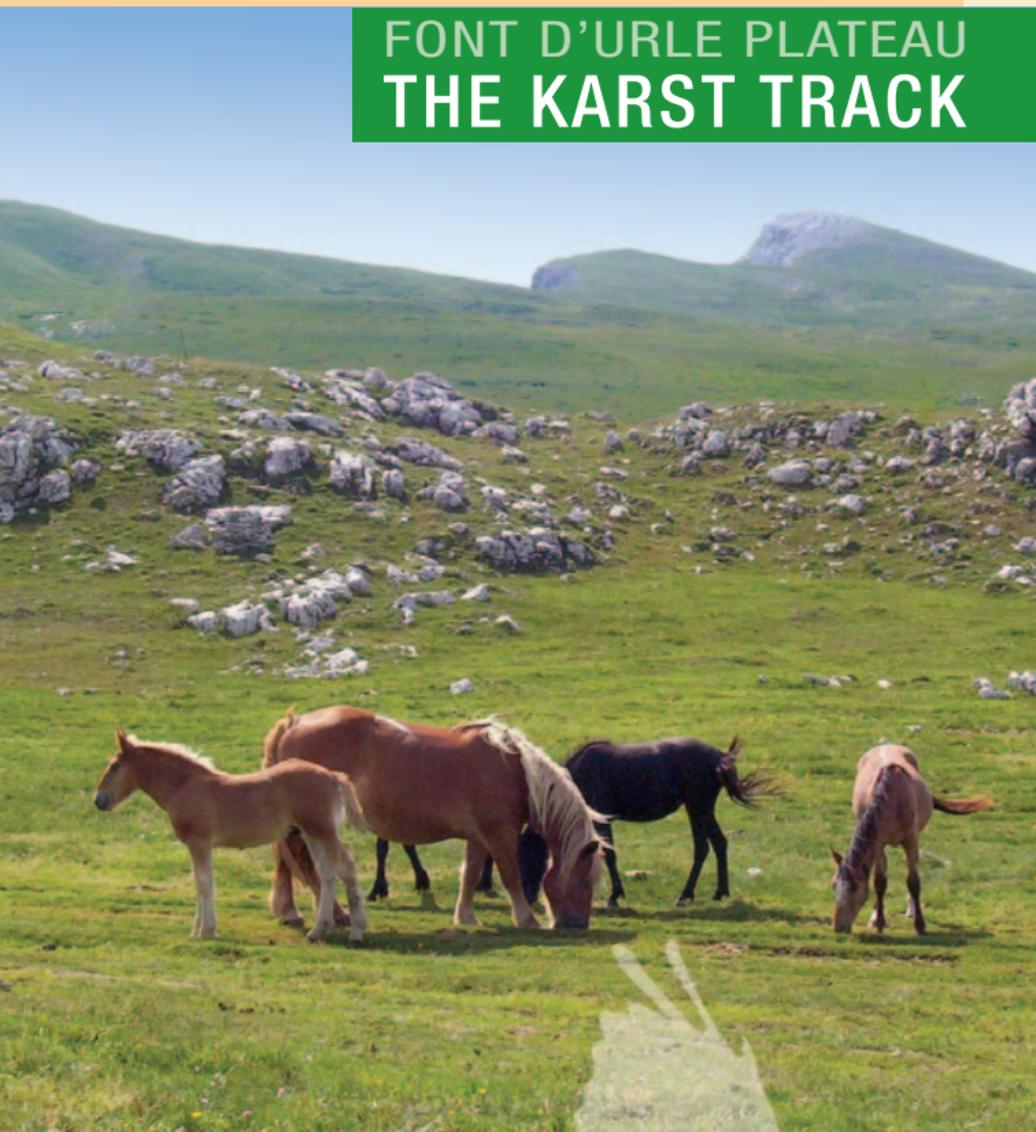


**- SENSITIVE  
NATURAL AREAS  
IN THE DEPARTMENT**

FONT D'URLE PLATEAU  
**THE KARST TRACK**



- L A  
D R O  
M E -

LE DÉPARTEMENT





# - THE KARST TRACK

## HISTORY OF ROCKS AND SHEER DROPS

A booklet can be obtained at welcome points and at tourist offices in the Royans, the Vercors and the Drôme valley - an indispensable guide for the route.

A booklet to

- follow the signed track consisting of 10 discovery stopping points
- find underground caves and rock faults ...
- read witness accounts of their experiences of rocks, shafts, explorations or storms...
- understand the site with the help of drawings and scientific explanations.



Mineral landscapes  
sculpted by the elements

# - DISCOVER THE FONT D'URLE P



# PLATEAU IN 10 STAGES

1

## La glacière

exploration of a large cavity and evocation of the first discoveries

2

## Rocky chaos

at the entrance of a shaft, understanding the role of water in this strange relief

3

## Cave

poetic narration of a famous storm told by a shepherd and visit of a small cave

4

## Ruins

an artistic look at a rock pile

5

## Cliff

observation of a living habitat and its occupants: chamois, birds, plants...

6

## Crevasses

path through a network of rocky fractures in the heart of the cliff

7

## High mountain pastures

the shepherds' point of view on these vast spaces

8

## Scialet (a chasm)

at the entrance of an underground network: the importance of air currents in speleological explorations

9

## Lapiaz

(outcrops of small regular pillars)  
the history of the slow transformation of a slab of rock into a labyrinth

10

## Ski resort

wonderful memories of the early days of skiing in Font d'Urle



### Markers

Stone markers line the karst track. Each marker corresponds to a page of the booklet.





## - THE FONT D'URLE PLATEAU

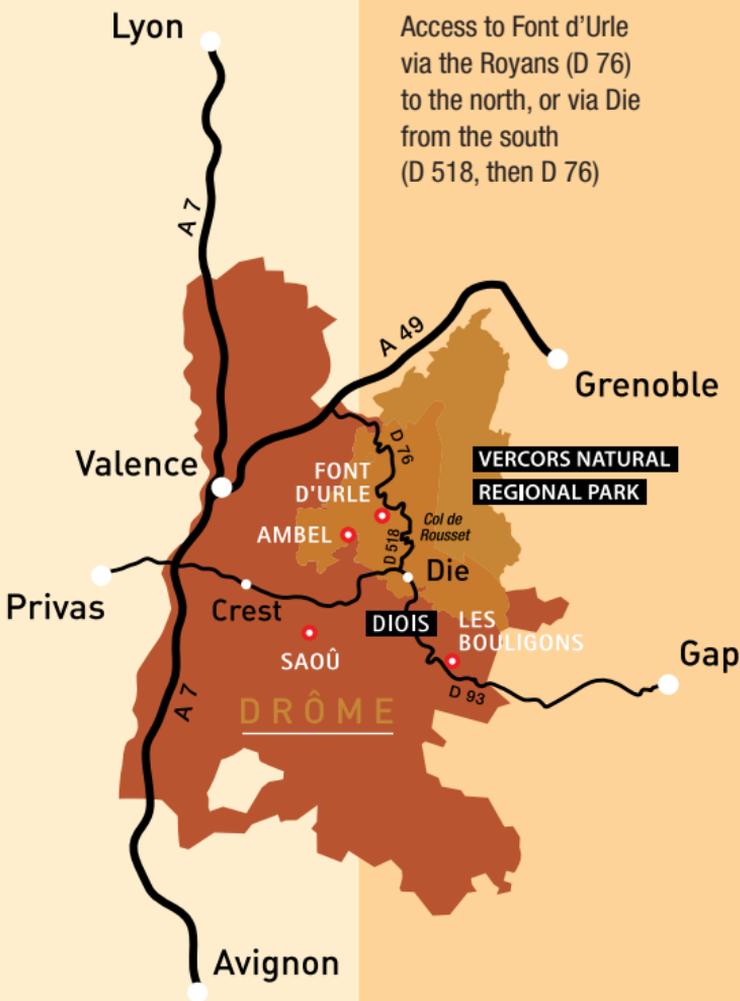


A natural and sensitive area, property managed by the Drôme Department as part of its policy for the protection and development of natural and sensitive areas.

An immense area of high mountain pastures where, for centuries, horses, cows and sheep have been led for summer grazing, following a tradition called “transhumance”. The herds are often protected by “Patou” shepherd dogs. For your safety and for the tranquillity of the herds, no dogs are allowed in the area from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> October. Please follow the instructions on the different information signs.

A departmental summer-winter resort with multiple mountain-connected activities such as downhill skiing, Nordic skiing, snow-shoeing, dog sleighing, speleology, climbing, horse riding...

An exciting geological site where spectacular forms take shape in the limestone eroded by water and called “karst”: sculpted rock surfaces, crevasses, sinkholes (natural shafts), caves, underground rivers...



Access to Font d'Urle via the Royans (D 76) to the north, or via Die from the south (D 518, then D 76)

The Font d'Urle site is a "sensitive natural area" (ENS), property of the department, managed by the Department of the Drôme under its environmental policy.

Other sites labelled "sensitive natural area" worth a visit:

- the Boulignons marshes (village of Beaurières)
- the forest of Saoû (village of Saoû)
- the domain of Ambel (village of Omblèze)
- the Lorient departmental park (village of Montélégér)
- the domain of Sapey (village of Aucelon)



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