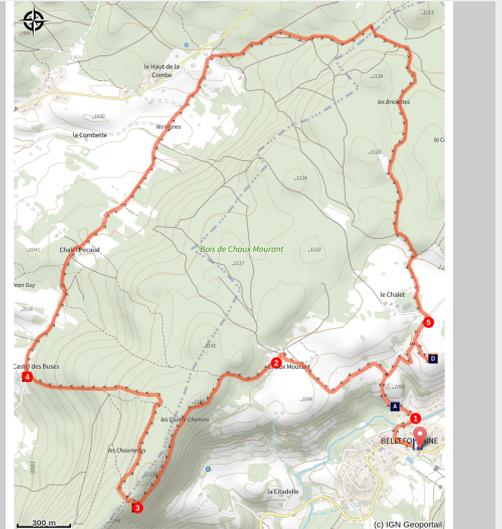


# Chaux Mourant Forest

Arcade Haut-Jura - Bellefontaine



Roche Devant (Gérard Gerbod)



*Opposite the Risoux mountain, on the sunbathed hillside of the Bellefontaine combe, stretches the Chaux Mourant forest. From the viewpoint on the Roche Devant, its rocky, dry and illuminated ridge can be fully appreciated.*

In a bucolic environment, this trail will take you on a journey through forests, combes and clearings. Along this charming mountain trail, you will walk in the footsteps of the "gabelous" before discovering the Roche Devant belvedere and its view over the vast pastures that punctuate the thick tapestry of coniferous trees.

\*"Gabelous" was the name used to refer to customs officers by smugglers who once traded with Switzerland in their own unique way.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 3 h

Length : 11.6 km

Trek ascent : 277 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Circular

Themes : Landscapes

# Trek

Departure : Bellefontaine

Arrival : Bellefontaine

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

Starting at the **TOURIST INFORMATION CHALET**, this trail follows the road (*yellow waymarking*) towards the church, turning right after the municipal hall (*white and red waymarking*) before immediately heading left on a gravel path along the cemetery and reaching the **Le Clos** signpost.

A small road ascends to the left (*yellow and red waymarking*) until it reaches **Chaux Mourant**.

Then follow "route des près" to the left until you reach the last houses. Pass between the buildings and gradually progress through the forest to reach **Chaux Mourant Forest, The Four Paths** and **ROCHE DEVANT**.

The viewpoint is approximately 10 meters to your left.

At the **ROCHE DEVANT** signpost, the path to your right (*yellow waymarking*) will lead you to **Les Chaumelles** and then head left. Follow the fall line to reach **Castel-des-Buses**.

To the right, the bordering path (meadows and plantations) will take you towards **Pré Jean-Guy**. Head past **Chalet Peccaud** and continue on until you reach a crossroads named **LES VIGNES** at the heart of the High Morbier Marsh Combe and its dispersed habitat.

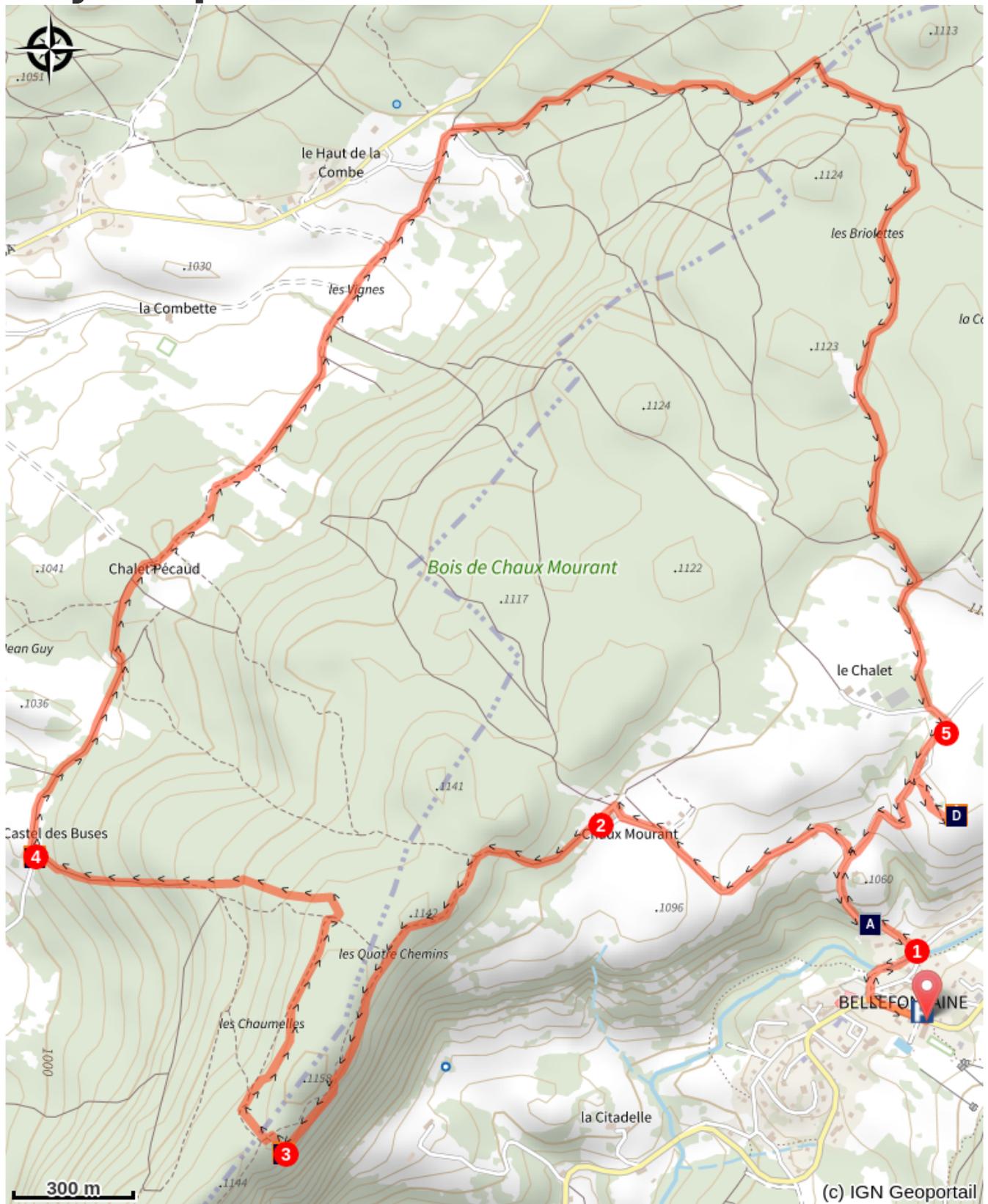
Continue through the meadow and follow a small road to your right for approximately 100 m, then take a large dirt road to reach **Les Violes**.

A forest path heads up and then becomes hilly to the south. It cuts through a clearing before exiting the forest and joining up with a small paved road at the **Sous le Chalet** signpost. Turn right towards **SACRÉ CŒUR**.

The Sacré Cœur viewpoint can be accessed within 2 minutes.

The road heads downwards in a wide bend at the **Chaux Mourant** crossroads, from here you can return to the village of Bellefontaine the same way you came.

# On your path...



Bellefontaine (A)

Viewpoint from Castel des Buses

(C)

Viewpoint from Roche Devant (B)

Viewpoint from Sacré Coeur (D)

# All useful information

## **AdVICES**

Be careful around the Roche Devant viewpoint.

This trail passes through 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**

Along your trek, you will go through sensitive areas related to the presence of a specific species or environment. In these areas, an appropriate behaviour allows to contribute to their preservation. For detailed information, specific forms are accessible for each area.

### **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)

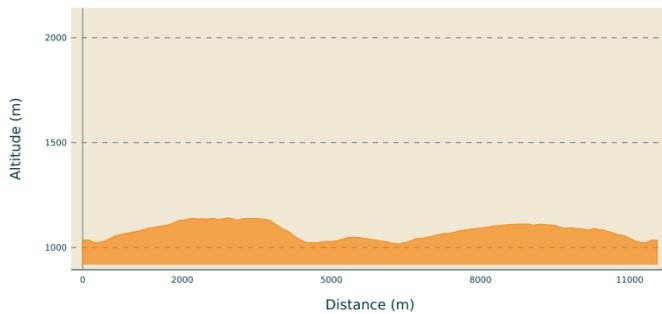
Le Grand Tétrás est une espèce emblématique des forêts de montagnes françaises. Son apparence et son comportement font de lui un oiseau très atypique. Pouvoir l'observer relève d'un vrai défi, tant cet oiseau est discret, mais s'avère être un souvenir mémorable.

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 couaison. 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 1018 m  
Max elevation 1141 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

8 km northeast of Morez via the N5, followed by the D 18.

## Advised parking

Tourist information chalet

## Information desks

Tourist information centre - Haut-Jura  
Morez  
Place Jean Jaurès, 39403 Morez CEDEX  
Tel : +33 (0)3 84 33 08 73  
<http://www.haut-jura.com/fr/>

# On your path...

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## Bellefontaine (A)

The story behind this village's name dates back to the 1630s. At the time, the Franche-Comté region was still independent and was victim of the ravage caused by the passing of German and French hordes. Inhabitants from nearby villages therefore took to travelling up to this hilltop village in search of uncontaminated water sources. Belle-fontaine was thus named to mean "bonne fontaine" (good fountain), "bonne eau" (good water).

Attribution : Gérard Gerbod

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## Viewpoint from Roche Devant (B)

"The Roche Devant belvedere offers an almost southern atmosphere with its rocky outcrops, dry grasslands and prolonged exposure to sunlight... From it, visitors are offered a view over the plateau and the forest of Risoux just opposite, as well as a horizontal view of the valley of Bellefontaine extending from the village to the Morez wind gap, passing through the gorges of l'Évalude. The mosaic of meadows and wooded areas that makes up the valley appears to be progressively swallowed up by the forest rolling down the Risoux. This impression is particularly noticeable south of the village of Bellefontaine." F. Wattellier

Attribution : Gérard Gerbod

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## Viewpoint from Castel des Buses (C)

This viewpoint offers a wide 180° panorama over the combe of the Morbier marshlands, framed to the east (on your left) by the Chaux-Mourant woods and to the west (on your right) by the Mont Noir forest. This landscape is known for its rural atmosphere and its dispersed habitat.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus



## Viewpoint from Sacré Coeur (D)

“Located on the rounded top of one of the small hills formed by morainic deposits, the statue of the Virgin Mary overlooks the wave of grasslands and forests rolling down towards the Morez wind gap, to the south-west. Here, visitors can get up-close and personal with this agricultural landscape, surrounded by pastures and trees”. F. Wattellier

Attribution : N.VERJUS