

# The Mont d'Or and its chalets

Lacs et montagnes du Haut Doubs - Rochejean



Falaises du Mont d'Or (PNRHJ / Jean-Philippe Macchioni)

*A route to the Mont d'or summit and its panoramic views that will take your breath away, through pastures punctuated by many mountain chalets and Haut-Doubs farms.*

Reaching 1,463 meters in altitude, the Mont d'Or is the roof of the Doubs. From its summit, the entire Alpine region unfurls; from the emblematic Mont Blanc to the summits of Swiss Valais, a breath-taking panorama awaits. Keep your eyes peeled, treasure can also be found at your feet; a site recognised for many reasons (Natura 2000, Sensitive Natural Area, Biotope Limestone Cornice Protection Order), the Mont d'Or is teeming with exceptional floral diversity.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 3 h 45

Length : 13.4 km

Trek ascent : 478 m

Difficulty : Difficult




Type : Circular

Themes : Fauna – Flora,  
Landscapes, Pastoralism and  
agriculture

# Trek

Departure : Les Granges Raguin near Rochejean

Arrival : Les Granges Raguin near Rochejean

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

From **LES GRANGES RAGUIN** (*white and red waymarking*), the trail follows the road towards the Mont d'Or over a short distance, before branching off to the left through a small clearing to take a forest path. A trail marked out in the pasture will bring you to **LA BOISSAUDE**. Still ascending in the same direction, through an open area scattered with mountain chalets, the trail cuts across "route de la Coquille" before joining the Mont d'Or access road and **the Pastures of la Grangette**.

After crossing the **Mont d'Or parking lot**, the trail (*yellow and blue waymarking*) opens out onto the **MONT D'OR CLIFFS**, with a first summit at 1,461 m, before following the ridge southwards to the Mont d'Or at 1,463 m.

Following along the panoramic ridge, the trail meets the Franco-Swiss border near the **Mont d'Or cabin** and runs along the right of the border wall to pass by the Gym cabin. At marker 72, the circuit branches off to the right into the combe (grassy path in the pasture), and joins up with the road to the Grande Échelle chalet. The road descends towards la Petite Échelle (gîte stopover and discovery farm), and then ascends to the right along the edge of the forest.

The trail takes a forest path to the left, before crossing the combe. It meanders through a forest section and opens onto "route du Haut Soulier". After 500 m on a gravel path, the circuit branches off to the right on a stone path through a wooded area and meets up with "**Chemin de Corneau**" and (*white and red waymarking*) the parking lot where you started in **LES GRANGES RAGUIN**.

# On your path...



The alpine pasture (A)

The Stemless Gentian (C)

The Peregrine Falcon (E)

Water in the summer (G)

Woodlands and "spinning top"  
spruces (B)

The treasures of the Mont d'Or  
ridge (D)

Viewpoint from the Mont d'Or  
summit (F)



# All useful information

## **Advices**

Take care along the cliffs of the Mont d'Or ridge.

This trail passes through pastures with livestock, follows trails along the summit ridge on fragile ground and makes use of forest paths. To respect the owners and farmers granting you passage, and for the security of livestock and wild fauna, and to limit erosion on the trails, 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. Lastly, 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.

### **Western capercaillie**

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, May, June, 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)

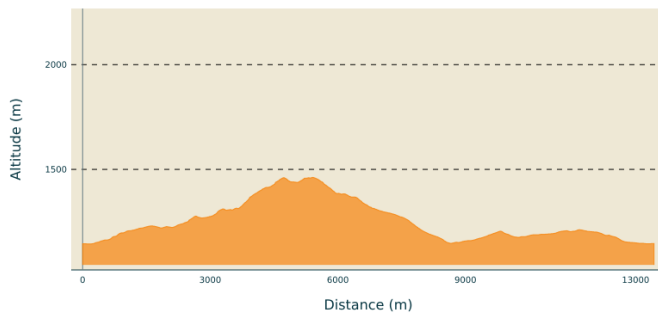
Le Grand Tétrás est une espèce emblématique des forêts de montagnes françaises. Son apparence et son comportement font de lui un oiseau très atypique. Pouvoir l'observer relève d'un vrai défi, tant cet oiseau est discret, mais s'avère être un souvenir mémorable.

En hiver, son activité est réduite au minimum. Il passe la quasi-totalité de la journée perché dans un arbre et consomme uniquement des aiguilles de sapin. Une nourriture très peu énergétique. Cette période est critique pour sa survie. Un oiseau subissant un dérangement régulier va puiser dans ses maigres réserves et finir par en subir les conséquences. Sa sensibilité à la prédation aura augmenté, ou bien il dépérira simplement à cause du manque d'énergie. Une autre période critique prend place du printemps au début de l'été avec la couvaison. Si la poule est surprise plusieurs fois,

elle va abandonner le nid et laisser ses poussins seuls, sans protection. La survie des jeunes étant déjà très faible naturellement, ce phénomène accentue, d'autant plus, ce risque de mortalité chez les jeunes oiseaux.

Les pratiques qui peuvent avoir une interaction avec le Grand tétras en période de nidification sont principalement les pratiques sportives terrestres comme la randonnée, le ski, le VTT.

### Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1144 m  
Max elevation 1462 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

5 km south of Rochejean via the road to access the Mont d'Or and departing from the cross-country ski slopes.

### Advised parking

Les Granges Raguin parking lot

### Information desks

Tourist information centre - Métabief  
6 place Xavier Authier, F-25370  
Métabief  
Tel : +33 (0)3 81 49 13 81  
<http://www.tourisme-metabief.com/>

# On your path...

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## The alpine pasture (A)

Between the end of May and the end of September, it's the summer season. However, on this cheese-making mountain, there are almost no milking cows still in the alpine pasture. These pastures have become home mainly to heifers, young females that have not yet calved. The production of Comté and of Morbier happens "at the bottom", in the valley. And although the Mont d'Or mountain bears the name of another famous cheese, it is only during the long Jura winter, in the stables, that cows produce the milk for this specific cheese.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Gilles Prost

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## Woodlands and "spinning top" spruces (B)

In the Jura Arc, men have designed areas in which cattle farming and the exploitation of wood coexist, shaping distinctive landscapes and particular biodiversity: woodlands. A symbol of this coexistence, "spinning top" spruces owe their unique form to the teeth of livestock. To survive their grazing, the tree reacts with a thick branching, mirroring a tree shaped like a bonsai.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Marion Brunel

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## The Stemless Gentian (C)

In the pastures below the Mont d'Or, deep blue trumpet flowers draw the eye. The Stemless Gentian (or Kock's Gentian) is a species whose rarity equals its beauty. It owes its name (acaulis = "stemless") to its very short stem. It blooms quite early in the season; the months of May or June should be preferred to be lucky enough to see one. Be careful, this is a protected species in the Franche-Comté region, hikers must therefore content themselves with observing them, and must not pick them! Here, it can be found with its very similar cousin, the Clusus Gentian. To tell the difference, you will need a lot of patience.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Marion Brunel



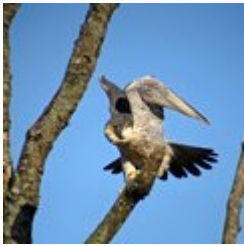
## The treasures of the Mont d'Or ridge (D)

A true “botanical garden”, the high-altitude lawns of the Mont d'Or ridge are home to exceptional floral diversity. Rare flowers, such as the *Pulsatilla alpina* or the *Nigritella* have found refuge here. As part of a rational development policy, this exceptional site has been classed a Sensitive Natural Area by the *Département* of Doubs and has also been included in the European network of protected Natura 2000 sites. These classifications aim to reconcile human activities with environmental sensitivities, thereby allowing to protect and highlight the area whilst ensuring the territory's economic viability.

To find out more, visit: [www.doubs.fr/index.php/les-espaces-naturels-sensibles](http://www.doubs.fr/index.php/les-espaces-naturels-sensibles).

Attribution : GTJ / F. Berlluchi

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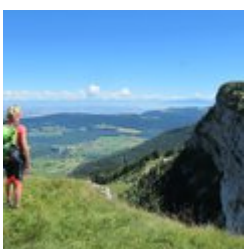


## The Peregrine Falcon (E)

This raptor is mainly avivore, i.e. the main part of its diet is comprised of birds, that it catches mid-air at dizzying lightening speeds of up to 350 km/h. From their lookout, they observe they prey and then fly to higher altitudes before launching a dive attack with “closed wings” from the bird's blind spot. The cliffs of the Mont d'Or provide the Peregrine Falcom with an ideal habitat to nest.

Attribution : Fabrice Croset

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## Viewpoint from the Mont d'Or summit (F)

With a 360° panorama, the summit of the Mont d'Or offers a magnificent point of view. To take in one of the characteristics of the Jura Massif's geomorphology, using photography, spot the two ridges “le Suchet” and “les Aiguilles de Bailmes” and the axial valley separating them. The valley is the result of hundreds of thousands of years of erosion at the summit of the same anticline.

Attribution : GTJ / Alain Perrier



## Water in the summer (G)

With water being rare in the summer period due to the karstic subsoil, made up of fissures and faults in the limestone, which it rapidly infiltrates, man has resorted to various mechanisms to retain and store it. The cover is a traditional rainwater recovery tool, particularly in Haut-Doubs summer pastures. It offers the necessary recovery area to fill underground cisterns and allows the installation of drinking spots for cattle far from chalets.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Marion Brunel