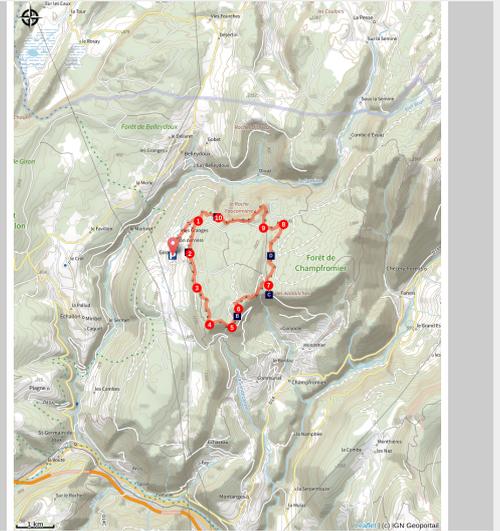


# Trip around the Belvederes

Terre Valserine - Giron



Belvédère des Avalanches (PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis)

*From the balconies of the Valserine to the balconies of the Semine, four stunning viewpoints are the highlights of this circuit through the Giron-Champfromier forest.*

Rolling paths, complemented by a few little trails and short ascents, make up this circuit which is perfectly refreshing.

## Useful information

Practice : MTB eMTB

Duration : 2 h

Length : 15.3 km

Trek ascent : 374 m

Difficulty : Moderate

Type : Circular

Themes : Geology, Landscapes

# Trek

Departure : Giron

Arrival : Giron

Markings : ⚡ Green eMTB 🏠 Green MTB



From the cemetery, at **GIRON 1000** (🏠), take Rue du Grand Golet towards **Le Cretet** (blue MTB waymarking no. 9). Head up the tarmac road towards **Combe Marin**, in a wooded environment.

Reach **La Croix** via a muddy forest path that heads right.

When you reach **La Croix**, which offers a beautiful view over Giron, continue straight on a tarmac road up into the forest, towards **Chemin Neuf**. Continue straight, head past the metal barrier and continue on the forest path for 400 m. Head up to your left (cross-country ski slope) into the forest via a muddy path towards **Les Cinq Chalets**, you will reach a viewpoint over Le Haut-Bugey, the southern part of the Jura massif.

Branch off to the left eastwards and stay on the forest path to reach a path suitable for vehicles at **Pas du Boeuf**.

Follow the path to your left for 250 m, and then head up to your right to reach the **Achat** viewpoint (viewpoint over the High Jura Chain, the Crêt de Chalam and the Les Avalanches cirque).

Follow this path to the right for 450 m, branch off to the right on a forest path for 700 m and then take another forest trail to your right towards **Combe de l'Auger**.

Make a round trip to the Belvedere of Les Avalanches to your right, heading through **LES AVALANCHES** (open view over the valley of the Valserine).

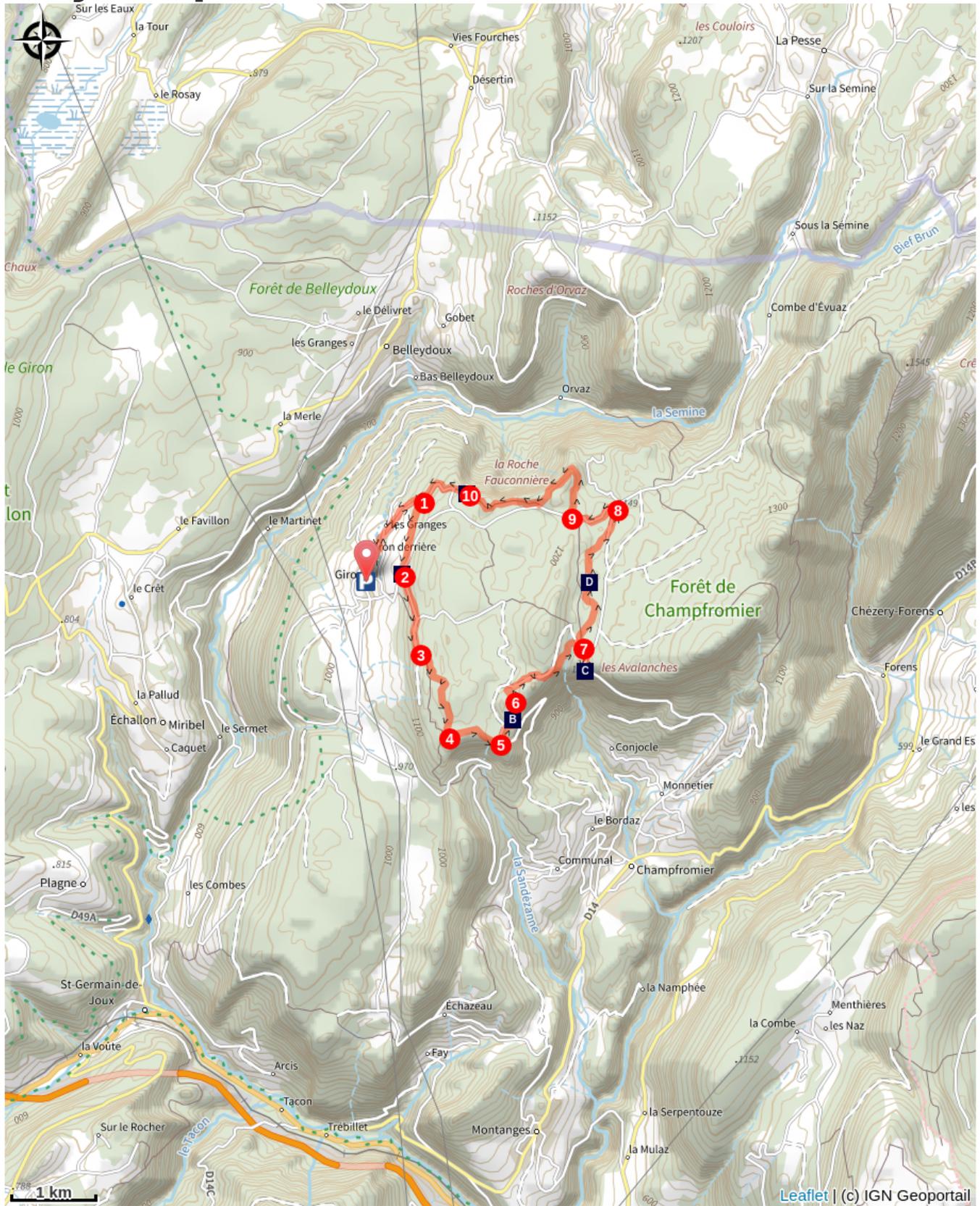
On returning to **Combe sur l'Auger**, take the little grassy trail to the north through a clearing before joining up with a forest path, towards the **Chalet Cottin**. Continue on the forest path towards **Les Abrans**.

Take the D 48a to your left for 800 m until you reach **Le Bleu**. Branch off to the right on a forest path and then continue on the muddy trail along a cliff (be careful!). Head past **Les Ordières** to reach the junction with **La Roche Fauconnière**.

The Belvedere of La Roche Fauconnière and its view over Les Roches d'Orvaz can be accessed in a round trip by ascending to the right.

When you return, take the forest path and then the forest road to **Combe Marin**. Return to your departure point the way you came.

# On your path...



View over the village of Giron (A)  
Belvedere of Les Avalanches (C)  
Belvedere of La Roche Fauconnière  
(E)

Belvedere of l'Achat (B)  
The western capercaillie (D)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

**Be careful to remain on the paths when approaching the belvederes, particularly between Le Bleu and La Roche Fauconnière.**

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

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

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

This circuit uses paths through the Giron-Champfromier forest, which is a remarkable high forest known for its biodiversity. To respect owners and farmers, and for the security of wild fauna, we ask that you remain on the waymarked paths during the spring, until 30 June.

Remember to close barriers 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.

## **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 accentué, 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 1004 m  
Max elevation 1196 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

21 km from Bellegarde-sur-Valserine, via the D 1084 to Saint-Germain-de-Joux, and then the D 55, the D 33 and lastly the D 55 a.

### Advised parking

Parking lot in front of the cemetery,  
Giron

### Information desks

Tourist information centre - Terre  
Valserine  
71 rue de la République, 01200  
Valserhône  
Tel : +33 (0)4 50 48 48 68  
<https://www.terrevalserhone-tourisme.fr>



# On your path...

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## View over the village of Giron (A)

The municipality of Giron was created in 1790, however its borders were only set much later in 1815. Before, the municipality was divided into two separate entities: “Giron-devant” which belonged to Champfromier, and “Giron-derrière” belonging to Échallon. The neo-classical style church was built in 1840 in Giron-Devant, in the most recent area of the village. Restored in 1902, it is also a symbol of the municipality’s religious and administrative. (PNRHJ - Collection patrimoine, “Heritage collection”)

Attribution : PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis

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## Belvedere of l'Achat (B)

From the dry grasslands of the belvedere of l'Achat, cloistered by the Champfromier forest, the landscape opens onto the cirque of les Avalanches and its high limestone cliffs. You are currently on the hunting grounds used by many birds of prey (peregrine falcon, common buzzard, etc.), which you will have no difficulty spotting with a bit of patience.

Attribution : PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis

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## Belvedere of Les Avalanches (C)

In front of you is the valley of the Valserine, a river whose source is located further north at the foot of the Dôle. Up to Chézery-Forens, the valley is bordered by the Jura mountains, and then opens onto the Haut-Bugey. There, the milder climate suits the orchards and cereal fields and industry has also developed along the waterway.

Attribution : PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis



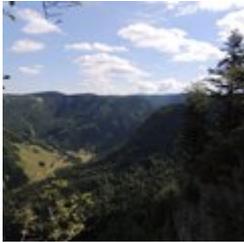
## The western capercaillie (D)

The Champfromier-Giron forest is home to one of the High-Jura's most iconic birds: the western capercaillie. A sign of the diversity of high forests, this bird - also known as the wood grouse - is omnipresent here. The male favours old forests, while the female, who moves around more, prefers to spend her winters in bushy areas and raise her young in clearings.

This bird is particularly sensitive to disturbances in the winter and spring. There isn't much chance of seeing one, but if you do, be sure to make the most of this extraordinary moment and stay quiet and on the waymarked paths.

Attribution : PNRHJ / Léo Poudré

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## Belvedere of La Roche Fauconnière (E)

From the Roche Fauconnière you will be able to see over the valley of the Semine, whose river has dug out a deep relief over millions of years.

An interpretive signpost will provide you with more information on the creation and development of this dizzying landscape.

Attribution : PNRHJ - F. Jeanparis