

# Bisse des Sarrasins

## BISSE DES SARRASINS



Carte nationale d'excursion 1 :50'000 : no. 273 T Montana



## Bisse des Sarrasins

This bisse dates from the fifteenth century. It is steeped in myth, notably surrounding the presence, or not, of the Saracens in the Alps. It is worth reading the excellent book by Joseph Henriët « Nos ancêtres les Sarrasins des Alpes » which convincingly demystifies a number of these myths and legends.

**Total length :** Approximately 10 km.

**Altitude :** Pinsec 1290 m, Bisse takes water 970m, Vercorin 1320m.

**Route time :** Between 3 and 5 hours depending on ability.

**Location :** Between Pinsec and Vercorin, to the left of the Navizence, in the Val d'Anniviers

**Difficulty :** This is a difficult walk with steep inclines and declines. Not suitable for those suffering from a fear of heights or for young children.

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

**Best period :** June to October.

**Comments:** Public transport between Pinsec and Vercorin is problematic. Either you leave one car in Pinsec and another in Vercorin (if you are a group), or you begin at Vercorin or Mayoux and use the bus service to Sierre. At Pinsec, the car park is located as you leave the village heading towards Mayoux.

### Departure

This bisse can also be explored from Vercorin but we advise beginning at Pinsec. From the middle of the village of Pinsec, follow the sign-posts and take a very steep path to where the bisse takes water almost at the same height as the Navizence (350 metres downhill).

### Itinerary

From where the bisse takes water, follow the path of the bisse along the hillside. The trail is very varied, with stretches in the forest, others that are uphill, downhill or flat and some which are very steep. You need to be sure-footed and equipped with good walking boots. Always follow the sign-posts for «Vercorin» and «Bisse des Sarrasins». When you reach the end of the bisse, make your way to Vercorin some 300 metres above you.

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

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