

Bisse du Rho



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Built in the fourteenth century and entirely piped in the middle of the twentieth century, this bisse was once called the Bisse d'Amont (up river). There are explanatory educational panels explaining the social organisation and the irrigation rules along the trail.

Total length : 5 km.

Altitude : Between 1750 and 1450 metres.

Route time : Approximately 3 hours without the return trip.

Location : Plan Mayen above Crans-Montana, the Zeuzier Dam to the right of the Rhône, from where you can continue on the Bisse d'Ayent or the Bisse de Sion.

Difficulty : The trail is spectacular and, although quite safe, passes by vertiginous cliffs and is not suitable for those suffering from a fear of heights.

Ordinance Survey map 1 : 50'000 no. 273 T Montana.

Best period : From June to September.

This bisse partially contains water from late April to late September.

Departure

The trail starts at the car park for the gondola at Cry d'Er. We advise you to join the trail at the «Devins» bus-stop at Plan-Mayens (GPS 46°18'39" N 7°27'34" E). The bisse starts 10 metres below. From Zeuzier, cross the dam wall and follow the sign-post for «Bisse du Rho» on the alpine road in the direction of Plan Mayens.

Itinerary

Follow the bisse to either the Zeuzier Dam or Plan Mayens. Both are served by public transport links.

At the end of the trail, you can reach the Zeuzier Dam, Bellalui, Icogne or Lens. There are sign-posts for these itineraries. For Zeuzier and Bellalui, the climb is quite steep. For Icogne and Lens, the descent is also steep.

A very beautiful and impressive trail for the sure-footed walker. You should only tackle this walk in dry weather and during the summer months. It is strongly discouraged during the winter.

From where the bisse takes water, to reach the Zeuzier lake there is a 400 metre climb and a 200 metre descent. For Belalui, there is a 600 metre climb. For Lens or Icogne there is a 600 to 800 metre descent. You will find many beautiful places to picnic.

<http://www.les-bisses-du-valais.ch>

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