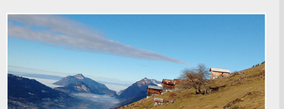
Montagnes du Giffre

Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc

Châtillon-sur-Cluses,
La Rivière-Enverse, Mieussy - Sommand,
Morillon, Samoëns,
Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval,
Taninges - Praz de Lys, Verchaix



haute savoie le Département

650 kilometres of waymarked routes

54 guided walks

€6

destination-montagnesdugiffre.fr

THE GIFFRE VALLEY

The Giffre Mountains stand between Lake Geneva and Mont-Blanc. Offering a wide view made of peaks, glaciers and valleys, they are home to a rich variety of wildlife. Some of the most interesting species to watch are the Chamois, the highlight of which being the biggest population unique to the Alps. Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval, Samoëns, Taninges - Praz de Lys and Sommand, Morillon, Samoëns, Châtillon-sur-Cluses, La Rivière-Enverse, Mieussy - Sommand, Morillon, Samoëns, Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval, Taninges - Praz de Lys and Châtillon-sur-Cluses are the gateways to a wide range of outdoor activities: hiking, mountain biking, climbing, canyoning, paragliding, rafting, hydrospeed, canoeing, fishing, etc. Lake Geneva and Mont-Blanc are also within easy reach.

The Giffre Valley is home to a wide variety of landscapes, including 650 km of waymarked trails for a wide range of outdoor activities. Some of the most famous trails are the Tour du Mont Blanc, the Grande Randonnée 5 and the Tour du Giffre. The Giffre Valley is also a great place to cycle, with many routes suitable for all levels. The Giffre Valley is also home to a rich cultural heritage, including the Cirque du Fer-à-Cheval Nature Reserve, the Bronzes Museum in Samoëns, the Giffre Valley Ethnography Museum in Mieussy, the Cluses Watchmaking Museum, the Morillon Chapel painted by Le Corbusier, the Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval Abbey, the Samoëns Church, the Taninges Church, the Mieussy Church, the Verchaix Church, the Morillon Church, the Samoëns Church, the Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval

VERCHAIX

Verchaix Trail

This trail is a chance to explore the fascinating history and natural environment in this area, thanks to the informative panels along the way.

- Type: **loop**
- Duration: **1 hr**
- Elevation gain: **95 m**
- Level of difficulty: **easy**

Departure
Verchaix Church.

Route
This route begins with a visit of the church built in 1783 and devoted to St. Guérin.
After the church, take the first road on the left. It leads past the 'Maison Rouge', with a traditional pebble stone curtain wall.
The route then bears left once again, back behind the church and along the 'La Voie Courbe' path down to Chamière-Lornaz.
After the cross, go straight on until you reach the intersection with the footpath leading to the footbridge over the Valentine.
Follow signs to Verchaix. The path then leads up to the village after passing Lornaz farms.

To discover
- Panoramic view of the Giffre valley, the resorts of Morillon and Samoëns and the Giffre mountains.
- Built heritage in Verchaix.

Jacquicourt Chapel (1,610 m)

The chapel is in a remarkable setting, at Loëx Plateau, a 400 ha site which is protected by a biotope order.

- Type: **out** **back**
- Duration: climb: **3 hrs 25 min** descent: **1 hr 25 min**
- Elevation gain: **670 m**
- Level of difficulty: **quite difficult**

Departure
Verchaix town hall.

Route
From Verchaix town hall, follow signs for Jacquicourt Chapel via Les Tilles. Go along the wide footpath to Les Devants, then follow signs for Le Frêne and then Les Plaisne d'Etry.
When you leave this village, take the path that leads up to the La Fetaz chalets, and then a few minutes later to the Les Téles chalets.
Carry on along a gravel track and then leave this path in Veruy to follow another path to Jacquicourt chapel.
On the way back, walk back as far as the intersection with Veruy and then head down to the Pré du Four meadow. Keep going down towards La Chaumette – Verchaix. From La Chaumette chalets, follow signs for Verchaix centre until you reach the town hall.

To discover
The history of the chapel began in June 1679 when it was finally built following legal proceedings that lasted 366 years. The ownership of the plot of land where it was built was disputed between the towns of Les Gets, Taninges and Samoëns and it was demolished in August of the same year. In 1986, the chapel we can see today was built on the foundations of 1679.

The Pointe d'Angolon (2,090 m)

From the Col de Joux Plane, this trail along the ridges goes from the Pointe de Chamossière to the Pointe d'Angolon peak. This is a quiet hiking trail and it is well worth the visit with some beautiful panoramic views.

- Type: **out** **back**
- Duration: climb: **1 hr 55 min** descent: **50 min**
- Elevation gain: **400 m**
- Level of difficulty: **quite difficult**

Departure
The Col de Joux Plane, accessible from Samoëns.

Route
From the mountain pass, go along the path on the right before the 'Accueil Nordique' chalet, to La Bourgeoise.
Follow the path to Mapellet. Continue along a ridge towards the Pointe d'Angolon. This path winds around to the Collu de Chamossière and then there's a steep climb up to the arrival station of Chamossière chairlift.
The path then leads around the back of a Gazex avalanche control system and then there's a steep rocky passage up to the Collu peak, equipped with a handrail. Continue along the ridge to reach the Pointe d'Angolon.
On the way back, head back to the chairlift station and then go along the track down towards the lake.

To discover
- Care must be taken along the ridge from which you'll see the dizzying couloirs of loose rock plunge down to the Cléveux torrent.
- The 360° panoramic view from Lake Geneva to the Chablais peaks: Cornettes de Bise, Dent d'Oche, the Haut Giffre peaks and the Mont-Blanc massif.

SAMOËNS

The Criou Chalets (1,664 m)

Criou mountain is iconic in Samoëns. It is also a fantastic viewpoint across the Giffre valley and Mont-Blanc massif.
The limestone pavements here feature one of the deepest chasms in the world: the Mirodda - 1,630 m.

- Type: **out** **back**
- Duration: climb: **3 hrs 10 min** descent: **1 hr 45 min**
- elevation gain: **934 m**
- Level of difficulty: **quite difficult**

Route
From the car park, the route begins along a wide forest track. At the hamlet of Les Turchets follow signs for the Chalets de Perturet.
At the Chalets de Perturet, go right along a path that crosses over the Alpine pastures towards Le Trot, with no uphill sections.
From the Chalets du Trot the route then leads to the nearby Chalets de Criou along a pleasant path shaped into the limestone pavement.
For the way back, head back to the Chalets du Trot. Go left and follow signs for the Chalets des Feux then Vallon. At the Les Turchets marker, you'll be back on the same route as the way out. Carry on until you reach the car park.

To discover
The mountain chalets: Perturet, Trot (bar/café), Criou and Les Feux. This is the only hike that is along an exposed route the whole way.

Chantemerle and Les Suets forest

There were once people living in this magnificent village all year round and there was a school just below the chapel. The farms all feature beautiful, elegantly sculpted stone lintels.

- Type : **loop**
- Duration: **3 hrs 20 min**
- Elevation gain: **538 m**
- Level of difficulty : **quite easy**

Departure
The 'Gros Tilleul' square in the centre of Samoëns.

Route
From the Place du Gros Tilleul (linden tree planted in 1438), go between the church and the town hall, then go right behind the Écuries du Château, and follow the path to Chantemerle.
The path then goes up to the hamlet of La Grangiat, crosses the village of Les Combes to Chantemerle. Go through the village and follow signs to Les Chosalets.
Just before Les Chosalets, go right to Samoëns via Les Suets forest.
The path leads into the forest and then down towards Chantemerle. Follow signs to Samoëns to the left. The path then leads through the hamlet of La Grangiat then back to Gros Tilleul square.

To discover
- The bottom of the doors and windows in cut stone, sculpted by 'Kegnes and Frahans' (builders and sculptors who made Samoëns famous).
- Chantemerle Chapel, built in 1684 and devoted to Saint François de Sales.

Le Bérouze - Mathonex - Vigny

This route will mainly take you along ancient rural footpaths that have since been restored, to explore chapels and old chalets and discover how people lived in this valley and their traditions.

- Type : **loop**
- Duration: **3 hrs**
- Elevation gain: **300 m**
- Level of difficulty: **easy**

Departure
The Place du Béroux, west entrance from Samoëns on the Taninges side.

Route
From the village, follow the path up the valley. Very quickly, you'll come to the Combe des Verdets where a small lake can be found at certain times of the year. There is a slight uphill section to the Col de Bostan. The sign at the peak marks the border with Switzerland.
From there, go left along a footpath that winds across the steep grassy slopes of the Tête de Verdet and then to the Tête de Bostan.
The path then goes downhill across the peak of Les Terres Maudites until you reach the Les Lagots intersection. Follow signs for the Refuge de Bostan.

To discover
- From the Tête and Col de Bostan, there's a panoramic view of the rugged peaks of the Dents du Midi and the peaceful Val d'Illiez pastures. You'll also be able to see the western side of the Dent Blanche and Col du Pas au Taureau.
- A few metres lower down, towards the Pas de La Bide, is the small Swiss refuge of Bossetan (Swiss spelling), without a guardian.

The Tête and Col de Bostan (2,295 m)

This is one of the valley's classic trails and it is possible to depart either from La Golèse refuge or Bostan refuge. The Col de Bostan marks the border with Switzerland.

- Type: **out** **back**
- Duration: climb: **2 hrs 15 min** descent: **1.5 hrs**
- Elevation gain: **526 m**
- Level of difficulty: **quite easy**

Departure
You can get to Bostan refuge from the Plan des Arches car park above the village of Les Allamands, in Samoëns.

Route
From the refuge, follow the path up the valley. Very quickly, you'll come to the Combe des Verdets where a small lake can be found at certain times of the year. There is a slight uphill section to the Col de Bostan. The sign at the peak marks the border with Switzerland.
From there, go left along a footpath that winds across the steep grassy slopes of the Tête de Verdet and then to the Tête de Bostan.
The path then goes downhill across the peak of Les Terres Maudites until you reach the Les Lagots intersection. Follow signs for the Refuge de Bostan.

To discover
The Clos Perchet ecomuseum, the many ornaments, the traditional architecture of the valley's farms.

Bostan Refuge (1,769 m)

Bostan Refuge is in a glacial combe down from the Col de Bostan, the Swiss border.

- Type: **out** **back**
- Duration: climb: **55 min** descent: **1 hr 15 min**
- Elevation gain: **673 m**
- Level of difficulty : **quite easy**

Departure
The Plan des Arches car park above the village of Les Allamands, in Samoëns.

Route
Follow the wide footpath at the far end of the parking area. This path is a steady climb into the pretty Bostan forest and then you'll be leaving the forest just before arriving at the Bostan mountain chalets.
(You'll pass by a basin sculpted into stone, dating from 1673).
The route overlooks the superb Bostan valley, dotted with sections of limestone pavement and rock, with the Dents d'Oddaz peaks towering to the right.
The path then continues across Alpine pastures that are still in use, and then to the refuge, a sturdy building between the pastures and limestone pavement.

To discover
Overlooking the refuge is an impressive line of rugged peaks, including the Dents d'Oddaz and Dents Blanches mountains. These sharp peaks give this area its Alpine character.

Folly Refuge (1,558 m)

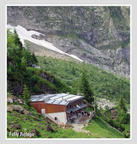
Folly Refuge is on the impressive slopes of the Criou and Tendraische, facing the Pointe du Tuet and Dents D'Oddaz.

- Type: **out** **back**
- Duration: climb: **2 hrs** descent: **1 hr 15 min**
- Elevation gain: **699 m**
- Level of difficulty : **quite easy**

Departure
The Pied du Crêt car park on the Routes des Allamands, in Samoëns.

Route
Follow the footpath alongside Latay pastures. The path then follows a series of hairpin bends up into a forest of spruce and beech trees, to the austere environment of the Folly pastures. You'll then come to the refuge, a sturdy building nestled up against a rocky cliff. The upper terrace is facing the Pointe du Tuet, the Dents d'Oddaz and also overlooks Latay valley.

To discover
The Dalles du Tuet climbing spot.



The Lac des Chambres (2,100 m)

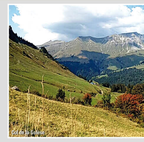
The Lac des Chambres is a very surprising lake. It is rare that this lake is abundant in water, and you are more likely to witness a polar-type landscape with blocks of ice either floating or washing up on the shores, depending on the season.

- Type: **out** **back**
- Duration: climb: **1 hr 35 min** descent: **1 hr**
- Elevation gain: **542 m**
- Level of difficulty : **quite easy**

Departure
The Folly Refuge can be reached from the Pied du Crêt car park on the Route des Allamands, in Samoëns.

Route
From the refuge follow signs for the Lac des Chambres. The path is quite steep and after walking uphill for around 45 minutes, there's a track to the left leading to one of the entrances to Jean-Bernard chasm. Shortly after, you'll reach Les Eaux Froides via a scree slope that is often covered in snow. Towering over 700 m up to your left are the staggering rock faces of the Pointe des Chardonnières and Pointe Rousse, which give this hike a 'high-mountain' feel.
There is a steep uphill section via a sub-alpine meadow that leads to the Lac des Chambres.
Go back along the same route.

To discover
This is a proglacial lake. A thick layer of ice can be found across the surface of the water during the spring and until the end of July. Water drains little by little into the maze of underground networks and the ice melts on the lake's uneven bed, then cracking to form a blockfield made from blocks of ice.



Refuge and Col de La Golèse (1,671 m)

The path up to the Col de La Golèse has been used for many years and is fairly easy to access. This route was used to get to the neighbouring country of Switzerland via the Col de Coux.

- Type: **out** **back**
- Duration: climb: **1 hr 40 min** descent: **1 hr 05**
- Elevation gain: **575 m**
- Level of difficulty: **quite easy**

Departure
The Plan des Arches car park above the village of Les Allamands, in Samoëns.

Route
From the Les Allamands car park, follow signs for the Refuge de La Golèse. After the Chanonnes Chalets, there is a steady uphill section that leads to the Alpine pastures, with the Pointe d'Angolon towering over to the left, then the route continues to the La Golèse Refuge on the right just before the mountain pass.
You can either go back the same way you came or head across the Bostan valley (45 min).
From the refuge, follow the footpath to the east (towards Bostan Refuge) which goes slightly uphill before crossing over the path to the Tête de Bostan in Les Lagots.
The route will lead you to Bostan Refuge. Follow signs for the Plan des Arches car park.

To discover
- Overlooking the peaceful Alpine pastures are the staggering Dents d'Oddaz peaks and the Dents Blanches mountains.
- This route was once used by peddlers and pilgrims on their way to St. Maurice abbey (Valais, Switzerland).

La Bourgeoise

The La Bourgeoise peak is a fantastic viewpoint across the Giffre valley and Mont-Blanc massif. There is an orientation table featuring the names of the main peaks you can see.

- Type : **loop**
- Duration: **1 hr 15 min**
- Elevation gain: **79 m**
- Level of difficulty : **very easy**

Departure
The Col de Joux Plane, accessible from Samoëns.

Route
From the mountain pass, go along the path on the right before the 'Accueil Nordique' chalet, to La Bourgeoise. Follow the wide footpath until you reach the peak marked with a cross. Go back along the same route.

To discover
The Mont-Blanc massif and Giffre valley.

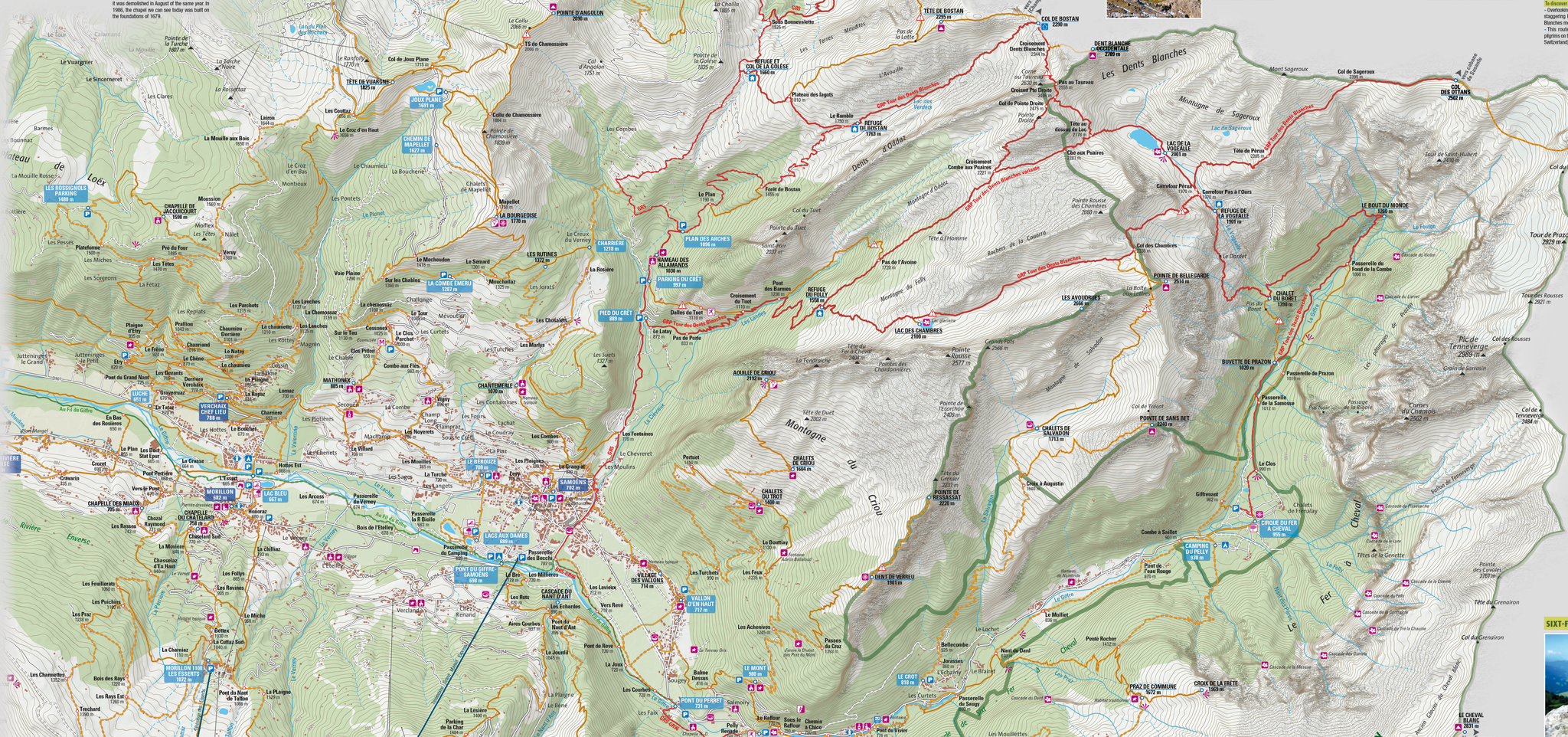
Geographic information
- main secondary road
- secondary road
- urban area
- other tarmac road
- footpath, forest track
- path
- track
- Ski lift / open in summer
- lake
- watercourse
- forest
- rocks / scree
- contour line (equidistance 20 m)
- peak
- mountain pass (col)
- challenging section

Touristic informations
- car park
- Tourist Office
- train station
- mountain refuge
- campsite
- shelter
- motor home parking area
- museum
- discovery trail
- via ferrata
- climbing spot
- paragliding take-off/landing site
- horse-riding centre
- leisure complex
- swimming spot
- cheese for sale
- heritage site to visit
- natural site to visit
- orientation table/viewpoint
- major peak
- church/chapel/oratory/cross
- Sixt-Passy Nature Reserve boundary

Signs and markers
- **Main departure point for walks:** At each departure point, there's a post indicating the various directions (see diagram).
- **Secondary departure point for walks:** At each departure point, there's a post indicating the various directions (see diagram).
- **Main direction:** Peaks and other interesting places to explore.
- **Network intersection:** At each of these intersections, there's a post indicating the various directions. (see diagram).

Signpost

Markers
- Marked trail (PR - walks and hikes)
- Wrong direction
- Long-distance (GR) hiking trail
- GR©
- GRP©
- 'Au Fil du Giffre' (Along the Giffre) trail
- GRP© long-distance hiking trail (Red and yellow markings - GRP© (see diagram).
- Marked trail (PR - walks and hikes) Yellow markings (see diagram).


SIXT 757 m
LUCHE 660 m
LES VAGNYS 1295 m
Fargot 638 m
Roche Plane 2198 m
Passage du Dérot 2347 m
COL DE COUX 1520 m
Lac des Vaches
Chalet de Frêtenolle
Torrent de Chardonnière
Les Terres Maudites
Chalets de Chardonnière
Sous Bonnevarlette
POINTE D'ANGOLON 2090 m
TÊTE DE BOSTAN 2295 m
COL DE BOSTAN 2250 m
DENT BLANCHE OCCIDENTALE 2789 m
Les Dents Blanches
Croisement Dents Blanches
Pas au Taureau
Croisset Pte Droite
Col de Pointe Droite
Pointe Droite
REFUGE ET COL DE LA GOLÈSE 1660 m
Plateau des Lagots
REFUGE DE BOSTAN 1763 m
Le Ramble
Tête au dessus du Lac
Côte aux Puaires
LAC DE LA VOGEALLE 2001 m
Carrefour Pérua
Carrefour Pas à l'Ours
REFUGE DE LA VOGEALLE 1901 m
Tête de Pérua
Col de Sageroux
COL DES OTTANS 2902 m
LE GRAND MONT RUAN 3044 m
Mont Sageroux
Lac de Sageroux
Montagne de Sageroux
Tour de Saint-Hubert
Col du Ruan
Tour de Prazon 2929 m
LE BOUT DU MONDE 1260 m
Passerelle du Fond de la Combe
Cascade du Violon
Col des Chambres
POINTE DE BELLEGARDE 2514 m
CHALET DU BORET 1390 m
Pas du Boret
Passerelle de Prazon
Tour des Rousses 2921 m
Pic de Tennevergne 2989 m
Col des Rousses
Grand Sarrasin
Cornes du Chamois 2902 m
Col de Tennevergne 2484 m
BUVETTE DE PRAZON 1020 m
Passerelle de la Samosse
Le Clos
Giffreenant
Chalets de Fenalay
CIRQUE DU FER A CHEVAL 995 m
Cascade du Fer à Cheval
Cascade de la Crème
Cascade de Fely
Cascade de la Cornette
Cascade de l'Ile à Chaume
Cascade des Barres
Tête du Grenairon
Col du Grenairon
Tête du Cheval
Vallée du Fer à Cheval
Le Fer à Cheval
Combe à Saillet
CAMPING DU PELLY 530 m
Pont de l'eau Rouge
Le Molliet
Pente Rocher
Le Lochet
Nant du Dard
Bellecombe
Jorasses
L'Echaivy
Passerelle du Saugy
Les Mouillettes
Commune
Sommet Nord-Est
Grenier de Commune
Arête du Grenairon
Col du Genévrier
Lac du Plan du Bouet
Combe du Bouet
Pointe du Genévrier 2870 m
Crête de la Moulette
Crête de la Moulette des Dents
Cirque des Fonds
Cirque de Fer à Cheval
LE MONT BUET 3059 m
Grenier de Vally
Pont des Mitaines
Petit Col d'Anterne
Col d'Anterne
Col des Chaux 2314 m
Tête de Vally 2481 m
REFUGE D'ANTERNE 1810 m
Refuge Alfred Wills
Pas du Mulet
Pointe de Sales 2487 m
Pierre Carre
Chalet de Sales
Cascade de Sales
Cascade de l'Avenet
Croisement du Lac
LAC D'ANTERNE 2063 m
Chapelle de Sales
REFUGE DE SALES 1877 m
Chalets de Sales
Tête à l'Ane 2804 m
Tête de Moëde 2459 m
Pointe d'Anterne 2733 m
COL D'ANTERNE 2251 m
Refuge de Moëde-Anterne
Le Grand Pré 1914 m
Lac de Lovouchet
Les Grandes Platières 2480 m
Désert de Platé
Les Châtaux de Cora
LES LAOUCHETS 2150 m
COL DE LA PORTETTE 2354 m
Portette 2279 m
Combe à l'Ours 2010 m
PASSAGE DU DÉROCHOIR 2200 m
BRÈCHE DU DÉROCHOIR 2171 m
Le Marteau 2289 m
Pointe de Plate 2554 m
Pointe du Derochoir
Ayères des Bergères
Ayères des Bogs
Chalets du Souay
La Chaule
Le Chaule
Le Lauchet
Pointes d'Ayères Nord 2644 m
Pointes d'Ayères Sud 2618 m
Le Lauchet
Rochers des Fis
Rochers des Fis
Les Ombelles 2658 m
Pointe de la Rotellère
Pointe de Chardonnière 2723 m
Pas de l'Avoine 2728 m
Montagne de Folly
Montagne de Sales
Montagne de Commune
Montagne de Criou
Montagne du Criou
Montagne d'Oddaz
Montagne de Sales
Les Pélerins de Passy
Les Pélerins de Passy
Les Aiguilles de Passy
Les Aiguilles de Passy
Les Aiguilles