

DIRECTOR'S ORDER No. 2026-54 "SAILPLANES"
OF 10 JULY 2026
**REGULATING THE OVERFLIGHT OF THE HEART¹ OF THE
VANOISE NATIONAL PARK BY NON-POWERED AIRCRAFT**

The Director of the Vanoise National Park Authority,

Having regard to:

- the Environmental Code, in particular Articles L.331-1 to L.331-28 and R.331-1 to R.331-85 relating to National Parks;
- Decree No. 2009-447 of 21 April 2009 adapting the boundaries and regulatory framework of the Vanoise National Park to the provisions of the Environmental Code introduced by Act No. 2006-436 of 14 April 2006, in particular paragraph 3 of Article 15 concerning overflight of the Heart of the National Park by non-powered aircraft at an altitude of less than 1,000 metres above ground level;
- Decree No. 2015-473 of 27 April 2015 approving the Charter of the Vanoise National Park;
- the Charter of the Vanoise National Park, in particular the provisions governing Special Regulation No. 33 relating to overflight and Special Regulation No. 36 relating to public events;
- the Ministerial Order of 26 October 2021 appointing Mr Xavier Eudes as Director of the Vanoise National Park Authority;
- the Director's Order of 29 June 2015 governing public events, including sporting competitions, within the Vanoise National Park;
- the Director's Order "Paragliders" of 5 June 2026, regulating the overflight of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park by non-powered aircraft;
- the partially favourable opinion delivered by the Scientific Council of the Vanoise National Park on 20 March 2026;

Whereas low-level overflight by non-powered aircraft, or flight in close proximity to cliff faces, is liable to disturb wildlife and domestic livestock;

Whereas such disturbance may frighten and stress wild and domestic animals, resulting in reduced resistance to disease and parasites, loss of energy, injury, falls, dispersal of herds or flocks, separation of young ibex from nursing females, nesting failure, and ultimately mortality;

Whereas it is necessary to preserve the character and integrity of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park;

¹ Translator's note : Vanoise National Park comprises two legally distinct areas: the cœur (translated in this document as "heart"), which is subject to the Park's special protective regulations, and the surrounding *aire d'adhésion*, comprising the areas that have adopted the Vanoise National Park Charter and are subject to a different legal regime. This Order applies only to the cœur of Vanoise National Park.

HEREBY ORDERS:

Article 1 : Repeal of the Director's Order of 9 July 2015

The Director's Order of 9 July 2015 governing the overflight of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park by non-powered aircraft is hereby repealed.

Article 2 : Purpose of this Order

Sailplanes are authorised to overfly the Heart of the Vanoise National Park at an altitude of less than one thousand metres above ground level under the conditions set out in this Order.

The overflight of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park by paragliders and hang-gliders below one thousand metres above ground level is governed by the above-mentioned order of 5 June 2026.

The overflight of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park below one thousand metres above ground level by any other category of non-powered aircraft, other than sailplanes, hang-gliders or paragliders, is prohibited.

Article 3 : Thermalling Areas

The overflight of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park by sailplanes below 1,000 metres AGL (*above ground level*) is authorised within certain designated Thermalling Areas in order to facilitate cross-country soaring flights, subject to the following conditions:

- Thermalling Area P2 known as Le Grand Roc Noir: from 15 May to 31 October;
- Thermalling Area P3 known La Pointe des Arses: from 1 August to 31 October;
- Thermalling Area P4 known as Rhêmes-Calabre: from 1 August to 31 October.

The boundaries of these Thermalling Areas are shown on the map annexed to this Order.

Within these areas, sailplanes may thermal in order to gain sufficient altitude to continue cross-country flight, provided that the transit corridors and minimum overflight altitudes prescribed below are complied with. The early opening of Thermalling Area P2 enables sailplanes to regain sufficient altitude before continuing along the left bank of the Maurienne Valley, outside the Heart of the National Park, or alternatively to reverse course and descend the Maurienne Valley, likewise remaining on the left bank and outside the Heart of the Park.

Article 4 : Transit Corridors

Overflight of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park by sailplanes below 1,000 metres AGL (*above ground level*) is authorised within designated Transit Corridors for the purpose of cross-country soaring, subject to the following conditions:

- Location and Open Periods :
 - o Transit Corridor C1 (Col de Rhêmes-Calabre ↔ Signal de l'Iseran): from 1 August to 31 October;
 - o Transit Corridor C2 (Signal de l'Iseran ↔ Pointe des Arses): from 1 August to 31 October;
 - o Transit Corridor C3 (Grand Roc Noir Ridge ↔ Pointe de la Met): from 1 August to 31 October.
- Corridor Width : one kilometre. Transit Corridor C3 follows the crest line between Grand Roc Noir and Pointe de la Met. Its width is distributed asymmetrically about the main ridgeline, comprising 800 metres on the southern facing slope (*adret*) and 200 metres on the northern facing slope (*ubac*).
- Minimum Altitude in the corridors: 3,400 metres AMSL (*above mean sea level*).
- Thermalling within the Transit Corridors is prohibited.
- Each Transit Corridor may be used once per day in the South-to-North direction and once per day in the North-to-South direction.
- Before entering a Transit Corridor, sailplane pilots shall have attained sufficient altitude to cross the corridor whilst complying with the above-mentioned requirements.
- In the event of an emergency a safety deviation towards Val d'Isère is authorised for Corridor C1 a safety deviation towards the Maurienne Valley is authorised for Corridors C2 and C3.

Article 5 : Emergency Escape Corridor

Overflight of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park by sailplanes below 1,000 metres AGL (*above ground level*) is authorised within the Emergency Escape Corridor D1, known as the *Col d'Aussois*, subject to the following cumulative conditions:

- only in the North-to-South direction (from the Tarentaise Valley towards the Maurienne Valley);
- only between 15 May and 31 October;
- only when the date or meteorological conditions do not permit the massif to be bypassed to the east (via the Transit Corridors, which are open only from 1 August to 31 October, *cf. supra*);
- only when meteorological conditions also prevent bypassing the National Park to the west, in particular via the Col des Encombres;
- pilots shall not attempt to regain altitude by thermalling whilst using the corridor;
- pilots shall notify the Vanoise National Park of their use of the Emergency Escape Corridor within 48 hours, providing all information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the foregoing conditions. Such notification shall be submitted by email to: accueil@vanoise-parcnational.fr

The boundaries of the Emergency Escape Corridor are shown in the cartographic annex to this Order.

Article 6 : Competitions and Sporting Events

Competitive and non-competitive sporting events involving sailplanes are prohibited within the Heart of the Vanoise National Park below 1,000 metres AGL (*above ground level*).

Article 7 : Duration

The provisions of this Order shall apply from the date of its publication until 31 December 2028. The Order shall be reviewed no later than the expiry of that period in light of the monitoring results obtained by the Vanoise National Park and organisations representing soaring pilots, in particular the Fédération française de Vol en Planeur (FFVP).

Article 8 : Enforcement and Penalties

Enforcement of this Order shall be carried out by the officers designated under Articles L.331-18 and L.331-20 of the Environmental Code.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Order may be recorded by duly commissioned and sworn enforcement officers empowered to prosecute the offences provided for in Article R.331-63 (disturbance of the tranquility of protected areas - second-class offence); Article R.331-65 (intentional disturbance of wildlife - fourth-class offence); and, in particular, Article R.331-68 (unlawful overflight of the Heart of a National Park - fifth-class offence).

In particular, failure to comply with the obligation to declare use of the Emergency Escape Corridor D1 within 48 hours constitutes a fifth-class offence.

Article 9 : Publication

The Director of the Vanoise National Park Authority shall be responsible for implementing this Order. The Order shall be published in the Register of Administrative Acts of the Vanoise National Park Authority and shall be subject to the additional publication requirements prescribed by Article R.331-35 of the Environmental Code.

Article 10 : Appeals

This Order may be challenged within two months of its publication by:

- filing an administrative appeal with the issuing authority. Failure to respond within two months shall constitute an implied decision rejecting the appeal, which may itself be challenged before the Administrative Court of Grenoble; or
- filing an application for judicial review before the Administrative Court of Grenoble, either by post or electronically via the application “*Télérecours*.”

Issued in Chambéry, on 10 July 2026.

The Director
Xavier ELUE

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DE LA VANOISE**
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Regulation of Overflight of the Heart of the Vanoise National Park by non-powered aircraft

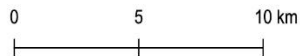
- Thermalling allowed
- Thermalling prohibited
- Authorized escape route

- Transit Corridor
- Thermalling Area
- Emergency corridor D1

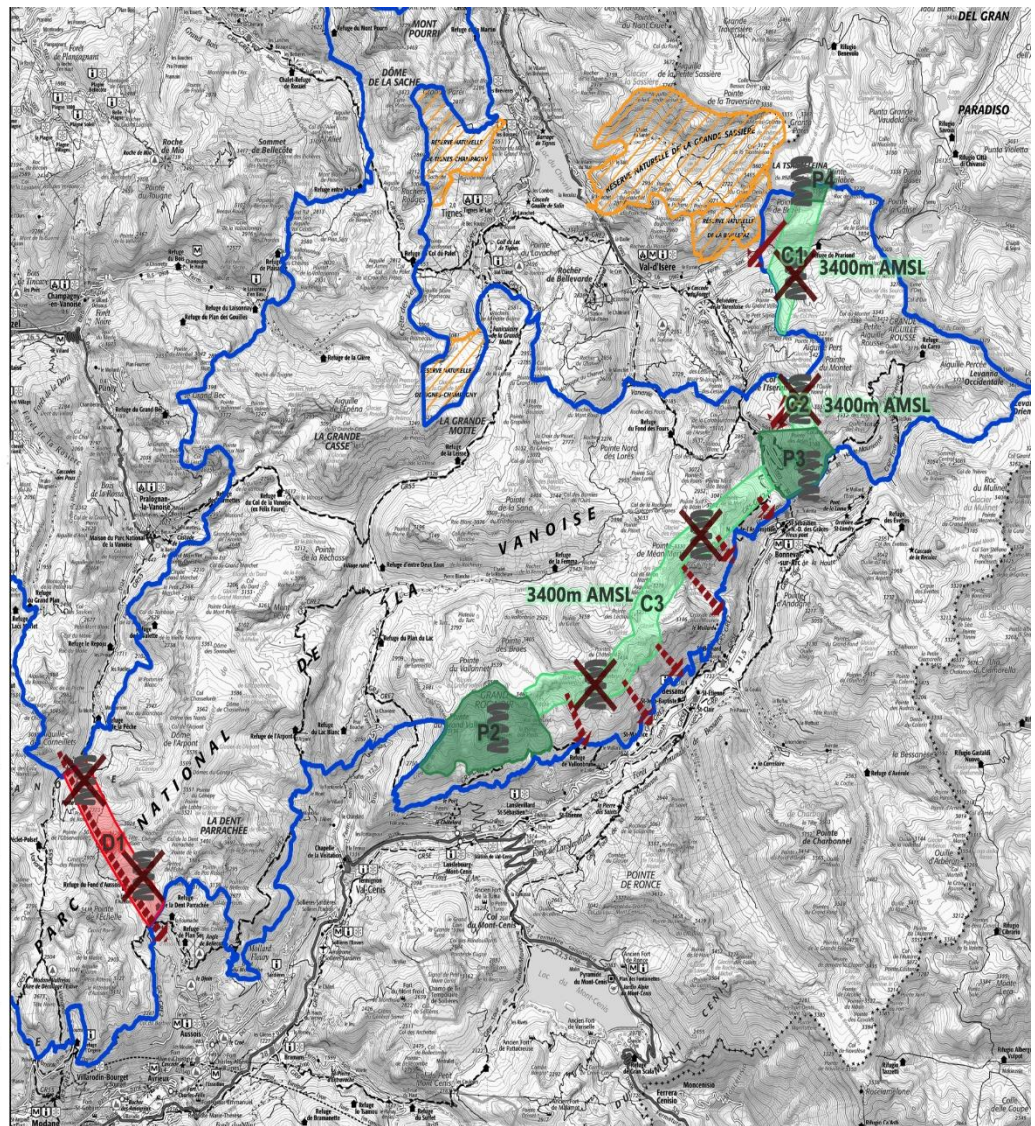
- for safety only
- for N-S transit only
- from 15 May to 31 October only
- subject to declaration w/i 48 hours

- Heart of the Vanoise
- Nature Reserve

C1	Col de Rhêmes-Calabre ↔ Signal de l'Iseran 1 August to 31 October
C2	Signal de l'Iseran ↔ Pointe des Arses 1 August to 31 October
C3	Crête Grand Roc Noir ↔ Pointe de la Met 1 August to 31 October
P2	Grand Roc Noir 15 May to 31 October
P3	Pointe des Arses 1 August to 31 October
P4	Rhêmes-Calabre 1 August to 31 October



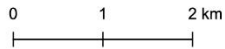
Source: Parc national de la Vanoise, 10/07/2026



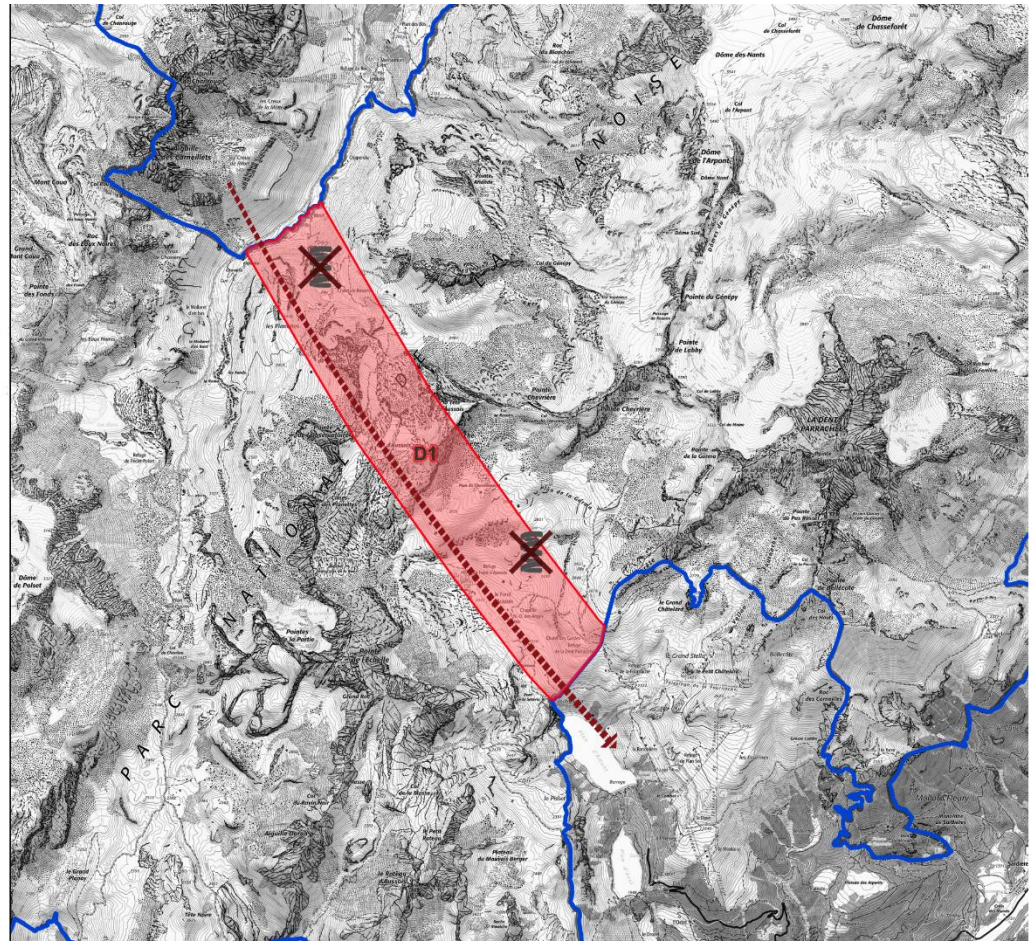


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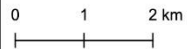




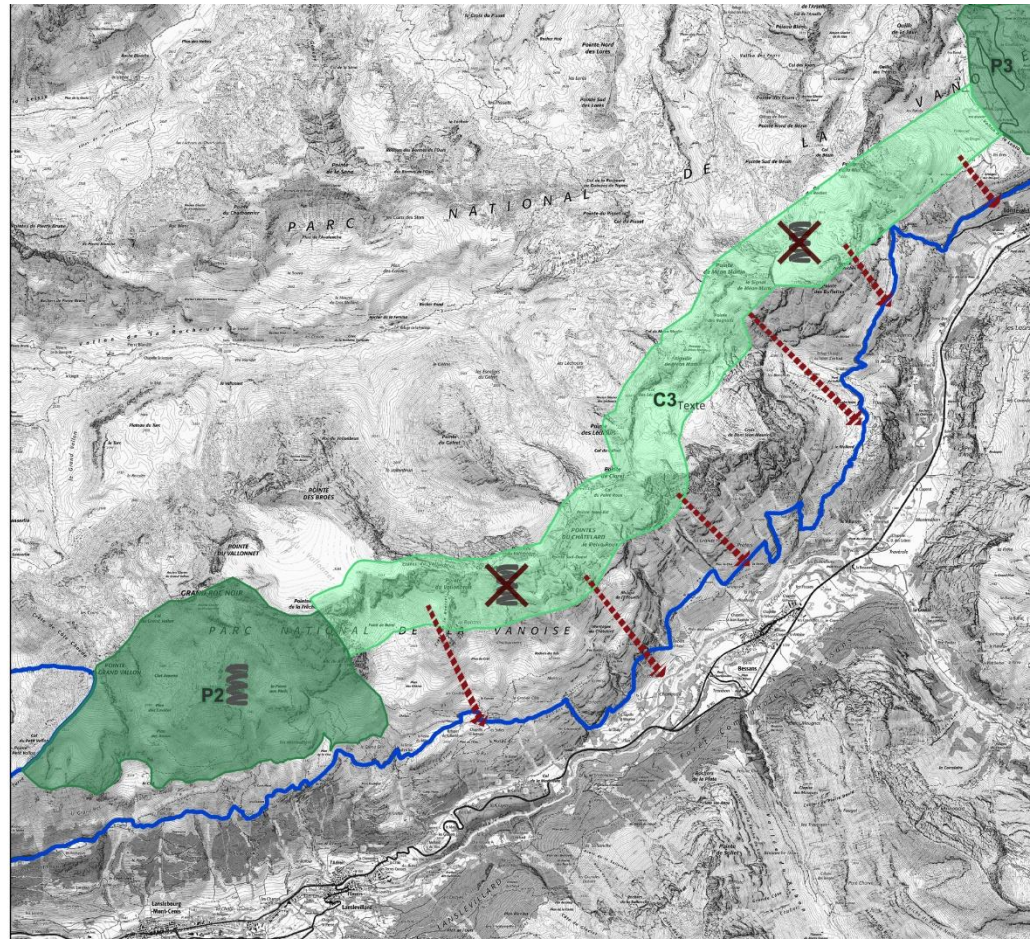
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P2	Grand Roc Noir 15 May to 31 October



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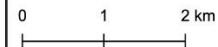
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Source: Parc national de la Vanoise. 10/07/2026

