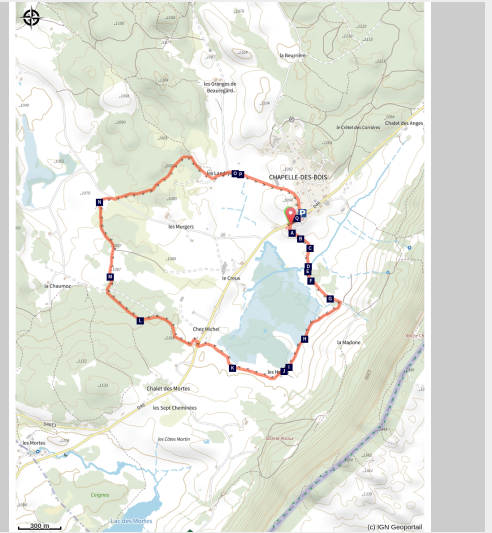


# Chapelle-des-Bois trail

Lacs et montagnes du Haut Doubs - Chapelle-Des-Bois



Chapelle-des-Bois (PNRHJ / Nina Verjus)



*On the outskirts of the village, the hike starts with the discovery of a strikingly colourful environment. This is a peat bog with an interesting history.*

Opposite you, between the prairies and the cliffs, is a wooded area, that is earthy in places, with dark green spruces, white-trunked birches and light-leaved and slightly silver willows. In autumn, reds and yellows take over.

## Useful information

Practice : Nature trail

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 5.8 km

Trek ascent : 73 m

Difficulty : Easy




Type : Circular

Themes : Fauna - Flora, History & heritage, Pastoralism and agriculture

# Trek

Departure : Chapelle-des-Bois town hall

Arrival : Chapelle-des-Bois town hall

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

From the hike starting point in **CHAPELLE-DES-BOIS** (*Saint Jean-Baptiste church*), the trail follows the D 46 towards the town hall (*white and red waymarking*) At “**Chemin des Sources**”, follow a road to the left that gradually heads downhill towards the bottom of the combe, bordered by hay fields.

At the lowest point of the combe, the road crosses a stream, where a cross has been erected. Continue on this road until you come to **Bas du Risoux**.

Leave the road and take the grassy path to your left (*yellow waymarking*) that slightly overlooks the peat bog’s east border.

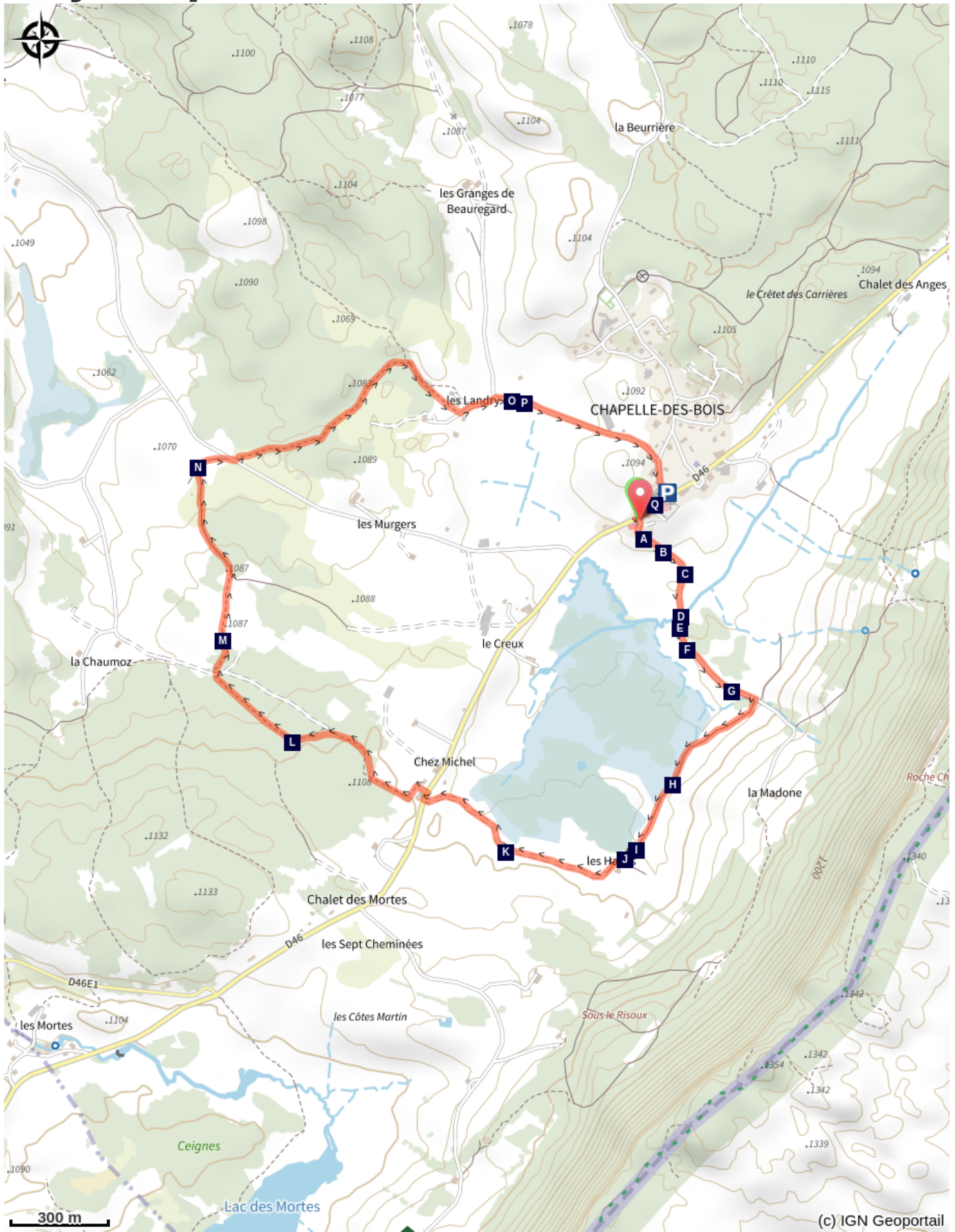
The path gradually ascends to the hamlet **Chez Michel**.

The hike trail then heads to the right of the buildings, crosses the parking lot and enters the field, following along the low wall until it comes to the woods. Follow the path through the woods and exit into the **la Chaumeau Pasture**. Turn right, the path runs along the boundary and then crosses through a meadow, followed by an afforestation area, before coming to a road in **Chaumelles**.

Cross the road and continue along the path through the wooded meadow towards **Les Champs Nouveaux**.

Taking the road to your right (*red and white waymarking*), head past the houses in **LES LANDRYS** and return to the village.

# On your path...



(c) IGN Geoportail

First appearance of the landscape  
(A)

Appearance of the peat bog  
landscape (C)

The plague cemetery (E)

Peat bogs: history books (G)

Sinkholes (I)

Tussocks and butterflies (K)

A dispersed-habitat landscape (M)

Architecture of the High-Doubs (O)

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church (Q)

Places full of history (B)

Streams snaking through the peat  
bog (D)

Formation of the peat bog (F)

Peat moss: a formidable type of  
moss (H)

Sundew reveals itself (J)

A meadow or a forest? (L)

A thousand colours in natural  
prairies (N)

Farming activities that leave their  
mark on the landscape (P)

# All useful information

## **AdVICES**

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.

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

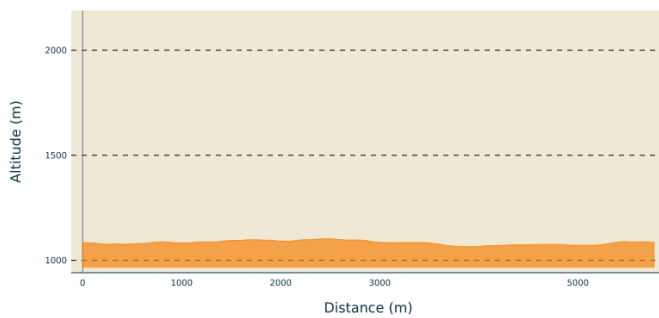
Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, Decembre

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 1065 m  
Max elevation 1103 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

16 km east of Mouthe via the D 437 until you reach Chaux Neuve and then the D 46; 14 km from Morez via the N 5, followed by the D18 via Belloefontaine and then the D 46.

## Advised parking

In front of the church, hike starting point

## 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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## First appearance of the landscape (A)

100 to 200 million years ago, we would have travelled here by boat, on a tropical sea. Then limestone particles and shells slowly started to gather on the waterbed, gradually forming limestone layers.

During the Tertiary Period, these layers started to lift, fold and soon gave birth to the Jura Massif, with its relief comprised of folds and plateaux.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## Places full of history (B)

Opposite you, the Roche Champion cliff marks the edge of the Risoux massif and separates Switzerland from France.

Before the 16th century, neither of these two countries wanted to claim the Jura, which was covered in forest. However, as the area was progressively cleared for agricultural purposes, competition for this land stepped up a notch. The Reform later exacerbated this rivalry, creating a political and religious rift between Switzerland and Protestants on one side and Franche-Comté and Catholics on the other. The Catholic cross that can be seen atop Roche Champion asserts this religious belonging.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## Appearance of the peat bog landscape (C)

At the end of the Quaternary Period, the Jura was covered by a huge glacier. Reindeer and mammoths were abundant. This mass of ice changed the relief and broke and moved rocks. When it melted, the ice left glacier moraines in the watertight rocky holes left behind.

At the bottom of the depression, a lake later took shape, fed by the water from the melting glacier, from rainfall and from streams. Before long, the climate started to warm up. Aquatic plants quickly developed and organic matter accumulated. The lake filled and turned into a marsh.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus



## Streams snaking through the peat bog (D)

The stream you have crossed comes from the Cives combe. It is joined by another stream from the Risoux slopes (the mountain looming over you). After travelling underground, the stream surfaces near Morez, around ten kilometres from here. From there to here, it passes through the peat bog, with the latter acting like a sponge during rainy weather and when snow starts to melt. By doing so, the peat bog limits flooding, and then gradually returns the water during dry periods. Its last function is to purify the water running through it by acting as a filter.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## The plague cemetery (E)

In 1639, the plague wreaked havoc in the region. In Chapelle-des-Bois, it killed roughly fifteen of the 150 village inhabitants. Fearing that they might catch the illness, survivors did not want to bury the dead in the cemetery. Their decision to bury the plague-ridden corpses in the peat bog is no accident. Considered worthless land, and rarely used for agricultural purposes, the peat bog seemed the ideal place to bury victims of the plague without contaminating the land.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Laurent Hilairet

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## Formation of the peat bog (F)

Sedges (or carex) grow and help stabilise the soil. Later, sphagnum peat moss takes over and forms a dense carpet. These are species of moss that grow continuously and that provide an accumulation of organic matter on which sphagnum peat moss is able to grow. The vegetation becomes compact and creates the black and fibrous bogs resembling garden compost. However, this phenomenon is painfully slow and it takes thousands of years for a peat bog to reach a height of just a few metres.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus





## Peat bogs: history books (G)

Peat bogs are valuable history books for pollen specialists or palynologists. In fact, pollen is well-preserved in peat bogs, and some pollen found there can even be thousands of years old!

From the oldest layers deeper down to the surface area, palynologists are able to retrace the history of plants in the peat bog and its surroundings all the way back to prehistoric times. Which trees used to grow in the forest? Which plants did man grow for food or for clothes? By analysing pollen, we can learn all of these things.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## Peat moss: a formidable type of moss (H)

Peat moss acts like a sponge, absorbing up to 30 times its weight in water. It also creates an environment around it that is inhospitable to other plants that might compete with it.

Attribution : Jocelyn Claude

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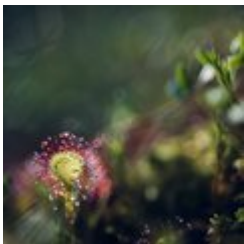


## Sinkholes (I)

On both sides of the path, you will observe holes of several metres in diameter. These are sinkholes and they remind us that the Jura is a Karstic massif, resulting from the dissolution of limestone rocks by water, both on the surface and underneath. You may approach with care.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## Sundew reveals itself (J)

Sundew, also known as Drosera, is another remarkable plant that can be found in the peat bog. This small carnivorous plant has the same “culinary” tastes as some birds (e.g. the meadow pipit) as it likes to feed on insects. It lives in the middle of peat bogs, around waterholes. Do not leave the path to avoid taking risks and damaging this peat bog which is very sensitive to the effects of treading and can dry out as it is compacted.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Léo Poudré



## Tussocks and butterflies (K)

In the summer, in the meadows around peat bogs, you will see a lot of pale pink spiky flowers. These are common bistort flowers and are home to a particular species of butterfly: the violet copper (dark blue-black and orange).

Many other insects such as the northern emerald (a dragonfly) and the cranberry fritillary (another butterfly) also live in the Chapelle-des-Bois peat bog.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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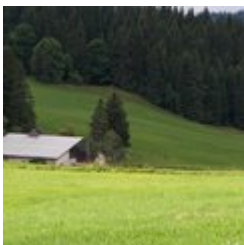
## A meadow or a forest? (L)

Do you think you are in a meadow or a forest? It's not easy to tell: there are meadow-like clearings, but also large trees.

In fact, it's a blend of the two, that inhabitants of the High-Jura merely call "wooded meadows".

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## A dispersed-habitat landscape (M)

You have now exited the wooded meadow and have come across vast stretches of wild land. Wild? Well, not really. If you look closely, Man has left his mark on this landscape.

Farms are scattered here and there and tell the story of how the High Doubs was "colonised". In this area, where winters are long, home-based craftsmanship, wood carving or clock-making developed to keep the peasants busy when the cold season forced them to stay inside.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## A thousand colours in natural prairies (N)

The vast landscapes you are in are natural prairies, in which biodiversity is particularly abundant and contributes towards the production of PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) cheeses. Farmers in Chapelle-des-Bois and the surroundings are particularly aware of this and ensure that the unicity of these landscapes is preserved by using suitable practices.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus



## Architecture of the High-Doubs (O)

In the hamlet of “les Landry”, you will pass in front of a house that tells of some of the architectural history and construction techniques used in the High-Doubs. Years of “playing around” with wood, stone and metal.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## Farming activities that leave their mark on the landscape (P)

Agricultural buildings are scattered throughout this landscape: old farms are found alongside much larger modern agricultural buildings that house Montbeliarde cows. These cows produce the milk that is used to produce local cheeses.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Nina Verjus

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## Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church (Q)

Works to build the church started in 1634. The massive appearance of this structure is amplified by the narrowness of its openings. It is covered with a metal shingle on its most-exposed outer walls. The church has been registered on the complementary inventory of Historical Monuments since 2 March 1981.

Attribution : Véronique K. Simon architecte