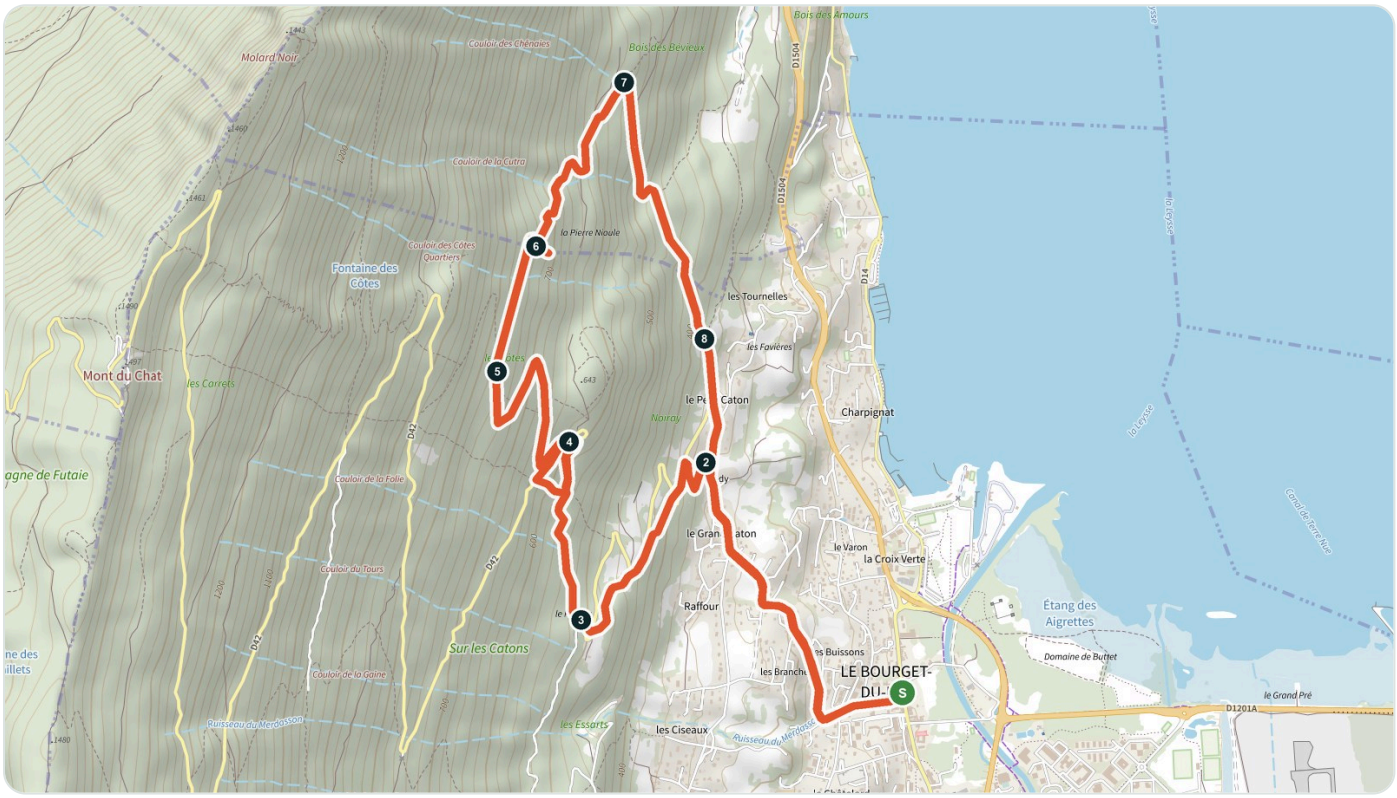
The Pierre Nioule loop

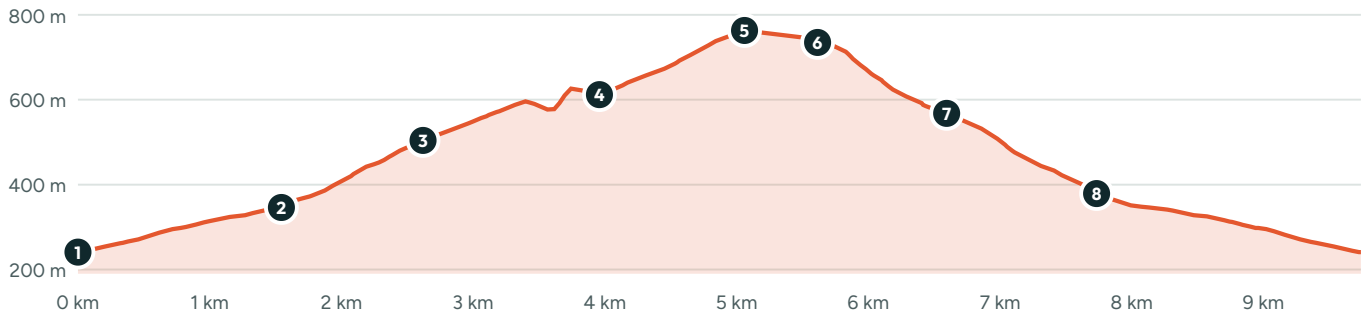
A forest loop on the slopes of the Mont du Chat, starting from the town hall in Le Bourget-du-Lac. A botanical trail, the shade and cool of the woods, then the Pierre Nioule viewpoint facing the lake and the foothills of the Revard. On the way back, the village beach is waiting to cool you down.

9.3 km	+588 m	4 hr	Moderate difficulty
loop	total climb	walking time, without breaks	



S: start 1, 2, 3: steps route

Elevation profile



Why we love it

- The Pierre Nioule viewpoint, facing Lake Bourget and the foothills of the Revard
- A shaded climb, pleasant even in summer
- The botanical trail, to learn to recognise the forest's species
- The beach at Le Bourget-du-Lac for a swim after the hike

The Pierre Nioule loop

9.3 km · +588 m · 4 hr · Moderate

STEP BY STEP

1. **Le Bourget-du-Lac town hall** km 0
   From the town hall car park, walk up the rue des Écoles and then the route du Relais. You walk about 1.5 km on the road, passing Le Merdasson, the Forchet junction and Le Grand Caton: walk in single file and take care.
2. **The hamlet of Bredy** km 1.5
   At the junction in the hamlet of Bredy, turn left towards "Parking du Poteau".
3. **The Poteau car park** km 2.6
   At the Poteau car park (516 m), follow the road for 900 m towards "Pierre Nioule", as far as the botanical trail car park.
4. **The botanical trail** km 4
   At the botanical trail car park, leave the road: a forest path zigzags up towards "Pierre Nioule", along a trail that introduces the species of the forest.
5. **Les Côtes** km 5.1
   The zigzags take you to the "Les Côtes" signpost (770 m), the highest point of the loop. Carry on towards "Pierre Nioule".
6. **The Pierre Nioule viewpoint** km 5.6
   At the "Pierre Nioule" signpost, walk the 100 m there and back to the viewpoint: the view opens onto Lake Bourget and the foothills of the Revard.
7. **The Couloir des Chênaies** km 6.6
   Go back down a forest track towards the "Couloir des Chênaies", then follow "Dessus Petit Caton".
8. **Dessus Petit Caton and back** km 7.7
   At the "Dessus Petit Caton" signpost, carry on towards the hamlet of Bredy, then return to the town hall by the road you came up, still taking care.

Practical information

Start	Le Bourget-du-Lac town hall (Mairie) (241 m)
From Le Patio	10 min drive from Le Patio
Without a car	On Sundays and public holidays (except 25 December, 1 January and 1 May), Ondéa's Dim line links the Près Riants stop, a few minutes' walk from Le Patio, with the Mairie Le Bourget stop in 30 min, with one bus an hour: first departure from Près Riants at 9:22, last return from Mairie Le Bourget at 19:07 (timetable valid since 6 September 2026).
Parking	Town hall car park, 7 rue des Écoles, in the village centre, the starting point given by the tourist office.
Season	All year round according to the tourist office, depending on the weather.
Waymarking	Waymarked route according to the tourist office.
Water	No known water point: bring 1.5 litres per person.
With children	For children who are good walkers: 4 hours of walking and nearly 600 m of climb.
Dogs	Allowed according to the tourist office. Keep your dog on a lead on the road sections.
In your bag	Hiking boots with a good grip, 1.5 litres of water per person, swimsuit and towel for the beach at Le Bourget-du-Lac afterwards, light-coloured clothing so you are easy to see on the road sections.

Before you go

- About 1.5 km on the route du Relais at the start, the same on the way back, and 900 m of road between the Poteau car park and the botanical trail car park: walk in single file and watch out for cars.
- Nearly 600 m of climb: the zigzag ascent is a sustained effort.
- No known water point on the route.

Our tip

Do not skip the 100 m there and back to the Pierre Nioule viewpoint: it is the finest view on the loop. Then head off to the beach at Le Bourget-du-Lac.

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/pierre-nioule/