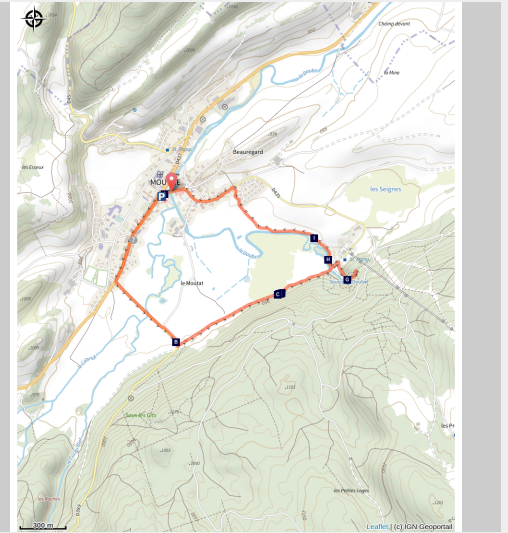


# From Mouthe to the Doubs' source

Lacs et montagnes du Haut Doubs - Mouthe



Source du Doubs (PNRHJ) / Nina Verjus)

*Nestled at the heart of a large valley flanked by the Doubs' first meanderings, Mouthe invites you on a stroll to discover its treasures and its history.*  
Itinéraire officiel - [réseau Geotrek du Parc naturel régional du Haut-Jura](#)

## Useful information

Practice : Nature trail

Duration : 2 h

Length : 4.7 km

Trek ascent : 60 m

Difficulty : Easy




Type : Circular

Themes : Fauna - Flora, History & heritage

# Trek

Departure : Mouthe

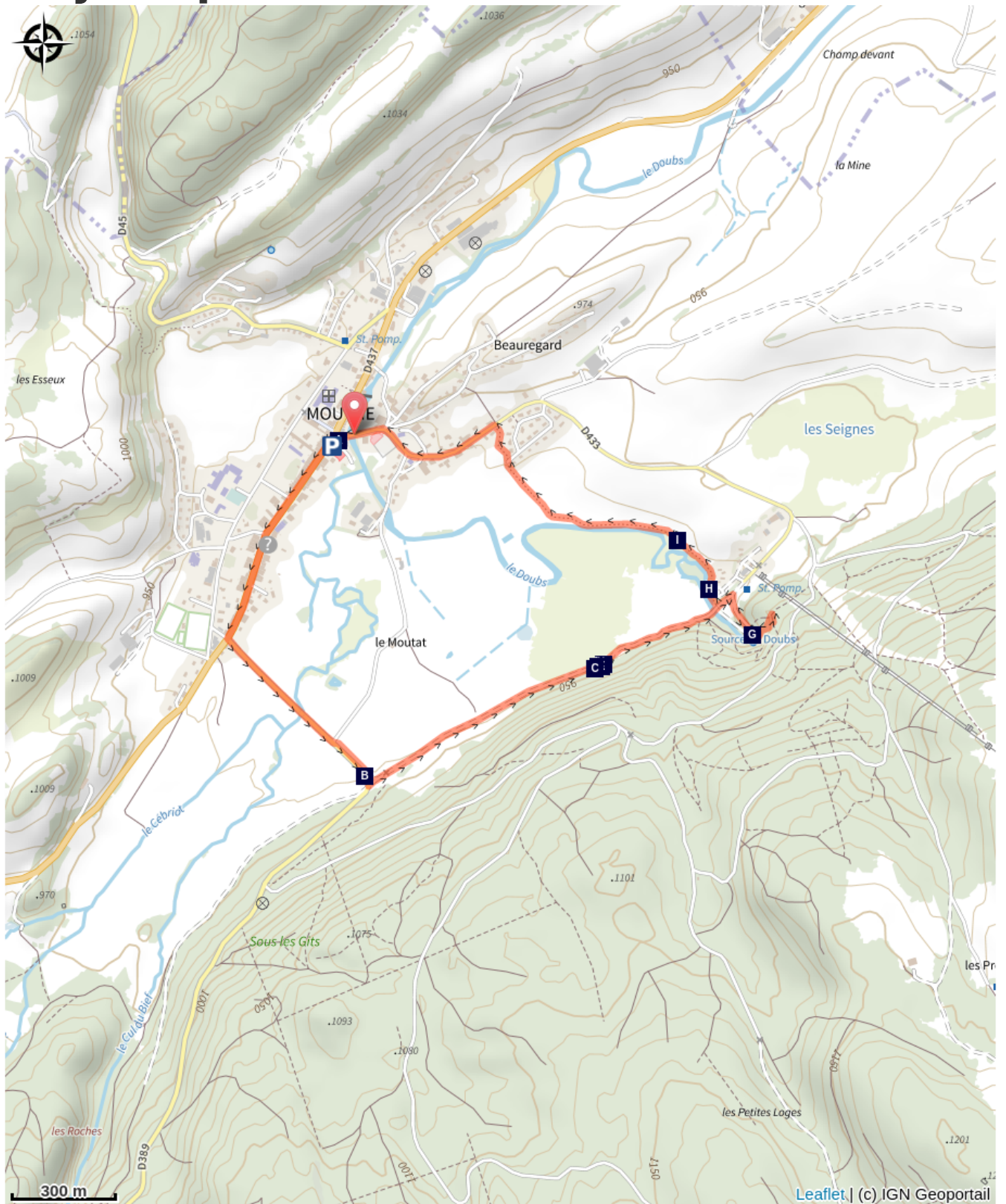
Arrival : Mouthe

Markings :  GR® (Long distance)  GTJ Pédestre (Jura cross-country hiking route)  PR® (Walking & hiking trail)

From the town hall, this circuit leads you step-by-step from the village's origins to its life today, with stops at the source of the Doubs and the Moutat peat bog, two of this area's jewels. A fold-out, available at the Tourist Office, provides details of the trail, punctuated by ten interpretive signs:

- Slice of history
- From Saint Simon to today
- The juvenile Doubs
- The two clowns of the source
- The Doubs' mysterious source
- At its centre runs a river ...
- Here once stood a mill
- An ice girl
- A cold that rhymes with pleasure
- Life in the village

# On your path...



Mouthe Town Hall (A)  
Exploitation of the peat by Man (C)  
The moorland clouded yellow,  
inseparable from its peat bogs (E)  
The source of the Doubs (G)  
The grey wagtail (I)

The Transjurassienne (B)  
Peat moss (D)  
The Moutat peat bog (F)  
  
The Dipper (H)

# All useful information

## **AdVICES**

Bask in the Moutat peat bog's mysterious atmosphere from the safety of the boardwalk.

This trail passes through private property pastures with livestock and forest paths. To respect the owners and farmers granting you passage, and for the security of livestock and wild fauna, we ask that you remain on the waymarked paths. Use the adapted passageways to get across fencing and be sure to close gateways behind you. Please keep your dog on a lead if you have one.

Wild flowers are beautiful, they may be rare and protected and often wilt quickly. Do not pick them! They will delight the next hikers.

In case of forest works (felling, skidding, etc.), for your safety, know when to stop and turn around.

## **Environmental sensitive areas**

Au cours de votre itinéraire, vous allez traverser des zones sensibles en rapport avec la présence d'une espèce ou d'un environnement spécifique. Dans ces zones, un comportement approprié permet de contribuer à leurs préservations. Pour plus d'information, des fiches sont disponibles pour chaque zone.

### **Site RAMSAR Tourbières et lacs de la Montagne jurassienne**

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, Decembre

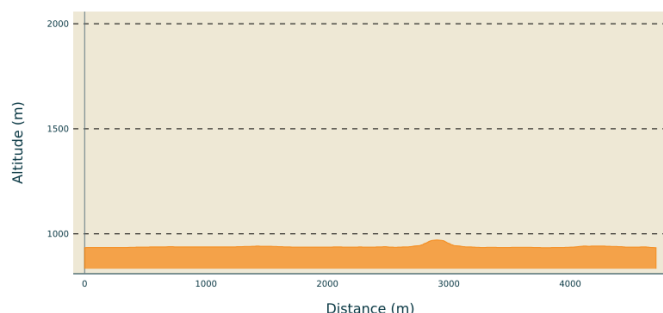
Contact: Parc naturel régional du Haut-Jura  
29 Le Village  
39310 Lajoux  
03 84 34 12 30  
[www.parc-haut-jura.fr/](http://www.parc-haut-jura.fr/)

Le site s'étend entre les villes de Pontarlier et Saint-Claude, dans le massif du Jura. Dénommé « Bassin du Dugeon » lorsqu'il fut inscrit en 2003, le site a été agrandi en 2021 pour passer de moins de 6000 hectares à plus de 12 000 ha. Il comprend maintenant de vastes tourbières emblématiques telles que celles du bassin du Dugeon, les vallées du haut Doubs et de l'Orbe et la vallée de Chapelle-des-Bois et Bellefontaine. Ses 18 lacs et 2000 ha de tourbières représentent environ 40 % de toute la zone tourbeuse du massif du Jura. Le substrat calcaire favorise la juxtaposition de tourbières alcalines et acides, ce qui, dans ces dimensions, est unique en France. Le site offre de nombreux habitats importants pour une diversité d'espèces protégées au niveau national ou international, des plantes et champignons aux libellules, papillons, poissons, oiseaux, amphibiens et reptiles. Les deux tiers de la population nationale de bécassines des marais (*Gallinago gallinago*) y nichent et le



site est aussi une frayère importante pour le grand brochet (*Esox lucius*), le lavaret (*Coregonus lavaretus*), la truite lacustre (*Salmo trutta*) et l'écrevisse à pattes blanches (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). Les habitats tourbeux ont été, autrefois, profondément modifiés par l'exploitation de la tourbe, le développement forestier et les activités agricoles mais des mesures de restauration des tourbières ont été appliquées avec succès. Cependant, le site est encore très sensible aux sécheresses et à la pollution provenant des terres agricoles environnantes.

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 934 m  
Max elevation 971 m

## Transports

To visit and get about in the High-Jura, visit [www.reshaut-jura.fr](http://www.reshaut-jura.fr), the eco-mobility portal listing all means of transport within the Park.

## Access

28 km north of Saint-Laurent-en-Grandvaux via the D 437 through Foncine-le-Haut, and 30 km from Pontarlier via the N 57, followed by the D 437 through Labergement-Saint-Marie.

## Advised parking

In front of the Town Hall, or on the main road

## Information desks

Tourist information centre - Val de Mouthe  
3 bis rue de la Varée, 25240 Mouthe  
Tel : +33 (0)3 81 69 22 78  
<https://www.destination-haut-doubs.com/>



# On your path...

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## Mouthe Town Hall (A)

This building dated 1849, designed in the style of a Renaissance chateau under the reign of Louis Philippe, is flanked by four polygonal towers. The towers were originally covered in wood shingles which were replaced with zinc. The Mouthe town hall is registered on the complementary inventory of Historical Monuments since 21 June 1990.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Véronique K. Simon

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## The Transjurassienne (B)

In Mouthe, 4,500 participants cross the finishing line to this race that has become the largest popular French Nordic ski event. Created in 1979, this race pits competitors against each other in various events, in classical styles and in skating, and passes through the *départements* of the Jura and of the Doubs.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Florian Marguet

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## Exploitation of the peat by Man (C)

During the 18th century, with dwindling wood resources, inhabitants of the High-Jura turned to another less-efficient combustible: the peat. Once dried, it burns slowly with a characteristic pungent smell. Its extraction was carried out in spring, and then the bricks were piled into “lanterns” throughout the summer. Finally, they were stored in barns to dry before being used. Save for rare exceptions, in the High-Jura, this combustible ceased being exploited in the 1950s. The mounds that can be seen from the adapted platform are traces of this peat bog's past exploitation.

Attribution : Collection Pierre Perrier



## Peat moss (D)

This moss grows on soil engorged with water, where “food” is limited. Like a sponge, this moss is able to store up to 30 times its weight in water. They grow from their upper extremity and die at the base. By releasing acidic compounds, they limit competition amongst other plants and prevent the development of organisms that contribute towards deteriorating organic matter. The older layers of peat moss do not rot, or they do so very little: their accumulation produces peat at a rate of 3 to 5 cm per century.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Marion Brunel

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## The moorland clouded yellow, inseparable from its peat bogs (E)

The moorland clouded yellow lives near peat bogs, where the bog bilberry grows, its host plant. It deposits its eggs onto its leaves, which also serve to feed the caterpillar. It is as a caterpillar that the moorland clouded yellow spends its winter, before turning into a chrysalis in the spring and being born into this beautiful yellow butterfly. In June and July, the adult butterfly gathers pollen in the surrounding wetlands, fluttering from flower to flower.

Attribution : Wolfgang Wagner

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## The Moutat peat bog (F)

A wooden boardwalk allows visitors to enter the peat bog’s environment without deteriorating it. The peat is a result of the slow accumulation of plants that do not deteriorate due to the permanent humidity of the site. This peat is a large stock of trapped carbon. Did you know that a drying peat bog a size of a football field releases as much CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere as a family car travelling 145,000 km, i.e. 3.5 times around the Earth.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Pierre Levisse

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## The source of the Doubs (G)

Springing from a 55-meter-deep siphon, the waters exit a deep cavity which has only been partially explored up until now. Galleries are fed by the water falling onto the Risol massif and infiltrating into the limestone cracks. The temperature of the water on exiting the cavity is never more than 6 degrees. From its source to the Saone into which it runs, the Doubs travels a distance of 458 km, when both points are only separated by 90 km as the crow flies!

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## The Dipper (H)

A typical host of rapid rivers and stony bed torrents, the dipper, also called the “water blackbird”, is easily recognisable from the white patch on its breast that contrasts with the rest of its reddish-brown body. The male and female have similar plumage. This short-tailed aquatic passerine is both tall and stocky. Of a nervous disposition, you may see it on a rock along the banks, continually dipping on its “springy” legs.

Attribution : Fabrice Croset

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## The grey wagtail (I)

The grey wagtail is very dependent on water. It loves running waters, where it finds most of its food: insects, both aquatic and other, larvae, etc., that it finds on the ground or on the waterside. You will often find it on a rock near the source. It is an elegant-looking bird, with a long tail and pink-coloured feet.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Claude Nardin