

# The Sarrasins «Bisse» route

**INFORMATIONS**

**Anniviers tourist offices**  
+41 27 476 16 00  
**Tourist office Vercorin**  
+41 27 455 58 55

Useful information

**The Sarrasins  
"Bisse" route**

**Opening** May to October

**Difficulty** **Average**  
Good walking shoes are recommended and a good level of fitness is required

**Average altitude** 1000 m

**Length**

- **Pinsec - Vercorin section:** 8.5 km, 4 hrs walking for an average walker
- **Pinsec - Fang section:** 2½ hrs
- **Fang - Vercorin section:** 2½ hrs

**Transport**

- **Public transport**  
Post bus stops at Mayoux, Fang and Vercorin. Vissoie-Pinsec-Vercorin shuttle bus operates during the summer (mid-July to mid-October), several stops along the route
- **Private transport, 3 car parks available**  
The first is in Vercorin, as you enter the village from Chalais on the cantonal road. The second is in Pinsec, as you enter the village from Vissoie on the cantonal road, or as you leave it if you are travelling from Vercorin. The third is at Fang d'en-haut.

*Along a large part of the path, there is nowhere to obtain food or drinking water, so you should bring your own supplies.*

*Please look after the environment and take your rubbish away with you.*

NATURE AND DISCOVERY



© PHOTOS: ASSOCIATION DU CHEMIN DU BISSE DES SARRASINS

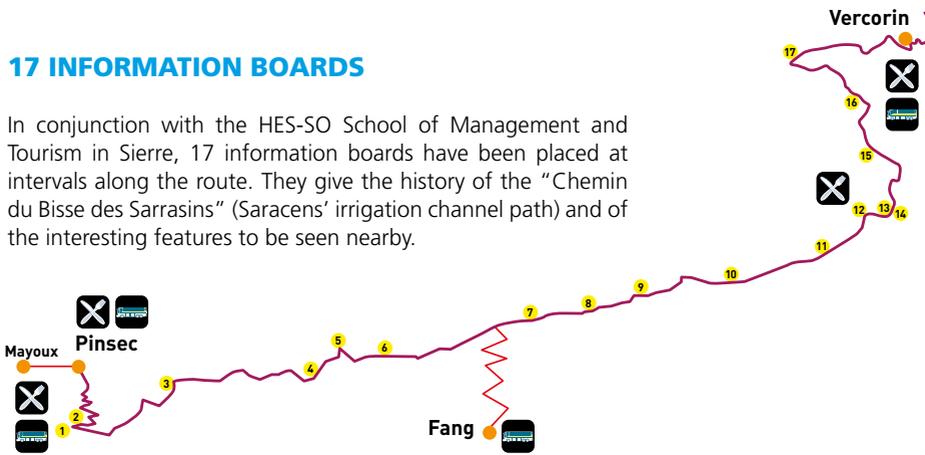
Timetables for Shuttle Vercorin-Vissoie available from Tourist Offices



ENGRAVED ON MY HEART.

## 17 INFORMATION BOARDS

In conjunction with the HES-SO School of Management and Tourism in Sierre, 17 information boards have been placed at intervals along the route. They give the history of the "Chemin du Bisse des Sarrasins" (Saracens' irrigation channel path) and of the interesting features to be seen nearby.



### Access from:

#### 1 Pinsec



#### Pinsec > Vercorin

From the Chapelle, go down to the bottom of the village of Pinsec towards the Navisence river, as far as the sign board for the Bisse. This takes you to the starting-point of the Bisse.

**Bus stop for the Mayoux post bus:** from Mayoux, go towards Pinsec. After 100 metres, take the road on the right and walk on to the Ecole de Pinsec (estimated time: around 45 minutes).

**Vissoie-Pinsec-Vercorin shuttle bus:** During the summer (from mid-July to mid-October) a bus service operates between Vissoie and Vercorin, with several stops along the route. Information and timetables are available from the Anniviers and Vercorin Tourist Offices.

#### 2 Vercorin



#### Vercorin > Pinsec

From the centre of the village, go towards the Chemin du Mont then follow the route for the Vallon de Crouja until you reach the Chemin du Bisse.

#### 3 Fang



#### Fang > Pinsec, Fang > Vercorin

From Fang d'en-bas, follow the path that goes to the Navisence river via the Pont du Barratier. At the Navisence, take the footpath for La Meya-La Rocha to reach the Chemin du Bisse route.

## BAR AND GÎTE

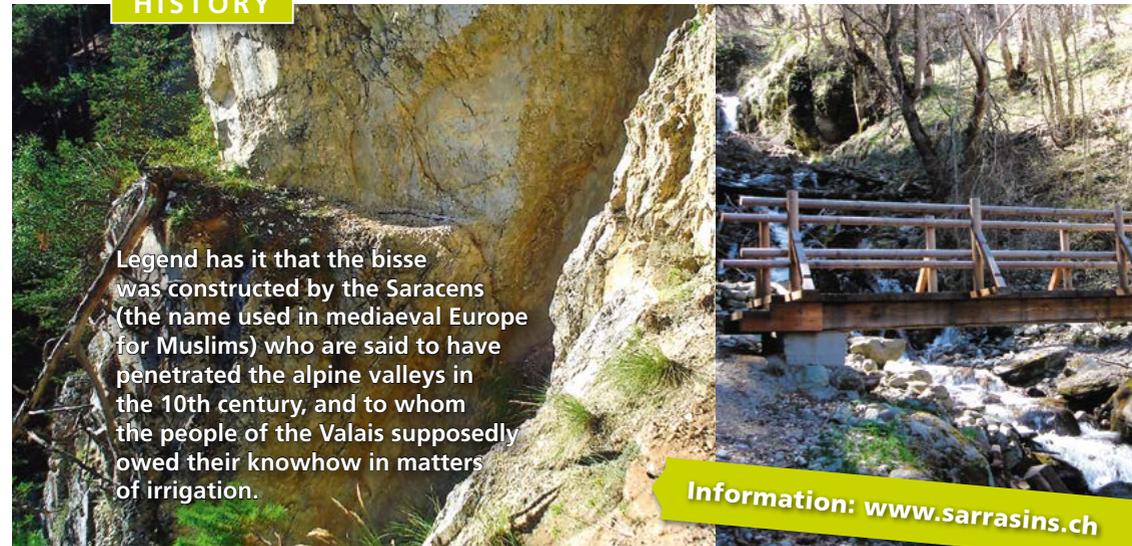
There are 1 snack bar and 1 gîte along the Bisse des Sarrasins route:

- at the start of the *bisse*, at the Anniviers end, you can spend a night at the **Pinsec Gîte**,
- at the Vercorin end, the team at the **Gîte des Voualans** serve a range of drinks and snacks.

### Further information and opening times:

[www.ecoledepinsec.ch](http://www.ecoledepinsec.ch) and [www.facebook.com/voualans](http://www.facebook.com/voualans)

## HISTORY



Legend has it that the *bisse* was constructed by the Saracens (the name used in mediaeval Europe for Muslims) who are said to have penetrated the alpine valleys in the 10th century, and to whom the people of the Valais supposedly owed their knowhow in matters of irrigation.

Information: [www.sarrasins.ch](http://www.sarrasins.ch)

Did the Saracens really construct this irrigation channel that bears their name? It's a complete mystery! However, the traces that remain along the Bisse des Sarrasins path do reveal the probable existence of an old *bisse* 10 km long, from Pinsec to the Briey plateau, which took its water from the stream at Pinsec. Nowadays, it is thought that the *bisse* was constructed

in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Bisse des Sarrasins path now runs from Pinsec to Vercorin, with a central branch leading to Fang.

The *bisse* had been disused for many years when the *Association du Bisse des Sarrasins* began working on it in 2004, restoring its route and creating the footpath.