



Course characteristics: Hiking

Distance: 20.7 km / Uphill climb: 1550 m / Downhill climb: 1540 m / Min. altitude: 1599 m

Max. altitude: 2353 m / Time (according to speed): 8h15 / Signposting: yes.

Route description:

From the Grandes Platières cable car departure station (Flaine forum), take the GR96 towards the Refuge de Platé. At the Col de Colonney, follow the GR96 towards Platé. You are now entering the Désert de Platé, a listed geological site. At the foot of the Col de la Portette, the Refuge de Platé can be seen down below on your right. You will reach Sales and its refuge by crossing the Châteaux de Cran “bar” via the Col de la Portette. From the col, admire the Désert de Platé and the Combe de Sales. At the foot of the Col de la Portette, follow the GR96 signs to “Le Grand Pré”, which leads to the Chalets de Sales and the refuge. Leaving the Sales refuge on your left, take the path that leads to the Combe des Foges. Head up the combe to Les Verdets. The descent to Flaine is via alpine meadows from the Col Pelouse to “Balacha”.

Viewpoints to discover:

The Désert de Platé, a geological curiosity nestling at an altitude of 2,500 metres in Flaine is one of the largest limestone pavements in Europe. Facing Mont Blanc, this 1,980-hectare limestone plateau consists mainly of lapiaz carved out by glaciers and meltwater. The Platé plateau is accessible only by foot, earning it the name “desert”. Some fossils indicate that the mountain was a seabed 40 million years ago! The Six-Fer-à-Cheval / Passy nature reserve is the largest in Haute-Savoie. Marmots, ibexes, and other iconic animals are often seen here.

Guidelines :

Remember:

- Check the weather forecast just before you set off.
- Tell someone close to you where you are going and when you should be back.
- Find out if the route is in good condition and its difficulty level.

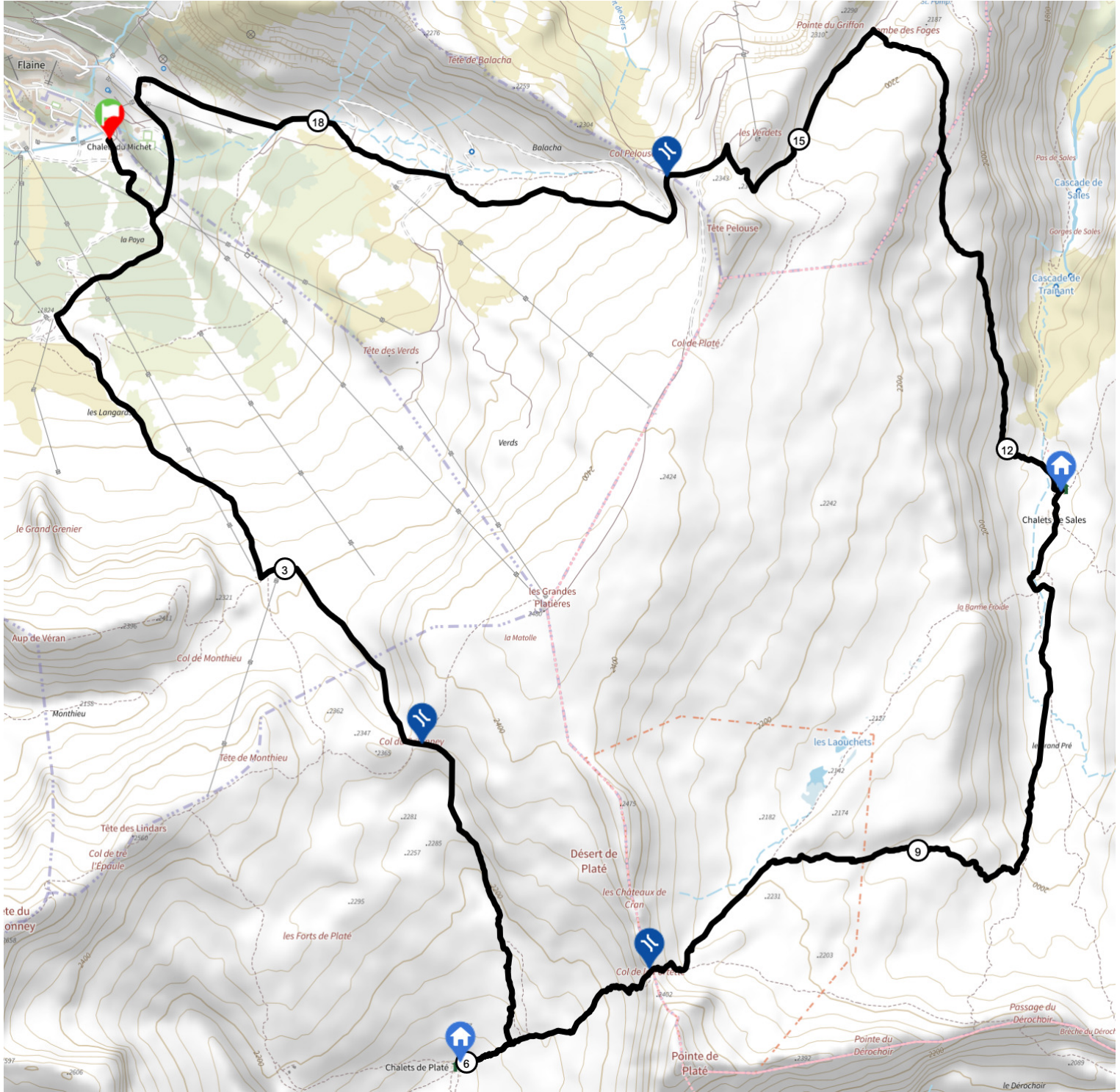
Advice:

- Respect the environment; please take your rubbish with you.
- Follow the marked routes; do not take private trails.
- **Emergency numbers: 112.**

Refuges de Platé et de Sales (n°13 Flaine)

20.1 km 1550 m 1540 m

Rando



> 10% > 20% > 30%

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