

LE BOURGET DU LAC

The Bourget Lake, sometimes known as the Aix Lake or the Gray Lake, is a post-glacial lake in the Jura massif. It was created after the last Würm Glaciation, approximately 19,000 years ago, when the quaternary Alpine glacier receded. It is the largest natural glacial lake in France (except for the Léman Lake, which is partly located in Switzerland).

The Bourget Lake presents several examples of «lakeside settlements» from the Neolithic Period and the Bronze Age. Although some of these settlements have been known since 1856, others were only recently discovered by the Department of Sub-Aquatic Archeological and Sub-Marine Research (Ministry of Culture). An entire room at the Savoie Museum in Chambéry is dedicated to Bronze Age artisans from around the Bourget Lake.

During Roman times, the lake was an important shipping route. A village was constructed at the mouth of the Leysse River where it joins the Lake. The Bourget-du-Lac was first a port for merchants

and travelers. This port, and the connection to the Rhône River, led to the development of river trade.

In 1030, Odilon, Abbot of Cluny, ordered the construction of six Priors whose splendid architectures can still be visited to this day. The Saint-Laurent Church, with its Priory and Gardens, are protected historical buildings. In 1248, Thomas II ordered the construction of a castle overlooking the reed beds at southern end of the lake. The castle is currently under renovation.

The lake was initially known as the Châtillon Lake due to the Chautagne Castle which controlled the shipping route towards Lyon. The name of Bourget Lake was only used starting in the 13th century. The Savières Canal is a small waterway that runs between the Bourget Lake and the Rhône. It was used as a shipping lane starting in the Neolithic period and was the main route between France and Savoie. In the 19th century, it was canalized in order to facilitate navigation.

It is one of the rare waterways in Europe where the water flow can reverse completely depending on rises in the Rhône River. In such cases, the water level of the Bourget Lake can rise several meters as the water from the Rhône is added to the lake's natural water flows.

For most Huguenots, excepting those who left France to the west or lived next to the coastline, their exile (after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes) included a march of several hundred, or even thousand,

kilometers. Few owned donkeys or horses on which they could haul their belongings.

Thus the navigable waterways played a key role in this exile.

Refugees who had the means to, hired barks whenever their path followed a lake or other navigable waterway such as the Bourget Lake, the Léman Lake, the Neuchâtel Lake, the Morat Lake, or the Rhône. The Savières Canal allowed refugees to use a bark from the port of the Bourget Lake all the way to northern Chautagne.



Château Thomas

What to see and do : Information available at the Tourism office.

Services at the beginning and at the end of each stage

Tourist Office Chambéry: 04 79 33 42 47
Tourist Office Le Bourget du Lac: 04 79 25 01 99

Chambéry

Hotel • Camping • Bed and Breakfast • Restaurant
• All shops • Post office • Supply • Bank/cash dispenser • Bus stop • Medical care • Railway station

Le Bourget

Hotel • Camping • Bed and Breakfast • Restaurant • All shops • Post office • Supply • Bank/cash dispenser • Bus stop • Medical care

Project co-financed by the European Community under the LEADER program
www.surlespasdes huguenots.eu/en/



European Cultural Route SUR LES PAS DES HUGUENOTS

HIKING GUIDE

CHAMBÉRY ■ LE BOURGET DU LAC

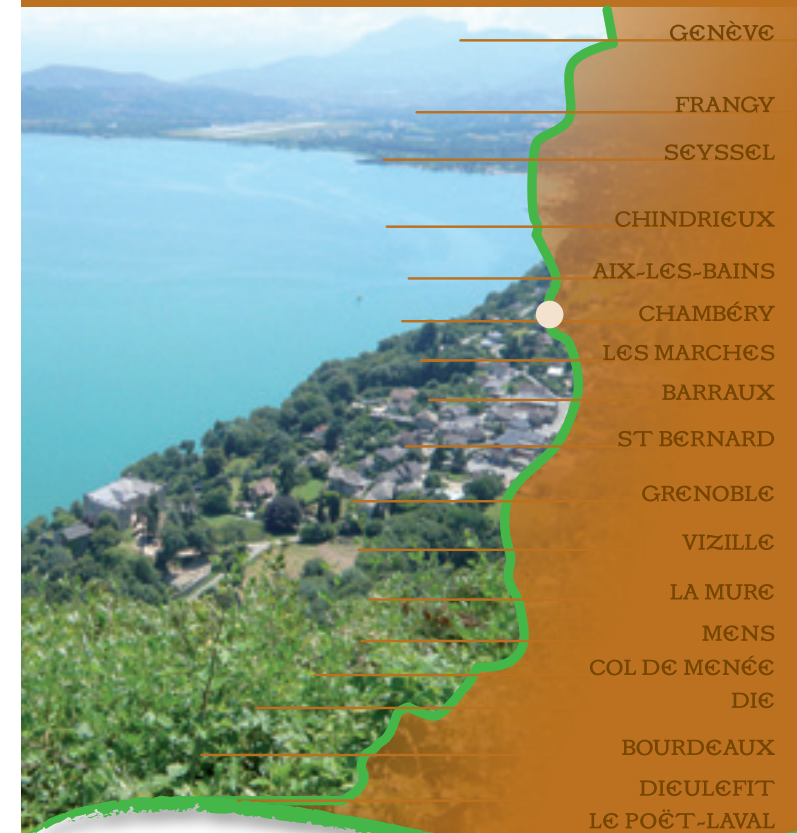
11,2 km

3h

Savoie

28 m

69 m



SUR LES PAS DES HUGUENOTS



Prieuré

CHAMBÉRY - LE BOURGET DU LAC

Description

If you opt to pass through Chambéry on a bus, take the bus number 2 (towards Plage), from the Chambéry bus station, located near the SNCF station. Get off the bus at the stop Le Bourget du Lac - Mairie du Bourget. The Le Bourget du Lac - Aix les Bains portion of the trail begins at the signpost Parking Bourget du Lac.

1 By foot : From the Place du Palace de Justice : take the Allée du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny and then the Avenue du Comte Vert until the square - Place du Stade. Head straight on until the bridge Pont d'Hyère.

2 At the bridge Pont d'Hyère, make a right onto the bike "Avenue Verte Nord de Chambéry". This paved road runs alongside the Hyère river, and then the Leysse. Hikers can walk alongside the banks of the rivers.

3 Continue to follow the arrows for the Avenue Verte Nord de Chambéry which passes alongside a major road N201. The bike "avenue" changes sides of the river and passes alongside the right bank of the Leysse.

4 At the intersection Villarcher, follow the lake and the beaches (Plages) via the Avenue Verte.

5 Cross the road Route de l'Ecole de Tremblay and pass by the Porte du Tremblay. There is a passage under a major road (the D1504). At the next bridge over the Leysse, follow the arrows and cross to the opposite bank.

6 At the signpost Le Pont, follow the direction for the Parking du Bourget du Lac. The next portion of the trail crosses this bridge and then heads towards Tresserve and then Aix les Bains.

Pass under the departmental road D1504. At the signpost Parking Bourget du Lac, follow the direction Mairie (town hall) and Tourism Office. The next portion of the trail begins at this signpost and then passes again by the signpost for Le Pont.

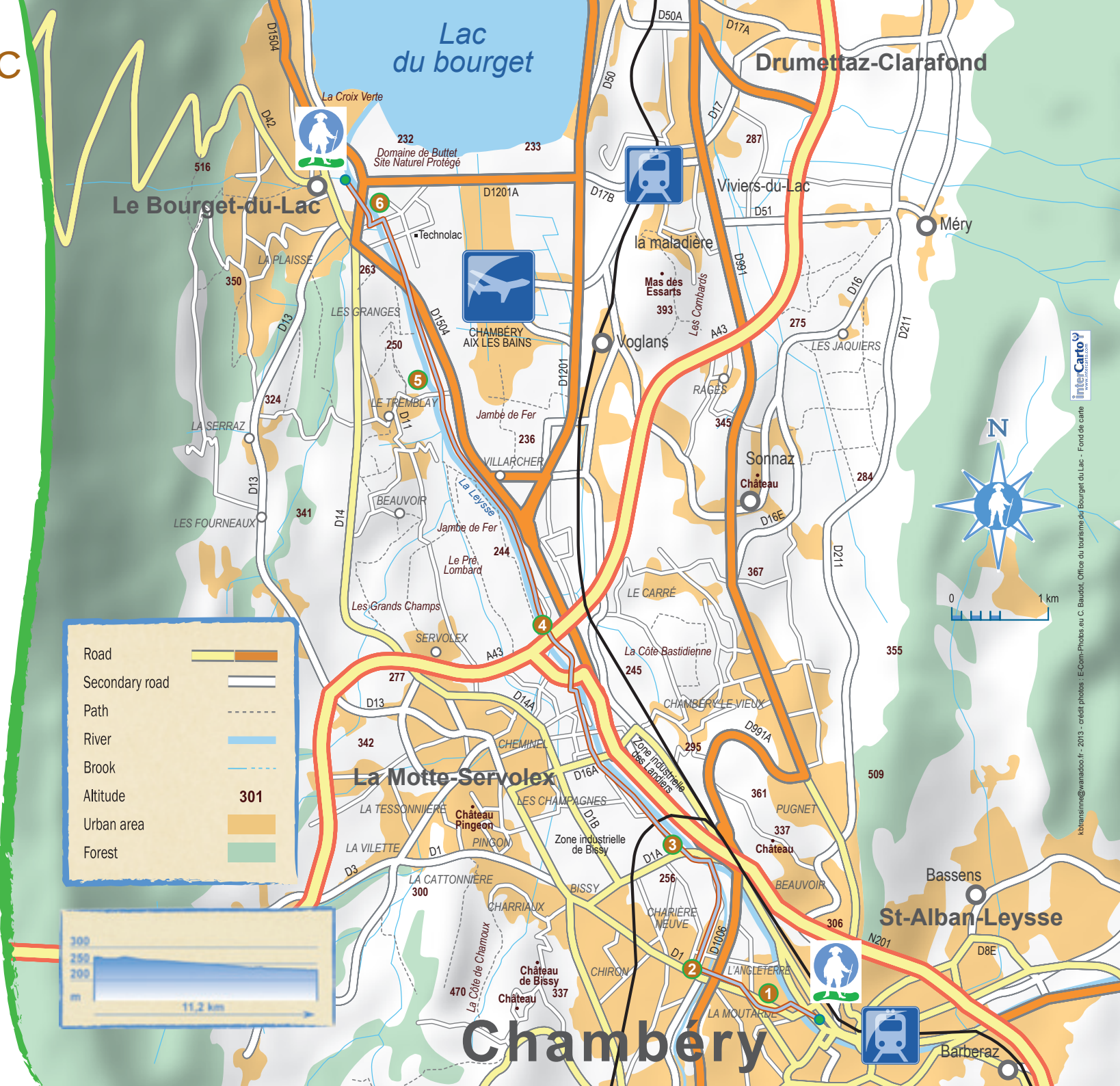


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Marking :



interCarto
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