

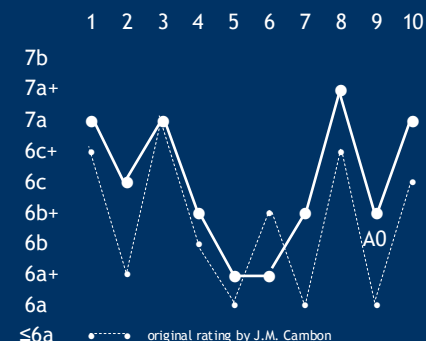


## A newly equipped top route at the Ecaille de Tête Colombe near Briançon

Looking up from the Guisane Valley to the Tête Colombe the climbers' attention is drawn to the attached Ecaille because of its steepness and esthetic overall appearance. In 1986 Jean-Michel Cambon and Serge Ravel set up an outstanding free climb (except for a few meters) through the repellent 200-meter-high main sector of the Ecaille. In the summer of 2016 J.-M. Cambon re-bolted this old route and made it a very worthwhile objective for climbers who appreciate a good protection without the need of additional friends or stoppers. Without

**Encore du Dévers**  
ED, 7a+(6b), S1  
W, 1.880 m a.s.l.

J.-M. Cambon, S. Ravel (1986↑)  
250 clm (670 vam)



overall impression ★★★★★

climbing ratio 62%  
variety ●●●  
scenery ●●●  
exposure ●●●  
rock quality ●●●  
steepness \/  
fun factor

the 10 meter A0-climbing in non-solid rock in the ninth pitch Encore du Dévers would be one of the very best routes because of Cerce's typical, perfect rock quality, the extreme exposure and the many interesting climbing sections.

Since the original difficulty ratings of 1986 differ substantially from today's red point ratings and because there are no new ratings available in the literature and the climbing portals, we cite our own ratings as a suggestion for the newly equipped route.

The Ecaille rises like a house wall before the climber and accordingly hard is P1. The first 5 meters must be enough for the warm-up, then passages with small holds, not quite easily readable, must be climbed where the crux is after approx. 18m (7a). P2 starts with a 6a-crack and continues with a right-traverse of approx. 20m, often with technical moves on small hand and foot holds (6c). In the short P3 one climbs a steep, left-leaning dihedral (7a). 40 exceptional meters along an uncomplicated grandiose crack follow in P4 (6b+). In P5 easy climbing to the left (except for a short steep wall section) leads back in the fall line above the first belay (6a+). P6 offers 30 unspectacular climbing meters, but always in excellent rock (6a+). After a few easy meters over a ramp to the right the route leads up and left in steep climbing to an exposed belay on a ledge (P7, 6b+). P8 is also short, but it has the hardest single move of the entire route with well-defined hand holds, but almost nothing for the feet (7a+). In P9 there is the only blemish of this great route: about 10m of A0-climbing in partially fragile rock. After easy face climbing at the beginning one reaches the A0-section from the right by avoiding some good but loose holds. The difficulty of P9 is the exit to the belay (6b+). If it were not for the exit pitch P10, one could well abseil after P8. Very exposed and with two hard sections (over a small overhang and a short face climbing section with tiny holds) P10 leads through the esthetic head wall of the Ecaille (7a).

To have real fun in the route you have to wait for good weather conditions. Take into account that the sun hits the wall at around 12 o'clock and the Ecaille is very much exposed to the wind. When you have found perfect conditions, then this route offers the utmost pleasure as to exposure and esthetics, with a very well equipped abseil piste at the end (5x abseil with 60m double rope, the 5th abseil belay lies off the route, between the belays of P1 and P5).

**Approach:** Parking in front of the first old tunnel on the road to the Col du Lautaret on 1.880m a.s.l.

**Start of the route:** At the beginning ascend comfortably on the Chemin du Roy, leave the Chemin at a sign and continue a steep trail until the end of the forest zone. Follow this well-visible trail (it is the approach for the routes on the SW-wall of Tête Colombe) for about 200 meters in the open terrain, then leave it to the left. From now on the access is not easy to find. The best way is to follow the small creek which flows about 50-100 meters to the left of the good trail. Cross the creek and stay always to its left, thus avoiding the stone field with the large boulders that descends in the fall line of the Ecaille (this is different from the drawing in the Cambon guidebook!). A few cairns point the way which leads very steeply upwards over grass and earth with only a few boulders (about 70 minutes from the parking lot to the start of the route which is in the center of the Ecaille).

**Guidebook and further information:** Oisans Nouveau Oisans Sauvage – Livre Est, Jean-Michel Cambon, 2015, <https://www.camptocamp.org/routes/291731/fr/tete-de-colombe-encore-du-devers>



# Encore du Dévers at Tête Colombe (F)

Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



## **P10: 7a, 30m**

Very exposed with two difficult sections. There are two belays. Abseil from the 1st one.

## **P9: A0/6b+, 20m**

About 10 m A0 in not perfect rock, difficult exit to the belay.

## **P8: 7a+, 15m**

Very hard single move in the upper third.

## **P7: 6b+, 20m**

After an easy ramp some difficult moves left up.

## **P6: 6a+, 30m**

Rather easy climbing in red and gray rock.

## **P5: 6a+, 25m**

Two easy traverses interrupted by a short steep wall section.

## **P4: 6b+, 40m**

Exceptionally good and long crack for limestone conditions.

## **P3: 7a, 15m**

Very technical and steep dihedral.

## **P2: 6c, 30m**

Easy crack, then long right traverse with difficult moves on small handholds.

## **P1: 7a, 27m**

Awesome face climbing in Cerces rock at its best. Difficult from the beginning with the crux in the upper third.



The exposed and esthetic P10.



# Encore du Dévers at Tête Colombe (F)

Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



In P1 about 3 meters before the crux.



The difficult right traverse in P2.



'Sous l'Oeil des Choucas' in the incredible crack pitch P4.