

45 Basse du Gerbier, 2578m

Viewing terrace at the foot of the Aiguilles d'Arves

Chalmieu – Relais TV – Basse du Gerbier and back

Starting point: Relais TV (transmitting station), 1910m.

Drive along the D 926 from the Arvan valley, then onto the D 80 in the direction of Albiez, after about 1km turn right onto the D 80A via Montrond to Chalmieu and continue to the end of the tarmac road.

Walking times: Relais TV – Basse du Gerbier 2¼ hrs., return 1¼ hrs.; total time 3½ hrs.

Height difference: 670m.

Grade: easy mountain walk on good paths, although muddy when wet.

Food and accommodation: Gîte d'Etape Clairevie, St-Sorlin d'Arves. ☎ 04 79 59 71 26, e-mail eric.axelrad@wanadoo.fr. Gîte d'Etape in La Villette, hamlet below Albiez, ☎ / Fax 04 79 59 38 03, e-mail GAUTHE@net-up.com.

Map: IGN Top 25, sheet 3435, Valloire. Aiguilles d'Arves. Col du Galibier.

You can see them from many of the summits, valleys and passes in Savoy – the elegant three spikes of the Aiguilles d'Arves which are reminiscent of the three pinnacles of the Dolomites. And in just the same way, hordes of moun-

The Aiguilles d'Arves with the horses on the meadows of the Basse du Gerbier.



tain walkers traipse up to the striking symbol of the Maurienne.

They are at their best seen from the Arvan valley. They soar up in breathtaking beauty from the wide prairies of the verdant hills. You come closest to their vertical faces at the Basse du Gerbier. The picturesque terraced meadows complete the panorama with a fantastic distant view to the north – on the left of the high terrace of Albiez you can see Mont Charvin with its bizarre



The Aiguilles d'Arves are usually enveloped in cloud in the afternoon.



rock chimneys and Mont Blanc glisens on the far horizon. The barren region was once covered with forest. You can still see a few individual petrified trees in the hollow at the foot of Gros Crey.

From the **transmitting station** follow the roadway. It soon turns into a path and winds along the eastern edge of the broad hollow of Outre l'Eau which is bordered in the west by the conspicuous grassy ridge of Crête de Chenallin. Continue up and down over grassy hills and several streams to the south.

A little way above the alpine mountain hut of **La Motte**, 2179m, the path veers to the west, crosses the side streams and the Ruisseau de l'Oiletaz and curves across the grassy terrain onto the meadows of the **Basse du Gerbier**, 2578m.

Return the same way.