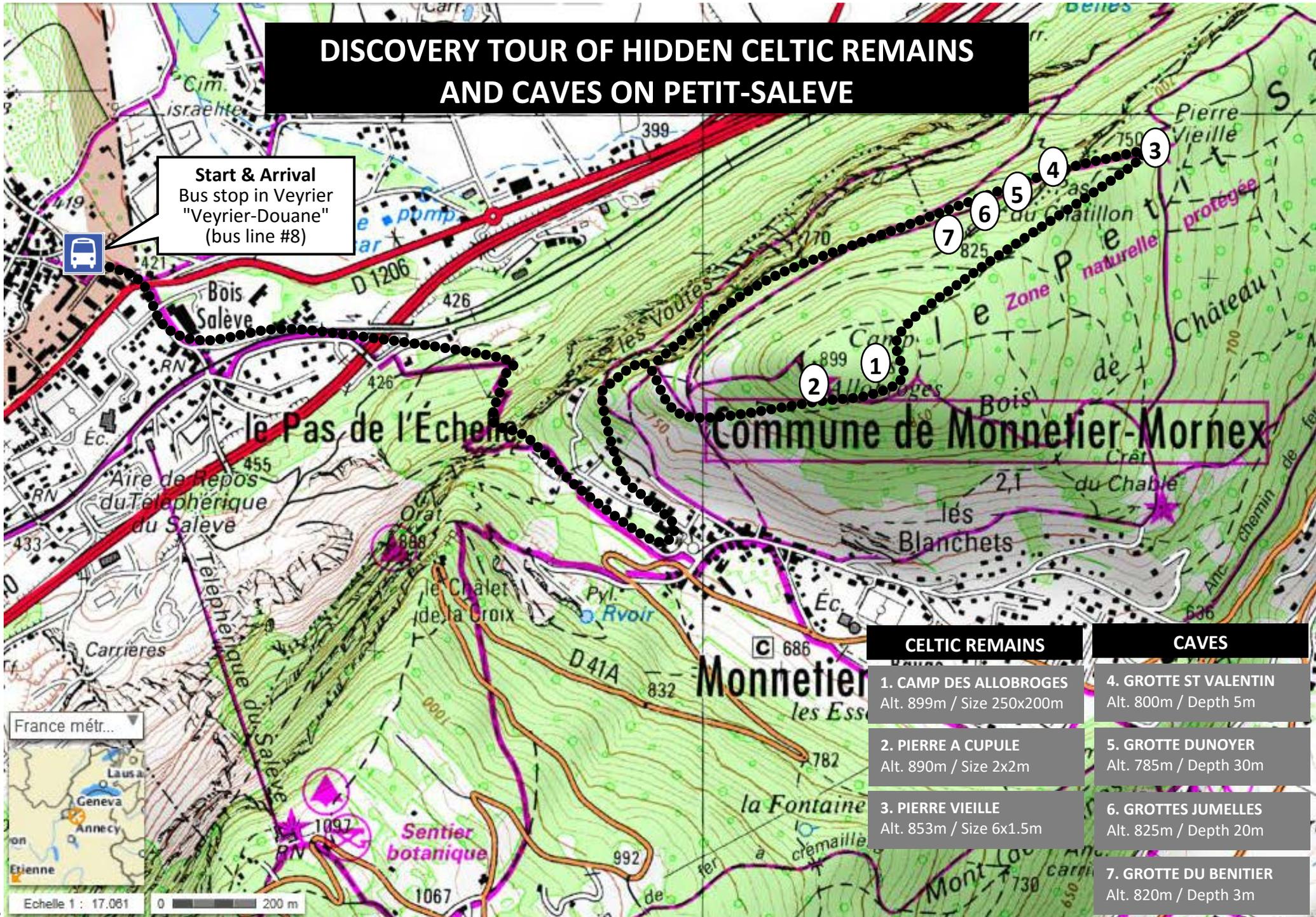


DISCOVERY TOUR OF HIDDEN CELTIC REMAINS AND CAVES ON PETIT-SALEVE

Start & Arrival
Bus stop in Veyrier
"Veyrier-Douane"
(bus line #8)



CELTIC REMAINS

1. CAMP DES ALLOBROGES
Alt. 899m / Size 250x200m
2. PIERRE A CUPULE
Alt. 890m / Size 2x2m
3. PIERRE VIEILLE
Alt. 853m / Size 6x1.5m

CAVES

4. GROTTES ST VALENTIN
Alt. 800m / Depth 5m
5. GROTTES DUNOYER
Alt. 785m / Depth 30m
6. GROTTES JUMELLES
Alt. 825m / Depth 20m
7. GROTTES DU BENITIER
Alt. 820m / Depth 3m

France métr...



Echelle 1 : 17.081 0 200 m

CELTIC REMAINS

1. Camp des Allobroges

At the top of Le Petit Salève, you can still see the remaining banks of a fortified Allobrogian camp dating back to between the 5th and 1st centuries BC. The Allobrogiens were a Celtic population part of the Gauls who settled in the area that later became Savoy.

This 3-hectars settlement is partially surrounded by natural cliffs and was made more effective by the "ramparts" formed by banks of earth and stones supporting high wooden fences. In the 1st century BC, the Romans took over the camp and turned it into an oppidum (a major settlement with fortified walls) that was a lot more modest than its Geneva counterpart. The strategic location overlooks the Léman Basin and key thoroughfares including the Roman bridge over the Arve in Etrembières and the roads on either side of Le Salève and on the ridge.



2. Pierre à cupule

At the southern limit of the Camp des Allobroges, a well stone is exposed above the cliffs in front of the Grand Salève. Well stones were very frequent in that period, and were used by Celtic druids as places for religious worship.



3. Pierre Vieille

At about 500m North-East from the Camp des Allobroges some recumbent megalithic granitic stones can be found in the forest. Those stones were carried by the former glacier covering the top of Salève 20'000 years ago. It is believed that they might have been used as dolmens or menhirs by local Celtic druids for religious worship.



CAVES

4. Grotte St. Valentin

This is a 10x5m, 5m high shelter excavated into a karstic rocky wall by tectonic movements. The access is difficult, requiring to climb up a steep and slippery terrain in the woods, off trails.



5. Grotte Dunoyer

This cave is also called "Grotte des Renardes" (foxes) or "Grotte Infernale". It is located in the continuation of the same vertical rocky wall as the Grotte St. Valentin, less than 50m away. It develops inside the mountain for about 30m in complicated meanders. It is possible to walk standing inside the narrow tunnel which is about 1m wide and 3m high.



6. Grottes Jumelles

Those two twin caves are in the continuation of the vertical rocky wall of the preceding caves, less than 100m away from the Grotte Dunoyer. There are two separate entrances, but only the right one can be explored.



7. Grotte du Bénitier

This is the last cave, which is also on the same rocky wall as the previous ones. It is a small cavity which has the shape of a stoup (bénitier), measuring about 3m depth. Exploration is possible only crawling on the ground.

