

Mercantour & Wonders for School Children



Engraved rock known as the "Wizard" in the Valley of Wonders (Tende, Alpes-Maritimes) © CD06 – Musée des Merveilles

Duration : 5 days – Best time : May - June and September - October

Number of people (mini /max) : 25-50

This school trip combines many themes both delightfully educational and playful moments with the discovery of Mercantour National Park.

On the Agenda: Hikes, fun walks and participative exchanges in the rural and mountain environments. Educational and creative activities are available!

Strengths :

- ⌘ The discovery of a protohistoric site in a protected park
- ⌘ Theme evenings to learn in a fun way (optional)
- ⌘ Geological initiation or the discovery of ancient practices and landscapes in the village of Saint Dalmas de Tende

Areas of Interest :

The site benefits from an exceptional potential for discovery and awareness of this natural environment.

- ⌘ Biology: The steep hills between the Roya Valley and the Vallon de la Minière make it easy to appreciate the entire layering of alpine vegetation during a simple hike lasting a few hours. From the thorny shrubs of the Mediterranean landscape, to the deciduous trees that make up the low and medium altitude forests; to the alpine meadows of the high mountains and the humid larch forests, there are more than 2,000 species, 200 of which are rare and 40 endemic. These can be admired in the surrounding areas. The proximity of the Mercantour National Park offers a refuge to many animal species but also reptiles, amphibians, and many insects.
- ⌘ Geology: The folds of the alpine arc allow you to observe the different geological features that have contributed to the formation of the Earth. The mining valley, a former glacial valley, still contains traces of past glacial movements that allow us to appreciate and understand the major climatic movements.
- ⌘ Ecology: The enormous biodiversity of the surrounding valleys allows us to see a large number of different ecosystems (forests, rivers, meadows, etc). By studying a whole or part of a species, it is easy to discover how the environments are intertwined, and the consequences of man's impact on the environment.
- ⌘ Heritage: History has left its mark on this territory on many occasions. On the border between France and Italy, Upper Roya is very much influenced by this dual culture. Resolutely mountainous, the territory of Haute Roya is a valuable educational tool to study the social life of the alpine arc. Many trades and traditions continue and are easily appreciated through these mountains.

The Region :

Nestled between the Alps and the Mediterranean, Mercantour is a unique territory full of priceless natural and cultural treasures. Perched at an altitude of 1,500 meters, in the valley that bears its name, the site offers exceptional access to the Vallée des Merveilles, in the heart of the Mercantour National Park. This site, already listed as a Historic Area, is soon to be classified as a UNESCO site.

Created in 1979, this area which is guardian to the preservation of natural environments, fauna, flora and landscapes, is divided into two parts. The central area is a total preservation area, and the peripheral area, is an interface between local development and protection.

Day 1: Wonder Museum and Educational Workshops



Morning: Arrival at **Tende** by train or bus, scheduled by the school.

Midi : lunch bag carried by the children.

Afternoon: Wonder Museum in Tende with its educational workshops. Three themes are available here: natural history, archaeology, popular arts and traditions. Educational workshops for children are systematically organised before or after the visit to the museum. A temporary exhibition is regularly presented in parallel.

Installation in your rooms. Evening: presentation and progress of the stay by your guide / accompanying person.

Dinner and accommodation.

Day 2 : History and Wildlife in terms of Tenderness

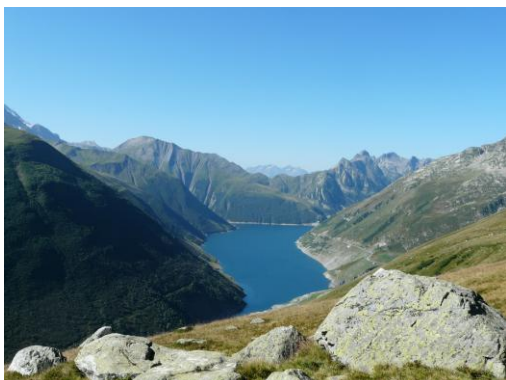
Breakfast.

Departure for a hike on the Plan Tendasque. Discover the great fauna of the Mercantour National Park as well as its military forts. A hiking of 5 hours, 500m difference in altitude. Lunch bag.

Return, dinner and accommodation.

Free evening or themed evening (optional): astronomie, tales, fauna or music. As many themes as you would like to reserve before your stay !

- ⌘ Mercantour National Park: Explanation and dialogue with a park agent or one of the representatives.
- ⌘ The Hamlet of Vallauria Mining: The history of this mining operation on a large screen.
- ⌘ Astronomy: What if I was told about the stars. Galaxies, Nebulae and other constellations.



Day 3 : Hiking in the Wonders Valley

Breakfast.

Departure for the ascent towards the refuge of the Wonders; in the heart of protohistoric engravings; you will discover the history of this archaeological site, animated by the presence of the fauna, in a protected environment!

A hiking of 7 hours, 600m difference in altitude. Lunch bag.
Return, dinner and accommodation.

Free evening or themed evening (optional).

Day 4 : Mining Valley and Mountain Riches



Breakfast.

Drive to the Vallon de la Minière to discover the mountain flora and its adaptation to the environment. Create your own "Goblin wood" - a mini forest made with things you have collected and identified.

Return, dinner and accommodation.

Free evening or theme evening (optional).

Day 5 : Geological Initiation or Discovery of Ancient Landscapes

Breakfast.

- ⌘ 1st choice: Discover the village of La Minière on foot, initiation tour and search for rocks, minerals and ores. Departure around 2pm from the Lac des Mesces.
- ⌘ 2nd choice: Descent on foot to reach the village of St Dalmas de Tende (or Tende, optional) by discovering the practices and habitats of the ancient times of the Granges de Cioto and those of Gauron.

Departure at the end of the day.