Le Patio
4-star holiday apartment · Aix-les-Bains

HIKE

The Croix du Nivolet via the ridges

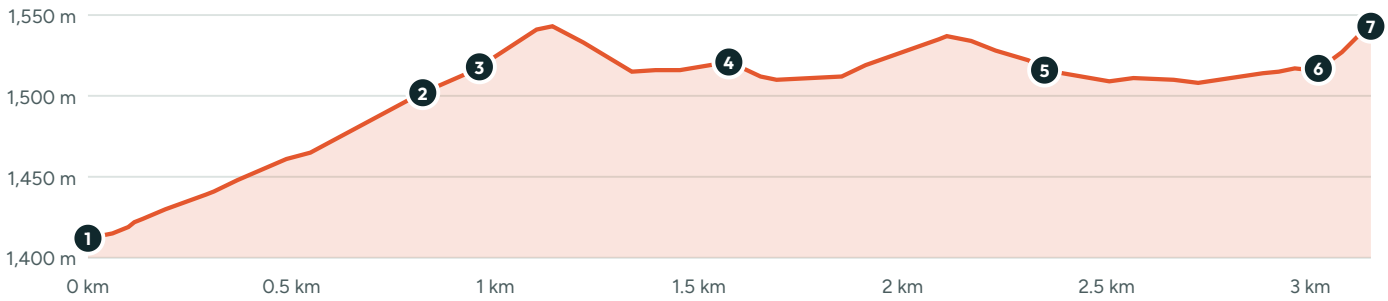
From the La Féclaz plateau, a shaded path runs along the cliffs of the Mont du Nivolet to the great cross that towers over Chambéry. Little climbing and a 360° panorama at the end: this is the gentlest way up to this emblematic Bauges site, visited since the 19th century.

6.2 km	+207 m	1 hr 45	Easy difficulty
there and back	total climb	walking time, without breaks	



S: start T: turn back 1, 2, 3: steps route

Elevation profile one way (back the same way)



Why we love it

- The great cross above Chambéry and its 360° panorama
- A shaded forest path along the edge of the Mont du Nivolet cliffs
- Very little climbing to reach over 1,500 m
- The "la cheminée" viewpoint, just below the cross

The Croix du Nivolet via the ridges

6.2 km · +207 m · 1 hr 45 · Easy

STEP BY STEP

1. **The Sire car park** km 0
   From the Sire car park, go up the wide track that runs alongside the ski lift. It zigzags up through the alpine pastures for just under a kilometre.
2. **The Sire Sud take-off area** km 0.8
   At the "Sire Sud" hang-gliding and paragliding take-off site, stay on the track, following the direction of the Croix du Nivolet.
3. **The Sire chalets** km 1
   At the Sire alpine chalets, leave the track and take the path on the right into the forest. It follows the top of the Mont du Nivolet cliffs.
4. **The cliff path** km 1.6
   The path runs for a long time under the trees, with almost no climbing. On the most worn sections, the stones are polished and slippery after rain: watch where you put your feet.
5. **The Mont Nivolet junction** km 2.4
   The path reaches a junction in a clearing, at the "Mont Nivolet" signpost. Leave the path coming up from the Glaise chalets on your left and carry straight on.
6. **The Nivolet shelter** km 3
   You pass the "la cheminée" viewpoint, which plunges down below the cross (a more demanding path arrives there from Pragondran: do not take it), then the Nivolet shelter, just before the summit.
7. **The Croix du Nivolet** km 3.1
   The steps of the right-hand path lead you in a few minutes to the foot of the cross. The panorama goes all the way round: Chambéry, Lake Bourget and the peaks of the Bauges. Return the same way.

Practical information

Start	Sire car park, La Féclaz (Les Déserts) (1,412 m)
From Le Patio	35 min drive from Le Patio
Without a car	In season only: S11 regional coach (cars Région Savoie) from Aix-les-Bains station to the "La Féclaz - Centre Station" stop, about 55 min, 4 return trips a day, from 19 June to 29 August 2027 (and in winter, from 19 December 2026 to 29 March 2027, when the path is under snow).
Parking	Sire car park, above La Féclaz: in the village, follow signs for "Le Sire" then "Nivolet" (Parc des Bauges).
Season	May to October, outside the snow season: this is the period the tourist office gives for the neighbouring route to the Croix du Nivolet from the southern plateau.
Waymarking	A PR (petite randonnée, short walk) route of the Parc naturel régional du Massif des Bauges, with signposts: follow "Croix du Nivolet" from the Sire car park.
Water	No known water point: bring 1.5 litres per person.
With children	Yes, from 5 or 6 for children who walk regularly: just over 3 km to reach the cross, very little climbing and a shaded path.
Dogs	Dogs are allowed according to the tourist office (route sheet for the Croix du Nivolet from the southern plateau).
In your bag	Hiking boots with a good grip, 1.5 litres of water per person, a warm layer, binoculars for Chambéry and Lake Bourget.

Before you go

- On the busiest stretches, the stones are polished and slippery in wet weather (Parc des Bauges).
- The path runs along the cliffs and the cross stands over a sheer drop: watch children closely.
- A more demanding route from Pragondran arrives at the "la cheminée" viewpoint: stay on the ridge path for the way back.

Our tip

Stop at the "la cheminée" viewpoint (the chimney), just below the cross, which the Parc des Bauges describes as magnificent. It is often quieter than at the foot of the cross.

In an emergency

Call 112, the European emergency number, which works even without your own network.

Interactive map and GPX
Follow your position on the route, on your phone.

Le Patio, in central Aix-les-Bains
Air-conditioned apartment with a terrace, for 4.
Concierge: +33 6 16 86 04 34.

Information checked on 22 October 2026 against official sources. Indicative route (OpenStreetMap contributors, ODbL), IGN RGE ALTI elevations, IGN base map: always follow the waymarks and check the weather before you set off. https://lepatio-aixlesbains.fr/en/hiking-aix-les-bains/croix-du-nivolet/