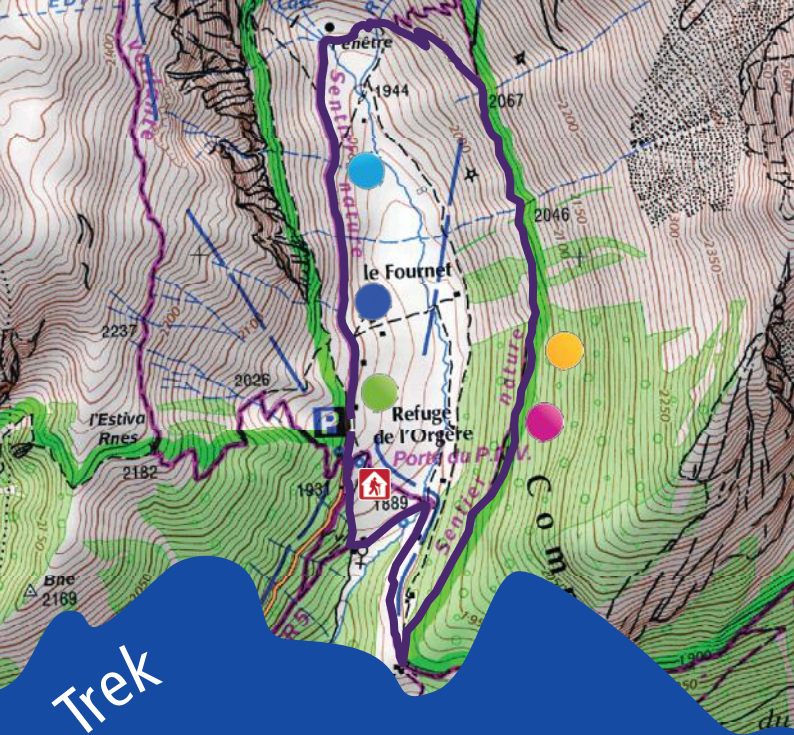
Vallon de l'Orgère

Haute-Maurienne
Villarodin-Bourget


An interpretive trail that crosses the marmots' preferred terrain before entering a forest of cembro pines hundreds of years old, brought to life by the mischievous spotted nutcrackers.

The valley of Orgère is a natural setting hanging over the Maurienne Valley where a wild and ancient forest shares the space with meadows maintained by several generations of farmers. Here, both wild and domesticated nature live in perfect harmony under the ominous but benevolent vigilance of the Aiguille Doran.





- Park in the Orgère car park located after the refuge at the end of the road.
- Then take the old EDF track, located at the bottom of the car park. Follow the discovery trail marked by landmarks and equipped with visual, audible and tactile interpretation stations. Pass a concrete bridge that straddles the Povaret stream to reach the foot of the Aiguille Doran. Here the section of the trail labelled "Promenade de confort" ends. For people with reduced mobility and pushchair users, return to the car park by the outward route.
- For hikers wishing to complete the loop, follow a path to a wooden footbridge to cross the Masse stream. Continue along a winding path until you reach a crossing which is also the summit of this hike. At this crossing, turn right following the markers for the discovery trail. After walking through the rhododendrons, enter the heart of the forest, while continuing to descend gradually, exit the forest to reach a second crossing, located near the chalets. Take a right on an off-road track, arrive at a stone bridge crossing the Povaret stream. Continue on, then cross a group of buildings, including a chapel on your left. Follow the markers for the discovery trail and climb through a softwood forest by a winding path.
- Come out on to a road, climbing back up to reach the car park.

- **Departure** : Orgère car park (Villarodin-Bourget)
- **Arrival** : Orgère car park (Villarodin-Bourget)
- **Markings** : Parc 



Min elevation : 1878 m

On your path...

The Orgère valley

Orgère, where barley was grown. In past centuries, the need for pastures, hayfields and cultivated land on flat or slightly hilly areas forced man to deforest, even at high altitude. The right bank of the valley, presenting a gentler profile, was the most exploited. The rocks which clutter the plots are regularly placed in heaps, to form mounds of stones which still remain in the valley. Used during the summer, the valley was brought to life by about fifteen families and their little flock.



The chalets

«When most of the flat areas, more suitable for building chalets, were occupied, it was necessary to build on the slope, in areas more exposed to avalanches. Some chalets therefore had to be built with a specific architecture in order to resist avalanches: semi-buried, oriented in the direction of the slope and protected by a protective promontory called a «tourne»».



The marmot

The alpine look-out will often see you before you see her and will signal your presence by a shrill cry, unless she wishes to warn her fellow-mates of the arrival of an eagle. Ever-present on the lower part of the route, often curious, she will delight hikers, both old and young alike, who visit the valley. Most importantly, do not feed them! Food which is not suited to them will harm their health and their survival.



The Orgère forest

Comprised of a mixture of cembro pines and European larches, the Orgère forest has derived its richness from the absence of logging since 1943. As a result, it has ecological characteristics that bring it closer to primary forests with many centuries-old trees and a large proportion of dead wood.



The spotted nutcracker

Known as the ghost of the forest, it is often its raucous cry that will call you, before you see it, flying through the branches. If you are a bird watcher, you may have already noticed near the outskirts of the trail the many cembro pine cones which it took care to dissect with its powerful beak to extract the seeds. They have a large number of reserves which they hide in multiple places throughout the forest and which they can find with absolute precision thanks to a highly developed localisation technique. The forgotten seeds will germinate and help in the reproduction of the cembro pine.





To go there...

Access and transport



From the exit of the A43 motorway, take the direction of Modane. At the Freney roundabout, take the RD 106 towards the Refuge de l'Orgère which is signposted. After a 30 minute drive, pass the Refuge on your right to access the car park.



Rail connection to Modane.



Suggested hitchhiking organised in the Haute-Maurienne valley : www.rezopouce.fr

Information desks

- ✓ Maison cantonale - Point Information Vanoise - Modane
9 Place Sommeiller, 73500 Modane
(04 79 05 26 67 et 04 79 05 57 94)

Useful information

As the trail largely borders the heart of the park, you are strongly advised to keep any dogs accompanying you on a leash. This also prevents any interactions with animals in the mountain pastures.

Accessible path of about 1.4 km for people with reduced mobility and motor disabilities, certified "Promenade confort" (comfort trail), with two disabled parking spaces. The trail is punctuated by stations consisting of tactile features, models and sound stations.

More hikes on rando.vanoise.com

