



The summit with its many panoramic views

Statue of Joan of Arc

Monument to the mine disposal experts



You are going through a Natura 2000 protected area

Natura 2000 is a network of European core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened animal and plant species, and some rare natural habitats. Natura 2000 sets up measures for the conservation and sustainable development of its sites both ecologically and economically.

Ballon d'Alsace, an outstanding natural site

Situated in the Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges, the Ballon d'Alsace is a listed, environmentally protected site. Its animal and plant life are protected by the Natural Reserve of the Ballons Comtois and the area's Natura 2000 status. You may spot a chamois or even a wood grouse here. The discovery trail at the summit offers breathtaking panoramic views of the valleys, the ridges of the Vosges and even the Alps on a clear day.

A monumental history

On the Ballon d'Alsace, men and women have continuously marked the places they have passed through. One statue of the Virgin Mary dates from 1860. Another of Joan of Arc from 1909 symbolises France's attachment to Alsace. The trenches of the First World War are still in evidence and boundary stones mark out what was once the border between France and Germany. In 1945 thousands of volunteers and war prisoners took part in mine clearance on the Ballon d'Alsace. Built in 1952, the Monument des Démineurs pays homage to the sacrifice of 600 mine disposal experts.

Two stunning ponds

Etang du Petit-Haut, veritable entry point into the Natural Reserve of the Ballons Comtois, was built in the 19th Century to replenish river Savoureuse in periods of low flow. The water-powered textile and wood cutting factories of the valley depended on it. On the northern bank of the pond, a swamp with sphagnum moss is now forming and could evolve into a peat bog. A little further away another pond, Etang des Roseaux, shares the same historical past.

Circular Walk

02

Walking Time

4 hrs

Walking Distance

10.2 km

Elevation Gain

485 m

Cumulative Gain

970 m

Difficulty

Circular Walk

02

TERRITOIRE DE BELFORT
Southern Vosges

Panorama Circular Walk Ballon d'Alsace

Difficult



Panorama Circular Walk Ballon d'Alsace

This stunningly beautiful trail from the summit of Ballon d'Alsace guarantees outstanding scenery over the Vosges, the Jura and the Swiss Alps.

Emergency Telephone Number
Dial 112

Before leaving

- Wear good shoes and appropriate clothing.
- Remember to take something to eat and drink.
- Take a first aid kit.
- Check the weather forecast.

En route

- Do not stray away from the marked paths.
- Do not trespass or cross fences. Beware of the cattle.
- Do not pick wild flowers. Some of them are rare, protected species.
- Dogs are not allowed in the nature reserve, even on a leash.
- Do not light open fires.
- Do not drop litter.



Territoire de Belfort
Coderando 90



For more information on accommodation, restaurants and other facilities on or near the walk, or to buy postcards, ordnance survey maps, topoguides and more :

Please contact :
Belfort Tourisme
Tel. +33 (0)3 84 55 90 90
accueil@belfort-tourisme.com
Belfort Tourisme
2 bis rue Clemenceau
90000 BELFORT
www.belfort-tourisme.com



31 circular walks and trails available from :
www.territoiredebelfort.fr

Département du Territoire de Belfort
Hôtel du Département
6 place de la Révolution française
90020 BELFORT CEDEX
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discover
our land



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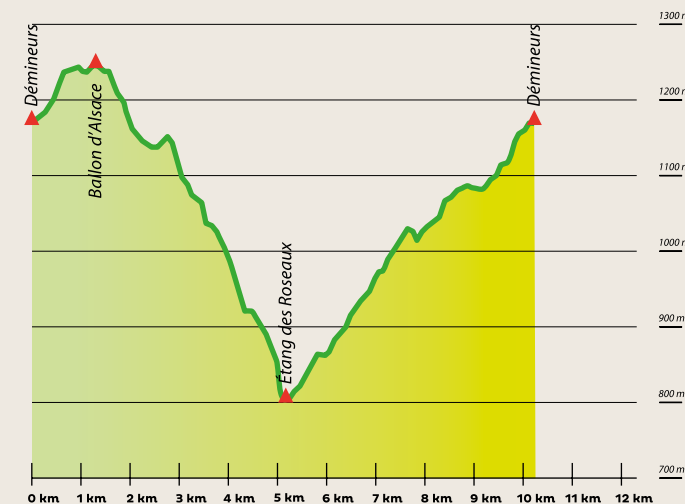


**Start point GPS
coordinates :**
6° 50' 04.3" E
47° 49' 12.5" N
Altitude 1,171 m

Routes are subject to change.
Preference should always be given to on-site markings.



Start point :
START FROM BALLON D'ALSACE
28 KM NORTH OF BELFORT VIA ROAD D465
CAR PARK : DÉMINEURS



1 From the Démeneurs car park, cross the road and walk up the discovery trail towards the summit. Walk past the statue of Joan of Arc (beautiful views of the Moselle valley), continue on the right on the discovery trail (panoramic views over the ridges of the Vosges), the path continues along the steep, craggy side of the summit.
From the landscape interpretation board, the 360° panorama extends from the plain of Alsace to the Jura range and the peaks of the Swiss Alps. Walk back to the statue of the Virgin Mary and from there walk down to restaurant Auberge du Ballon.

2 Walk down across the meadowland, and then up the footpath towards a small wood at the top of ski run Mannheimer, walk down the run. At the bottom of the ski slope, on the left, Trou de la Chaumière offers a scenic view over the Ballon d'Alsace summit and the Interfeld corrie. At the foot of the ski lift, turn right.

3 Walk across main road D465 onto a footpath that goes steeply downhill. Follow on the path for 100 metres, then turn right. The path is fairly flat at first, and then goes down and meets a forest trail, which you must cross. Continue walking down a stony path leading to Etang du Petit-Haut pond. Walk along the embankment, then turn left, and downhill along river Savoureuse via the waterfall trail (Sentier des cascades) – a viewing platform hangs over the Rummel cascade.

4 Turn right when you reach the forest trail, and follow it to Etang des Roseaux pond, walk along the embankment, and continue on the forest trail.

5 Turn left, go over the ridge and walk down to "Refuge de la Grande-Goutte" mountain shelter. From there walk back up until you meet long-distance footpaths (Sentiers de Grande Randonnée) GR7 and GR59 and go back to the Démeneurs car park.