

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOUR

# Hiking Tour of the Val d'Anniviers

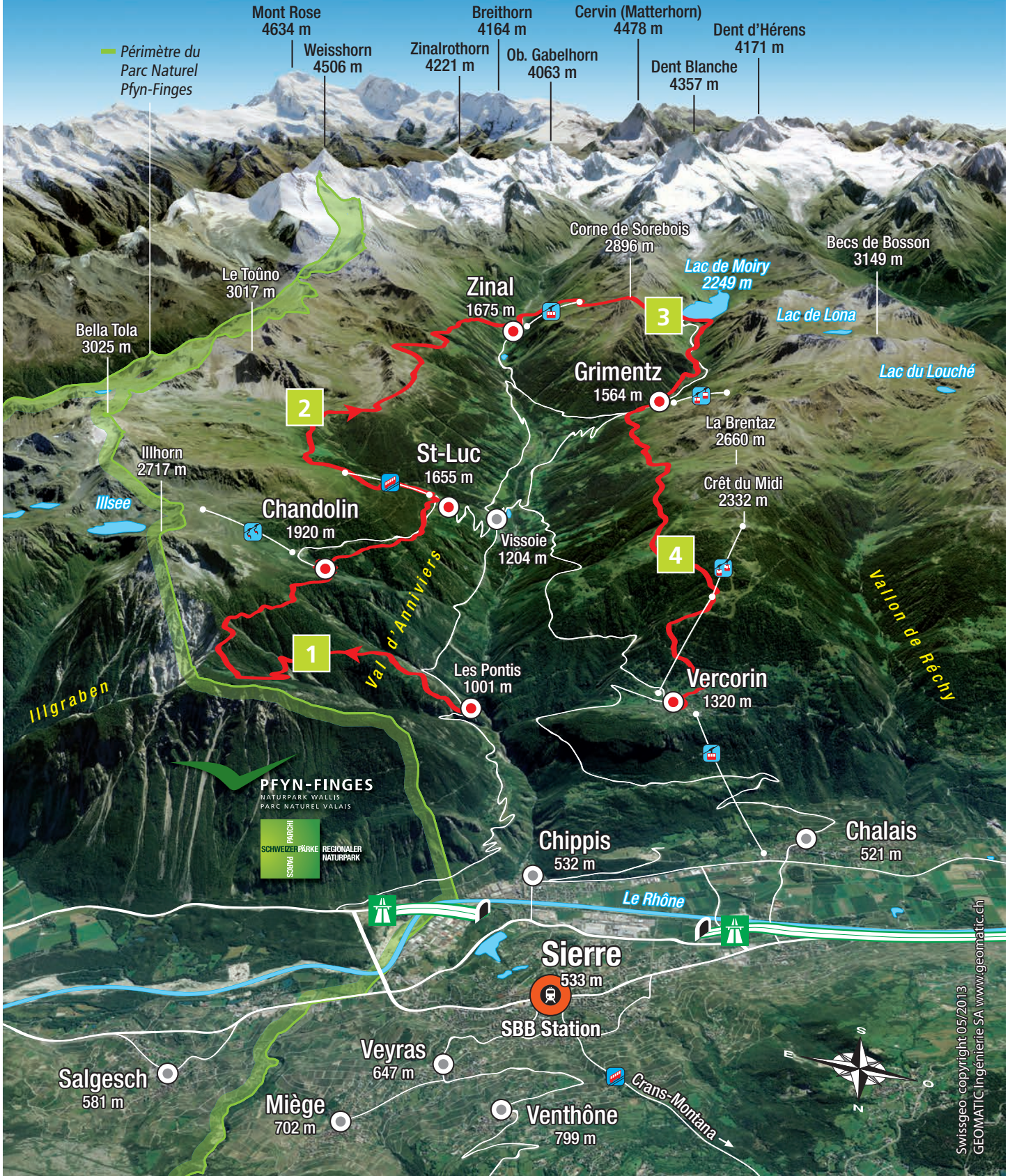
FREEDOM



*les Alpes-Source*



# STAGES OF THE TOUR



Walk at your own pace, follow the signs, and picnic when and where ever you want. Sleep somewhere different every night and marvel at the extraordinary scenery of this region in Central Valais. The traditional circuit leads you from Sierre via, in order, Chandolin/St-Luc, Zinal, Grimentz and Vercorin and back to Sierre. Each day's walk is around 5 hours. On the last day, there is the option of the Vallon de Réchy or the Vineyard Trail leading from Sierre to Salgesch. Each stage can be done separately if you wish to shorten your stay. It is also interesting to spend two nights in each resort to take advantage of what is on offer locally.

### The trail

A symbol indicates the route along the whole length of the trail. It can be done without a guide. So you are free to go at your own pace and choose your own picnic spots and stopping points to admire the panoramas and landscapes which reveal themselves along the way. In addition the trail is highlighted on the hikers' map which will be provided on arrival.

### Luggage

Apart from your day pack, which you will take with you along the whole journey, your luggage will automatically be transported from one hotel to the next. One piece of luggage (max 20 kg) is allowed per person. Luggage transport is not provided to mountain huts.

### Meals

Breakfast, supper and picnic are provided in all types of accommodation.

### Accommodation

Here below you will find the different lodging possibilities available at the time of printing of this brochure. Other partners and therefore some new possibilities will certainly be on offer. Don't hesitate to let us know what you would like.

|                                       | Hotel       |     |    |   | Gîte | Mountain Hut |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----|----|---|------|--------------|
|                                       | ****<br>Spa | *** | ** | * |      |              |
| Sierre, Salgesch and surrounding area |             | ★   |    |   |      |              |
| St-Luc                                | ★           | ★   | ★  | ★ | ★    | ★            |
| Chandolin                             |             |     | ★  |   |      | ★            |
| Zinal                                 |             | ★   | ★  | ★ |      | ★            |
| Grimentz/St-Jean                      |             | ★   | ★  |   | ★    | ★            |
| Vercorin/Chalais                      |             | ★   | ★  |   | ★    |              |

## Transport

It is possible for you to shorten certain stages by using the free public transport and mountain lifts, thanks to the Anniviers Liberté Pass. What's more, 2 transport vouchers per person for the post bus are included for the following routes: Sierre-Les Pontis and Vercorin/Chalais/Chippis-Sierre.

## Access

By car : a special price is offered to clients of the Val d'Anniviers Tour in the long stay car park located to the south of Sierre train station "Parking de la Plaine Bellevue".

By train, Sierre is on the line from Genève, Lausanne, Zürich, Bern or Brig. More information on timetables is available at <http://www.cff.ch>.

## Hiking Tour of the Val d'Anniviers

**VALID FROM MID-JUNE TO MID-OCTOBER \***

- ▶ From 4 to 10 nights or more in hotel, gîte or mountain hut: Sierre, Salgesch / St-Luc/Chandolin / Zinal / Grimentz / Vercorin / Sierre, Salgesch or Vercorin
- ▶ Full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and supper)
- ▶ Transport of one piece of luggage per person (max 20 kg) from one stage to the next (except to mountain huts)
- ▶ 2 post bus tickets per person
- ▶ 1 Val d'Anniviers hiking map
- ▶ Anniviers Liberté Pass

*\*depending on opening dates of establishments and weather conditions*

**This description was produced for a standard 6 night tour,  
we suggest you adapt it to suit your own programme.**

2

*Walk along the irrigation channel*



Your freedom pass  
from June to October



Over 20 activities  
and transport offered



#### **Anniviers Liberté Pass**

The *Anniviers Liberté Pass*, which will be provided free of charge to clients of the Val d'Anniviers Tour, allows you to do the following:

... more than 20 free activities and transport facilities , including mountain lifts :

- Chandolin : Chairlift\*
- Grimentz : Gondola\*, indoor pool, mini-golf, tennis courts and guided visit of the Moiry dam
- Mottec : Guided visit of the hydro-electric plant
- St-Luc : Funicular railway\*, tennis courts, guided visit of the St-Luc mills and of the François-Xavier Bagnoud observatory
- Vissoie : Outdoor pool and visit of the Tour d'Anniviers
- Zinal : Cable car\*, tennis courts, mini-golf and guided visit of the copper mine

... and free use of the post buses\* on the following routes:

- Niouc – Vissoie
- Vissoie – St-Luc – Chandolin
- Vissoie – Ayer – Zinal
- Vissoie – St-Jean – Grimentz
- Zinal – Grimentz – Barrage de Moiry

\* transport of people only

## ARRIVAL IN SIERRE



*View on the vineyards from the hillside*

### **Arrival in Sierre, Salgesch and surroundings**

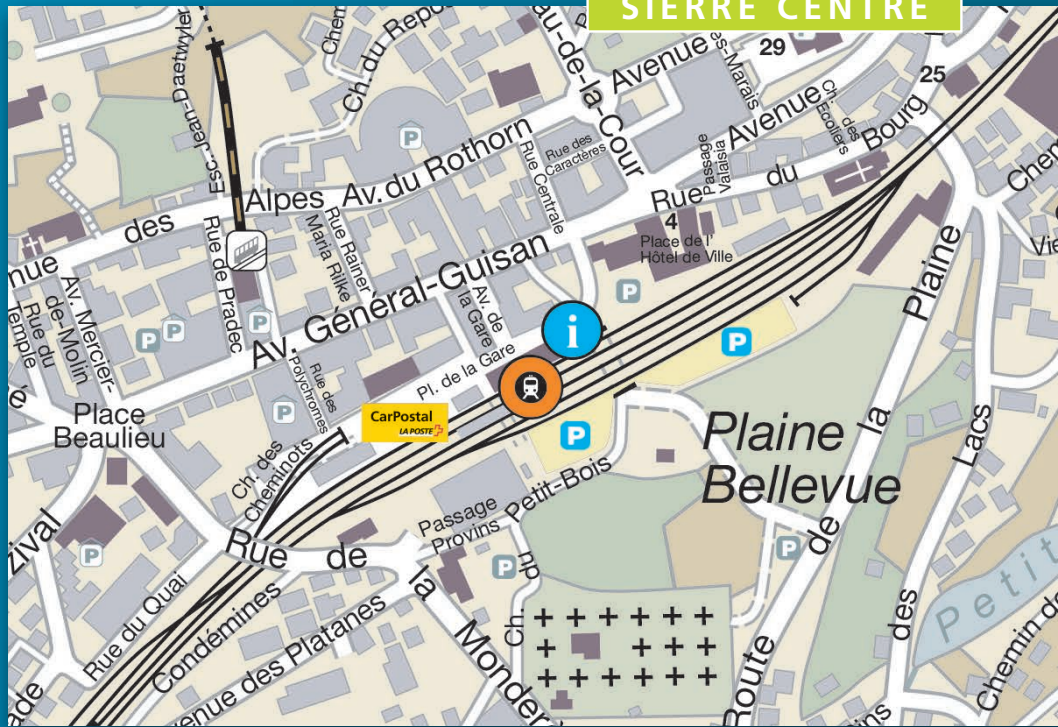
The region of Sierre, Salgesch and the surrounding area is located on the right bank of the river Rhône, enjoying an exceptional amount of sunshine, it is commonly nicknamed “Cité du Soleil” or “Sierre l’agréable”. The abundance of vineyards and the exceptional bouquet of its wines is explained by the combination of alluvial soil and generous sunshine. European œnologists have come to consider Valais as an authentic conservatory in matters of viticulture.

### **Discoveries and suggestions**

The vineyard trail (6km), accessible all year, is a discovery tour, punctuated with explanatory signs boards. It links the two sites of the Valaisan Museum of wine and the vine, which is the museum attached to the Château de Villa in Sierre dedicated to wine and its cultural aspects, and the Maison Zumofen in Salgesch dedicated to the vine and to the work of the winemaker.

The Château de Villa œnothèque is the preferred spot for all wine lovers. Here you can discover, in a convivial and exclusive setting, a choice of more than 500 of the best crus produced by 70 cellars from all over Valais, some rare bottles of old vintages and schnapps made from fruit from the Valais orchards.

**SIERRE CENTRE**



**i** Tourist Office

**R** SBB Train Station

**P** Parkings "Hiking Tour of the Anniviers"

**CarPostal** PostBus Station



Château de Villa of Sierre

dégustation  
 viande séchée  
 pain de seigle  
 chocolateries  
 château de villa  
 vins  
 lacs  
 viandotheken  
 rohwurst  
 wine  
 in  
 tasting  
 dried meat  
 cellars

## STAGE 1

### SIERRE/SALGESCH TO ST-LUC

From Sierre you have two possibilities:

- 1 Sierre → Les Pontis**, area known as "Fribougxe" (by bus) then St-Luc via Chandolin on foot
- 2 Sierre → Finges** (on foot or by bus) then St-Luc via Chandolin on foot via the chapelle de St-Antoine

#### **1 Sierre → Les Pontis by bus, then St-Luc via Chandolin on foot**

 *about a 5 hour walk*

**From Sierre station** (542 m), the bus takes you up the Val d'Anniviers road. After a few hairpin bends and then passing into the valley's gorges, you get off the bus at the Pontis bus stop, in the area known as "Fribougxe" (1001 m) **1**. After an hour's hike 1 hour up a steepish slope you discover a little corner of paradise, Soussillon (1388m) **2**. The climb continues for about another 30 minutes until you reach Chandolin from below (about 1 ½ hours) or get to the Ponchet pasture (1950 m and about 2 hours) **3**.

If you decide to go by Ponchet the route is pretty wild and holds some nice surprises (fauna and flora). Please note that this is only recommended for good hikers. From Ponchet a wide forest road leads you towards Chandolin (about 1 ½ hours). Don't miss the look-out point over l'Iligraben, an erosion site which is unique in Europe. It is said that it is the most beautiful and immense amphitheatre of rock resulting from the collapse of the mountain due to erosion.

From **Chandolin** (2000 m) **4**, two suggestions of routes to reach **St-Luc** (1655 m) **5** :

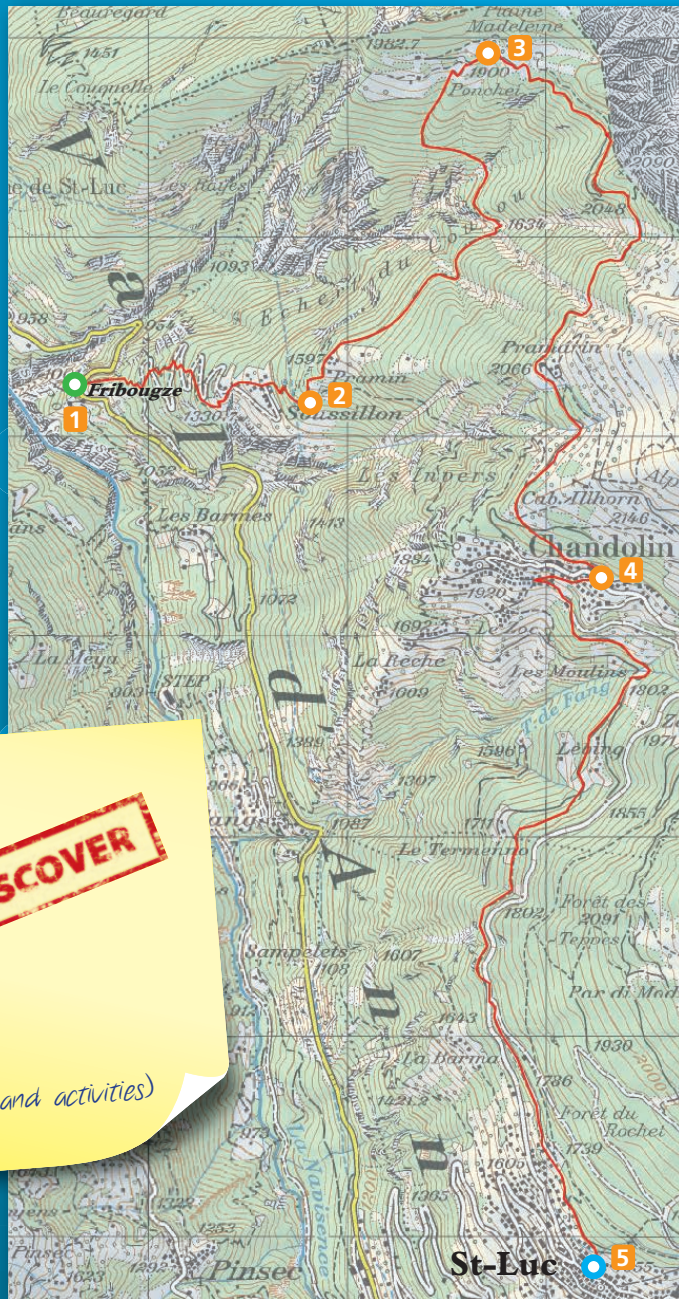
- Either from below, crossing the village of Chandolin, then the spots know as La Toueille and Lebing (about 1 ½ hours)
- Or by the high route, following the trail of the Sierre-Zinal race which leads you through the cool of the pine forest towards Tignousa, top of the funicular (2186 m and 1 ¼ hours). Here we recommend you take the funicular which will take you down to St-Luc (1655 m) in 7 minutes, but if you prefer you can also reach St-Luc on foot by the walking trail (about 1 ½ hours) or down the ski piste (about 1 hour).

#### **2 Sierre → Finges then St-Luc via Chandolin on foot via the chapelle de St-Antoine** *about 6 ½ hour walk*

To get to Finges or creux de Chippis (565 m), you can take the Postbus or get there on foot (about an hour from the station). The path starts about 100 m after the roundabout where you turn up the Val d'Anniviers road, follow Chapelle de St-Antoine. The steep and winding trail follows the Stations of the Cross leading you to the Chapelle de St-Antoine (989 m and about 45 mins.) Don't forget to ring the bell here, it will bring you good luck! The climb continues towards Plan Palet (1146 m and about 45 mins.) then towards la forêt du Couquelle. The climb is pretty tough, but rich in surprises. You might even come across a deer or chamois!! After about 2 hours you reach the Ponchet pasture (1950 m) **3**, an open window on the Val d'Anniviers. From Ponchet a wide forest road leads you towards Chandolin (about 1 ½ hours) **4**. Don't miss the look-out point over l'Iligraben, an erosion site which is unique in Europe. It is said that it is the most beautiful and immense amphitheatre of rock resulting from the collapse of the mountain due to erosion. From Chandolin, see the previous stage.



Difference in height :  
 983 m ↗  
 1505 m ↘  
 Altitude Min. : 1005 m  
 Altitude Max. : 2077 m



**Sierre**

- Vineyard Trail
- Château de Villa
- Rilke Museum

**Chandolin**

- Village of Sousillon (charming)
- Ponchet pasture (drink stop and activities)

**TO DISCOVER**



## STAGE 2



*Saturn on the planetary footpath*

### **ST-LUC TO ZINAL** 🕒 *about 5 ½ hours*

From St-Luc, we recommend you head up to Tignousa (2186 m) **1** on the funicular. From there, there is a splendid view of the Imperial crown, including, amongst others, the Matterhorn and the Dent Blanche. The OFXB observatory offers visits which allow you to observe the sun. The Hotel Weisshorn, on the first leg of this hike, is also a wonderful view point. To get to it, the solar system represented on the Planetary Trail is a fun way to lead you there.

Heavenly bodies apart, you pass by the Rouaz pasture (Chalet Blanc 2179 m and 20 minutes) **2** where Saturn and its rings take cover. At Chieso (2201 m and 30 mins.) the climb starts up to the Hotel Weisshorn.

After about 30 minutes you reach the 19th century English style hotel (2337 m) **3**. If you enjoy your food, don't miss the famous "tarte aux myrtilles". The outer space voyage continues towards the last planet in the solar system, Pluto. Don't miss it, after about 20 minutes walk, at the foot of the path **4**.

This agreeable walk continues towards Bella Lé and then onto the Barneuza pastures (2211 m and 1 hour) **5**. The landscapes begin to change and the descent to Zinal is just around the corner. Reckon on 45 minutes of very steep descent from the heights of Zinal **6**.

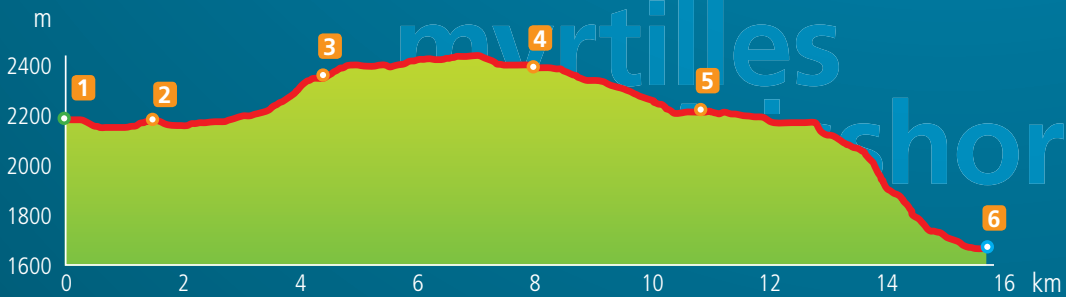
Difference in height :  
 983 m ↗  
 1505 m ↘  
 Altitude Min. : 1663 m  
 Altitude Max. : 2424 m



**St-Luc**

**TO DISCOVER**

- OFXB Observatory
- Planetary Trail
- Hotel Weisshorn (historic and "tarte aux myrtilles")
- Gite du Prilet (setting and llamas)



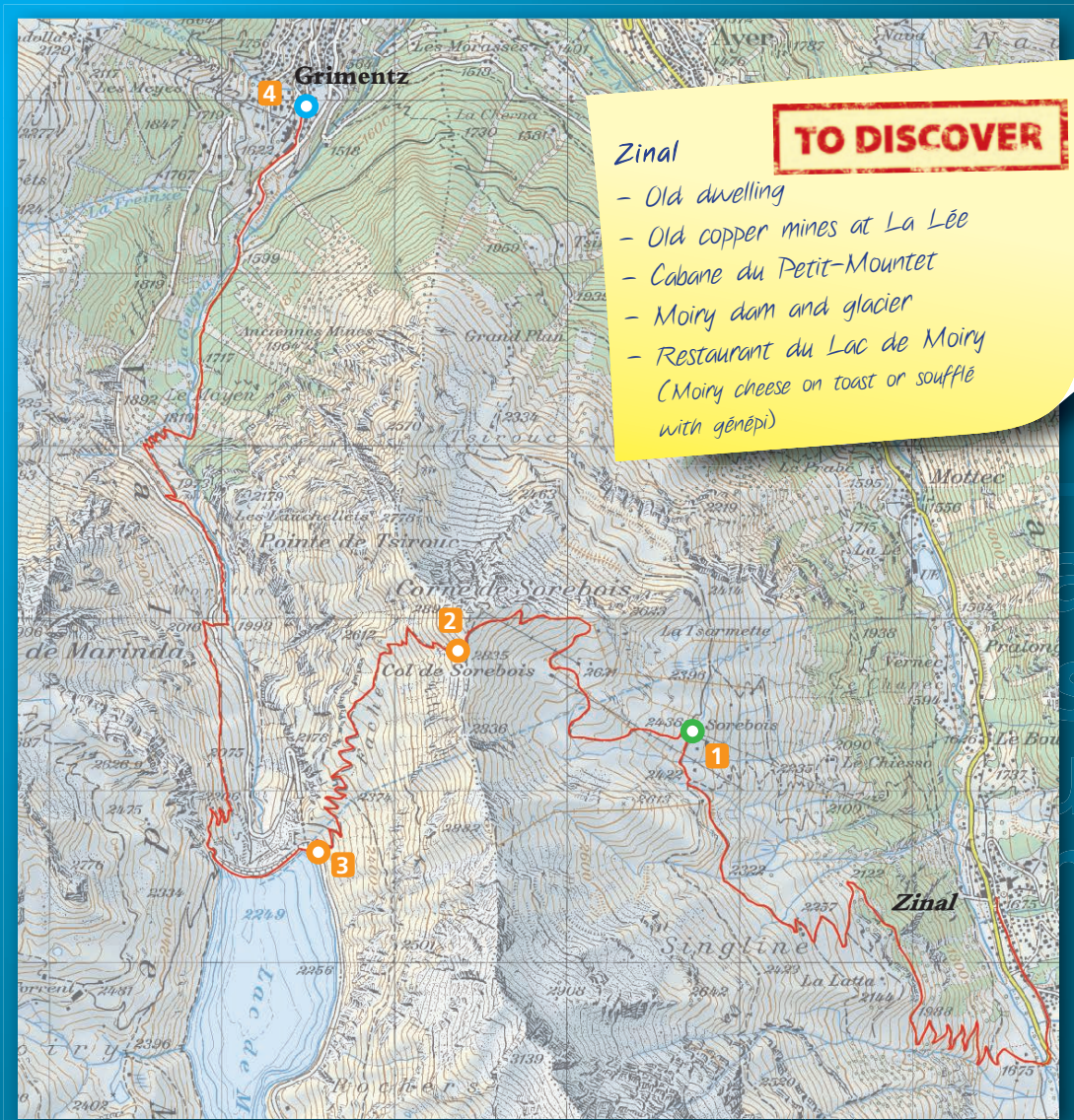
## STAGE 3



*Glacier, lake and dam of Moiry*

### ZINAL TO GRIMENTZ 🕒 *about 5 hours*

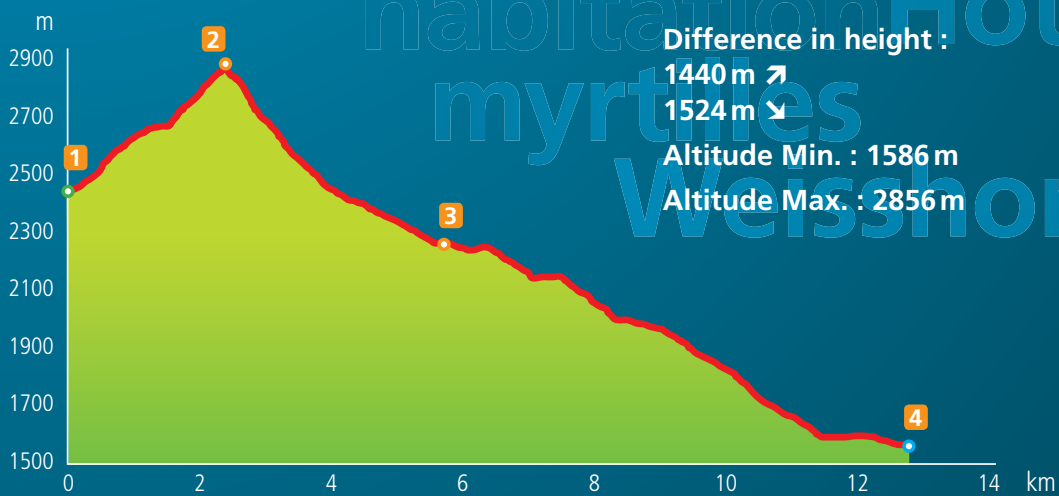
For this 3rd stage, we recommend that you use the cable-car which will take you straight up to Sorebois. If you prefer to walk, follow the river Navizence (1653 m) for 15 minutes then take the winding track which leads you to Sorebois via the Fêta d'Août (2257 m and 2 hours). At Sorebois (2438 m) **1** the pass is about a 1 hour 20 minute hike up and across the high mountain pastures. You may well have the chance to spot a few marmottes which are prevalent in this area. When you reach the col de Sorebois (2835 m) **2**, your eyes will light up at the dramatic view down onto the Moiry dam and its Caribbean blue waters rippling at 2250 m above the ocean. The walk down to the lake takes about 1 hour. Cross the impressive wall of the dam (2250 m) **3** to reach the path that will lead you towards Grimentz (1564 m and 1 hour 40 mins) following the Gougra stream **4**. This section is also used by the courageous mountain bikers of the Grand Raid (Verbier-Grimentz) race every year in mid-August.



Zinal

**TO DISCOVER**

- Old dwelling
- Old copper mines at La Lée
- Cabane du Petit-Mountet
- Moiry dam and glacier
- Restaurant du Lac de Moiry (Moiry cheese on toast or soufflé with génépi)



## STAGE 4



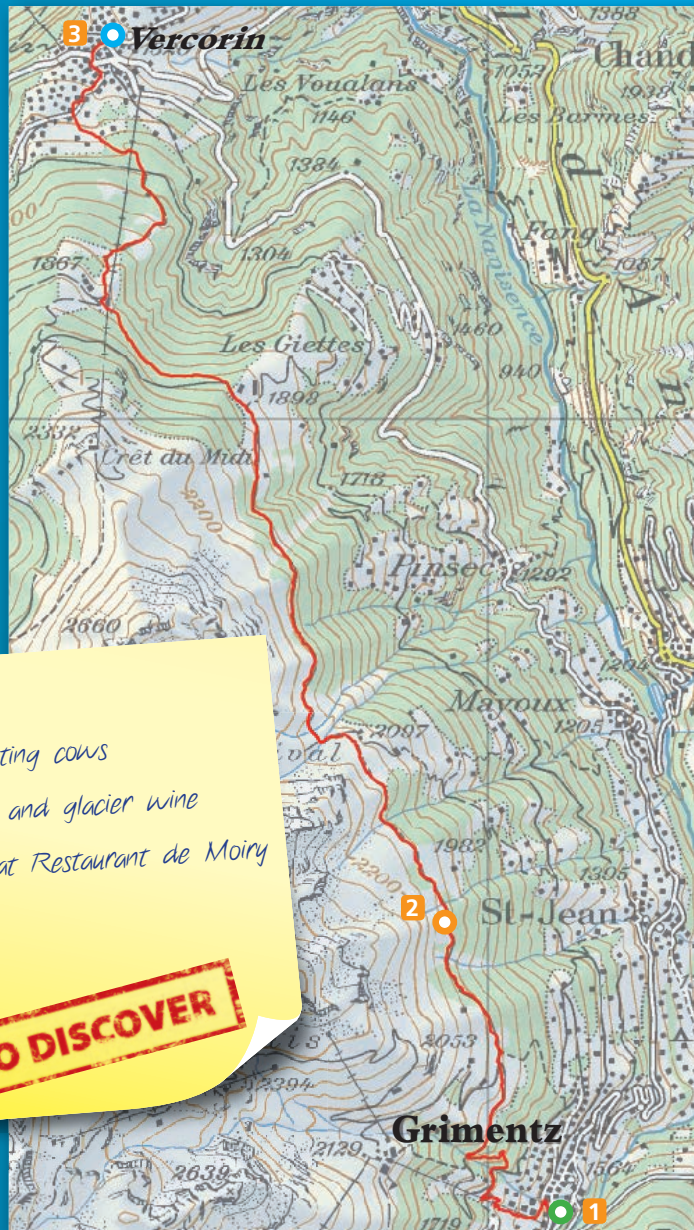
*The flowered village of Grimentz*

### **GRIMENTZ TO VERCORIN** 🕒 *about 5 hours*

From the gondola departure station (1518 m) **1**, the path across the pastures follows the route of the gondola (1719 m and 25 minutes) then uses the road that leads to the high mountain pastures. After 45 minutes, in the area known as “Le Chèquet” **2**, follow the signs to the alpage d’Orzival. The path leads you through a fragrant larch forest then opens up onto the Orzival pasture (2100 m.). At this point you have two possibilities:

- either hike up towards La Brinta (2601 m and 1 ½ hours) then continue along the ridge in the direction of Crêt du Midi (2331 m 45 minutes) then go down by gondola or on foot to Vercorin (1342 m and about 2 ¼ hours)
- or continue towards the Tracuit pasture (1898 m and 45 minutes) then Sigeroulaz (1861 m and 30 minutes) and eventually on to Vercorin (1342 m et 01h15) **3**.

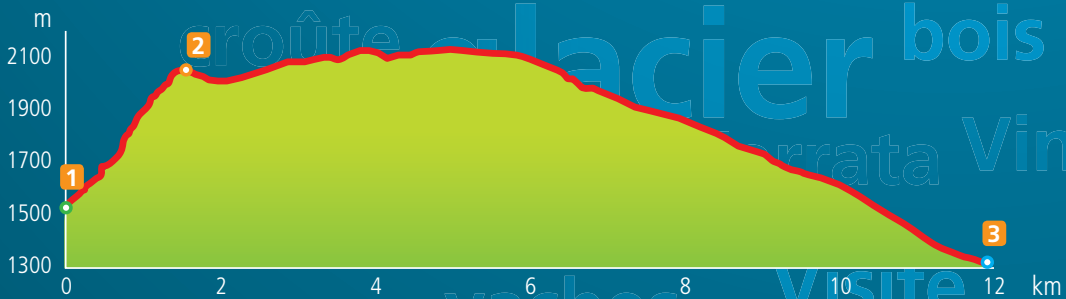
Difference in height :  
 816 m ↗  
 1089 m ↘  
 Altitude Min. : 1317 m  
 Altitude Max. : 2147 m



*Grimentz*

- Traverse of a herd of fighting cows
- Guided visit of the village and glacier wine
- Raclette on a wood fire at Restaurant de Moiry
- Via Ferrata
- Cabane de Moiry

**TO DISCOVER**



## STAGE 5



*Path of the irrigation channel*

### VERCORIN AND SURROUNDING AREA

#### Vallon de Réchy and lac du Louché 🕒 *about 7 hours*

To discover the natural reserve of the Vallon de Réchy, we recommend you use the mountain lifts to get to the Crêt du Midi (2331 m) **1**, the ideal departure point for this hike, rich in things to discover. There are two ways to get to l'Ar du Tsan (2200 m):

- by the high route through a fresh and humid forest (about 1 hour 40 mins)
- or by following the forest trail (about 1 hour 40 mins).

Once at l'Ar du Tsan **2**, the view over the Rhône valley is magnificent. This plateau also has a strange particularity: the meanders which sculpt the marshland with amber colours and winding patterns.

From this point the lac du Louché at 2567 m **3** is about 1 ½ hours. Along this delightful walk you can discover a wealth of rare flora, like for example, the Linegrettes, small flowers with cotton pompoms which grow in puddles. On the way back, you can follow the path on the other side via the Gouille de Potoc (2468 m) and la Fâche which gives you a commanding view down over l'Ar du Tsan (about 1 ¼ hours). To get back to Vercorin, a steep path which follows the waterfall leads you to the refuge du bisse (1643 m 1 hour) **4**. From there, you just have to follow the bisse (old irrigation stream) which guides you to Vercorin (1320 m and 1 ½ hours) **5**.

#### Refuge du Bisse 🕒 *about 4 hours round trip*

From Vercorin (1320 m), a small escape to the Vallon de Réchy will give you the opportunity to discover the bisse de Vercorin and eventually the Refuge du Bisse (1643 m) with a magnificent panorama over the Rhône valley and an impressive view of the waterfall which falls 400 m from higher up on l'Ar du Tsan. To return to Sierre, we recommend you use the post car as the path leading down is very steep.



**TO DISCOVER**

**Vercorin**

- Vallon de Réchy
- Refuge du bisse and the rut (in October)
- Adventure Forest
- Hostellerie d'Orzival panoramic restaurant
- Arche des Crétillons, petting farm

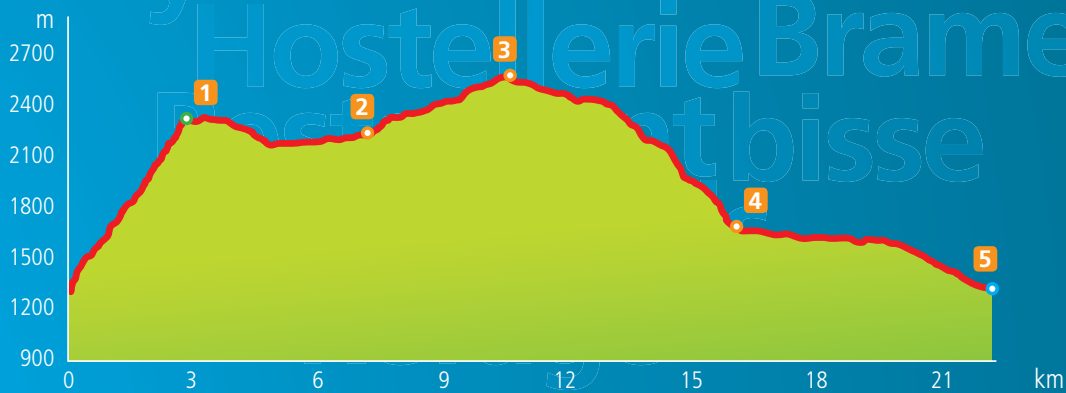
Difference in height :

1786 m ↗

1780 m ↘

Altitude Min. : 1314 m

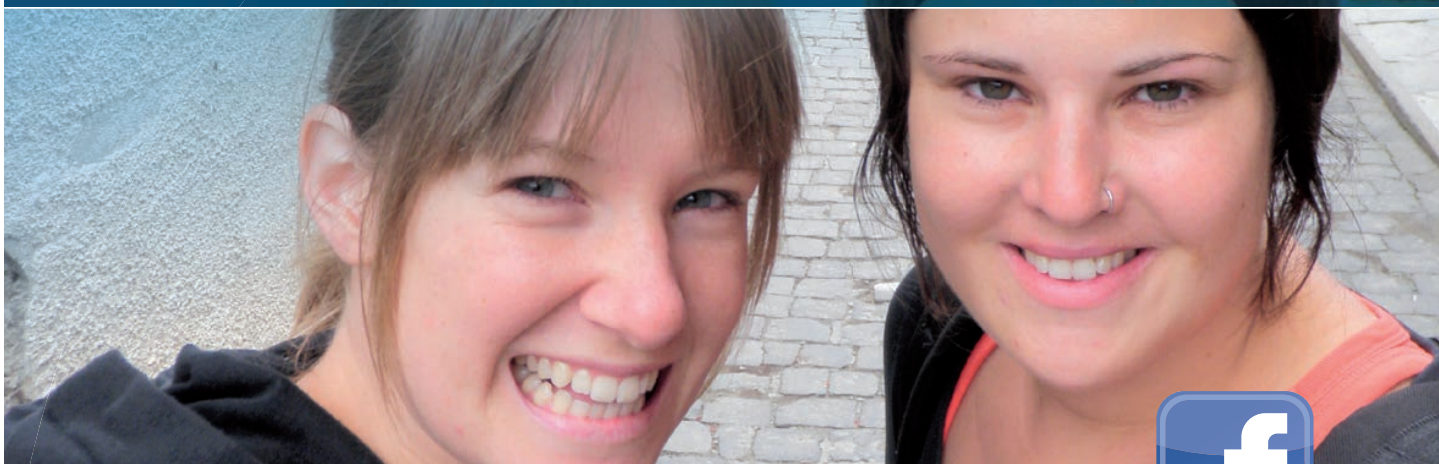
Altitude Max. : 2574 m





*T'as fait l'tour?*

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**sierre**  **anniviers**  
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