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

HIKE

The Dent du Chat

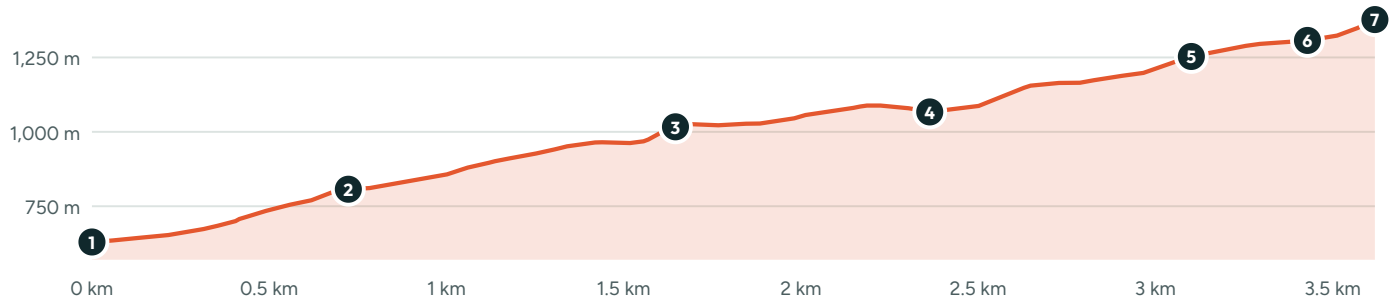
The Dent du Chat is the limestone fang you can see from the whole Aix-les-Bains shore, on the other side of the lake. From the Col du Chat, a demanding forest path leads to its summit at 1,390 m, after a final section equipped with cables and rungs. Up there, Lake Bourget lies more than 1,100 m below your feet.

7.8 km	+815 m	5 hr	Very difficult
there and back	total climb	walking time, without breaks	difficulty



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

Elevation profile one way (back the same way)



Why we love it

- The summit of the Dent du Chat at 1,390 m, with Lake Bourget more than 1,100 m below
- The view opening onto the Bugey and the meanders of the Rhône, then onto the Northern Alps
- The Rocher Blanc viewpoint at 1,012 m, 100 m off the path
- An exposed final section with cables and rungs, for hikers at ease in the mountains

The Dent du Chat

7.8 km · +815 m · 5 hr · Very difficult

STEP BY STEP

1. **The Col du Chat** km 0
   Park at the Col du Chat (638 m), near the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours oratory. At the "Col du Chat" signpost, take the path climbing south, towards "Dent du Chat".
2. **The Cornillon forest** km 0.7
   The path climbs steeply through the forest, at the foot of the Cornillon rocks where climbers train. At the "Forêt Cornillon" signpost (822 m), carry on towards the Dent du Chat: you are now following the ridge.
3. **The Rocher Blanc viewpoint** km 1.6
   Halfway up, at the "Roc Blanc" signpost, make the 100 m detour to the left to the Rocher Blanc viewpoint (1,012 m). Then return to the signpost and carry on climbing.
4. **The Col de la Vacherie** km 2.4
   After a flat stretch, the path drops slightly to the Col de la Vacherie (1,068 m). Continue on the path climbing towards the Dent du Chat: the slope steepens and the view opens to the west, over the Bugey and the Rhône.
5. **Skirting round the Dent** km 3.1
   At the foot of the Dent, the path skirts round the rock on its western side. This ledge section is exposed and equipped with cables: hold on to the handrail cable, especially if the ground is wet.
6. **The 4 Chemins junction** km 3.4
   At the "Sentier des 4 Chemins" signpost (about 1,320 m), turn left towards the Dent du Chat. The last climb is exposed, with cables and rungs: only take it on if you are used to the mountains.
7. **The summit of the Dent du Chat** km 3.6
   The small summit plateau (1,390 m) overlooks Lake Bourget, Aix-les-Bains and the Northern Alps. Come back down the same way without rushing: the descent is as demanding as the climb and the path can be slippery in any weather.

Practical information

Start	Col du Chat car park (638 m)
From Le Patio	20 min drive from Le Patio
Parking	Roadside parking at the Col du Chat (638 m), next to the starting signpost and the hiking information board.
Season	All year round except when there is snow, according to the tourist office, and strongly discouraged in bad weather.
Waymarking	Waymarked route according to the tourist office.
Water	No known water point: bring 1.5 l per person, more in summer.
With children	Not suitable for young children: the tourist office advises against it because of the exposed sections equipped with cables and rungs.
Dogs	Allowed, according to the tourist office.
In your bag	Hiking boots with grippy soles, 1.5 l of water per person and a snack, walking poles for the steep, thin gloves for holding the cables.

Before you go

- Several exposed sections equipped with cables and rungs, and a very exposed final climb: not recommended for young children, people prone to vertigo or hikers without proper footwear.
- The descent is as demanding as the climb, and the path can be slippery in any weather.
- Avoid in bad weather and when there is snow.
- No water point on the route.
- Check the state of the Col du Chat road on savoie-route.fr before you set off: it was closed on the Bourdeau side in spring 2026.

Our tip

Allow about 2 hr 30 for the climb and save some energy for the way back: it is often on the descent that people slip.

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/dent-du-chat/