



Flaine
Désert du Platé
 (natural reserve)

LEVEL
 ★★☆☆☆
 > 8 years old

DURATION
 4-5 h

STONE 'DESERT' FACING MONT BLANC

Hike on a limestone labyrinth strewn with tiny flowers

Discover varied geological and botanical curiosities, panoramic landscapes, mont blanc
 An unforgettable experience on one of the largest rock plateaus in Europe
 Hilly, but not very difficult, course on which you have to be sedulous

ANTICIPATE

- Proper walking shoes
- Warm and cool clothing
- Binocular to observe wildlife (ibex goats, birds of prey)
- Take a picnic and drinks with you
- Because apart from just at the gondola at the top, there are no bars.
- Sunscreen and hat
- Trekking poles (not essential but advised)

COST

Pedestrian gondola ticket ca. 16 €/adult
 !!gondola shuts down in case of storm, check weather when going there

TIPS

- Better to go when sky is clear.
- Leave Carroz no later than 10-10.30 am for Flaine.
- Park in Flaine on the free car park opposite restaurant "covagnes"
- Walk to gondola, buy tickets and go up there.
- Check the time for the last gondola to go down again - usually around 5pm - but if you miss it you can walk down too, 2-3h



BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

In the upper Cretaceous, Tethys, an ocean, is suppressed by the merger between the tectonic plates of Africa and Europe. The ocean floors get pushed upwards. The sediments deposited on the margins and at the bottom of this ocean form the major part of the sedimentary rocks now visible in Flaine and in the Alps. The lapiaz (rocks) were then carved out by glaciers and water.

You can see many bivalve fossils there, witnesses of the past ocean, especially in the red sandstones (petrified beach).



SHEET
 F1

NO dogs allowed. Not recommended to go with children < 8 years because there are cracks and crevasses everywhere

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