



Parc national  
de la Vanoise



*Easy (return)*



*4 h*



*14.7 km*



*+ 551 m*



*Fauna, Geology,  
History*

# Vallon de la Leisse

Haute-Maurienne  
Val-Cenis-Termignon

## A breathtaking mineral route

The route starts at the alpine pasture chalets of Entre-Deux-Eaux, a pleasant and humid site. Then gradually the landscape becomes wilder: towards the Pont de Croé-Vie, I imagine the mule caravans, the smugglers, the herds passing in Tarentaise. The valley becomes austere but all you need do is open your eyes to discover the charm and magic of the place: starting with the Oeil de la Grande Casse (Eye of the Grande Casse) which, incidentally, it is necessary to open to distinguish this high recumbent fold on the left under the Grande Casse. Still on the same side, the bush-covered screes spread out, changed from one year to the next. These curiosities watch over me, until I arrive at the refuge, a haven of peace amidst the wild nature.

*Nathalie Tissot, Vanoise National Park Ranger*





# On your path...

## *The Torrent de la Leisse*

Fed by the melting glaciers and névés, the Torrent de la Leisse runs down the valley of Leisse to Entre-Deux-Eaux. There, it converges with the Torrent de la Rocheure to give rise to the Doron de Termignon which passes much lower in the valley at Termignon.



## *The Pont de Croë-Vie*

The Pont de Croë-Vie, literally meaning "wrong path" in Patois, dates a priori to the seventeenth century. It is a semicircular single-arch bridge with whitewashed stones and a paved roadway. This construction is unique because of the decking height (in relation to floods) and the existence of parapets. The presence of this masonry bridge testifies to the strategic importance of the salt road, because a simple wooden bridge would have sufficed! The bridge was restored by the Vanoise National Park in 2008. It was an historical commercial and military crossing-point between the valleys of Tarentaise and Maurienne. The "salt and cheese road" took this narrow.,



## *The pli couché*

The recumbent fold (pli couché) of the Grande Casse or the "eye of the Grande Casse" on the right bank of the Torrent de la Leisse, masterfully overlooks the wandering hikers (to the left after the Pont de Croë-Vie).



## *The ibex, chamois and marmot*

On the right bank of the Torrent de la Leisse, on the sunny side, the ibex (bovidae mammal, *Capra ibex*) roam, while on the left bank in the shade, you can see the more discreet and wild chamois (*Mammifera bovidae, Rupicapra rupicapra*). As for the marmots, they take refuge in their burrows at the slightest signal whether from an eagle, fox or hiker (*Sciuridae Mammal, Marmota marmota*).



## *The Refuge de la Leisse*

The three wooden chalets that make up the Refuge de la Leisse were built starting in 1970, on a glacial rock bar at 2,500 m in altitude. They are located under the Grande Motte glacier, which gives the landscape a wild and mineral character.





## To go there...

### Access and transport



*From the village of Termignon, head towards Lanslebourg. 500 m in at the hairpin bend, turn left on to Bellecombe road. Follow it for about ten kilometres to Bellecombe car park (parking compulsory + shuttle use).*



*Rail line to Modane.*



*Then shuttle bus Termignon-Bellecombe-Entre Deux Eaux, from July to August and the weekends from 15th June to 14th September.*



*Suggested hitchhiking organised in the Haute-Maurienne valley : [www.rezopouce.fr](http://www.rezopouce.fr)*

### Information desks

- ✓ Office de tourisme et Point Information Vanoise  
Maison de la Vanoise, Place Vanoise  
Termignon 73500 Val-Cenis (04 79 05 99 06 et 04 79 20 54 54)

### Useful information

This hike is in the core of the national park. The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors ([www.vanoise-parcnational.fr](http://www.vanoise-parcnational.fr)).

*More hikes on [rando.vanoise.com](http://rando.vanoise.com)*

