

## **A** Access

From the N94 between Crots and Savines, go up in the direction of Boscodon Abbey. Continue straight along after the abbey then follow the forest track turning right at the crossroads. Go up for 5 km until you reach the Grand Clot car park.

## **P** Advised parking

Parking de Grand Clot

## **i** Information desks

To check the practicability of the hiking paths and to know more about the National park, please visit us or call us at :

### **Maison du Parc de l'Embrunais**

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<http://www.ecrins-parcnational.fr/> [embrunais@ecrins-parcnational.fr](mailto:embrunais@ecrins-parcnational.fr)

Place de l'Église

05380 Châteauroux-les-Alpes

Lat : 44.6145944303 Long : 6.52068354563



## **Related treks**

Le Pic de Morgon par Pierre Arnoux



## **THE PIC DE MORGON**

*Embrunais - Crots*

**Duration**

4 h

**Length**

10.7 km

**Trek ascent**

812 m

**Difficulty**

Medium

**Type**

Loop

**Practice**

By walk

**Themes**

Fauna

Flora

History and  
architecture



Attribution:En montant au Pic de Morgon (Pascal Saulay - PNE)

**This hike enables you to discover the enchanting cirque at altitude and the panorama of the valleys of Ubaye and the Durance.**

« It was with the President of the Pastoral Organization Morgon who was replacing the shepherd that day, that we were able to admire the view of 25 male chamois grouped at the Tête de la Vieilleet without a female on the horizon »

Michel Bouche, Heritage Technician in the Briançonnais

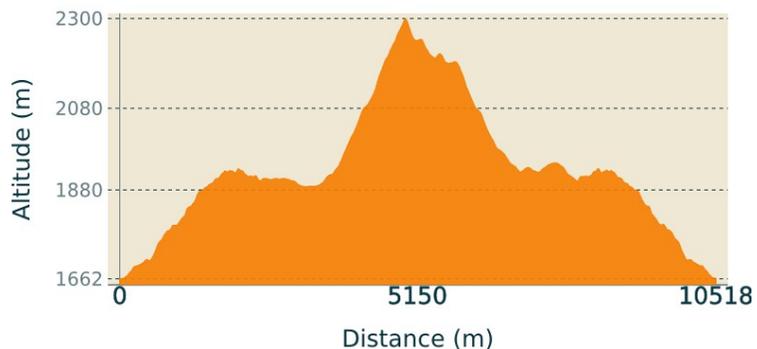
## Trek

From the car park at Grand Clot (1660 m) follow the track into the forest until Portes de Morgon where you will discover the cirque of the same name. Once in the cirque, follow the path then the track. Pass near to the shepherd's cabin respecting its tranquility before attacking the ascent which is often eroded in the cargneules. Follow the track in order to avoid making the erosion worse. Ascend to the summit (where there is an old orientation table that has been struck by lightning). It is possible by turning right to pass near to a metal cylinder placed on the ridge in the year 2000 at the same time as the one you can still see at Mont Orel. A third cylinder was put up on Mont Guillaume, but has been dismantled. Next rejoin the summit by following the shoulder of the mountain... From up high, the view of the two branches of Serre-Ponçon lake is stunning. For the return journey follow the ridge to the South in the direction of the Tête de la Vieille (a small passage through the rocks) and get back on to the path that goes down to the cirque. It passes near to Morgon Lake and the Saint Pierre sanctuary before joining the Portes de Morgon itinerary that you followed on the way out...

### ⚠ Advice

Dogs are not allowed in the cirque between the 15th June and the 15th July and from the 15th August and the 15th September.

### Altimetric profile



Min elevation : 1662 m

Max elevation : 2300 m



### On the way...

- Black Grouse **A**
- Flore forestière **B**
- Marmottes **C**
- Preserved Pasture **D**
- Wolf **E**
- Rock Ptarmigan **F**
- Summits and vallies **G**
- Griffon Vulture **H**
- Flora at altitude **I**
- Avifauna on the cliff **J**
- Saint Pierre sanctuary **K**
- Common Frog **L**
- Chamois **M**

## **Black Grouse** **A**



In Springtime, the male, whose black feathers and lyre shaped tail contrast with its white rump, make spectacular displays to attract the females. Between the larches and junipers, in the high grass is favourable environment for these birds to reproduce, but we have to take in to account the flocks of sheep and the progressive end of this kind of environment.

*(Attribution : Robert Chevalier - PNE)*

## **Flore forestière** **B**



En forêt, il y a quelques stations de sabots de Vénus, aussi appelés sabot de la Vierge, et d'ancolies des Alpes, espèce peu fréquente dont l'éclat n'a d'égal que sa rareté. Ne cueillez ni l'une ni l'autre afin de les conserver et de permettre à tous d'en profiter. On trouve également la très rare et très discrète mousse Buxbaumia viridis sur les souches en décomposition.

*(Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE)*

## **Marmottes** **C**



La marmotte alpine est naturellement présente sur les pelouses d'altitude. Ce gros rongeur n'est visible que d'avril à octobre, réfugié pendant la mauvaise saison dans le terrier où il hiberne. La marmotte vit en famille, respectant une hiérarchie stricte. Les jeux, les toilettes, les rixes et les morsures assurent la dominance d'un couple ainsi que la cohésion du groupe. Chacun participe à la délimitation du territoire en frottant ses joues sur des rochers ou en déposant crottes et urine. Lors d'un danger, la marmotte émet un sifflement aigu et puissant afin d'en avertir les autres.

*(Attribution : Rodolphe Papet - PNE)*



## Preserved Pasture D



The Morgon cirque welcomes a flock of 1300 sheep. At the height of the tourist season, it migrates towards the pastures at Vallon Clapier and Olettes more to the East. This is due to agro-environmental measures, a contract between the Pastoral Organization and the Ecrins National Park which seeks to protect pastoral resources and the environmental assets of the pasture.

(Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE)



## Wolf E



Although the species had been eradicated in France at the beginning of the 20th century, about 400 wolves remained in 1980 in Italy. Today thanks to the protection that it benefits from this large carnivore is settling more and more in the North... It regularly comes to the pasture in the summer creating some damage which has been noted by the park rangers in the National Park and compensated for. The presence of the shepherd and his « dogs » is however dissuasive.

(Attribution : Robert Chevalier - PNE)



## Rock Ptarmigan F



It is sometimes possible to see the Rock Ptarmigan on the ridges of the shale slopes which, after having picked their way through the rocks, fly away in a flash of white. It is one of the most threatened species in the Alps... With global warming, evolution in the pastures, winter frequentation ... the future seems uncertain for this inhabitant of the ridges...

(Attribution : Jean-Philippe Telmon - PNE)



## Summits and vallies G



The summit of the Pic de Morgon offers a magnificent view over the Ubaye and the Durance. While on the right bank of the latter, one can see the Aiguilles de Chabrières, the Piolit and the Mont Guillaume, on the left bank of the Ubaye, you can see the Dormillouse. Near to the Pic de Morgon, is the Tête de la Vieille, le Pic de Charance and the Pic Jean Martin. In the distance, you can distinguish the Pic de Bure as well as

the snowy summits of the Ecrins and the Vanoise.

(Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE)



## Griffon Vulture H



The Pic de Morgon is used by the vultures coming from the right bank of the Durance, sometimes in large numbers, to get up to altitude after having crossed over Serre-Ponçon Lake. Scavengers exclusively, these gravediggers who have frightened and disgusted mankind for a long time hold a fundamental place in the food cycle by rapidly eliminating cadavers and in this way limiting the dispersal of microbes

and illness.

(Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE)



## Flora at altitude I



On the ridges, la Berardia Subacaulis, rare and protected, resembles plants found in the desert. Its grey-green cottony rosette is unusual up here on the slopes where we also find the Rose Daphne with its suprising fragrance. On the limestone the Silver Edged Primrose grows, a Southern plant which is recognizable by its divided leaves edged in silver.

(Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE)



## Avifauna on the cliff J



The North face of the Pic de Morgon, with its cliffs, is a perfect place to watch the rock birds... You can see the aerial acrobatics of the Red Billed Chough, which breaks the silence with its strident cry, which is almost metallic. You can also observe the rapid flight of a group of Alpine Swifts and that of those that look like butterflies the Wall Creepers with their legs and curved claws enabling them to cling on to the cliff.

(Attribution : Damien Combrisson - PNE)



## Saint Pierre sanctuary K

From time immemorial, the « chapel » situated near to Morgon Lake is the goal of a pilgrimage which takes place every 29th June, Saint-Peter's day. The practice of this pilgrimage probably goes back to Pagan times; witnessing these impressive stone boulders which may have been used as sacrificial altars... Of this sanctuary, which has been abandoned since the beginning of the 20th century only a few roughly cut rocks remained. However it was identically rebuilt in June 1992 by the students at the Ecrins Technical College. Since then, festivities are held there once more every June.



### Common Frog **L**



The only amphibious frog living at altitude, it reproduces in Morgon lake before this dries up. Well versed in inhabiting these glacial waters where it hibernates without too much danger, it has a stocky body about 10 cm long, beige with brown markings and a short face topped with golden coloured, protruding lidded eyes.

*(Attribution : Thierry Maillet - PNE)*



### Chamois **M**



Early in the morning and late in the evening, the chamois come to graze around the Tête de la Vieille, du Pic de Charance or on the other side of the Pic Jean Martin on the edge of the cirque de Bragousse. This emblematic Alpine animal has a particularly well developed sense of smell and hearing which makes it difficult to approach it. So it is easier to observe it through binoculars... which also preserves its

tranquility!

*(Attribution : Mireille Coulon - PNE)*