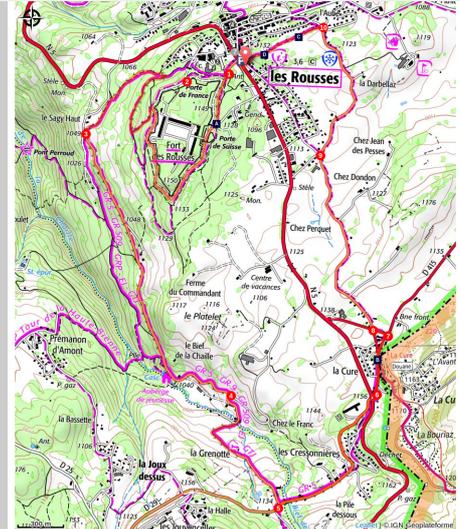


# Trip around the la Chaille forebay through the Les Rousses fort

Station des Rousses Haut-Jura - Les Rousses



Mont Fier et Rocher du Thiavy depuis la Route Royale (PNRHJ / F. JEANPARIS)

*Discover the secrets of the Les Rousses Fort, then pedal through blossoming fields and forests, with the backdrop of alpine pastures, where the Montbeliarde cows' bells ring and with the Mount Fier and the Dôle peaks in the distance.*

A simple, pleasant route offering open landscapes. A short section of the circuit will provide an introduction to an MTB descent along a rocky and slightly inclines trail.

## Useful information

Practice : MTB eMTB

Duration : 1 h 10

Length : 11.7 km

Trek ascent : 223 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Circular

Themes : History & heritage,  
Landscapes

# Trek

Departure : Les Rousses Tourist Office

Arrival : Les Rousses Tourist Office

Markings : ⚡ Green eMTB 🏠 Green MTB



From **LES ROUSSES TO** (Tourist Office), cross route Blanche (N5) and follow it on the right until you come to the **LES ROUSSES CENTRE** signpost, then head up the path towards the **Springboard** (*Green MTB waymark no.15*).

Head around the Fort (with several interpretive signs along the way), heading along the outside of the walls, and walk past the **LES ROUSSES FORT, Le Glacis, La Poterne, La Sentinelle, Les Commandos** and, lastly, **les Douves** intersections.

Leave the path that follows the walls and head to the **French Gate** on a stony path that branches off to the left. Follow the grassy trail to your left towards **Les Entrepreneurs**.

A stony and grassy trail equipped with an MTB path descends to **le Sagy-Haut** (take care in the descent) and exits onto a tarmac road.

Turn left, following the road towards **Route du Bief**, and towards the **LA CHAILLE FOREBAY**. Continue on the road for 500 m, and then head down a road that crosses a bridge over the La Chaille Forebay before ascending via a stone path to **les Cressonnières**.

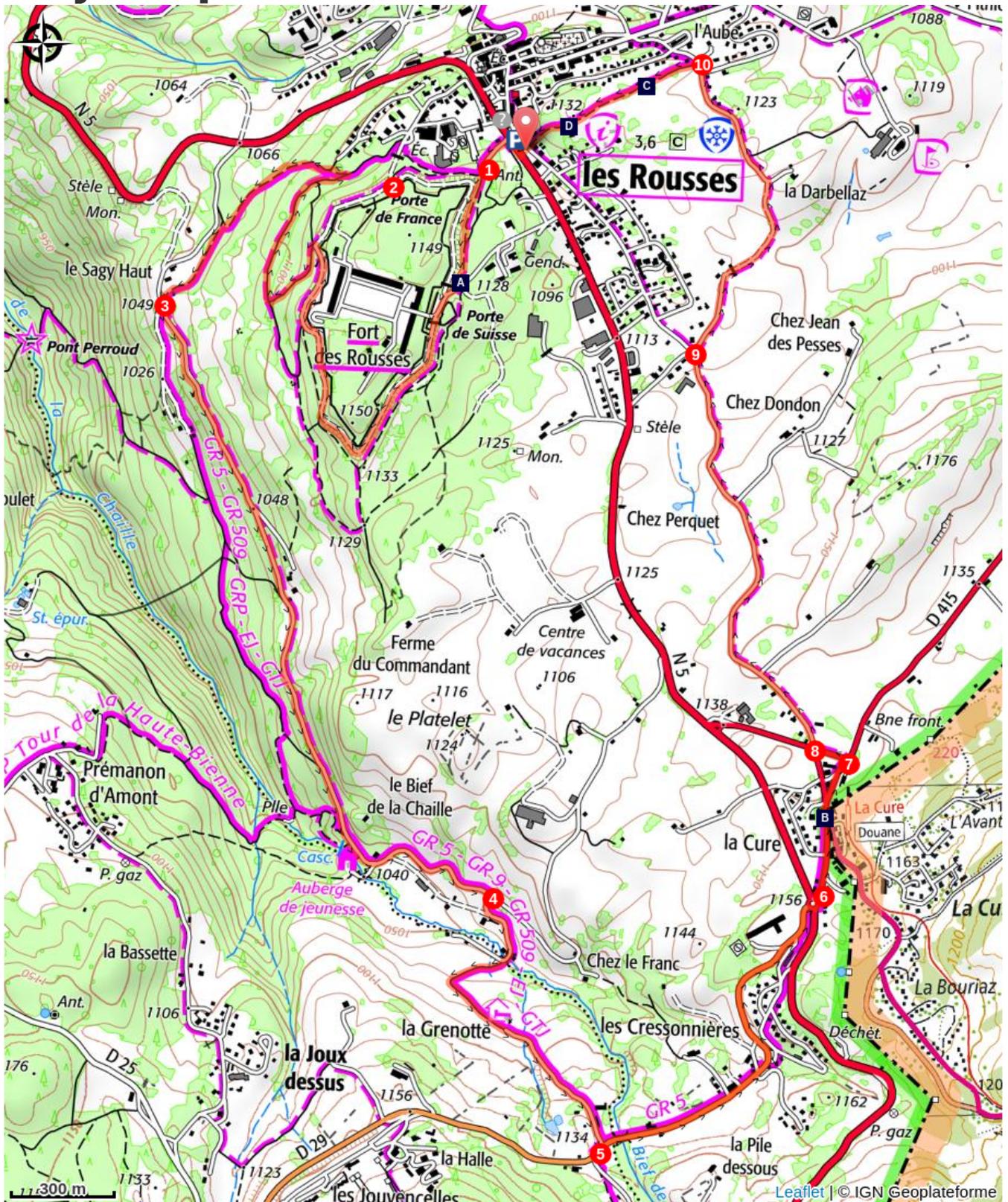
Turn left onto route des Jouvencelles (D29). Reach **Le Lacuzon** by taking the road all the way up to the roundabout at La Cure, passing through **les Piles** and **la Route Blanche**. From **Le Lacuzon**, head through the village of La Cure by taking rue de la Frontière through **La Douane** and **LA CURE**, ensuring you stay on the right.

At the crossroads at the hamlet's exit, take rue de la Frontière left for a few hundred meters, and then turn right onto rue Royale.

This relatively-downhill road will lead you, through fields and beautiful viewpoints to **Chez le Queton**, at the entrance to Les Rousses. Turn right onto the road that soon becomes a path, and that will lead you to a small road at **Brioland**.

Take the grassy trail to your right to return to your starting point at the Les Rousse Tourist Office, via the **Montée de l'Opticien**.

# On your path...



Les Rousses fort (A)  
Viewpoint over the Dôle (C)

La Cure, border post (B)  
La Grande Redoute (the great redoubt) (D)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

For an MTB outing, wear a helmet and bring enough water.

Paths are shared with pedestrians and horse riders, who have priority, therefore, please adapt and control your speed.

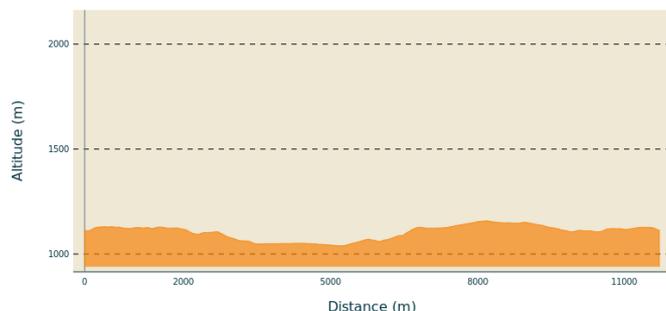
To use MTB paths, do not hesitate to get down from your bike.

This trail passes through pastures 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 and close gates behind you where there are no MTB paths.

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

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

## **Altimetric profile**



Min elevation 1039 m  
Max elevation 1158 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**

9 km from Morez via the N5, and 2 km from the La Cure train station. The Tourist Office is located along the National road that cuts through the villages of Les Rousses.

## **Advised parking**

Tourist Office parking lot, Les Rousses

 **Information desks**

Tourist information centre - Station Les  
Rousses Haut-Jura  
495 rue Pasteur Maison du Tourisme,  
39220 Les Rousses  
Tel : +33 (0)3 84 60 02 55  
<http://www.lesrousses.com/>

# On your path...

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## Les Rousses fort (A)

The village of Les Rousses, whose geographical location was of particularly strategic interest to the military, was held by Napoleon Bonaparte from 1800. The invasion of Austrian troops in 1814 led to the village's fortification and, in 1841, construction of the fort was voted and financed by the government. Les Rousses fort was built from 1843 to 1862 and armed in 1868. It became one of the largest French fortified complexes, capable of housing 3,500 men and 2,000 horses, with 50,000 sq. m. of vaulted rooms, many kilometres of underground galleries, 2.2 km of ramparts, etc. It served as a training camp for many regiments and as a military warehouse until 1973, when it was turned into a Commando Training Camp (C.E.C.). The soldiers left Les Rousses fort in 1997 due to reorganisation of the armed forces and was converted into an activity place (tree adventure park, maturing cellar to visit, etc.) and opened to the public.

Attribution : PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis

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## La Cure, border post (B)

230 kilometres of borders separate (or link) the French Jura Arc from Switzerland. Along this border, migratory flows and the daily comings and goings of border workers are one of the components of a "border culture". Owned by the State, the customs station was built in 1933 by architect Jacques Duboin. (source: PNRHJ - *Collection patrimoine*, "Heritage collection")

Attribution : G.PROST



## Viewpoint over the Dôle (C)

The summit of the Dôle, culminating at an altitude of 1677 meters, is easily distinguished by the large dome at its top. This dome houses a radar, protected from the weather and serving aviation purposes for the Geneva airport at the foot of the Jura mountains, and a weather station for Swiss weather forecasts.

Other facilities at the summit also make the Dôle a Swiss meteorological station and an important telecommunications centre (television, radio, etc.). An orientation table completes the facilities for the many hikers who climb up the Dôle for the amazing panorama at the top.

Attribution : PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis



## La Grande Redoute (the great redoubt) (D)

This small defensive location situated outside of the fort served to protect soldiers outside of the main line of defence. Built in May 1815 under the Napoleonic regime, La Grande Redoute is the only one of the five redoubts planned around the village of Les Rousses that was completed. It served during a battle in July 1815 between 600 French men and 12,000 Austrians. Part of the village was destroyed.

Attribution : G.PROST