

## Courchons hamlet

Saint-André-les-Alpes



Vue sur le Lac de Castillon (Guillaume Pluchon - PNR Verdon)

*A hike that will take you to Courchons, an abandoned village in the commune of Saint André, overlooking Lake Castillon.*

The Courchons hike will take you to the hamlet (altitude 1,350 m), whose school still had 20 students at the beginning of the last century. Today the village is mostly in ruins and pastoralism is the main activity in the sector.

### Useful information

Practice : WALKING

Duration : 5 h

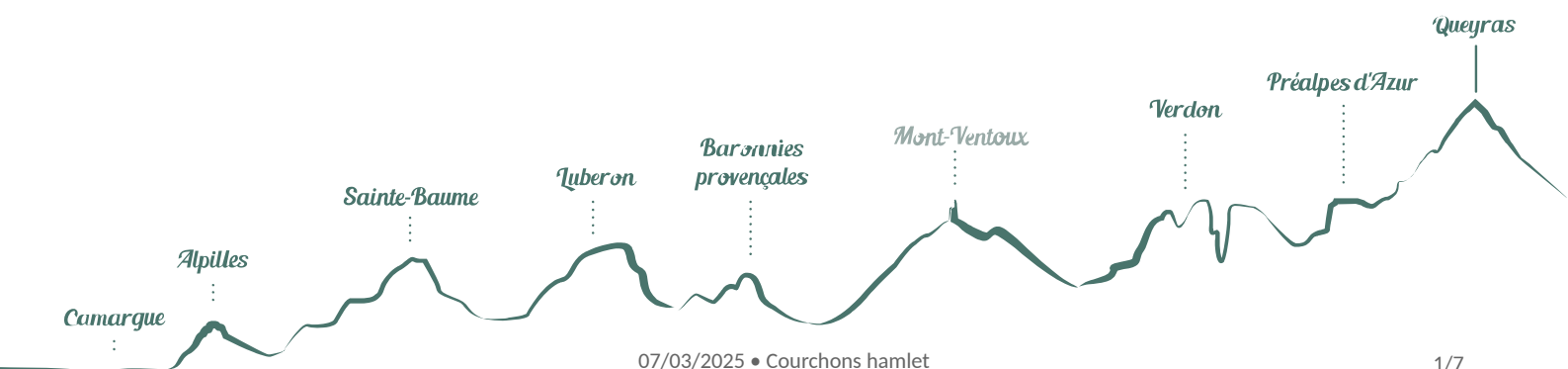
Length : 13.1 km

Trek ascent : 567 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Farming and pastoralism,  
Heritage and history



# Trek

Departure : From the Verdun square

Arrival : On the Verdun square

Markings :  PR

Head towards the N202 road. Turn left and follow it south to Hotel du Lac et forest

**1-** Take the Courchons track on the right. 500 m, join the intersection with the path of the col des Robines path. Continue to climb by the track. After several turns thus passed, gain the path to the Rouchas house.

**2-** Leave the Courchons tracks and follow this path passing at the foot of houses. Get in a valley by the path and continue in the undergrowth, in a succession of steep passages and flats to a pass. Go west towards the ridge and the ruins of the Courchons old village.

**3-** Go past the chapel and continue down to the plateau (leave a track on the right and pass in front of the bread oven. In front of the Granges building, take the track on the right and go up slightly until the oratory. On the other side, go down the path and cut the track several times. At 1 km, leave the path towards Moriez and continue on the track. After two shortcuts, get to the pass.

**4-** Leave the track and follow the path to the left along a clearing.. Stay on the right side of the field. At the end, go down to another field and go to the right on the edge of the wood until you reach the end. Get down by the track. At 800 m, then join the Subis path. Continue down to the track below.

**5-** Follow the path below which continues to descend. Pass in front of a horse park, near an old nursery ONF and go out to the road. Take straight, cross the pavilion area and join the village of St-André-les-Alpes.



## On your path...



This is cow (A)



The abandoned village (C)



Lake view (B)



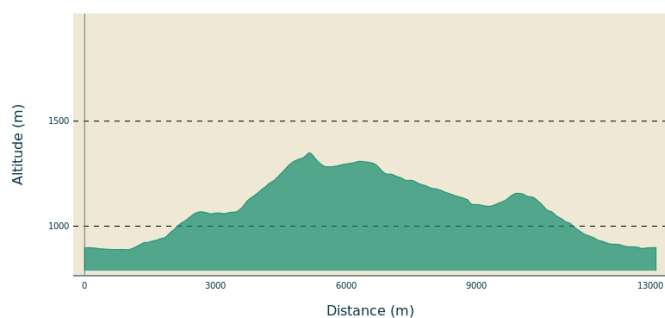
The bread oven and the Courchons washhouse (D)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

avoid the hot summers, leave early. Provide: 2L of water per person, a hat and walking shoes.

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 888 m  
Max elevation 1349 m

## **Access**

19 km north of Castellane, by the D955 and N 202.

## **Advised parking**

Place de Verdun

## **Information desks**

House of the Verdon Regional Nature Park



Domaine de Valx, 04360 Moustiers-Sainte-Marie

[info@parcduverdon.fr](mailto:info@parcduverdon.fr)

Tel : +33 (0)4 92 74 68 00

<http://www.parcduverdon.fr/>

OT Saint André les Alpes - Barrême

Place Marcel Pastorelli, 04170 Saint-André-les-Alpes

[info@ot-st-andre-les-alpes.fr](mailto:info@ot-st-andre-les-alpes.fr)

Tel : +33 (0)4 92 89 02 39

<http://www.ot-st-andre-les-alpes.fr/>

# On your path...

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## This is cow (A)

On the pastures you will often encounter flocks of sheep especially in summer on the pasture lands but you can also meet some of the cattle, the pastures of the Alps of High Provence are suitable to marvel.

Attribution : Guillaume Pluchon - PNR Verdon

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## Lake view (B)

View of the lake of Castillon.

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## The abandoned village (C)

The village of Courchons is located at 1300 meters above sea level and occupies a mountainous plateau overlooking the lake Castillon, offering exceptional views. Only his church has retained a devanture virtually intact: the rest of the houses are largely in ruins. The town was attached to Saint-André-Les-Alpes in 1966.

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## The bread oven and the Courchons washhouse (D)

For the men who lived here for three or four months a year, as for the people who lived there year-round, water was the first need. The development of a fountain on these heights required many efforts. Water from a spring was collected several hundred meters from here and carried by a canal, or aqueduct, made of dry stone. Around this water point, other developments have gradually gathered: the wash house, the watering trough and the bread oven.

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