

Heritage TRAILS

IN VENOSC AND MONT-DE-LANS



**A mountain
to experience,
where the legacy
of those who lived
and shaped it is still
passed on.**

The breathtaking landscapes before you today are the result of a long evolutionary process. The peaks and valleys of our municipality bear witness to the forces of nature that have been at work here for thousands of years, and how people found the resources and ingenuity needed to settle here, adapt, and thrive.





Discovery trails IN VENOSC

Four routes to discover the history of Venosc.

Explore how the landscapes evolved into the spectacular scenery you see today, and how generations of people adapted to and shaped, these mountains. Each trail is marked with interpretation panels providing fascinating insights into the natural environment and the built heritage that make Venosc such a unique place.



Church / Chapel



Annex Town Hall



Trail Information Board



Tourist Information Office

1

NATURAL HERITAGE TRAIL

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

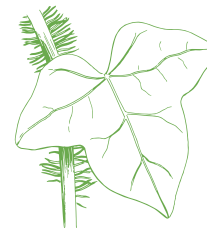
Starting point : Venosc
Annex Town Hall

Duration : 1h30
3,1 km

Difficulty : Easy

Route : Le Ferraret

The trail starts at the Venosc Annex Town Hall. Follow Rue du Câble towards the school, then turn left onto Rue du Rocher. The first interpretation panel is located on the large boulder. Retrace your steps and continue along Rue du Câble towards the school. At the electrical substation on the left-hand side of the road, follow the sign to Le Ferraret. This pleasant woodland walk is especially enjoyable in spring and summer, when blooming lilies add a truly magical touch to the landscape.



**Interpretation panels
you will discover along
the trail:**

1 Land of Fire:

The village of Venosc is built on a basalt lava flow, formed by an ancient volcanic eruption.

2 From Mountain to Sea:

Discover how today's mountains were formed.

3 Venosc Breccia:

A sedimentary rock made up of angular rock fragments that were broken apart and later cemented together by minerals such as calcite. In Venosc, this rock formed following the collapse of a mountainside as the glaciers retreated around 12,000 years ago.

4 Venosc Hemp:

Hemp was grown for its fibres, which were soaked, dried and processed into cloth and rope.



5 Oak Woodland:

Why does the sessile oak, a species that is rare in the Oisans region, grow here?

6 Coal:

Coal was formed around 300 million years ago from plant material that accumulated in swamps before being buried beneath layers of sediment. Over time, heat and pressure transformed it into coal.

7 Le Ferraret:

A former hamlet of Venosc, that is now abandoned.

8 The Village:

A panoramic view of the village of Venosc, with information about the landscape, local flora and more.

9 Juniper:

Learn how to identify different species of juniper by their needles and berries.





2 BUILT HERITAGE TRAIL

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Starting point :**
Venosc Gondola /
Tourist Office
- Duration :** Approx.
1 hour 30 minutes
- Distance :** 2,6 km
- Difficulty :** Easy
- Route :** The village
and its hamlets

**Interpretation panels
along the trail :**

1 Venosc Tourist Office:

Stop in front of the Tourist
Office to discover how the
valley has evolved over time.

2 Venosc Gondola:

At the lower gondola
station, just beside it,
discover the story behind
this modern link between
Venosc and Les Deux Alpes.
Then follow the road
towards Saint-Christophe-
en-Oisans to reach the
hamlet of Bourg d'Arud.

3 Muzelle Castle 17th Century:

Admire this iconic building
located in the heart of the
hamlet.

4 Bourg d'Arud Bridge:

Located at the exit of the
hamlet, this bridge is a
testament to the history of
travel and access through
the valley.

5 Bourg d'Arud Chapel – Saint- Sauveur Chapel:

Discover this small
religious treasure. Still
standing today, its bell is
an exceptional heritage
piece and is one of the 20
oldest bells in the Isère
department.

Return to the Village :

As you make your way back towards the
Venosc Gondola, you will find the entrance to
the Posettes Trail on your right, opposite
Route du Grand Pré. Follow this path to
climb up to the heights above the village

6 Le Sellier Chapel - Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows:

Discover this chapel in the hamlet of Le
Sellier. Its original bell, which has since been
replaced, was installed in 1706.
*The Historic Heart of Venosc : Continue
towards the village via Rue du Câble.*

7 Annex Town Hall The Slate Quarry:

Learn more about Venosc's former slate
industry in front of the Annex Town Hall.

8 The School:

Continue to the top of Rue du Câble.

9 The Farm:

Opposite the school, discover the area's
traditional farming practices.

10 The Course of Life:

This narrow lane was traditionally used
for weddings, baptisms, funerals and
processions on their way to the church.
This long-standing village tradition is still
perpetuated today.

11 Sundial:

Dating from 1669, this sundial is one of
the oldest painted sundials in the Isère
department. It reflects local craftsmanship
and marks the passage of time with its
inscription: «The sun that knows no end.»

12 Saint-Peter's Church:

Finish your visit by admiring this remarkable
church which is the oldest bell in the Oisans,
dating back to 1622.



Commissioned in 1972.
Photograph taken between 1972 and 1975.



1953





3

L'ALPE TRAIL

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Starting point : Venosc Gondola / Tourist Office

Duration : Approx. 2 hours uphill and 1 hour 15 minutes downhill

Distance : 6 km (round trip)

Difficulty : Moderate

Route : The trail can be walked in either direction, from Venosc to Les Deux Alpes or vice versa.

Before the construction of the gondola, this historic trail was the only route connecting the village of Venosc to its mountain pastures. Walk in the footsteps of the Ligures, travelling merchants and slate quarry workers.

1 The Ligurian Trail:

Discover the origins of the Oisans. In the 4th century BC, the Ligures left behind stone graves and bronze jewellery. Their society was distinctive, with women holding a place of honour.

2 Town Cross:

The starting point for the climb to the Les Deux Alpes plateau. As you ascend, admire the majestic La Muzelle (3,465m), which was, first climbed in 1875.

3 Calvary Chapel:

Built on a rocky outcrop to protect it from avalanches, this chapel reflects the religious devotion of the 17th century. Notice the wrought-iron crucifix, the last remaining feature of a former Stations of the Cross.

4

SLATE QUARRY TRAIL

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

-  **Point departure** : Venosc Gondola, Tourist Office
-  **Duration** : Approximately 2 hours (round trip)
-  **Difficulty** : Moderate

This walking trail celebrates one of the area's most iconic activities: slate quarrying and slate craftsmanship.

Through a series of interpretation panels, the trail brings to life the skills of the quarry workers, how

the slate quarries were organised, and the vital that this industry played in the local economy. A fascinating journey into the industrial and social heritage of Venosc.

1 The Slate Quarry Workers of Venosc:

Annex Town Hall Square, Venosc

An introduction to the economic importance of the slate quarry workers and their contribution to village life.

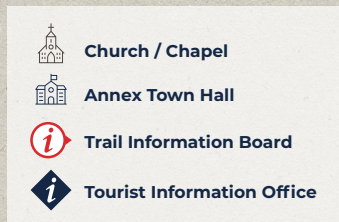
2 The Slate Quarry Site: Venosc Annex Town Hall

A general map of the quarry site to help you orient yourself before beginning the climb.

3 History of the Slate Quarry:

Near the church

Discover the key dates in quarry's story,



from its heyday in the 19th century to its final closure in 1972.

Slate Quarry Site

A. History of the Venosc Slate Quarry

Follow the quarry's story through the centuries and discover the daily lives of the men who worked there, combining farming with slate quarrying.

B. Machinery and Equipment

Learn about the tools used by the quarry workers, including rock drills, mine carts, and the evolution of quarrying techniques.

C. The Quarry Workers

Discover the harsh working conditions, the unique role of the farmer-quarryman, and the strong sense of solidarity among the workers.

D. Slate Production and Storage

Explore the different stages of slate production, from splitting the stone into thin slabs to trimming it into its final shape.

E. Transport by Cable

Learn how the slates were transported down the mountainside by aerial cable systems or carried by hand to the Vénéon Valley.

F. Site Map

An overview of the former slate quarry and its main features.

© Illustrations by Bruno Moreau
© Designed by Jean-Noël Martin

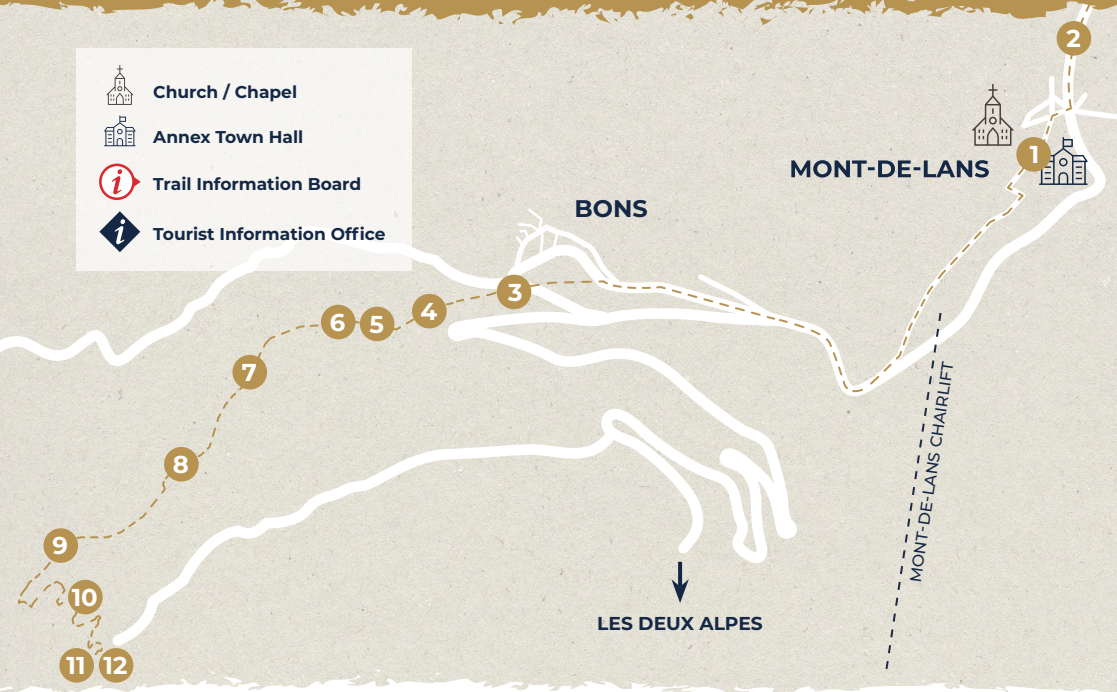


SITUATION DES PANNEAUX
Location of information boards

- A : HISTORIQUE**
- Historical information
- B : LES MACHINES & LE MATÉRIEL**
- The machines and materials used
- C : LES HOMMES**
- The workers
- D : FABRICATIONS ET RANGEMENT**
- Manufacturing and storage
- E : LE TRANSPORT PAR CABLE**
- Cable transport
- F : PLAN DU SITE**
- Site map

© dessins Bruno Moreau
© conception Jean-Noël Martin





Between LAND AND PEOPLE TRAIL

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Starting point** : Mont-de-Lans Church or La Molière, depending on the direction of your walk
- Duration** : Approximately 2 hours 30 minutes (5 hours round trip)
- Distance** : 7.5 km (round trip)
- Difficulty** : Easy
Elevation gain: 340 m

to experience the surrounding mountains in a whole new way. Explore how the history of Earth and the history of its people have become intertwined to shape the unique identity of Oisans, along this family-friendly and accessible route.

An Adventure for Everyone - Mont-de-Lans Side

► Who is it for?

Ideal for families, children and nature enthusiasts.

► Accessibility

An easy trail that can be walked in either direction.

► Experience

Discover 12 themed interpretation panels combining scientific insights with the enjoyment of exploration.

THE TRAIL IN 12 STOPS

Each interpretation panel reveals a different aspect of our natural and cultural heritage.

1 The Church and the Rocks:

This church is like a geological archive: with local rocks, around 300 million years old, assembled by skilled craftsmen to create this remarkable heritage monument.

2 Geology in the Service of Energy:

Engineering inspired by geology: a narrow valley transformed into an energy reservoir by using the surrounding rock walls as natural dams.

3 Geological Map of the Oisans:

Millions of years of history beneath your feet—from the Hercynian Mountains to the Jurassic seas, discover a landscape shaped by tectonic forces and ancient oceans.

4 Pollarding Trees:

Wood with many uses: discover the traditional practice of pollarding, which met human needs while creating valuable habitats for wildlife.

5 Agriculture Adapted to the Mountains:

The art of farming among the stones: to clear the land, farmers transformed glacial debris into dry-stone walls, creating precious refuges for biodiversity.

6 High-Altitude Villages:

Why were villages built high above the valley? Fertile, sunny land offered farming communities a safer environment, away from floods.

7 The Mark of Ancient Glaciers:

The traces left by giants of ice: glacial striations and polished rocks reveal the immense power of the glaciers that covered this landscape 20,000 years ago.

8 The History of Coal Mining:

Discover the story of small-scale local coal mining, born from tropical forests that disappeared millions of years ago.

9 Oisans: A Land of Routes and Resources:

From Roman roads to mountain trails, the Oisans has long been a land of travel, trade and resourcefulness.

10 Lichens and Rocks:

The hidden artists of the mountains: the remarkable partnership between algae and fungi colours the rocks and reflects the purity of the mountain air.

11 The Bourg-d'Oisans Plain:

Once buried beneath glaciers, then occupied by a vast lake, this landscape gradually evolved into the fertile plain we know today.

12 The Lush Forests of the Carboniferous:

Travel back 320 million years to a world of giant fern forests, whose fossilised remains are still preserved in the rocks today.





Commune
les 2 alpes
Mont de Lans - Venosc

Heritage Department

Commune of Les Deux Alpes

www.mairie2alpes.fr

Photographs © Les Deux Alpes Tourist Office - Design: Emily Mesli

Reproduction prohibited

