

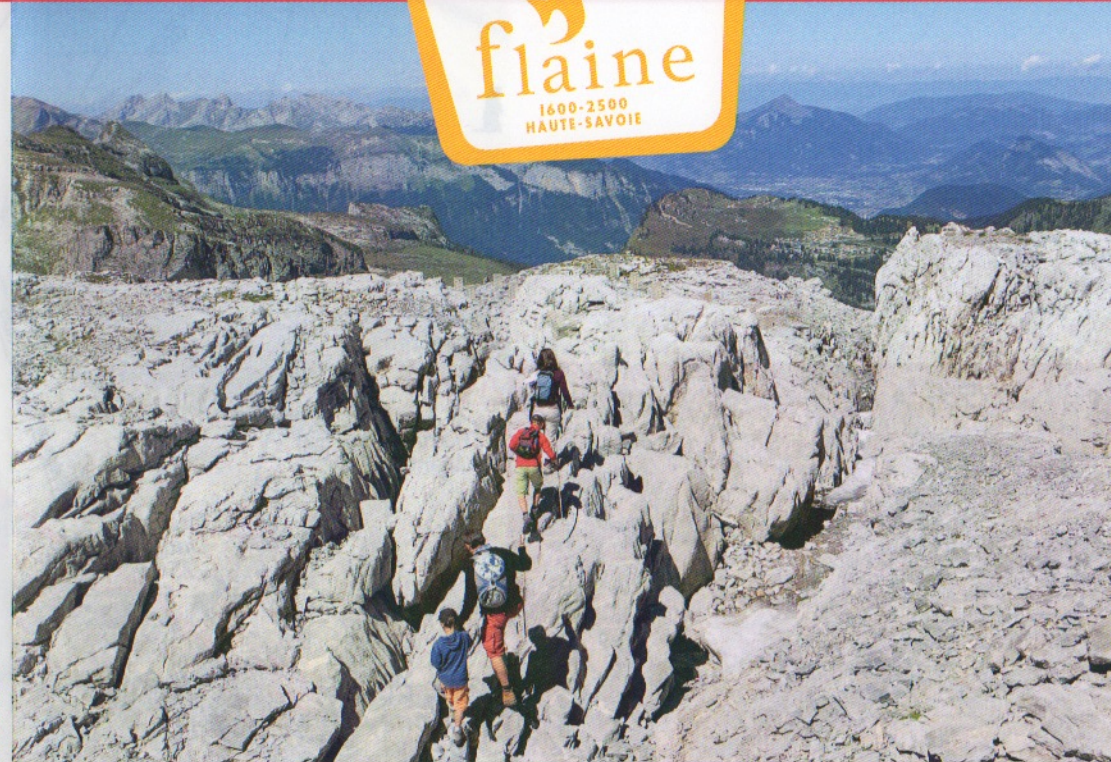


Le Désert de Platé is a limestone plateau encircled by a series of distinctive ridges: Châteaux de Crans, Croix de fer, Grandes Platières... Not forgetting the majestic Aiguilles de Warens and Véran mountain. This is a prized mineral site, largely uninhabited and with very little forestation beyond 1,800 metres. Beyond that, grass becomes scarcer, in favour of rock. Access is via Flaine, over the Plateau d'Assy and La Combe de Barnerousse, or via the GR96 to the north and to the east. The site offers exceptional panoramic views over the Mont Blanc mountain range to the south-east and the Aravis mountain range to the west.

Incised water channels: Lapiatz de Platé is renowned as the largest incised limestone plateau in Europe. It covers the majority of the plateau, truly earning it the title of "Desert". First, glaciers stripped the rock bare, then the plateau was subjected to snow, ice and flowing water. Next, water eroded it through a joint process of mechanical and chemical erosion, to varying degrees depending on the type of rock, which led to the creation of an extraordinary variety of rock shapes. Cracks and channels up to a metre deep are found next to basins, flutes, platforms, river bends, spikes, potholes... These micro-landscapes extend for kilometres and create the ideal conditions for grasses, moss and lichen to grow, all of which produce carbon dioxide, accelerating chemical corrosion.

Specially adapted animal and vegetable species: rocky high-altitude areas are particularly inhospitable for plantlife and wildlife alike. Drought, variations in temperature, snow cover, lack of soil... all these factors lead to the appearance of specially adapted, often rare and sometimes protected species. Plantlife includes orchids, gentian violets, sedge and ferns. Wildlife includes prestigious species: ibexes and Chamois goats, golden eagles and red grouse, black grouse and great grouse, grouse and rock partridge.

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Colonney Circuit Hike n°3 fact sheet

View points to discover

1. Les Grandes Platières offers panoramic views over the Haut Giffre's major mountain ranges: Avoudrues, Criou, Grenier de Commune, Buet, Rochers des Fiz... and the beautiful Mont Blanc mountain range.
2. La Tête du Colonney.

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Itinerary description

Circuit reserved for experienced hikers only. From Grandes Platières (viewpoint n°1), head towards "Refuge de Platé". The path leads to the Col du Colonney via a succession of rocky projections and the deeply incised "Les Lapiaz" limestone plateaux. From this Col, follow the path that climbs steadily to the Tête des Lindars, then to the Tête du Colonney (viewpoint n°2). After having passed through a stretch of Les Lapiaz, scree and patches of snow, this path continues up a majestic ridge with views over La Combe de Monthieu, glacial cirques and the Reliques du Colonney to the north, Les Forts de Platé to the south, and the vast Assy plateau below. Retrace your steps for the return journey.



Key

- Described trail
- Grande Randonnée hiking trail (GR)
- Others hiking trails
- ! Difficult section
- 80 Signs in Flaine
- Ski lift open in summer
- Ski lift
- Nature reserve boundary

Facilities

- ⓘ Tourist office
- P Car park
- X Food and drink
- 🏠 Stopover gite
- 🏠 Staff mountain refuge (summer only)

Leisure activities

- Themed and discovery trail
- 🏌️ Golf

Heritage

- 🌄 Panoramic views
- 🏞️ Waterfall
- 🏔️ Alpine pasture
- 🐿️ Marmots
- 🦅 Birds of prey
- 🐐 Ibexes
- 🐐 Chamois goats
- ⛪ Church, chapel

Mountain rescue: **112**
Weather forecast: 3250

START:

- 1 Grandes Platières
Top of the cable car

END:

- Grandes Platières
Top of the cable car

DIFFICULTY: Very difficult

- ALTITUDE CHANGE:** 1,048 metres
524 metre climb + 524 metre drop

TIME: 3 hours

SPECIFIC DIFFICULTIES:

- Plateau sections, path including a ridge that may become exposed (Tête des Lindars, Tête du Colonney).

ITINERARY:

- 28 Grandes Platières > Col du Colonney
- 2 Col du Colonney > Tête du Colonney
- 90 Tour verte > Tête du Colonney
- 51 Lindars > Tête du Colonney
- 52 Tré L'Épaule > Tête du Colonney
Colonney > Retour
- 52 Tré L'Épaule > Col du Colonney
- 51 Lindars > Col du Colonney
- 90 Tour verte > Grandes Platières
- 2 Col du Colonney > Grandes Platières
- 1 Grandes Platières



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