

# Hike around la Barme

Terre d'Emeraude - Montcusel



Lac de Coiselet (PNRHJ / Nina Verjus)

From the sunny hillside of the Bienne valley to the shaded and wooded hillside of the Ain valley, a long walk linking the industrious hamlets around Montcusel and Martinga.

The charm of this hike lies in the swallowed valleys, the opposition of more or less abrupt slopes, the contrast of colours every season, the purity of limestone rocks and the blue reflections of the Coiselet lake. The practiced eye may even see snake eagles gliding above in search of food.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 5 h

Length : 17.7 km

Trek ascent : 585 m

Difficulty : Severe

Type : Circular

Themes : Fauna – Flora,  
Landscapes

# Trek

Departure : Near the town hall, Montclusel

Arrival : Near the town hall, Montclusel

Markings :  GR® (Long distance)

From the town hall (yellow waymarking), the trail descends to the village centre in **MONTCUSEL**, before ascending to the left via “rue de la niella” to reach **la Neyelle**. Follow the shaded path to the right and exit onto the hand-gliding take-off area. Continue on the main road that descends southwards.

Branch off to the east, then head north, go past the **Cul de la Pra** and then ascend to the hamlet of **GRAND SERVE**. Follow a road to the right until you reach **la Queille** after two bends. Descend on a good path along the side of the hill looking over Douvre. Arrive at **les Vignes** (wide bend).

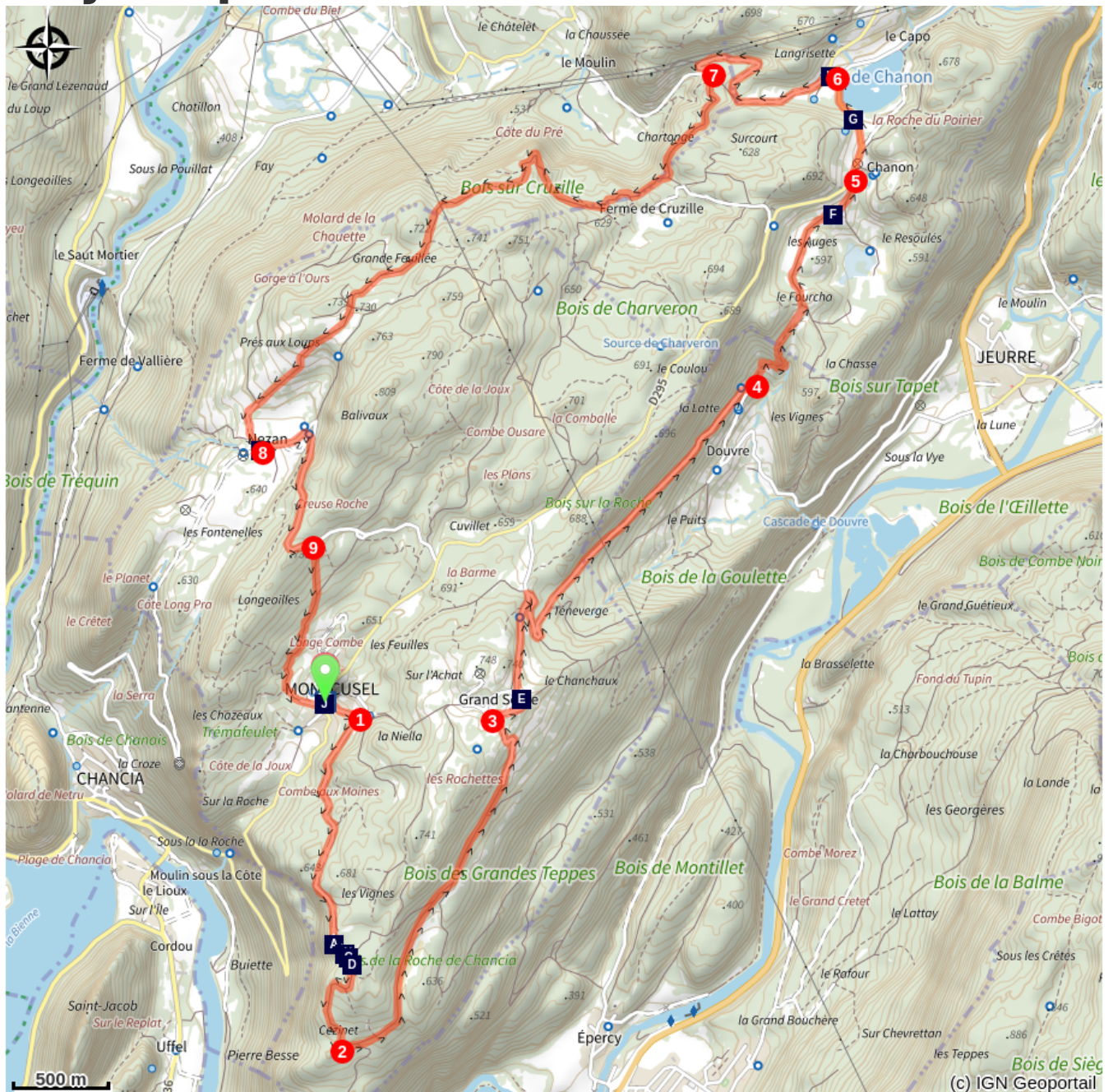
Continue to your left to the bottom of a pasture. A gravel path, with two bends, opens onto a meadow (boxwood, junipers, pine trees, white birches). Head along the pasture and continue north on a sunken path. Reach **Chanon**.

Continue on the road to your right until you come to **CHANON LAKE**, and then **la Côte de Venière**. The stone path to your left borders the meadows before reaching **Chemin de Cruzille**, under the forest canopy. Head under a power line (viewpoint over the Ain valley at the foot of the Vouglans dam). Take an earthy path in a southwestern direction heading along the Owl's mound. The stony path passes through **la Meille** and descends to **NEZAN**.

Follow the road to the left and, at a drinking trough, ascend to the right on a trail followed by a road. Around 50 m after a pass (725 m, viewpoint), return to **MONTCUSEL** to the right.



# On your path...



Viewpoint over Coiselet lake (A)  
 The Eurasian eagle-owl (C)  
 Viewpoint over Grand Serve (E)  
 Chanon lake (G)  
 Old lactometer (I)

The short-toed snake eagle (B)  
 Rocky environments (D)  
 The red-backed shrike (F)  
 La Vouivre (H)  
 Old wood-turning factory (J)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Be careful, there are many successive ascents and descents.

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**

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.

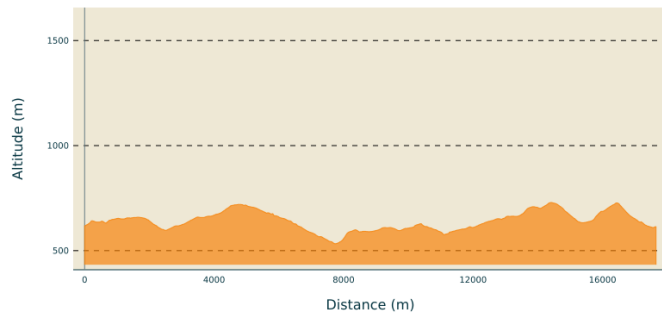
### **APPB Ecrevisse À Pattes Blanches Et Faune Patrimoniale Associée (39)**

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

Contact: DREAL Bourgogne-Franche-Comté  
Cité administrative VIOTTE  
5 voie Gisèle Halimi - BP 31269  
25005 BESANÇON CEDEX  
Tél : 03 39 59 62 00

Cet arrêté permet d'une part de localiser les sites concernés et d'autre part, de réglementer, dans ces sites, certaines activités afin de préserver le biotope naturel de l'écrevisse à pattes blanches et de la faune patrimoniale associée.

## **Altimetric profile**



## 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

12 km south of Moirans-en-Montagne via the D 299 and the D 295.

## Advised parking

near the town hall

# On your path...

---



## Viewpoint over Coiselet lake (A)

Coiselet lake is an artificial lake created in 1970, when the dam of the same name was first commissioned. It is located on the edge of the Ain and Jura departments. It is the Jura's southern-most lake, fed by the Bienne and Ain rivers.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

---



## The short-toed snake eagle (B)

The short-toed snake eagle feeds mainly on reptiles (snakes, large lizards, etc.). It can therefore sometimes be seen gliding over dry and rocky grasslands in search of food. In the winter, when reptiles are rarely found, it leaves the Jura and heads to Africa.

Attribution : Fabrice Croset

---



## The Eurasian eagle-owl (C)

This is the largest nocturnal bird of prey in the world! It is almost 70 centimetres tall (as tall as a table). This formidable night hunter feeds on various type of prey including voles, fox cubs, hedgehogs and even peregrine falcons.

Attribution : Fabrice Croset

---



## Rocky environments (D)

Cliffs, scree and rocks are rocky, rupestrine environments. Their long exposure to shade or sun, and the lack of soil mean that the plant species living there must constantly adapt. Storing water in thick leaves, hairiness, leaf folds to avoid perspiration and dwarfism are all features that plants have developed to survive in this mineral environment. Some birds have become specialists in nesting in cliffsides, such as the peregrine falcon, the alpine swift and its 60-cm wingspan or the Eurasian crag martin. Uninterested in these open environments, the rare short-toed snake eagle, which eats snakes, the Eurasian eagle-owl or the red kite prefer to nest in the large trees below.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Claude Nardin

---





## Viewpoint over Grand Serve (E)

From here you will see the valley of the Bienne and the mountains surrounding Saint-Claude, such as the pyramid of the Crêt Pourri, bordered by the Fresnois rock, and in the distance, the High-Jura mountain range.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

---



## The red-backed shrike (F)

Particularly partial to prairies scattered with hedges and bushes, both leafy and thorny, the red-backed shrike is easily recognised. The black band around its eyes gives it the look of a masked avenger. Despite its timid nature, it doesn't mind being exposed atop a high perch, in search of its next meal. A migratory bird, this species lives in France from May to the end of August or mid-September and spends its winters in Africa.

Attribution : Fabrice Croset

---



## Chanon lake (G)

In 1926, wood turning represented two-thirds of industrial activity in the canton of Moirans. In Martigna in 1930, of 300 inhabitants, 30 were wood turners or farmer/wood-turners (D. Schwint, 1997). Like in Martigna, the small sawmills that used the lake's spillway to action the paddle wheels were turned into wood-turning workshops as soon as electricity became available.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus



## La Vouivre (H)

“It spoke with a young and resounding voice, with a Jura accent with wide open vowels, clear like a white loaf in which consonants take a decisive bite. [...] The Vouivre flat on its stomach in a bed of reeds, bathing in the sun with a bare bottom and its ruby dress alongside it, indeed.” This is how Marcel Aymé, an author from Franche-Comté, described the Vouivre in his book of the same name;

The Vouivre is usually described like a winged, flamboyant serpent with a garnet as its only eye, a fabulous diamond whose value, beauty and power is equalled only by the lust that it arouses in men. Often associated with desire, the Vouivre is also represented as a half-woman, half-serpent. Legend says that the creature only left its treasure to bask in the calm waters of the humid Jura environments. But beware of still waters... we don't recommend attempting to steal its garnet!  
Attribution : F. JEANPARIS



## Old lactometer (I)

Note the old lactometer visible at the junction of the two roads in Nezan. Livestock breeders and dairy producers working together under cooperatives would bring their production to the shared dairy (“fruitière”) in the morning and the evening to transform it into cheese and to mature.

The milk was weighed using this object to calculate their production, paid for based on weight and quality (purity, fat content, dry weight, etc.), and not based on the number of litres.

Attribution : PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis





## Old wood-turning factory (J)

These “municipal” wood turning factories, built by the Union Électrique (electricity union), were used for rural production, but were also important social locations, particularly during the winter period. Several members of one family could rent a wood-turning space in the workshop, pooling their production for sale to the Moirans traders. According to some authors, municipal workshops weren’t used by specialised craftsmen, who preferred to protect their manufacturing secrets for specific markets. Spaces in the wood-turning workshop were mostly beneficial to farmers who could use them to earn additional income without any investment costs (C. Picod, 1991).

Attribution : PNRHJ / Roman Charpentier