Crossing the Vercors (self-guided)

This superb six-day hike, for experienced walkers, takes you from Lans-en-Vercors to the stunning Cirque d’Archiane via the Vercors Regional Nature Park and its reserve, where you may well encounter marmots, chamois and Alpine ibex. Ever-changing landscapes of forests, high peaks, plateaux scattered with flowers and mountain pine. You’ll also enjoy some unforgettable gastronomic treats as you sample our local delicacies: *ravioles du Royans* (mini ravioli), Sassenage blue cheese, Clairette de Die sparkling wine… that also reflect in their variety the startling contrasts between the mountainous northern part of the massif and the south, with its almost Provençal climate.

**Route highlights**
- Starling contrasts between the north and south of the massif.
- Wild open countryside with constantly changing landscapes.
- Abundant fauna and flora.

**Landmarks**

**Hike**: get to know a region or landscape in depth. Point to point or loop hikes, easy access.

**Level 3**: (on average) 5 hours' path walking a day and/or elevation gain of around 600 to 800 metres and/or 15 kilometres.

**Duration**: 6 days
**Luggage transfer**: Items for the day only
**Accommodation**: Hotel, gîte, family guest house
**Guide**: Self-guided
**Minimum group**: 2 participants
**Period**: May to October
**Price 2014 (M33X)** From 510 €/pers

**Day 1: Arrive in Lans-en-Vercors**
Check in to the hotel in Lans-en-Vercors late afternoon. Optional walk up from the village above the Gorges du Furon, to a magnificent belvedere fittingly named the Bec de l’Aigle (eagle's beak).
2 hours walking.

**Day 2: Lans-en-Vercors – Gîte des Allières**
A day alternating between forest and grassland: hike up to the Gîte des Allières, followed by a magnificent loop via the Pic Saint-Michel (1966 m) and the Col de l’Arc. From the summit, sweeping panorama over the Grésivaudan Valley and the high Belledonne, Oisans and Dévoluy massifs and, looking northeast, all the way to Mont Blanc.
2 hours walking. EG: 450 m. or 5 hour walk. EG: 1000 m. EL: 550 m.

**Day 3: Gîte des Allières – Corrençon-en-Vercors**
Today’s stage takes the GR 91 footpath. Initially it follows the dramatic steep slopes of the eastern cliffs, with the option of a detour via the Col Vert, taking a scenic pathway between the rocks to a
Crossing the Vercors,
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Trekking

panoramic picnic spot (view from Mont Blanc to Le Trièves). The path then descends into the valley above the hamlets. Return to the hotel.
6 hours walking. EG: 400 m. EL: 750 m.

Day 4: Corrençon en Vercors – La Chapelle-en-Vercors
A wilderness day, partly spent in the Hauts Plateaux nature reserve, home to an extraordinary variety of fauna and flora. Return to the hotel.
6 hours walking. EG: 350 m. EL: 700 m.

Day 5: La Chapelle-en-Vercors – col du Rousset
The lovely Combe de Libouse leads to the hanging karst plateau of Vassieux-en-Vercors, a stronghold of the French Resistance during the Second World War that became a “martyred village” in the bloody reprisals. Return to the hotel.
5 to 6 hours’ walking. EG: 750 m. EL: 250 m.

Day 6: Col du Rousset – Archiane
The route continues via the GR 93 footpath across the Hauts-Plateaux, with another foray into the nature reserve. Cross a col before descending to the spectacular Cirque d’Archiane surrounded by high cliffs. Transfer to Die station.
7½ to 8 hours' walking. EG: 700 m. EL: 1100 m.

NB: Walking times are purely indicative.
EG = elevation gain. EL = elevation loss.

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