



The Ballon d'Alsace summit seen from Les Fagnes

High-altitude beech trees



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.

Les Fagnes (the Fens)

In the area known as « Les Fagnes », fens and peat bogs are formed by the accumulation of sphagnum moss. Among the rare, wild plant life of this habitat a small carnivorous plant, the Drosera or sundew, is easily recognisable with its fluffy white plumes that resemble cotton-grass.

The high-altitude beech forest

Of the many types of woodland that have adapted to their specific environments, the most remarkable is the high-altitude beech forest, also known as the “bonsai forest” because of its small size. Every winter the violent west winds and heavy loads of snow with persistent frost have a crippling effect on the woodland, stunting its growth. Hence the small trees, knotted trunks and short branches.

Also of interest :

The Ballon d'Alsace summit, an outstanding natural site

The discovery trail at the summit offers breathtaking scenic views of the adjacent valleys, the ridges of the Vosges and even the peaks of the Alps on a clear day. The wildlife and flora of this listed site are protected by the Natural Reserve of the Ballons Comtois and the area's Natura 2000 status.

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. Trenches from the First World War and boundary stones that once marked the border between France and Germany are still visible today. The Monument des Démineurs memorial was built in 1952 to pay homage to the sacrifice of 600 mine disposal experts on the Ballon d'Alsace in 1945.

Circular Walk

18

Walking Time



3 ½ hrs

Walking Distance



9.4 km

Elevation Gain



386 m

Cumulative Gain



773 m



Difficulty

Circular Walk

18

TERRITOIRE DE BELFORT
Southern Vosges

Tour du Ballon Circular Walk Ballon d'Alsace

Technical

Tour du Ballon Circular Walk Ballon d'Alsace

A challenging, technical circular walk for the daring that will unveil the Ballon d'Alsace's best kept secrets.



This walk is not accessible when there is snow on the summit. It is unadvisable to undertake it in poor or stormy weather conditions.

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 post-cards, 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
Tel. +33 (0)3 84 90 90 90
contact@territoiredebelfort.fr

Département du Territoire de Belfort — Direction de la communication — édition septembre 2016 — Photos : Jean-François Lum, archives DR



discover
our land

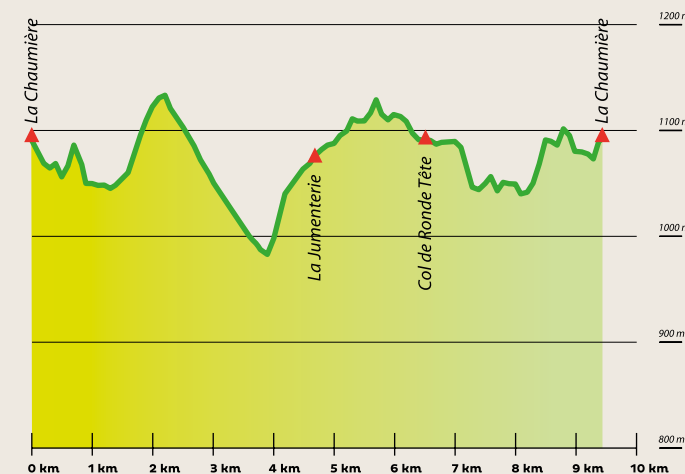


DATA FROM SCAN EXPRESS 25

© IGN-2016 - AUTHORISATION N° 5016-082

© FÉDÉRATION DU CLUB VOSGIEN 2016
FOR THE REPRODUCTION OF TRAIL SIGNAGE.
REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION FROM CLUB VOSGIEN.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**Start point GPS
coordinates :**
6° 50' 48.1" E
47° 48' 37.8" N
Altitude 1,091 mRoutes are subject to change.
Preference should always be given to on-site markings.**Start point :**
START FROM BALLON D'ALSACE
26 KM NORTH OF BELFORT, ACCESSIBLE VIA ROAD D465
CAR PARK: RESTAURANT LA CHAUMIÈRE, 2 KM BEFORE THE SUMMIT**Warning!****This walk is not
accessible when there is
snow on the summit.****It is unadvisable
to undertake it in poor
or stormy weather
conditions.**

1 Start from the car park of restaurant La Chaumière, walk down to the main road and cross it to go onto a footpath. The path goes steeply downhill for 100m, then turns right. After a flat start, it goes down with hairpin bends. Take the forest path on the right and walk for about 1 km until you reach the high-altitude peat bog known as "Les Fagnes" (the fens). An old, derelict fence is there, walk around the left side of it. To walk across the bog, take the path with large stone slabs that turns on the left. Above the fens, the track makes a sharp bend on the right and leads to a way-marked cross-country skiing run. Walk straight ahead.

2 The footpath crosses another track, then 50 metres lower down turn right onto Chemin de Colas, a steady downhill path.

3 Just before the path reaches main road D465, walk uphill to the right and across the grasslands of La Jumenterie. Keep walking up alongside the main road and go left.

4 The path goes back into the woodland and along the rocky cliff path of Roches de Morteville. Various viewing points along the way offer scenic views of the neighbouring mountain ridges and the Charbonniers valley.

5 At the mountain pass Cold de Ronde Tête (altitude 1,091m), continue on the left.

6 Turn right onto a steep, downhill footpath. At the next crossing, stay on the footpath on the right side. The path goes uphill, then down, it meanders between large rocks and goes through screes. From there, the path goes uphill, sometimes with sharp bends. When the track crosses the footpath coming from the main road, it becomes more even and remains so until Trou de la Chaudière. After a short uphill walk, the path ends behind restaurant La Chaumière.