The wheel and kettle hike

Terre Valserine

Attribution : L'ancienne scierie (PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis)

From the village of Saint-Germain-de-Joux, this short hike will take you to the gorges dug out by the Semine to discover some interesting geological formations. In this natural environment where man has demonstrated his know-how in using hydropower, the river is still in power and continues its wild passage.

Useful information

Category : Laid-out site

Type : Nature spot

Themes : History & heritage, Lakes, rivers and waterfalls

Description

From the **bowling parking lot** (signpost marking the departure point for the circuit) a stony trail (*yellow waymarking*) heads down into the forest to a bridge bordered by old buildings: the old Thévenin sawmill.
After exploring the sawmill, make a round trip to the **Giant's Kettles**.
On returning to the sawmill, continue along the road back to the village by following the **return (RETOUR) signs for the wheel and kettle hike**.
When you reach "**rue de la Gare**", walk up the road to head back to the **bowling parking lot**.
During this short trip, five interpretive signs provide explanations on this natural environment and on man's hydraulic additions:
• The old Thévenin sawmill
• The concrete penstock
• The Wheel's features
• The Giant's Kettles
• Log arrivals

Geographical location

02/22/2025 • The wheel and kettle hike •

All useful information

Practical info

Recommendations: During rainy weather, the trail down to the Semine may be slippery, we strongly advise against climbing onto the rocks.

Road access: 10km away at the crossroads between Nantua, Oyonnax and Bellegarde, Saint-Germain-de-Joux is accessible via the A40, the D 1084 and the D 55.

Suggested parking: bowling parking lot, or parking areas around the church

Departure point: the bowling parking lot, rue de la Gare.

Contact

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