



Length: 3,50m
 Pathway's width: 3,15m
 Maximum height: 4m
 ◀ Reconstituted image

A molding is located on the upper part.
 Historians more or less agree on this monument roman origins, but what was its use? Was it a toll? A protection? A commemorative place?

ROMANS IN OISANS: 50 BC – 450 AD AMERICANS IN OISANS: JULY 3RD 2014

"LE CAMP DES FORÇATS" IN THE COL OF CLUY

- It is a slightly fortified place, like the others built by the Roman on several strategic points (cols, rivers...) in order to be protected against the barbarians' invasions starting at the third century AD.
- Measurement: It is a rectangle of length 300 m and width 100 m. It is surrounded by a dry stone wall 90 cm high and 60 cm across. This wall is built on an embankment 50 cm high and 2 meters across (this bank comes from the ditch's creation outside of the wall).
- Such camp could shelter permanently few cohorts, allowing them to delay an external army movement.



ROMAN EMPIRE

According to the legend, Rome's foundation took place in around 753 BC. After Italy's conquest in the 4th century BC, the expansion continued with the greek cities' annexation in the 3rd century BC. In 146 BC, Rome's victory on Carthage enabled the city to stretch around the Mediterranean Sea, from Spain to Africa and Asia. Then, during two centuries (from 100 BC to 100 AD), great generals (Sulla, Pompey, Caesar) and conqueror Emperors (Augustus, Tiberius, Claudius, Vespasian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius) built this huge Empire from Atlantica to Persia.



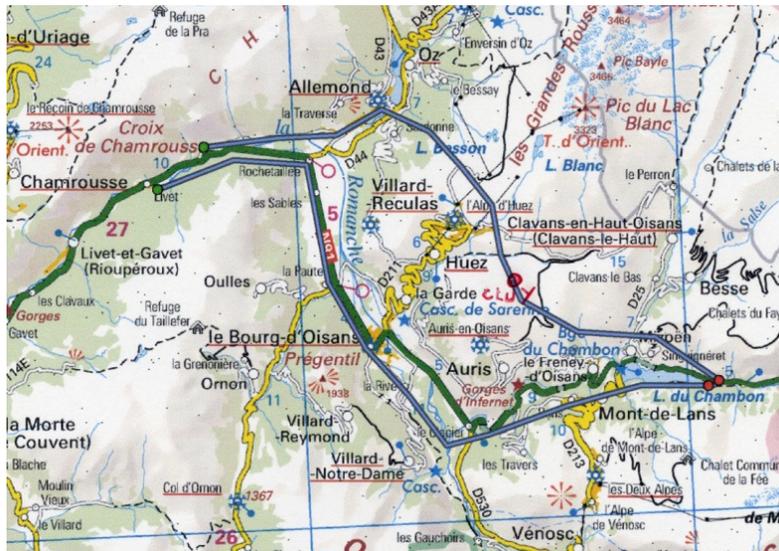
ROMANS IN OISANS

The first Romans' incursion throughout western Alps took place in 121 BC (by consul Fabius) – he probably came through the Mont-Genève and Gap in order to rescue Marseille. In 77 BC Pompey cross the eastern Alps with six legions to repress an insurrection in Spain. Julius Caesar, during Gaul's conquest (from 58 to 50 BC) was the first one to take the path through Oisans. It's not yet the roman way, but merely a fitted out path. Oisans peoples' pacification (Ucceni) was made under Emperor Augustus's reign. In 10 BC, one of his adoptive sons ended those hostile valleys' conquest and the roman way of Oisans, as well as the architectural works that we will see tomorrow.

ROMAN WAY OF OISANS

It links Milano, Torino, Susa in Italy with Grenoble, Vienne, Lyon in Gaul.

- At the exit of Susa this way heads towards the col of Mont-Genèvre, Briançon, Monestier, col of Lautaret, Villard d'Arènes, La Grave, Mizoën, Mont de Lans, Le Bourg d'Oisans, Gavet, Grenoble, Moirans, Vienne and Lyon.
- It is a tough path, very dangerous that needs to be maintained. The area between Mizoën and Rochetaillée is probably the hardest. It is in this area that, tomorrow, we will see both of those incredible works.
- Because of the decline of the Empire from the third century AD, this way has been less looked after and an easier but longer and more sloping way has been made and may pass by the col of Cluy. After Villard d'Arènes, it goes in the direction of Mizoën, le Freney, the col of Cluy, the col of Poutran, Allemond and Grenoble.



To
Grenoble
Vienne
Lyon

To
Susa
Torino
Milano

THE RAISED WAY OF ROCHETAILLÉE.



At the bottom of Cornillon's mountain, some meters above the ground, the stone is carved on several hundred meters and makes a corbel that enables to go above a place that was maybe a shallow lake or maybe a swamp impossible to cross. The Romanche was not dyked and could ramble in the plains because of the lightly slope.

This track was too narrow for a chariot, but the width could have been increased by horizontal beams supported by vertical beams. The beams' anchoring are still visible in the rock.

NB: at the end of the 12th century a mudslide happened downstream (near Livet) and a much deeper lake — several ten meters — appeared during about thirty years. It extended to the Clapier. When this dam broke up in 1219, Grenoble was devastated and about a thousand people died.

BONS'S GATE

Bons is a hamlet in Mont de Lans. This "gate" is actually a vault carved in the rock and only one part still remains (we think that the other part fell down in 1770).



Current state ►