

QUAND LE LÉMAN VOUS INSPIRE



# SNOWSHOE TRAIL GUIDE



PAYS *D'ÉVIAN* VALLÉE *D'ABONDANCE*

VALLÉE  
D'ABONDANCE



## DIFFICULTY

The difficulty of the route is established on the basis of criteria such as the positive difference in altitude, the distance, the duration of the route, the accessibility...

VERY EASY ROUTE



EASY ROUTE



DIFFICULT ROUTE



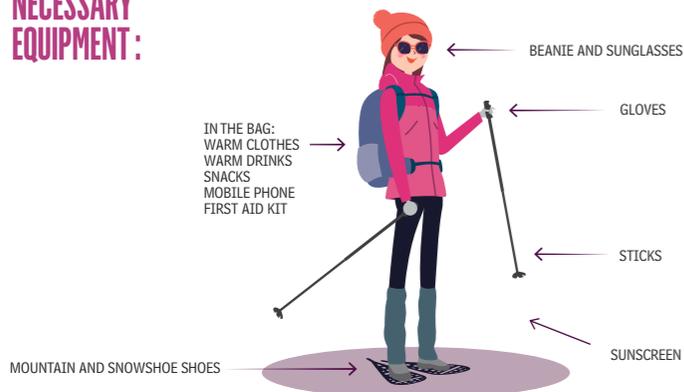
VERY DIFFICULT ROUTE



On the ground, follow the snowshoe signs (purple):



## NECESSARY EQUIPMENT :



## AVALANCHE RISK

On each explanation is indicated the risk from which the path is closed



**The snowpack is weakly stabilised on most (\*) sufficiently steep slopes.**

Numerous spontaneous large avalanches, and sometimes very large ones, can be expected, even in less steep terrain.

Risk 5



**The snowpack is weakly stabilised on most(\*) sufficiently steep slopes.**

Avalanches are likely to be triggered even with low overload(\*\*) on many sufficiently steep slopes(\*\*\*).

In some situations, numerous spontaneous avalanche starts of medium and sometimes large size can be expected.

Risk 4



**On many(\*) sufficiently steep slopes, the snowpack is only moderately to weakly stabilised.**

Avalanches may be triggered even with low overload(\*\*) and on many slopes, especially on those generally described in the bulletin.

In some situations, a few spontaneous avalanche starts of medium size, and sometimes quite large, are possible.

Risk 3



**On some(\*) sufficiently steep slopes, the snowpack is only moderately stabilised.**

Elsewhere, it is well stabilised.

Avalanches may be triggered mainly by heavy overloading (\*\*) and on some of the slopes generally described in the bulletin. Spontaneous avalanche starts of large magnitude are not to be expected.

Risk 2



**The snowpack is well stabilised on most slopes.**

Avalanches can only be triggered by heavy overloading(\*\*) on very rare steep slopes(\*\*\*).

Only flows or small avalanches can occur spontaneously.

Risk 1

(\*) The characteristics of the slopes are specified in the bulletin: altitude, orientation, topography...

(\*\*) Indicative overload :

high: grouped skiers, grooming machines, explosives... low: single skier, pedestrian...

(\*\*\*) Slopes that are particularly prone to avalanches because of their steepness, terrain configuration, proximity to the ridge.

The term «triggering» refers to avalanches caused by overloading, in particular by the skier(s).

The term «spontaneous departure» refers to avalanches that occur without external action.

Chapelles et oratoires

Blue

Page 4

closed route from risk 4

Fremoux

Blue

Page 5

closed route from risk 4

Domaine de l'Essert

Blue

Page 6

closed route from risk 4

Versant forestier

Red

Page 7

closed route from risk 4

Les Chalets d'Autigny

Red

Page 8

closed route from risk 4

# ABONDANCE



## CHAPELLES ET ORATOIRES

Departure : Car park of the Plagnes lake

Duration : 2h

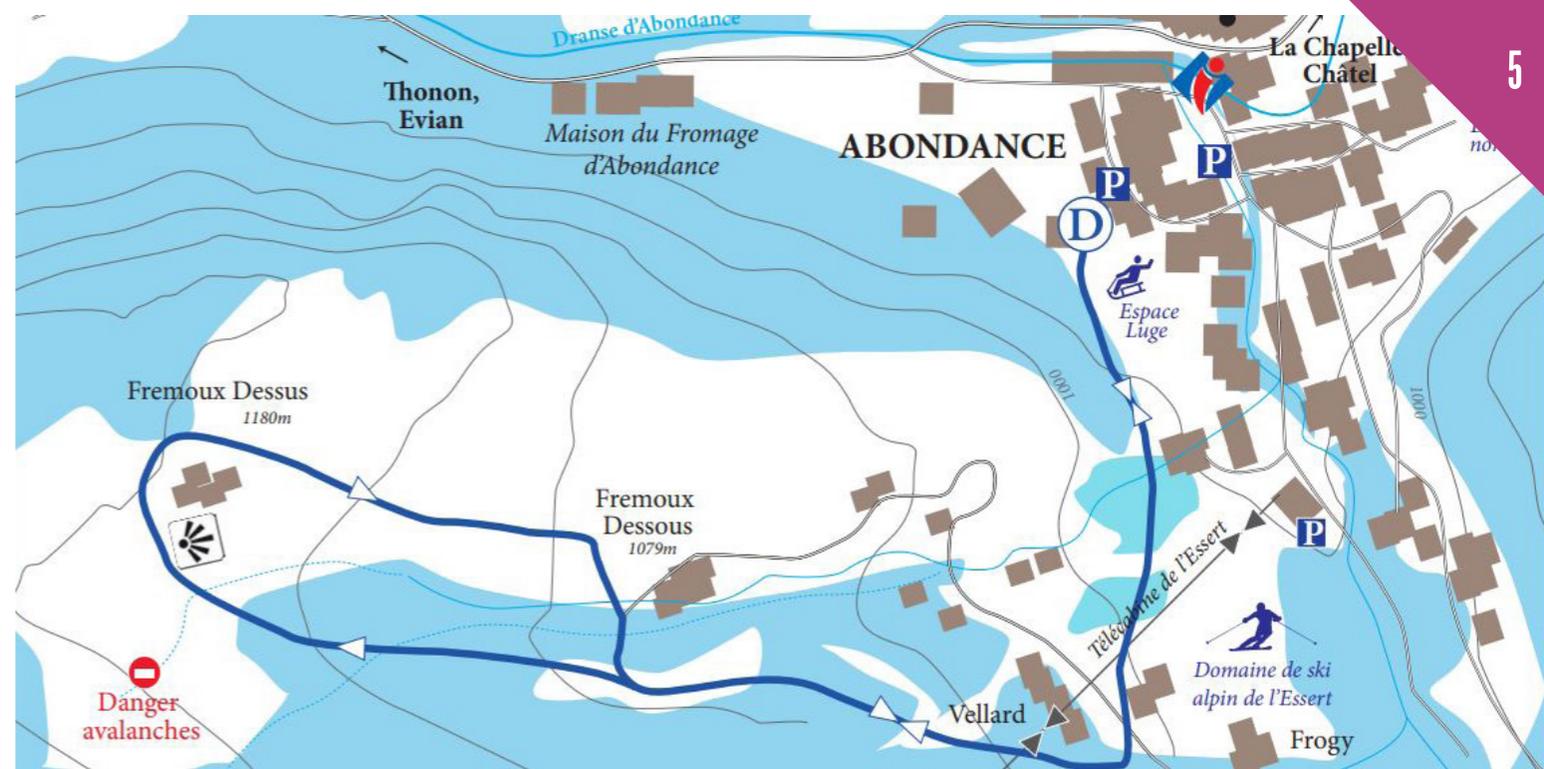
Elevation gain : 150 m

Distance : 4,6 km



Risk 4

From the car park at the Lac des Plagnes, walk down towards the Chapel of St Anne, follow the road to the Chapel of St Guérin. Cross the road at this chapel then go up to the chalets of Tétagottay. The path continues through the forest to an oratory and then out in the open to the chapel of St Théodule. From there, you go back down towards the farms of Follablin and find part of the path up to the chalets of Tétagottay. Then descend in the direction of Chez Les Rouges, cross the road and find the path that leads to the Lac des Plagnes. All along the itinerary, you will discover the built heritage (farms, chalets, oratories, chapels) which makes the richness of the valley of Abondance.



## FREMOUX

Departure : Plaine d'Auffaz

Duration : 2h

Elevation gain : 250 m

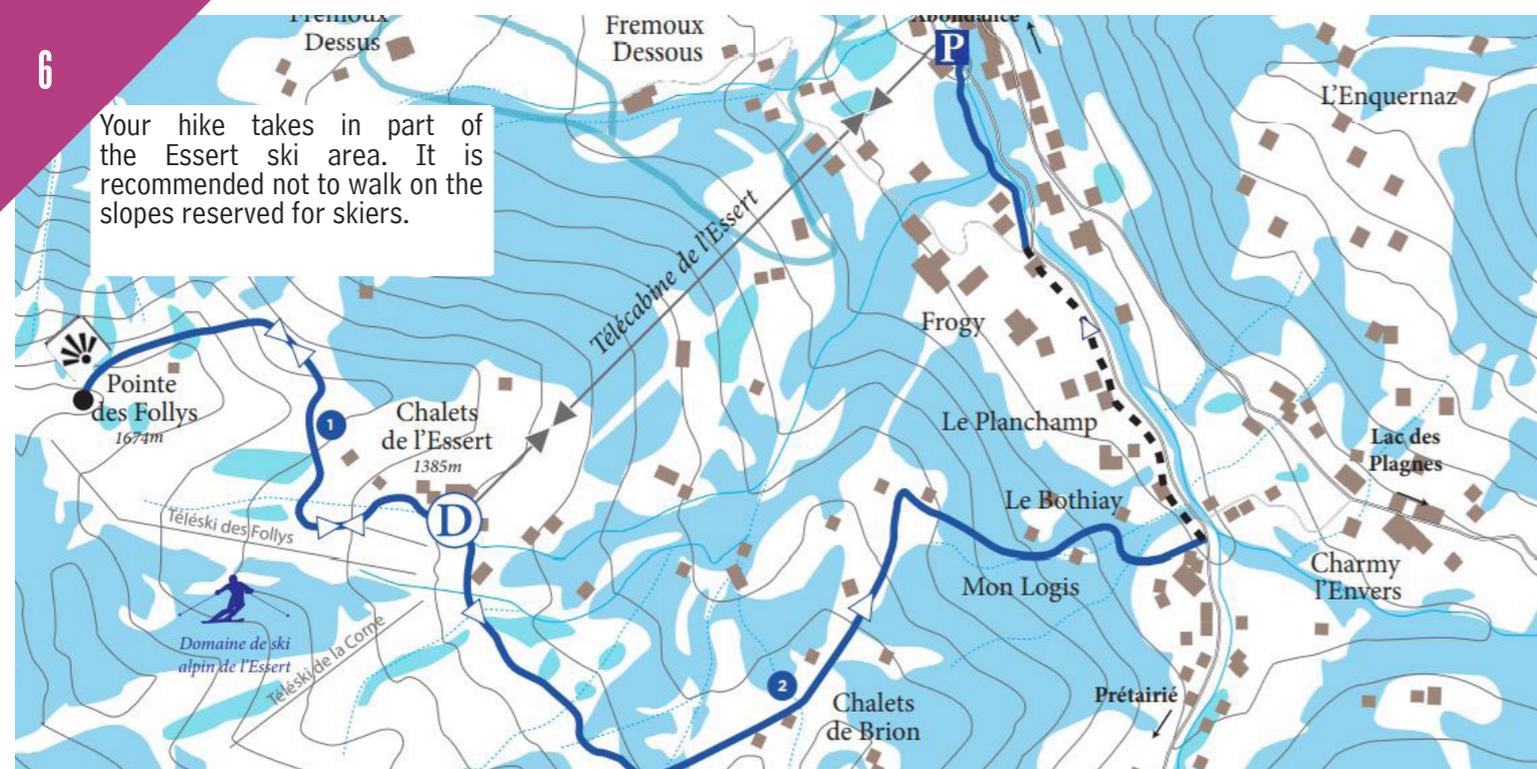
Distance : 3,3 km



Risk 4

From the car park, take the path to the right of the Auffaz sledge and ski slope. Continue along the edge of the forest and then cross the bridge into a large meadow. Cross the ski slope, then join the road higher up on your right then go up in the forest along the stream which will lead you to the Vellard farm. Take the wide path on your right until the first intersection and follow the path in front of you, towards Frémoux dessus. Between the houses, reach the meadow on your right to start your descent towards Fremoux Dessous by following the power line, a nice panorama on the whole valley is waiting for you. From there, follow the path on your right to find the uphill route leading you to Vellard and finally to Abondance.

Your hike takes in part of the Essert ski area. It is recommended not to walk on the slopes reserved for skiers.



## DOMAINE DE L'ESSERT

Departure : Top of the cable car

Duration  
Elevation gain  
Distance

1  
2h  
+ 300 m  
3 km

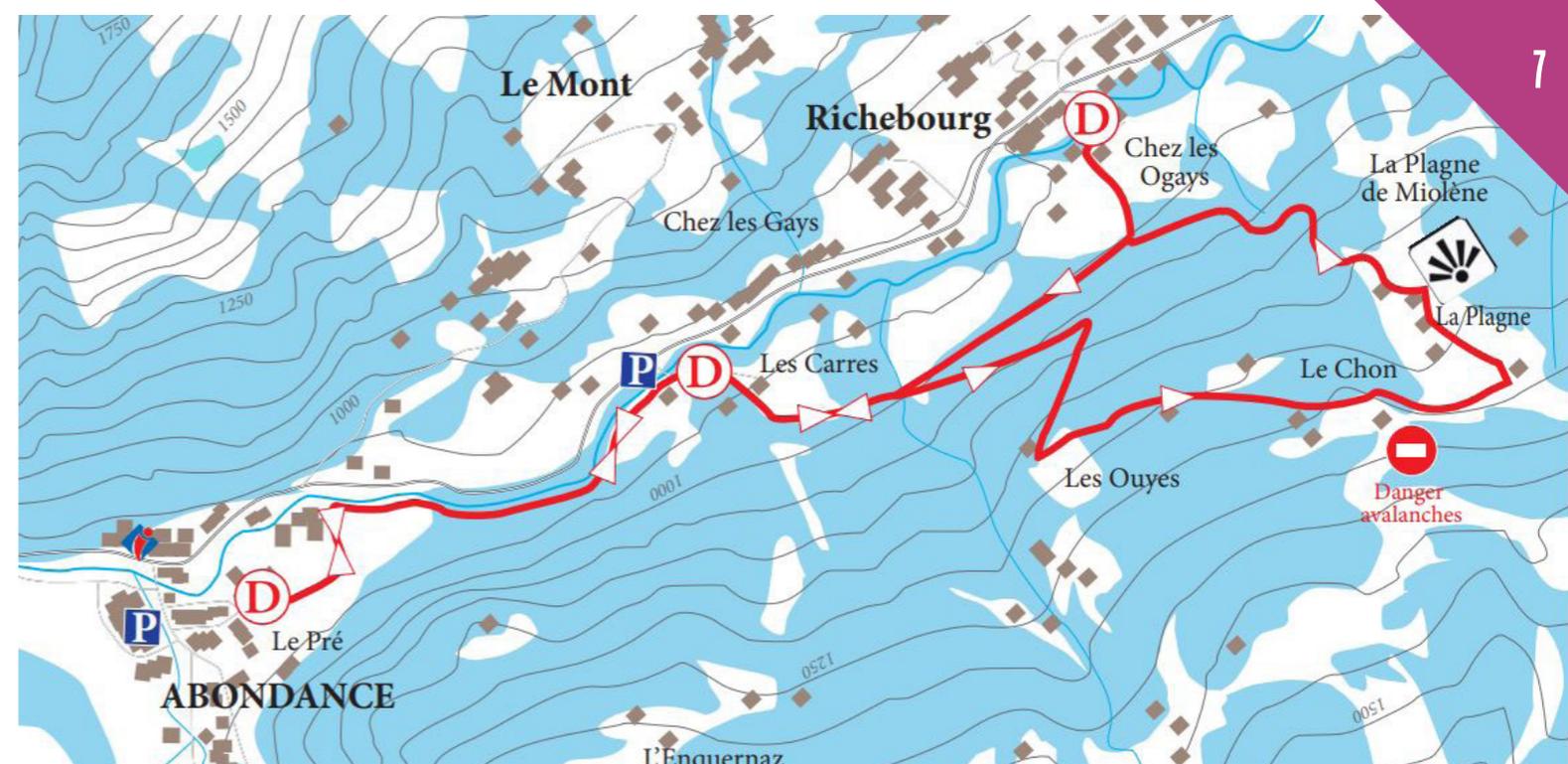
2  
1h  
- 450 m  
4,3 km



Risk 4

Take the Essert gondola lift (pass on sale at the ski area ticket office).

- 1 Go to the start of the paths at the bottom of the Petit Frémoux ski lift. Head towards the chalets de l'Essert and then go up towards the forest which you follow until you reach the ridge. Follow the ridge (be careful not to get too close to the edge of the cornice) until you reach the relay (antennas). Go back down the same way to the cable car station. At the top, there is a panoramic view of the Mont de Grange, Lake Geneva and the Teeth of the Midi.
- 2 Pass above the Essert restaurant and continue towards the Corne ski lifts. Then cross the piste from the Lac ski lift up to the Brion chalets. Continue towards the chalets of Mont Logis and Bothiay to Charmy l'Envers then take the road on the left towards Abondance to the car park of the cable car.



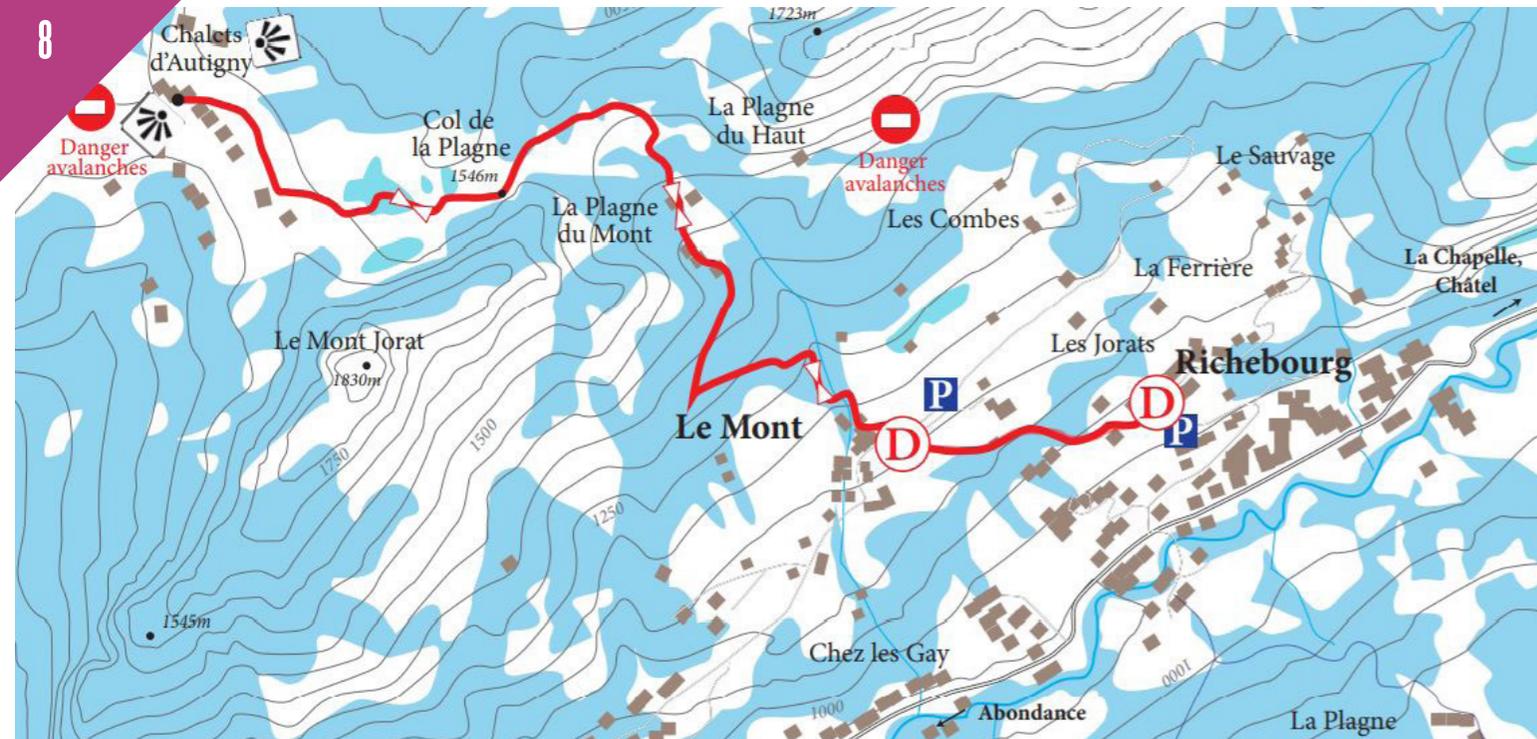
## VERSANT FORESTIER

Departure : Le Pré  
Duration : 2h to 3h45  
Elevation gain : from 330 to 350 m  
Distance : from 4,3 to 7,6 km



Risk 4

Hike in the forest and in the mountain pastures with a view of the valley and the Mont Chauffé. From Le Pré, take the footpath along the banks of the Dranse towards La Chapelle d'Abondance. At the level of the place called «les Carres», follow the path which goes up through the forest to the chalet «les Ouyes». Continue on the flat path that will lead you to the chalet «Le Chon» and then go down to an open area crossing the «Alpage de la Plagne». Continue your descent until you reach 1012 m where you turn left before returning to your route up. Other possible departures: les Carres and les Ogays.



## LES CHALETS D'AUTIGNY

Departure : Le Mont or Richebourg

Duration : 3h30 to 4h15

Elevation gain : from 420 m to 540 m

Distance: 6,2 km to 7,3 km



Risk 4

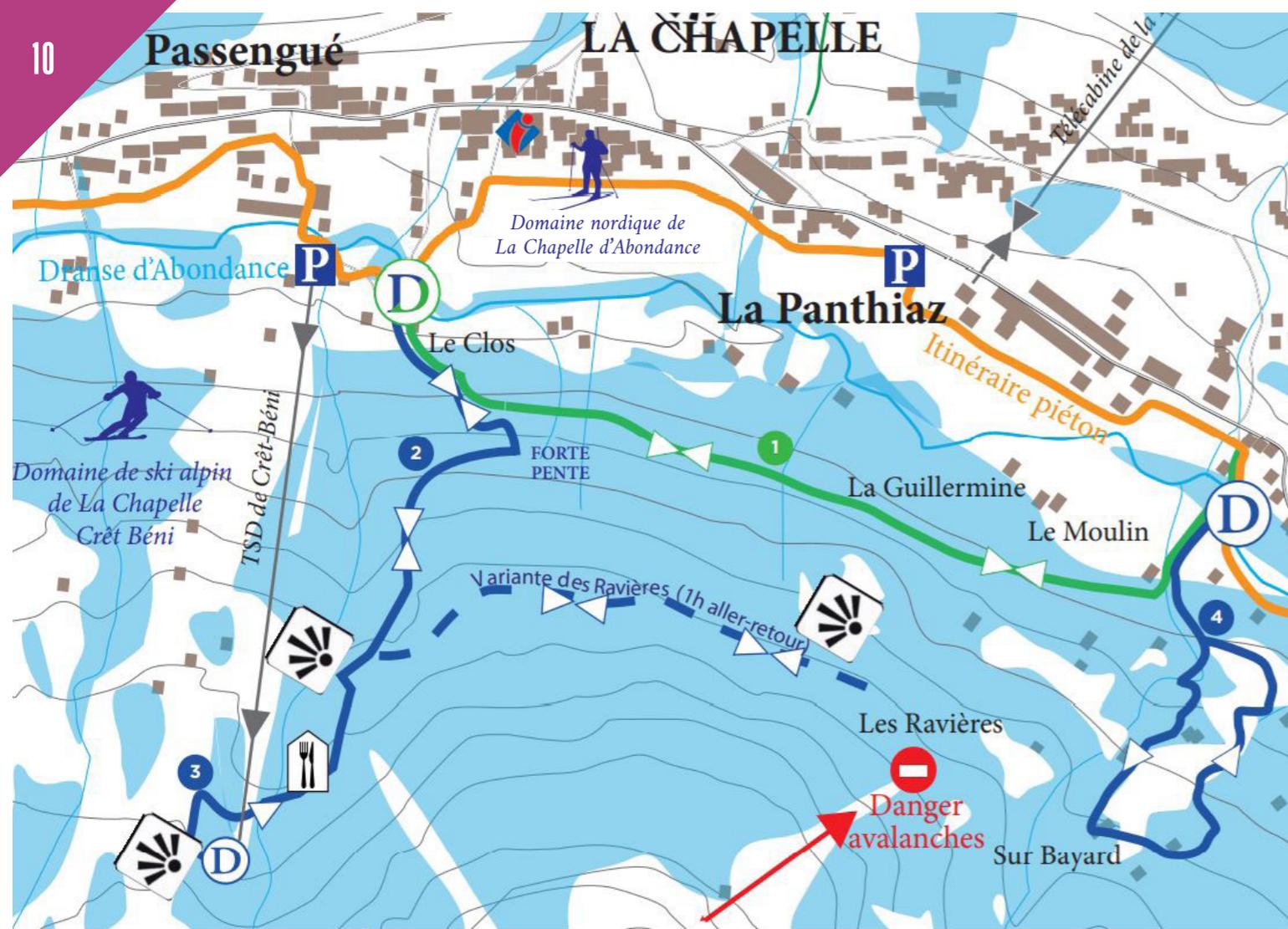
The itinerary invites you to discover the forests and alpine pastures of the Mont on this southern slope where the sun is very present during the beautiful winter days.

From the hamlet of Le Mont, go up towards the Col de la Plagne. At the pass, reach the chalets d'Autigny by a flatter path that offers magnificent views of the cliffs of Mont Chauffé. At the chalets, a panorama awaits you on the Cornettes de Bise, Ubine and the mountains of the Chablais. The return to your starting point follows the same route.

From Richebourg, join the main itinerary by the path that passes over the old goat farm. the old goat farm.

Balcon de la Chapelle	Green	page 11	closed route from risk 4
Plan des Feux - Les Ravières	Blue	page 11	closed route from risk 4
Plan des Feux	Blue	page 11	closed route from risk 4
Sur Bayard par la cascade	Blue	page 11	closed route from risk 4
Itinéraire du Blanchet	Blue	page 12	closed route from risk 4
Boucle de Tromby	Blue	page 13	closed route from risk 4
Col de Saix	Red	page 14	closed route from risk 4

## LA CHAPELLE D'ABONDANCE



This is an ideal route to discover snowshoeing or for a family outing.

Park in the car park at the foot of the Crêt Béni chairlift and then go to the start of the trail behind the communal garages (at the end of the car park). Take the path towards the Plan des Feux and turn left on the flat area to join the balcony path. Continue until you reach a beautiful waterfall which is often frozen in winter. From there, go back down to the Pont du Moulin to catch up with the footpath that will take you back to your starting point.



## 2-PLAN DES FEUX - LES RAVIÈRES

Departure : Le Clos  
Duration : 2h  
Elevation gain : 270 m  
Distance : 2,3 km



Risk 4

Park in the car park at the foot of the Crêt-Béni chairlift and then go to the start of the path behind the communal garages (at the end of the car park).

Take the path towards the Plan des Feux, continue straight on the flat (do not take the path on the left) then continue to climb up to the intersection of the Plan des Feux, which allows you to join the Ravières path on the left.

At the end of this path, turn around (avalanche danger), then follow the path back in the opposite direction.

Take the Crêt Béni chairlift (sales and prices at the lift ticket office).

From the top of the chairlift, follow the path down to the Crêt Béni restaurant. Take the road behind the restaurant and at the first crossroads turn right.

Follow the path to the Plan des Feux where there is a covered picnic hall.



## 4-SUR BAYARD PAR LA CASCADE

Departure : Le Moulin  
Duration : 1h45  
Elevation gain : 200 m  
Distance : 2,3 km



Risk 4

From the village, take the footpath towards the Panthiaz and then the Moulin. At the Pont du Moulin, go up to the end of the road to take the path in the forest which will lead you to Sur Bayard. Then descend through the combe in the field to recover, at the bottom, your ascent route.

Recommendations: You are in the Mont de Grange hunting reserve where dogs must be kept on a lead. If you know how to remain discreet, you can observe roe deer, stags and chamois. Part of the itinerary crosses the cross-country ski trails reserved for cross-country skiers, so please respect the pedestrian crossings and do not damage the trails.



Risk 4



## 1-BALCON DE LA CHAPELLE

Departure : Le Clos  
Duration : 2h  
Elevation gain : 80 m  
Distance : 5 km

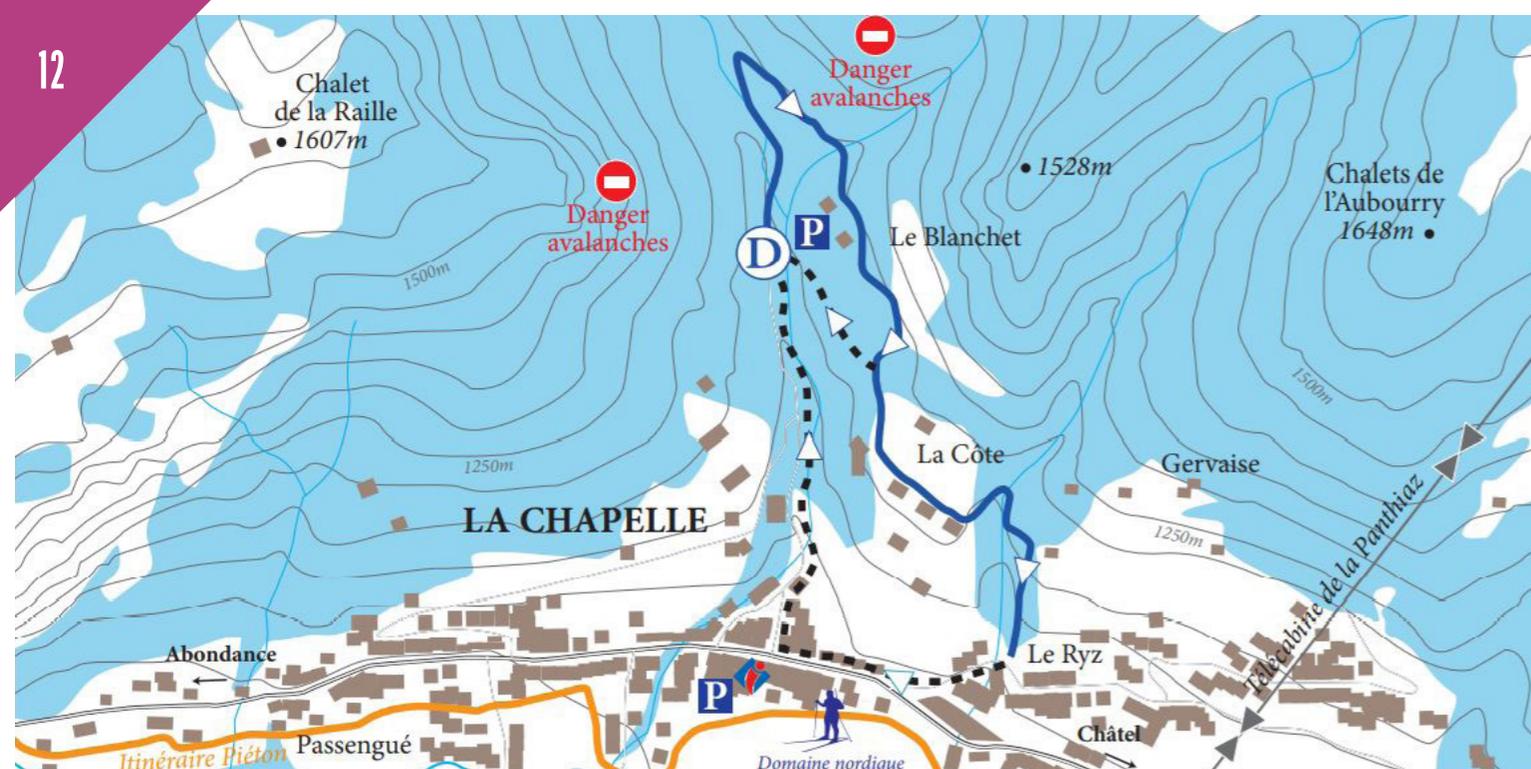


Risk 4



## 3-PLAN DES FEUX

Departure : top of the Crêt Béni chairlift  
Duration : 1h15  
Negative difference in altitude : 350 m  
Distance : 2 km



Risk 4

## ITINÉRAIRE DU BLANCHET

Departure : La Chapelle d'Abondance Tourism

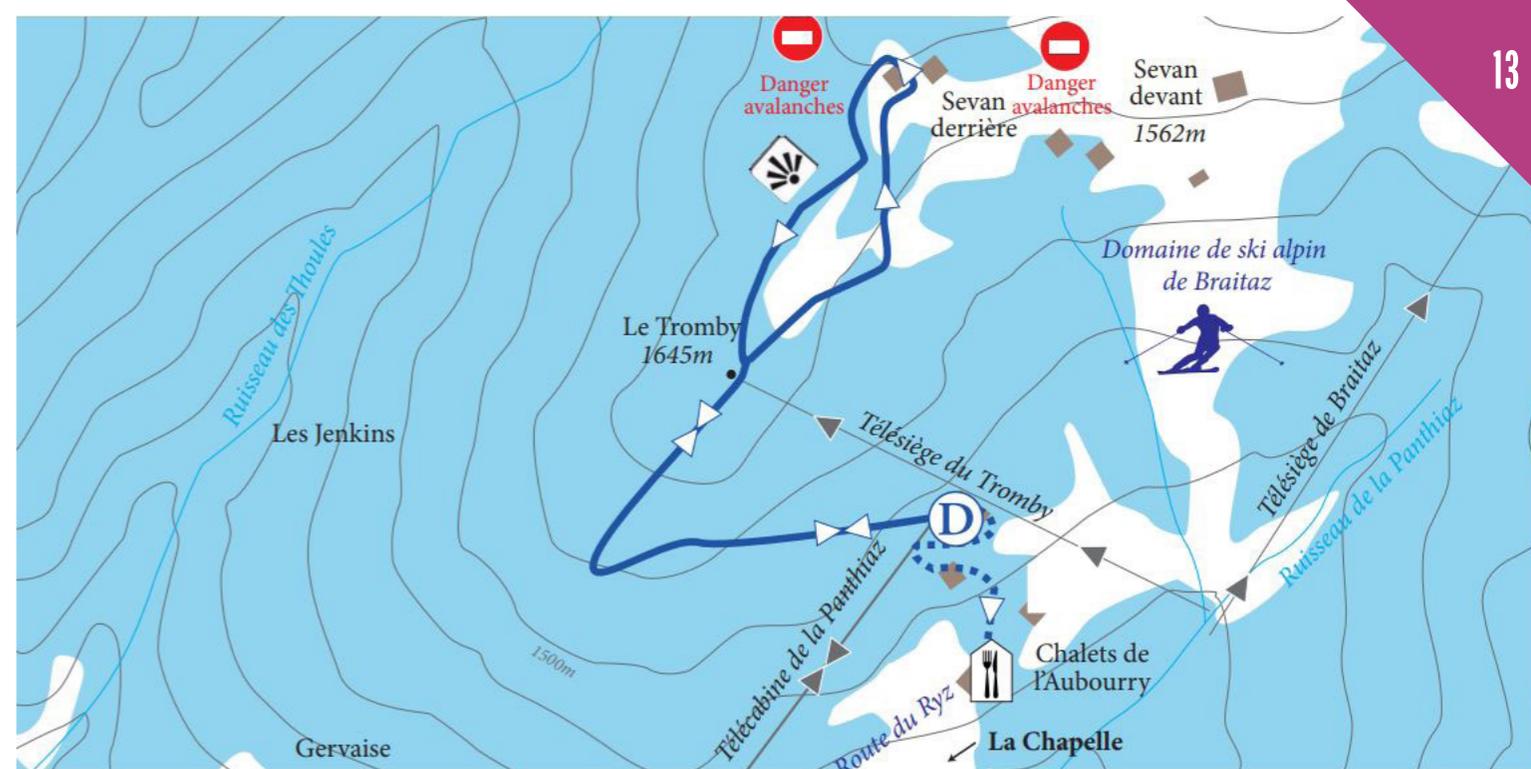
Duration : 2h

Elevation gain : 170 m

Distance : 3,8 km

Opposite the tourist office, go up the Chevenne road which runs alongside a stream lined with old chalets. Turn right towards La Côte along the Blanchet path. At La Côte, return via «Chez les Thoules», then the village centre.

Special feature: Part of the route is on the roadside and you will need to take off your snowshoes.



Risk 4

## BOUCLE DE TROMBY

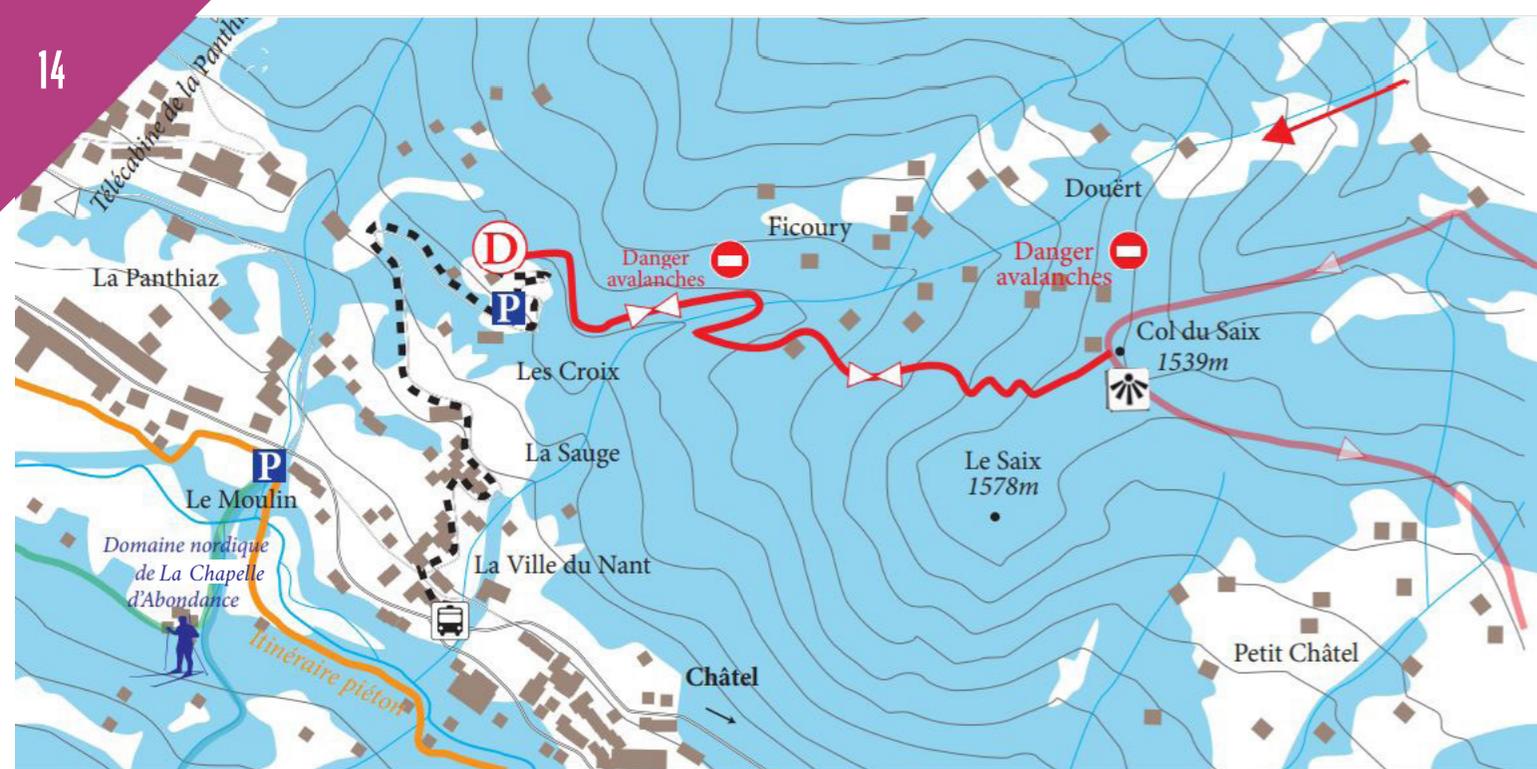
Departure : Panthiaz cable car summit

Duration : 2h

Elevation gain : 160 m

Distance : 2,5 km

Take the Panthiaz gondola lift (sales and prices at the lift ticket office) which you can reach from the village with the free communal shuttle bus: plan your return before the gondola closes. At the exit of the cable car, take the path in the forest on the left. The start is steady and after crossing forests and clearings, you arrive at the top of the Tromby chairlift. Follow the ridge line to the chalet de Sevan behind. Go back down to the top of the chairlift to take the path back up to the starting point. You can go back down by the cable car or take the Ryz road (allow 1 hour more).



Risk 4

## COL DU SAIX

Departure : Hamlet of Ville du Nant

Duration : 3h

Elevation gain : 300 m

Distance : 4,1 km

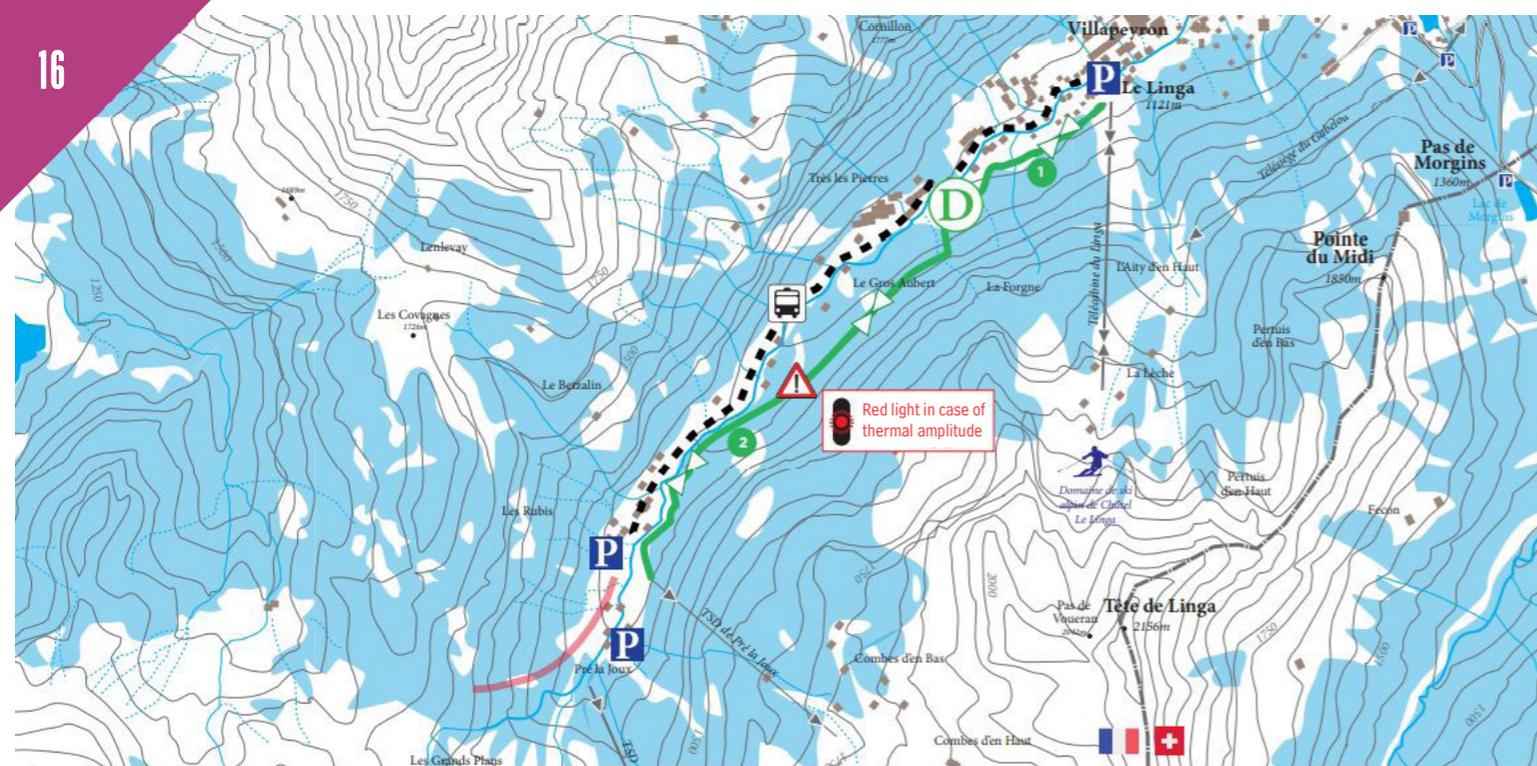
Go up the road to La Ville du Nant where you will discover beautiful chalets, traditional farms and chapels. At the end of the road, continue along the forest road, then along the path that will take you to the Col du Saix. The return journey takes the same route. You can also continue your walk in the direction of Barbossine and Petit Châtel (follow the Châtel signs).

To reach the starting point:

- Free communal shuttle bus: La Ville du Nant stop
- On foot: take the footpath to the Pont du Moulin
- By car: park at the Pont du Moulin

Bords de Dranse	Green	page 16	closed route from risk 4
Petit Châtel - Col de Saix	Blue	page 17	closed route from risk 4
Balcon de Châtel	Green	page 19	closed route from risk 4
Pas de Morgins	Green	page 19	closed route from risk 3
Boucle des Ramines	Green	page 19	closed route from risk 5
Boucle des Blattes	Blue	page 19	closed route from risk 3
Portes du Culet	Blue	page 21	closed route from risk 4
Tour du Corbeau	Red	page 21	closed route from risk 4
Sur le Bord	Red	page 21	closed route from risk 4
Col de Bassachaux	Red	page 22	closed route from risk 3
Les Québales	Black	page 23	closed route from risk 4

# CHÂTEL



**1** Direction Linga: follow the signs on your left directly by the bridge over the Dranse, the path takes you quietly between forests and meadows to Linga, the return is by the same path or by shuttle with line 1.



Risk 4



## BORDS DE DRANSE

Departure : Parking Très-les-Pierres

Duration : towards Linga 0h45 - towards Pré-la-Joux 1h30

Elevation gain : 30 m to 150 m

Distance to Linga 1,1 km - to Pré-la-Joux 2,3 km

**2** Direction Pré-la-Joux: follow the signs on your right, after a short climb, the path continues into the forest. A traffic light indicates the possibility of continuing towards Pré-la-Joux (risk of landslide). After the first car parks, the path continues along the banks of the Dranse to end at the Pré-la-Joux sledding area. The return journey is by the same route or by shuttle bus with line 1.



Risk 4

## VARIATION

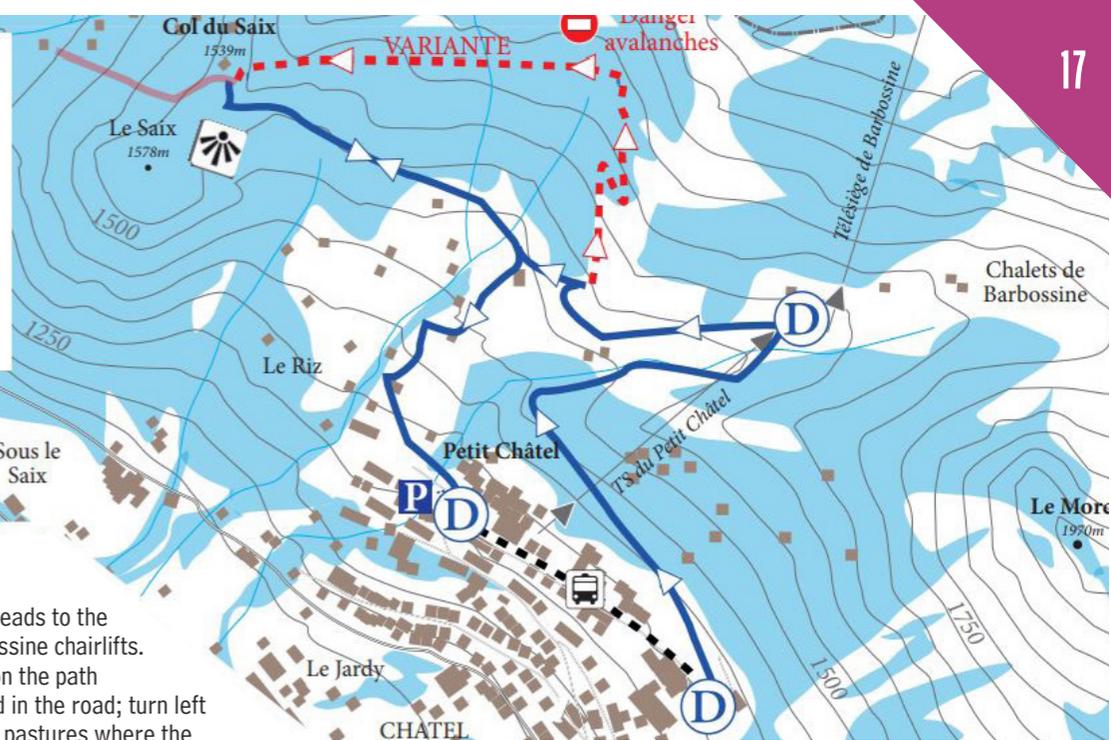
Closed when avalanche risk level 4 and above  
Duration: 1 hour  
Elevation gain: 180 m  
Distance: 2,2 km



From the Tenne bend on the Petit Châtel, climb quietly up the mountain side through the forest. After 2 bends, the path leads to the link between the Petit Châtel and Barbossine chairlifts. Then turn left and then right 100m further on the path towards Mouët. Continue until the first bend in the road; turn left immediately turn left to reach the mountain pastures where the panorama opens up.

The itinerary continues between forest and mountain pastures and then joins the path. Continue to the Col du Saix where you can admire the panorama of the Abondance valley. From the pass, you can join the path (page 14) to La Chapelle d'Abondance (return to Châtel by the ColomBus shuttle). The descent is through the forest to reach the chalets of Flammet. At the fork in the road, continue to the right towards Ryz: pass several farms and an oratory and take the steep but short descent to the road. Follow the road until you reach your starting point. To reach the start:

- By car, take the Petit Châtel road to Barbossine (pay parking)
- By shuttle bus (opposite the church, shuttle bus towards Petit-Châtel), stop at Barbossine or Tenne
- By the Petit-Châtel chairlift (pedestrian rate)



Risk 4



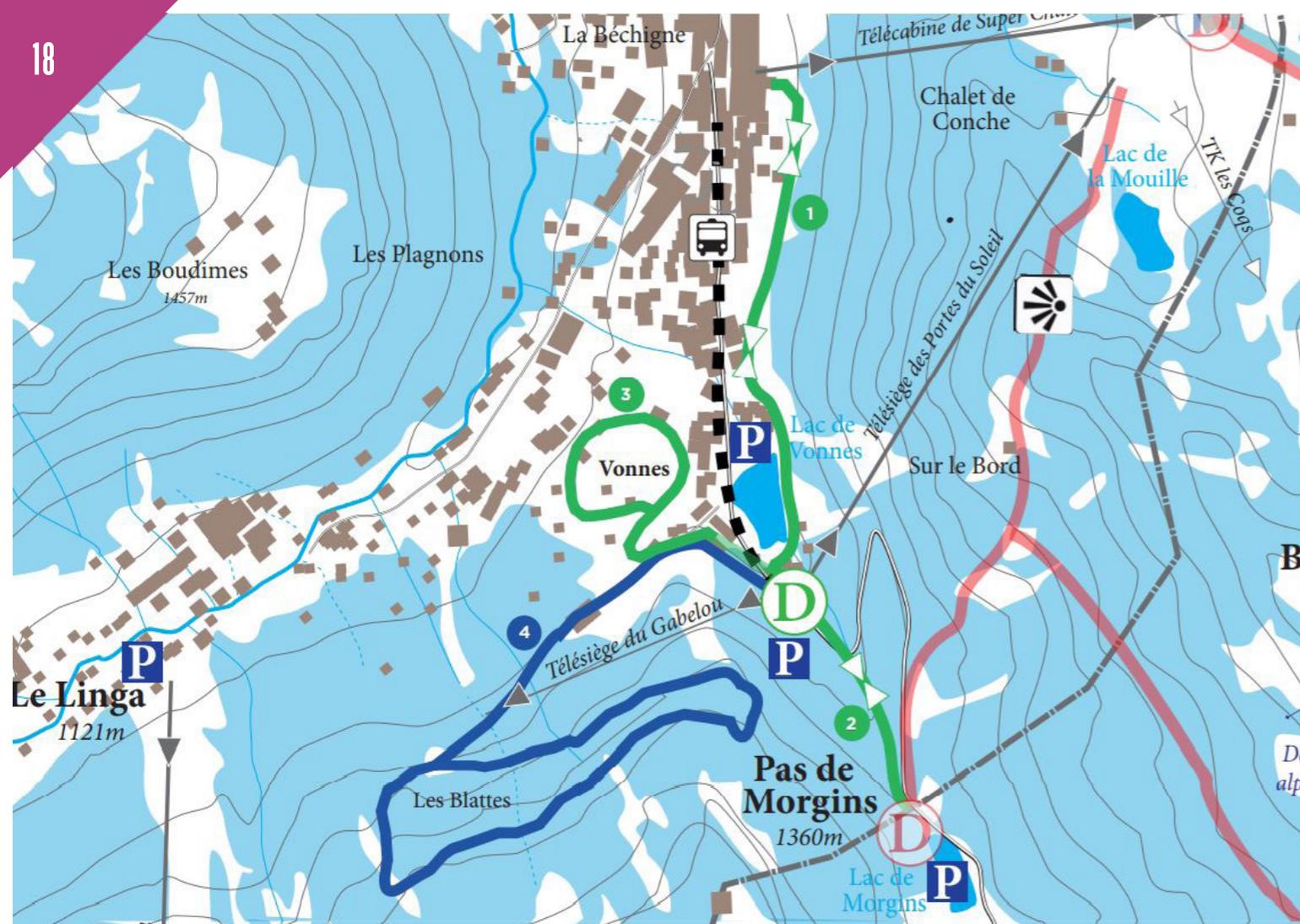
## PETIT CHÂTEL - COL DE SAIX

Start : Tenne bend

Duration : 2h15

Elevation gain : 230 m

Distance : 4,5 km



Risk 4

## 1 - BALCON DE CHATEL

Departure : Super-Châtel cable car  
or Parking Liaison Vonnos  
Round trip duration: 1h  
Elevation gain : 50 m - Distance: 2.5 km



Risk 3

## 2 - PAS DE MORGINS

Departure : Parking Liaison Vonnos  
Round trip duration : 1h  
Elevation gain : 80 m  
Distance : 2,4 km



Risk 5

## 3 - BOUCLE DES RAMINES

Departure : Parking Liaison Vonnos  
Duration : 1h  
Elevation gain : 80 m - Distance: 1.8 km



Risk 3

## 4 - BOUCLE DES BLATTES

Departure : Parking Liaison Vonnos  
Duration : 2h30  
Elevation gain : 200 m  
Distance : 4 km

At the Super-Châtel gondola, take the stairs on the left and follow the lift for 40m up the slope (the only difficulty), then turn right and follow the balcony path towards the Lac de Vonnos. The return is by the same path or by taking the shuttle bus.

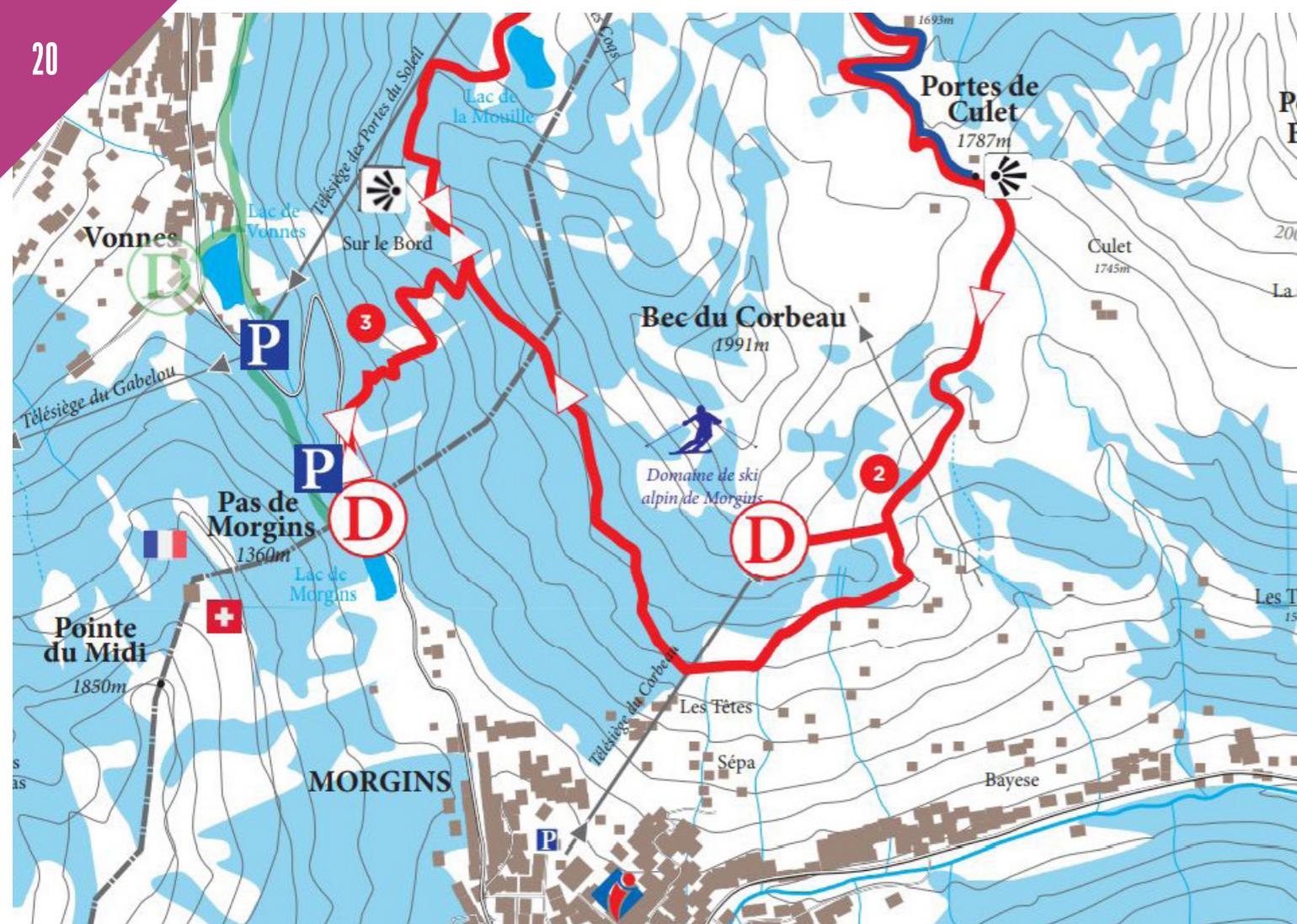
Variation in the other direction from the Liaison Vonnos car park, cross the road by the footbridge or by bus at the Gabelou stop.

You can access the path by taking the shuttle bus from the village centre (Place de l'Église), stop Gabelou. Take the direction of Switzerland and the lake of Vonnos, the departure is located at the level of the carpark connection Vonnos. From the departure sign, located in front of the car park entrance, you take the path up to the Morgins pass. You are at the Swiss border, you can go to the lake of the same name just after the pass. The view opens on the Dents du Midi in Switzerland dominated by the Haute Cime (3257m). If it is not covered with snow, the border marker at the pass is very interesting with carved crests on each side (Switzerland and Duke of Savoy). The return journey is by the same route or by taking the shuttle bus.

From the start sign, follow the path overlooking the Chapelle Notre Dame de Vonnos to reach the Chemin des Ramines, turn right downhill towards the groomed loop. You will also find the sledging area of Sous Vonnos.

Follow the path over the Chapelle Notre Dame de Vonnos to join the Chemin des Ramines in the direction of the Gabelou chairlift. Just before, cross the bridge and then, on the left, follow the track above the chairlift station that you pass. At the crossroads with the alpine ski slope, turn left again at the hairpin bend to continue straight ahead in the forest until you reach the viewpoint of Les Blattes. Return to the start by the same path.

Variation: Continue on the wide track towards Morgins for 40m to take a narrower path on the right to complete the loop, continue straight on, lodging the slope for about 1km to descend straight down the slope towards the Gabelou chairlift.



## 1 - PORTES DU CULET

Departure : Super-Châtel cable car

Duration : 1h30

Elevation gain : 80 m

Distance : 4,1 km



## 2 - TOUR DU CORBEAU

Departure : Super Châtel cable car

Duration : 5h

Elevation gain : 650 m

Distance : 7,6 km



## 3 - SUR LE BORD

Departure : Parking Pas de Morgins

Duration : 2h30

Elevation gain : 300 m

Distance : 1.4 km

Franco-Swiss route of 6 km which includes hills and descents more or less marked and is reserved for experienced snowshoe walkers. At the arrival of the gondola, follow the Nordic route to arrive at Lake Conche. At the chalets of the same name, and after a small loop intended for family walks in a spruce forest, you can continue on the Renard trail towards Chalet Neuf and the Portes de Culet pass, a pass offering a panorama of exception on the Dents du Midi, the Vaudois and Valais Alps, as well as Mont-Blanc.

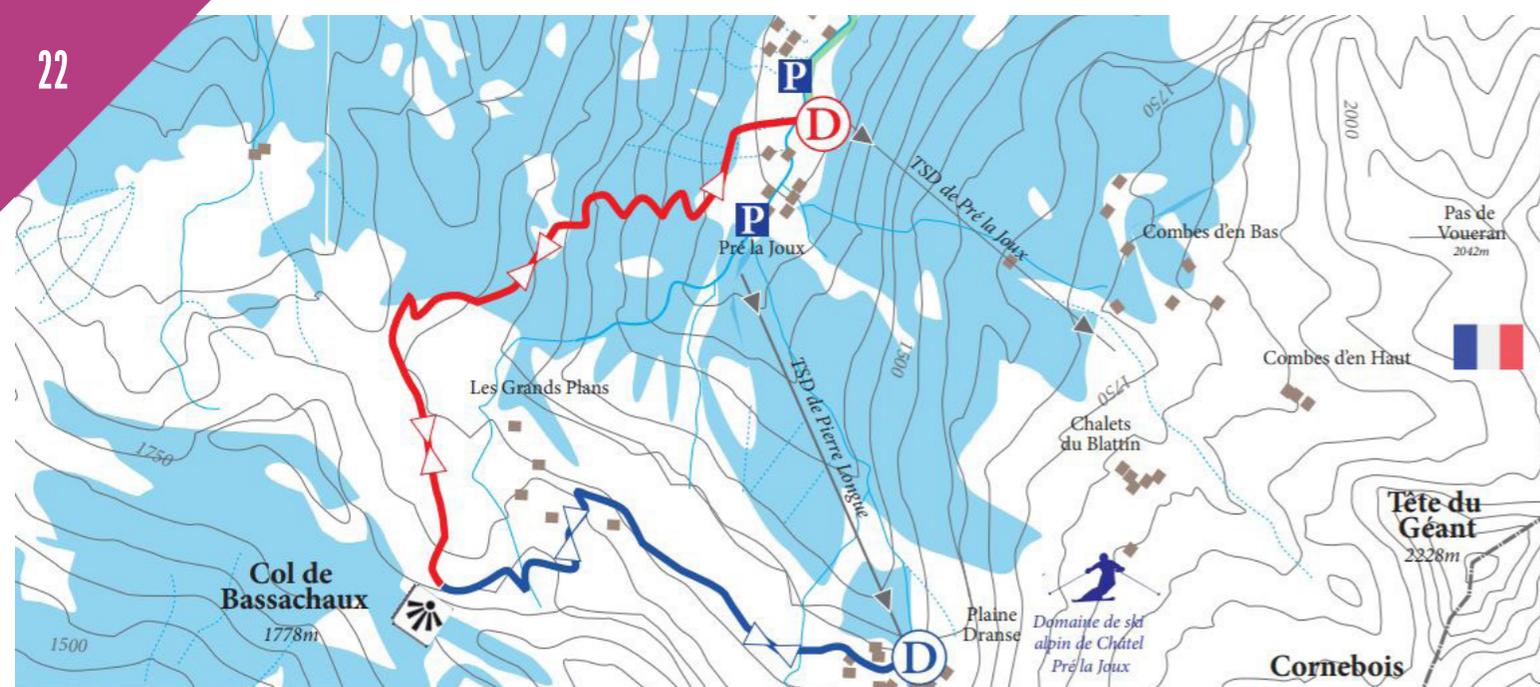
A 6 km Franco-Swiss itinerary which includes more or less steep climbs and descents and is reserved for experienced snowshoe walkers. At the arrival of the cable car, follow the Nordic route to the Conche lake. From the chalets of the same name, and after a short loop for family walks in a spruce forest, you can continue on the Renard path towards the Chalet Neuf and the Col des Portes de Culet, a pass offering an exceptional panorama of the Dents du Midi, the Vaud and Valais Alps, and Mont Blanc.

### Variant from Morgins

From the Corbeau restaurant, located under the chairlift of the same name: the path in the forest takes you either to France, to the Sur le Bord sector, then to the Lac de la Mouille, with a breathtaking view of the Abundance valley. Or in Switzerland, going up to the Ecotis ski lift, then to the Portes de Culet, Chalet Neuf, Conche, Super-Châtel. The return is done by the same way.

From the top of the Corbeau chairlift: go back down for about 300m to find the path that crosses the Ecotis ski lift. From there, follow the Renard trail in the direction of Portes de Culet - Lac de Conche - Super Châtel or in the direction of Restaurant le Corbeau - Sur le Bord.

The path starts on the other side of the road (cross with caution), in the forest by a slight descent. At the first exit from the forest, continue on the forest track to your right to start the fairly steep climb to Sur le Bord. After several bends, the path passes near the Sur le Bord alpine chalet before arriving at the highest point located a few hundred meters further on. After admiring the view, you can return to the starting point by retracing your steps, or go to Lac de la Mouille.



## COL DE BASSACHAUX

Departure : Foot of Pré la Joux chairlift

Duration : 5h30

Elevation gain : 540 m

Distance : 11.3km

From the center of the village, take the Pré-la-Joux road and park in the Pré-la-Joux chairlift car park. The trail begins by gently climbing above the covered carpet to rush slightly into the forest along the stream. Cross the stream on a small bridge to emerge above the bob-luge track. Continue on the path on the right again in the forest to “La Place des Plaines” where there is an oratory. The route then heads left to reach the Grands Plans mountain pastures. Follow the track and the markings through these grandiose spaces to the Col de Bassachaux. It is also possible to go directly to Plaine Dranse by the Pierre Longue chairlift.

At the pass, if the avalanche risk is less than 3 out of 5, the bravest can continue the walk and reach the Plaine Dranse chalets by following the summer road. The return is made by the same route or by descending by chairlift by buying a descent ticket before your departure at the ski lift ticket offices.



## LES QUÉBALES

Departure : Chemin de Villapeyron

Duration : 5h

Elevation gain : 700 m

Distance : 7,6km

Take the direction of Villapeyron and park in the Linga car park. The start of the route is at the top of Chemin de Villapeyron, 50m from the car park. The trail enters the undergrowth, crosses a stream and climbs straight up until you reach a forest track. From there, take the winding path up to the oratory. Continue on the path rising to the right of the oratory and join the wide path giving access to the Boudimes mountain pasture. Cross the mountain pasture to reach a small plateau behind the high-voltage line pylon. The route then rises quietly through the mountain pastures, the panorama opens up during the climb and you can see the Dents du Midi (3257m). Once in Québales-bas, leave the path on the left entering the forest to take the one that will take you to the top of the route.

You are in the Mont de Grange hunting reserve, with a little patience and being quiet, you could see chamois!

The return is made by the same path, do not venture beyond the Québales, the risk of avalanches is high.

# LIVE THE MOUNTAIN DIFFERENTLY

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Mountain guides are passionate  
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Program of outings and contact details for guides in the  
reception areas of the Tourist Offices.

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Randonnées  
pays d'Evian  
vallée d'Abondance

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBER  
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WEATHER  
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ABONDANCE TOURISM  
04 50 73 02 90

LA CHAPELLE D'ABONDANCE TOURISM  
04 50 73 51 41



Credits : Vanessa Andrieux