



1st Edition

CLASSICS ROUTES

in the ÉCRINS

A Mountaineering Guide

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This guidebook cannot be considered a substitute for practical training.

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Route lengths

F to PD/PD+: The total height difference between the hut (or car park for one-day routes) and the top of the route.

Above PD+: The height difference between the bergschrund, foot of the face/gully or the start of the more difficult climbing and the top of the route. For most of these routes, the total height gain from the hut is given in brackets.

Difficulty

Overall difficulty (approach/climb/descent): abbreviated to F, F+, PD, AD, etc.

Difficulty of the crux (in brackets): approximate grade of the steepest slope and/or most difficult climbing.

Times

The time required gives a good idea of how committing and serious a route is likely to be. For example, the S ridge of the Gioberney takes 5 hours from the hut, up and down, whereas the ENE ridge of Les Bans takes 10 hours. The former is suitable for newcomers to mountaineering; the latter is very long and requires solid experience. Allowing a margin for error is especially important for such longer routes.

Timings are given as follows:

F to PD/PD+: ascent + descent as a round trip from the hut (or to the finishing point for traverses and one-day routes that start and finish in the valley).

Above PD+: approach + ascent + descent, as a round trip from the hut (or to the finishing point for traverses and one-day routes that start and finish in the valley).

When the descent is down a different face, the time for the descent is given with respect to a stated finish point.

Exposure to risks

If a route (ascent or descent) is subject to a substantial risk of serac fall, crosses a highly crevassed glacier, or involves exposed climbing above cliffs, these risks are indicated in **ORANGE** in the route characteristics section.

FIRST ASCENT: CLIMBERS and DATE

E.g.: *Emmanuel Boileau de Castelnau, Pierre Gaspard the younger and Pierre Gaspard the elder, 21 July 1877.*

The names of the first ascensionists are given in alphabetical order, rather than following the 19th-century convention of putting the clients' names before those of the guides. Where possible, I have added the first names of all the people involved in an ascent. These names and dates are those for the first recorded ascent of a route/summit, which may not be the true first ascent (e.g., route climbed at an earlier date by hunters or mapmakers but for which there is no reliable written source). I have also, where possible, indicated how the routes were climbed.

PHOTOS and PAGE NUMBERS

E.g.:  54-56, 132

The numbers refer to the pages containing a photo showing all or part of the route, an action photo of the route or a relevant map.

DÔME DES ÉCRINS (4015 m)

10. N Face and SE Ridge

950 m (from the Écrins Hut), PD/PD+ (40-45° snow), ascent: 4hrs, descent to the Pré de Mme Carle: 5hrs. This route crosses highly crevassed terrain and is exposed to serac fall, especially on the steeper slopes and below the Barre des Écrins (3300 - 3900 m).

Emmanuel Boileau de Castelnau, Pierre Gaspard the younger and Pierre Gaspard the elder, 21 July 1877.



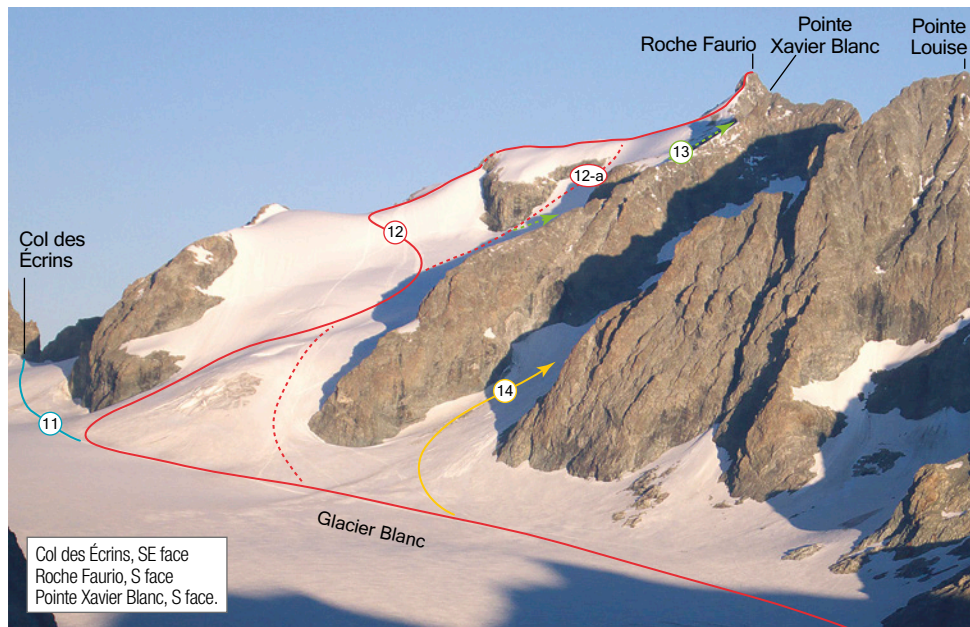
Approach: ...

Route: ...the next section of the route is exposed to **serac fall** from the lower line of seracs...

Descent: ...

Strategy: ...

Alpine tour: ...



COL DES ÉCRINS (3367 M)

11. SE Face

800 m (from the Glacier Blanc Hut), F (25° snow), ascent: 3hrs 30min to 4hrs, descent to the Pré de Mme Carle: 4hrs 30min. Depending on the line followed, the route may be exposed to serac fall below the col.

Date and climbers unknown.

p. 32, 53, 56, 58, 62, 182

Route: From the Glacier Blanc Hut, head N over a small knoll towards the hut's spring. Follow the narrow path NW to the top of the glacier-polished slabs (between 2550 and 2630 m). Continue up the left-bank moraine (several paths) until level with a flatter section of the Glacier Blanc at around 2850 m (below the Pic du Glacier d'Arsine). Move onto the glacier and go up its left bank, staying close to the rock (two areas of crevasses, at ~2880 m and ~2940 m). Early in the summer it is possible to avoid the glacier-polished slabs by going up a wide, south-facing gully to the N of the Glacier Blanc Hut. At the top of the gully (~2700 m), turn left and follow the moraine to the glacier, as for the standard route. Continue up the left bank of the glacier to the col, which cannot be seen until you are just below it.

Strategy: Beware of serac fall while going up the final slope below the col, as blocks of ice falling from the Dôme normal route can descend a long way down the glacier. Heading due W towards the col as soon as possible (~3290 m) reduces this risk, but there are more crevasses.

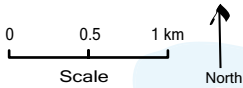
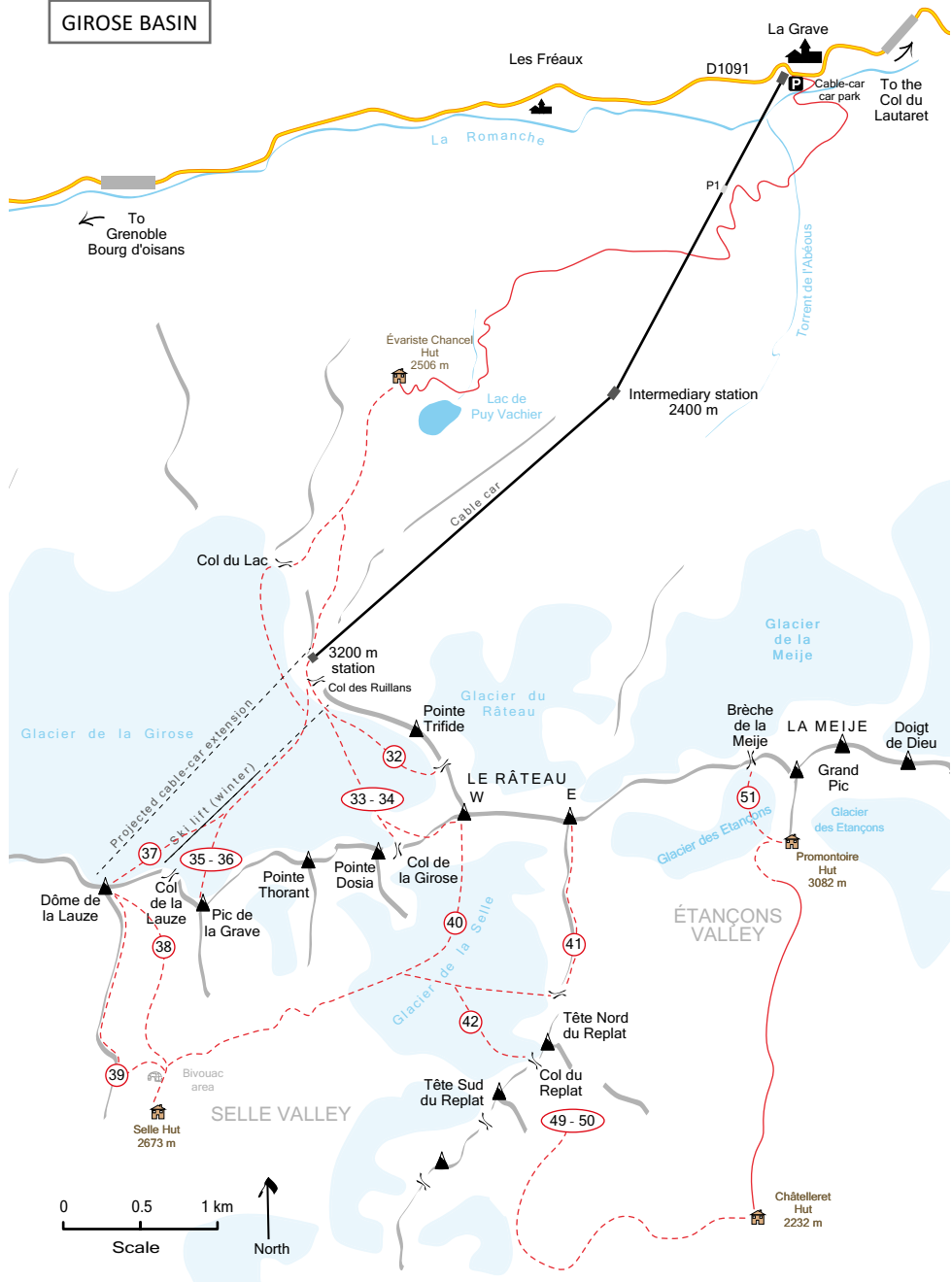
Descent: By the same route, along the left bank of the glacier, or go down the W side of the col (#53) into the Bonne Pierre Valley (the first 100m of cables were replaced in 2014).

Go down the left bank of the glacier from the col. Remember, even if there is a track to follow, it may not take the safest route through the crevasses. As the season progresses, snow bridges tend to get more fragile and more crevasses open up, so the best route across a glacier can change quite quickly. Be prepared to make your own track, if you feel the existing track is no longer safe. Move off the glacier at around 2850 m and go down the left-bank moraine to the Glacier Blanc Hut (innumerable cairns and several paths).

Alpin tour: Tour of the Écrins (#83).



GIROSE BASIN



Overall difficulty	Route	Summit name / Name of Route	Valley-Basin	Page
F	#77	Aupillous (Pas des) - N Shoulder / W Face	Gioberney	p. 171
F	#54	Avalanches (Col des) / SW Face	Temple Écrins	p. 132
F	#28	Chamois (Pointe des) / S Ridge	Source Romanche	p. 89
F	#25	Clot des Cavales (Col du) / E Face	Source Romanche	p. 86
F	#11	Écrins (Col des) / SE Face	Glacier Blanc	p. 58
F	#63	Gioberney (Le) / S Ridge	Pilatte	p. 142
F	#17	Glacier Blanc (pic du) - E Shoulder / S Face	Glacier Blanc	p. 66
F	#22	Goléon (Aiguille du) / N Face aud W Ridge	Goléon	p. 80
F	#37	Lauze (Dôme de la) / NE Face	Girose	p. 104
F	#67	Lavey (Col de la) / W Face	Lavey	p. 149
F	#62	Richardson (Pointe) / NW Ridge	Pilatte	p. 142
F	#3	Sélé (Col du) / E Face	Sélé	p. 38
F	#55	Temple (Col de la) - Shoulder at 3321 m / W Face	Temple Écrins	p. 133
F/F+	#18	Glacier d'Arsine (Pic du) / SW Face	Glacier Blanc	p. 68
F+	#56	Coolidge (Pic) / S Ridge via the Col de la Temple	Temple Écrins	p. 133
F+	#12	Faurio (Roche) / SE Face	Glacier Blanc	p. 59
F+	#65	Gioberney (Le) / Traverse via the Glacier du Says	Pilatte	p. 145
F+	#16	Glacier Blanc (Pic du) / SE Face	Glacier Blanc	p. 65
F+	#39	Lauze (Dôme de la) / S Face	Selle	p. 110
F+	#7	Momie (Bosse de la) / SW Face	Glacier Noir	p. 50
F+	#21	Monêtier (Dômes de) / Traverse of the Dômes de Monêtier	Glacier Blanc	p. 74
F+	#60	Pilatte (Pointe de la) - NE Summit / N Face	Pilatte	p. 140
F+	#29	Rocher de l'Aigle / Aigle Hut via the N Face	Tabuchet	p. 90
F+	#8	Temple (Col de la) - Shoulder at 3321 m / E Face	Glacier Noir	p. 51
F+ à PD	#33	Girose (Col de la) / N Face	Girose	p. 100
PD-	#59	Bœufs Rouges (Les) / SW Ridge via the Col de la Condamine	Pilatte	p. 138
PD-	#24	Grande Ruine - Pointe Brevoort / NE Face	Source Romanche	p. 85
PD-	#14	Louise (Pointe) / S Face	Glacier Blanc	p. 62
PD-	#70	Olan (Brèche de l') / NW Face	Font Turbat	p. 156
PD-	#49	Replat (Col du) / SE Face	Étançons	p. 127
PD-	#42	Replat (Tête Sud du) / NE Ridge via the Col du Replat	Selle	p. 113
PD-	#72	Turbat (Col) / S-N Traverse	Olan	p. 160
PD-	#80	Vallon Clos (Pic de) / E-W Traverse	Chabournéou	p. 179
PD-	#13	Xavier Blanc (Pointe) / S Face	Glacier Blanc	p. 61
PD	#4	Ailefroide Orientale / S Ridge	Sélé	p. 40
PD	#52	Cavales (Col du Clot des) / W Face	Étançons	p. 129
PD	#27	Emma (Pointe) / S Ridge	Source Romanche	p. 88
PD	#66	Fétoules (Tête des) / NNE Ridge	Lavey	p. 148
PD	#69	Muzelle (Roche de la) / NE Ridge	Muzelle	p. 153
PD	#75	Rouies (Les) / S Face	Gioberney	p. 167
PD	#43	Soreiller (Aiguille Occidentale du) / S Ridge and traverse	Soreiller	p. 116
PD	#74	Vallon (Cime du) / SW Face	Olan	p. 163
PD/PD+	#1	Aupillous (Pas des) - North Shoulder / E Face	Bans	p. 34
PD/PD+	#10	Écrins (Dôme des) / N Face and SE Ridge	Glacier Blanc	p. 57
PD/PD+	#76	Gioberney (Col du) - Shoulder at 3240 m / SW Face	Gioberney	p. 170
PD/PD+	#51	Meije (Brèche de la) / S Face	Étançons	p. 128
PD/PD+	#57	Sélé (Col du) / W Face	Pilatte	p. 136

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p. 72	Agneaux (Les) - E Summit / 3664 m
p. 40	Ailefroide Orientale / 3847 m
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p. 132	Avalanches (Col des) / 3499 m
p. 141	Bans (Les) - S Summit / 3669 m
p. 137-138	Bœufs Rouges (Les) / 3516 m
p. 128	Cavales (Col du Clot des) / 3158 m
p. 86	Cavales (Pic Nord des) / 3362 m
p. 89	Chamois (Pointe des) / 3315 m
p. 72	Cinéastes (Les) / 3664 m
p. 86, 129	Clot des Cavales (Col du) / 3158 m
p. 133	Coolidge (Pic) / 3775 m
p. 34	Coste Counier / 3025 m
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p. 54	Écrins (Barre des) / 4102 m
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p. 57	Écrins (Dôme des) / 4015 m
p. 88	Emma (Pointe) / 3344 m
p. 150	Entre Pierroux (Aiguille d') - Pointe 2850 m / 2850 m
p. 59	Faurio (Roche) / 3730 m
p. 148	Fétoules (Tête des) / 3458 m
p. 124	Gény (Pic) / 3435 m
p. 170	Gioberney (Col du) - Shoulder at 3240 m / 3240 m
p. 142-145	Gioberney (Le) / 3352 m
p. 100	Girose (Col de la) / 3514 m
p. 66	Glacier Blanc (Pic du) - E Shoulder / 3336 m
p. 63, 65	Glacier Blanc (Pic du) / 3527 m
p. 68	Glacier d'Arsine (Pic du) / 3364 m
p. 80	Goléon (Aiguille du) / 3427 m
p. 84-85	Grande Ruine - Pointe Brevoort / 3765 m
p. 103-104	Grave (Pic de la) / 3667 m
p. 174	Jocelme (Pic) / 3458 m
p. 104, 110	Lauze (Dôme de la) / 3568 m
p. 149	Lavey (Col de la) / 3309 m
p. 62	Louise (Pointe) / 3668 m
p. 94	Meije - Doigt de Dieu / 3973 m
p. 128	Meije (Brèche de la) / 3357 m
p. 90	Meije Orientale / 3891 m
p. 50	Momie (Bosse de la) / 3089 m
p. 74	Monêtier (Dômes de) / 3478 m
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p. 140	Pilatte (Pointe de la) - NE Summit / 3459 m
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