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Circuit des écoliers

This easy walk links several hamlets and offers wonderful views of the Vercors and Chartreuse Mountains.

Distance	Cumulative climb & descent	Time to walk circuit	Effort	Technicality	Risk
 6km	 250m	 2h00			

FFR rating system - See last page

On this easy walk you'll visit several hamlets and experience wonderful views of the Vercors Plateau and Chartreuse Mountains. Les Ecoliers links several hamlets close to Saint-Martin d'Uriage (Pinet, Le Rossin de Corps, La Chenevarie, Le Rocharey, La Croix-de-Pinet). Like all the "Les Sentiers" walk, it will bring you in a loop back to your starting point.

School children followed these paths back in 1865 when school attendance became compulsory, hence the name of the walk. The tracks are undoubtedly much older, as evidenced by some of the ancient ruins you'll see later in the walk. Forest has overgrown many of the ancient fields where, in the past, crops of wheat, barley, rye and potatoes supported isolated mountain communities.

► **Departure** ➡ Le Pinet.

Access: Coming from Grenoble, you'll pass Uriage with the park on your left. At the roundabout follow signs for Chamrousse 1650 / Saint-Martin d'Uriage. About 500m after passing through the village of Saint-Martin d'Uriage turn left, signposted to Saint-Nizier / Le Pinet (there are large bins just before the junction). Stay on this road as it meanders for about 3km to Le Pinet, ignoring any signs tempting you to turn off for quicker routes. Park near the school at Pinet. Take a minute to visit the beautiful church.

- ① **Alt. 809 m** ➡ At the road junction opposite the school, near the war memorial, go downhill towards Le Faux on the Pré-Pinet road, for about 100m till you see the last house on the right. You will think you are entering their car park, then you'll see a sign on your left inviting you to descend on the grassy track of Chemin des Ecoliers towards Rossin de Corps. Follow this path straight down to the Corps Road, about 600m down the hill.
- ② **Alt. 710 m** ➡ Take the Route de Corps to the right for approximately 120 m, then at the bus stop turn left downhill on the grassy path. After 340m you'll come to the Chemin des Lauriers; cross straight over and continue downhill to the Route de la Pérérée.
- ③ **Alt. 610 m** ➡ Turn right on the road and head towards La Chenevarie for about 150 m until you reach traverse de Chamechaude on the right. Take this tarmac road, which climbs quite steeply. Cross the route de Corps and continue to climb until the tarmac ends.
Leave the tarmac road and follow the grassy track for about 1km. You'll arrive at a small stream, which you turn left to cross. This superb path climbs gently at first, then more steeply, finishing at the tarmac route des Izards. Just after the steepest section look carefully for ancient ruins in the forest on the left.
- ④ **Alt. 770 m** ➡ Cross the route des Izards, continuing straight up the tarmac road of La Fayolle to Croix-de-Pinet.

- ⑤ **Alt. 850 m** ➡ At Croix-de-Pinet, cross the Allevard road and go straight on for 20 m to the crossroads, then turn right towards the chemin de l'Etang.

At the end of the tarmac section, continue straight towards Les Royets. There's a magnificent view of the Vercors and Chartreuse Massifs, including Chamechaude (the highest point on the Chartreuse) opposite, with the Dent de Crolles to the right. Indeed it looks like a big tooth!

At Les Royets, continue on the tarmac road from Montrond down to the village of Le Pinet.



Pinet is an ancient hamlet and its church - the Chapelle Saint-Ferréol - dates from 1091. It enjoys exceptional views over the three mountain ranges which surround Grenoble - The Belledonne, Chartreuse and Vercors. The War Memorial was built in 1927, although the bronze plate attached to it is older, having been engraved in 1920. This trail was the first to link Pinet with the valley below. It was restored in 2005 at the request of local parents.

Just after starting the descent from Pinet, the first "washing basin" of Pinet is visible, where in the past women came to rinse their laundry. Further down you'll notice a few large standing stones which marked the edges of the path.

The Rossin-de-Corps takes its name from the red-headed or Russian "barbarians" who lived there during the mid-5th century.

The origin of La Chenevarie comes from the name of a place where hemp (cannabis) was cultivated.

Izards is derived from "essarts", meaning cleared lands. The woods have long since reclaimed the cleared space. At the exit of Croix-de-Pinet heading to Royets on the Montrond forest road, there's a small hamlet of five houses, built in the early 1960s to support local logging.

From the road leading back to Pinet, admire the beautiful view of the Doménon valley and the Chartreuse massif.

In and around Uriage, many rural paths have been restored and incorporated into circuits of varying difficulty and length. Some can be walked in half a day, others take longer. They may be interesting for their views, for nature or for local heritage. Most are in the forest in a wild environment, despite the nearby urbanisation. Trail runners will be quick to realise that these circuits can be combined to create alternative routes to suit every level of runner.

Please respect nature and leave no trace of your passing. Nature will thank you!
 Don't over-estimate your capabilities - these circuits are, after all, hiking trails.
 Please help us maintain our circuits by reporting any work which needs to be done.

[asso-des-sentiers-de-smu.eklablog.com]

Rating system of the FFR*

To rate the difficulty of a hike, three characteristics are graded from 1 to 5



Effort - the length and climb involved in the hike



Technicality - need to use hands or place feet carefully



Risk - consequence of a fall

*Fédération Française de Randonnée pédestre

The Signposts

7

Circuit number

7a

Circuit variation number



Direction to follow



Continue



Alternative route



Turn right



Turn left



Wrong direction

The editor and author of this document cannot under any circumstances be held responsible for any incident or accident which may occur on the hike, no matter how it occurs.

In an emergency call 112  beware signal dead zones

Uriage

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