

Isère

VERCORS

Fear of heights

From the winding road D1075 from the Col de la Croix haute, the motorist is amazed by this limestone fortress erected above Grenoble. The Vercors, this mountain range of the Northern Alps between the Isère valley to the north and the Diois to the south, challenges with its wild beauty. The Vercors Regional Natural Park protects these spaces with a diversity of landscapes, exceptional flora and fauna. It is a little paradise for outdoor activities, away from the crowds, for both contemplatives and sportsmen. A territory accessible by deep gorges and dizzying roads.

The large natural areas of the Hautes Plateaux Reserve offer breathtaking panoramas. It is entered after several hours of walking by "steps" difficult to cross. The arrival on these grassy and rocky expanses planted with hook pines gives a dizzying feeling of pleasure and freedom. The immense plateau is so vast that the hiker can walk for a long time without crossing a living soul, with the reward of observing the somewhat shy ibex, or of identifying the flight of griffon vultures, failing to see the elusive wolf!

In the southeast of the reserve, the landscape offers panoramas worthy of the great American spaces. One of the regional marvels attests to this, the atypical monolith of Mont Aiguille, which rises above the village of Chichilianne over 1,000 m, straight out of a film by John Ford, a "Mesa" from Colorado in French territory!

The hikes along the vertiginous high cliffs are striking and offer majestic panoramas on the distant mountain ranges of Dévoluy, Oisans or Ecrins. It is with astonished eyes and a pounding heart that we carefully approach the lip of the cliff.

Rich in natural and wild treasures, the emotions felt on the high plateaus of Vercors are the object of all superlatives.



Panorama on the eastern barrier of Vercors and Trièves from the Col des Moucherolles (2060m).



A sea of clouds slides between La Tête de Praorzel (1691m), the crest of Grande Leirie and in the background the Mont Barral (1903m), seen from the crests of Pas de l'Essaure.



The Chichilianne valley under a sea of cloud, on the left the Grand Veymont (2341m) and the Mont Aiguille (2086m), seen from the crests of Pas de l'Essaure.



Le Pas des Bachassons in the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



By a rare clearing, a ray of sunshine illuminates the high cliffs of Mont Aiguille (2086m).



The cliffs of the great eastern barrier, the Grand Veymont (2341m), the highest point in Vercors.



Hikers on the cliffs of the Font d'Urle plateau.



Panorama seen from the Col des Moucherolles (2060m) on the Grande Moucherolle (2284m).



The Chichilianne valley under a sea of clouds, seen from the Vercors Hauts Plateaux National Nature Reserve, the limestone cliffs of Mont Aiguille (2086m) emerge from the mist.



The vertiginous cliffs at the edge of the plain of Chamousset, in the background the Mont Aiguille (2086m).



Sunrise on Mont Aiguille (2086m) seen from Pas de l'Aiguille (1622m).



The shadow covers the Vercors Highlands Nature Reserve.



The village of Chichilianne at the foot of Mont Aiguille (2086m).







Brudour stream in Font d'Urle.







Ibex in the fog at Pas des Bachassons in the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



Ibex in the fog at Pas des Bachassons in the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



Hiker on the ridge path of the Font d'Urle plateau overlooking the Diois.



Panorama on the eastern barrier of Vercors and Trièves from the Col des Moucherolles (2060m).



A hiker on the crests of the cliffs facing Mont Aiguille (2086m), in the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



In the Vercors Highlands Nature Reserve, a hiker in the fog contemplates a Hooked Pine on the slopes of Rocher du Parquets.



Narcissus of poets on the Font d'Urle plateau in the Sensitive Natural Area of Bouvante.



A hiker contemplates Mont Aiguille (2086m) which emerges from a sea of clouds from the cliffs of the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



Hikers on the ridge path of the Font d'Urle plateau.



A solitary hiker on the Queyrie plain and its unique pine, in the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



Panorama on the eastern barrier of Vercors from the Col des Moucherolles (2060m) to Pas de la Balme (1839m).



Hiker on the cliffs of Col de Vassieux, panorama over the Die valley.



View of the Grand Veymont (2341 m) from Pas du Fouillet, in the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



The Cabane des Aiguillettes in the fog in the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



Shepherd's hut at Pas de la Celle in the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



The plain of La Gache in the Vercors Highlands Nature Reserve, in the background the Rochers des Traverses.



Mont Aiguille (2086m) seen from Pas de l'Aiguille (1622m), on the left the Rochers du Parquet.



View of the Grand Veymont (2341 m) from the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



Mont Aiguille (2086 m) seen from the Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve.



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