

Les
Chemins
de la
Contrebande
franco-suisse



La Bricotte

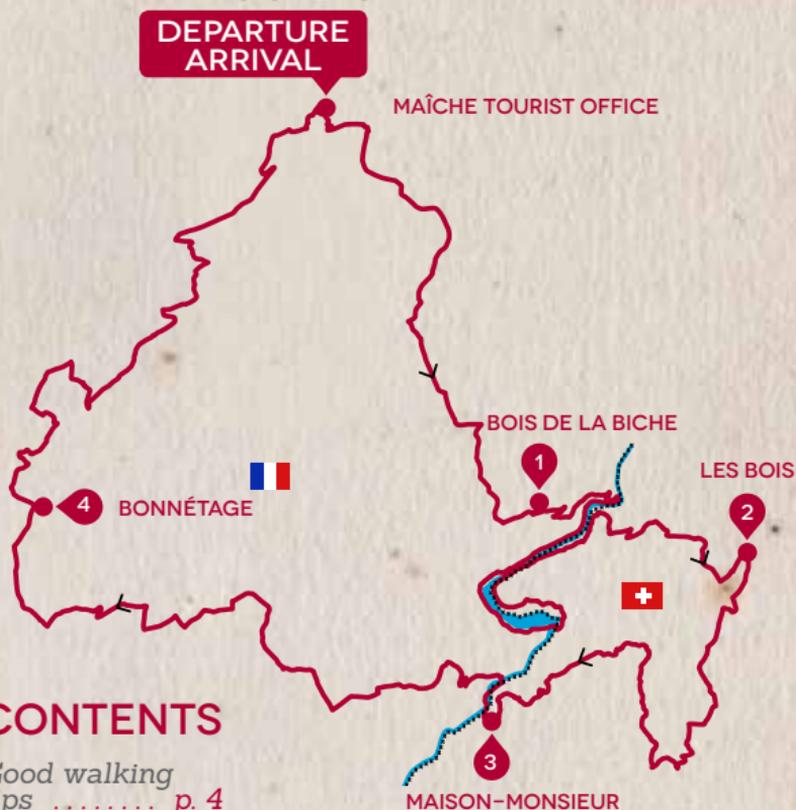
Practical guide





La Bricotte

WALKING ROUTE
CIRCULAR WALK FROM MAÏCHE
5 STEPS – 77KM



CONTENTS

Good walking
tips p. 4

Step . ① ... p. 6

Step . ② .. p. 10

Step . ③ .. p. 14

Step . ④ .. p. 18

Step . ⑤ .. p. 22

On your
way p. 26



© Laurent Cheviet

GOOD WALKING TIPS

✓ Book your accommodation

Contact the accommodation establishments in advance (see list of service providers on page 26).

✓ Take your ID with you

Don't forget to take valid ID as you will be crossing borders and may be checked.

✓ Prepare for your hike

Take adequate equipment and make sure you drink enough during your hike. Take with you:

- Hiking shoes
- Backpack
- Rain clothes
- Flask
- Sun cream
- Hat
- First aid kit
- Swiss army knife
- Binoculars, etc.

MARKING

Marking used for the entire trail



Marking in France



Regional



GR® 5

Marking in Switzerland



EMERGENCY



112/911

MAPS

IGN - France

3623 OT - Maîche Gorges du Doubs

3523 OT - Vallée du Dessoubre

swisstopo - Switzerland

1104 - Saignelégier

1124 - Les Bois

1:25,000 - Franches-Montagnes -

Jura Rando

The time indicated for the steps is provided by way of information only. It is an estimate based on an effective walking time which takes distance and ascent into account.

✓ Respect nature

You are in a special environment. Help us to preserve it. Do not litter, do not make fires and do not pick flowers.



You are in middle-mountain country and pasture lands. Please respect the farm animals and the wildlife. Stay on the marked paths, remember to close enclosure gates and take a wide berth round farm animals, especially if there are young animals.



© Noël Jeannot

MARTAGON LILY

This plant is rare. Please do not pick it.

SMARTPHONE APPLICATION



Flash the code to download the application free of charge

The Smugglers' Paths application provides useful information about the route, allows you to make observations to put in your travel book and gives you the possibility to get interactive content.





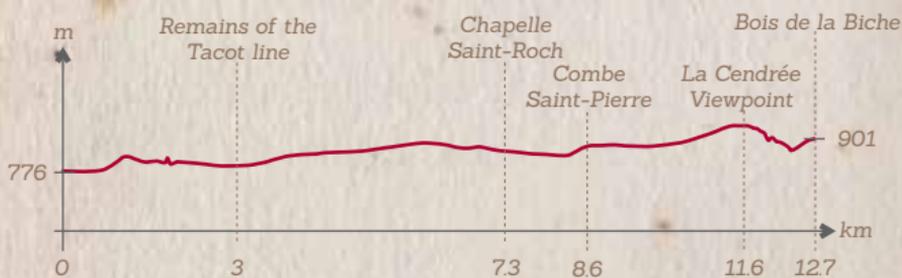
© Laurent Cheviet

STEP 1



Maïche – Bois de La Biche

distance: 12.7km - ascent: 358m - walking time: 3 3/4 hours



WHAT TO EXPECT...

Your walk begins at Maïche Tourist Office. Enjoy visiting the town of Maïche before you move on to Montalembert Castle. It played a major role in the Ardennes Offensive. Then follow the remains of the Tacot train line to Combe Saint-Pierre. Admire the mountain landscapes typical of Franche-Comté.

Before you finish this first step, stop off at La Cendrée viewpoint to take in the views over the Vallée de la Mort.

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26



Accommodation



Information point



Restaurant



Don't miss



Site of interest



Shop



Car park



Riddle board

DEPARTURE

DEPARTURE
STEP 1



ARRIVAL
STEP 1



1 KM



4



LA CENDRÉE VIEWPOINT AND THE VALLÉE DE LA MORT

This viewpoint offers a panorama over the Upper Valley of the Doubs, the beginning of the Doubs Gorges and Switzerland. It takes its name from the ash-grey (cendrée) colour of the limestone rock. From this point onwards, the Valley of the Doubs is called the "Vallée de la Mort" (valley of death).

There are numerous, often macabre, legends behind this name. Local residents and smugglers kept the stories going to keep inquisitive strangers away from the Doubs Gorges.



© Laurent Chevret



© Laurent Chevret

TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

HERITAGE

2



The remains of the Tacot line



© DR

The Tacot train line between Morteau and the Maïche plateau was opened in 1905 to improve access to the region and bring the inhabitants of the scattered villages closer together. It was the favourite method of transport between the cantons at the time, and was also used for the carriage of goods.

It was finally closed on 1st April 1952 following the arrival of the motorcar.

TACOT LINE

Train line

from Morteau to Maïche

Tolerance of La Bricotte

Bricottiers and bricottières travelled to Switzerland with their families to bring back everyday essentials.

Customs officers let these petty smugglers pass, because the two or three kilos of sugar, salt or tobacco they carried were for their own family consumption.

Not until they started taking orders from other people and making their trips pay by bringing back perhaps four or five kilos of sugar rather than one did the gabelous take an interest in them.

To trick the customs officers, the smugglers travelled to Switzerland in groups, shared the items out between them and then split up, taking different routes to avoid being caught.



MONTALEMBERT CASTLE

This castle was built during the 16th and 17th centuries. It earned its place in history as the venue for the 1945 meeting at which Churchill and De Gaulle planned the Ardennes Offensive.

3



CHAPELLE SAINT-ROCH AND CHARQUEMONT "BOSSUS" CEMETRY

The plague struck here in the 1630s. Plague victims were buried near Saint-Roch chapel, in the "bossus" cemetery away from Charquemont village. The plague wiped out more than half the population of Franche-Comté.

Louis XIII started the Ten Years' War, with the aim of annexing Franche-Comté to the Kingdom of France. This annexation occurred under Louis XIV in 1678. Borders, taxes and the gabelle (salt tax) were set up.

Famine, war, plague and taxes weakened the area considerably, encouraging the population to take up petty smuggling (La Bricotte) to survive.

ON YOUR WAY, DON'T MISS



Désert Castle
Maïche



Saint-Michel Hill
Maïche



Combe Saint-Pierre
Charquemont



© Laurent Cheviet

STEP 2



Bois de La Biche – Les Bois

distance: 17.9km - ascent: 784m - walking time: 6 1/4 hours



WHAT TO EXPECT...

It's during this step that you will develop a real sense of the history of smuggling and feel the atmosphere of the Vallée de la Mort. Follow the smugglers of yesteryear up the Echelles de la Mort.

Stop for a rest at Biaufond Lake and drink in the magnificent scenery. In the past, people crossed the river in small boats here. Once you have crossed the border, follow the farm paths used by the *bricottiers* alongside the Doubs River, before you begin the climb up to Les Bois.

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26.



Accommodation



Site of interest



Station



Restaurant



Don't miss



Riddle board



Shop



DEPARTURE
STEP
2

1

2

3

ARRIVAL
STEP
2

1 km

STEP 2

1



ÉCHELLES DE LA MORT



© DR

These ladders were originally made of tree trunks with pieces of wood through them, and they were not fixed to the steep cliffs of the Valley of the Doubs. Users hid them in the rocks and vegetation, only bringing them out when they were needed. This crossing point was the quickest way across the Swiss border. It was used both by farmers from the plateau and by smugglers.

In 1897, Charquemont and Le Boulois towns financed work to replace the rudimentary ladders with iron rails and rungs. This provided security both for local people and for trade relations with Switzerland.



© Laurent Cheviet

TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

NATURAL SITE

3



Biaufond Lake

This artificial lake was created when the Refrain dam was built. It is a paradise for pike-fishing enthusiasts. It is also a favourite with bird-watchers, as numerous species of migratory birds stop off and gather here: crested grebes, grey herons, cormorants, common buzzards, storks and others.

In the past, people crossed the Doubs by boat at this point. The Biaufond Bridge was built in 1881, facilitating trade across the border. This first "Bridge of Peace" between France and Switzerland is part of the "Sri Chinmoy Peace Blossoms" network promoting peace and unity between people and nations.



© Parc du Doubs

BIAUFOND LAKE

- TALES WHILE YOU WALK -

Statues of the Virgin Mary

According to popular belief, the statues of the Virgin Mary on the French side of the cliff were set facing Switzerland to ward off the arrival of Protestant ideas, as the region was Roman Catholic.

Scouts for bands of smugglers used the statues to warn of the presence of customs officers on the paths, by setting branches or stones in front of them according to a specific code.

2



LA MORT MILL

La Mort Mill is set close to the fast-flowing Doubs River, standing like a challenge to nature. There are many legends relating to this place. They tell of the crimes of the miller, who would allegedly rob noblemen fleeing to Switzerland during the French Revolution.

To mill their wheat, people from the Swiss farms would follow the "mulets" path down to the mill.

The mill caught fire in 1893 and was never used again.



© Dominique Delfino

THREE BISHOPRICS BORDER POST

A partially submerged border post in the middle of Biaufond Lake marking the boundaries between the bishoprics of Basel, Besançon and Lausanne.

ON YOUR WAY, DON'T MISS



Refrain factory
Charquemont



Three bishoprics
border post
Fournet-Blancheroche



Biaufond Bridge
Fournet-Blancheroche





© Dominique Delfino

STEP 3 Les Bois - Maison-Monsieur

distance: 13.9km - ascent: 309m - walking time: 4 1/2 hours



WHAT TO EXPECT...

This step takes you to Maison-Monsieur, where people would ring for the ferryman so they could cross the river by boat. This crossing place is a green idyll where time seems to stand still.

Before you reach this oasis, enjoy the views of the Valley of the Doubs, wild once more here, from Roche Guillaume viewpoint. The magic of Cul des Prés Lake is also yours to enjoy. Don't miss the half-timbered architecture of Pélard farm, one of the last standing on the banks of the Doubs.

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26.



Restaurant



Site of interest



Shop



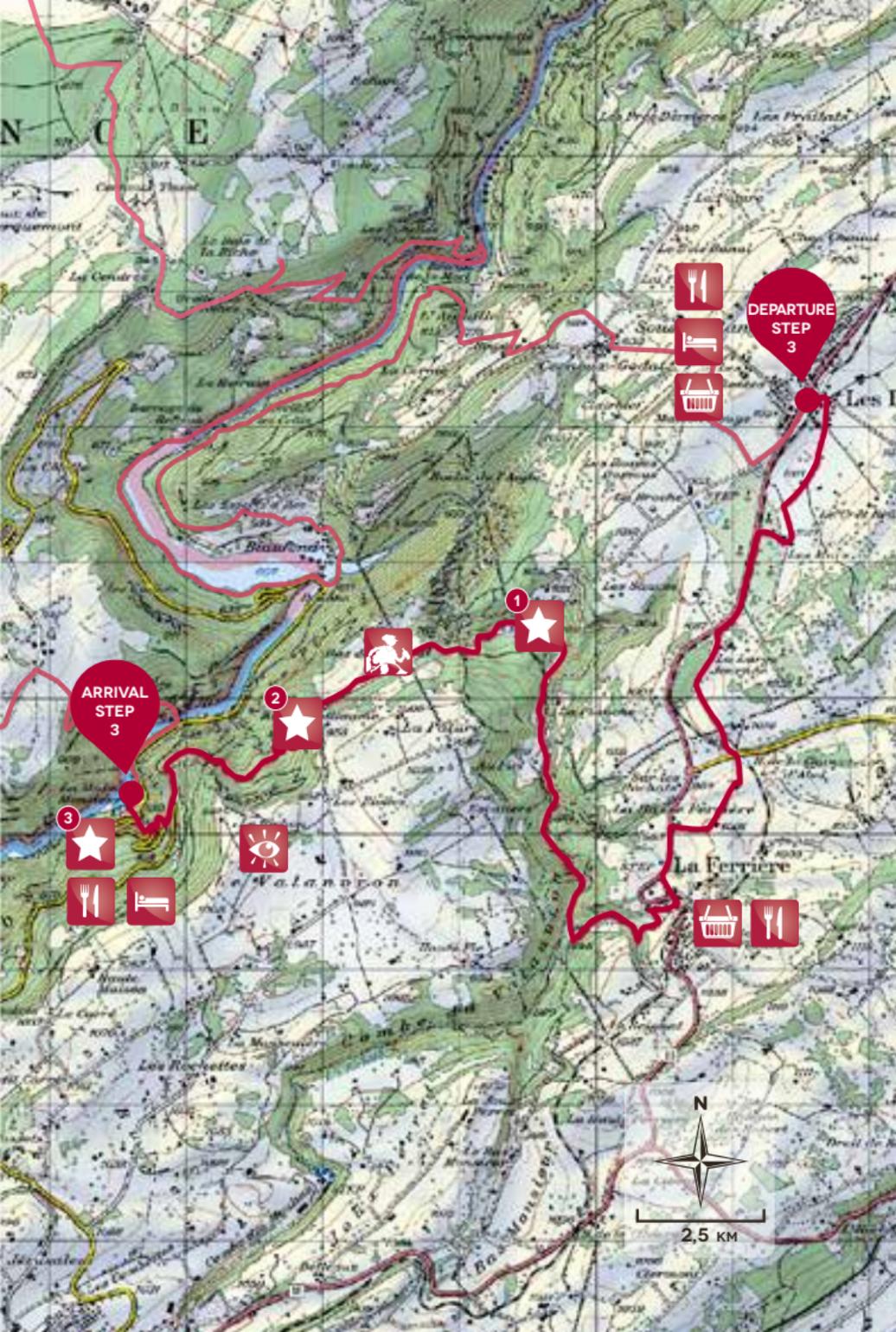
Accommodation



Riddle board



Don't miss



N O E

DEPARTURE
STEP
3

ARRIVAL
STEP
3

2

1

3

La Ferrière

le Valançon

N

2,5 KM



THE SONNEURS' HOUSE



©Aurélien Coljeanot

Before Biafond Bridge was built in 1880, the Maison-Monsieur tax collector was very important locally. He held two posts: customs officer and ferryman.

Travellers on the French side of the river hailed him by pulling a cable which rang the Sonneurs' House bell.

As the tax man and customs officer of the time, the tax collector inspected people crossing the border and collected taxes on the goods they carried.



TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

NATURAL SITE



Cul des Prés Lake



©Paul Boillat

The water level in this lake moves up and down. Like a lung filling with air and expiring, the water is stored and then returned a little at a time, causing the water level in the lake to vary. This specificity gives the "lung-lake" a role in filtering the water.

If you're feeling adventurous, you can hike to a path alongside La Ronde race from the lake via three successive ladders and watch the wild landscape spread out before you.

CUL DES PRÉS LAKE

- TALES WHILE YOU WALK -

The couleuses

The Valley of the Doubs lies between two seemingly impassable cliffs.

The couleuses were difficult, steep paths, less well known than other routes. Nevertheless, farmers from the plateau, smugglers, deserters and poachers used them as a route down to the valley.

Contraband was smuggled via these winding paths. Scouts were hired to let smugglers carrying packages know that customs officers were in the area.



ROCHE GUILLAUME VIEWPOINT

From the top of this little viewpoint, admire the panorama over the Doubs Gorges, wild once again at this point. Far below, nestled in the winding Doubs river, you will spot La Rasse hamlet.

The Doubs Gorges were created by the erosion of the river as the Jura Mountains rose.



©Dominique Delfino



ON YOUR WAY, DON'T MISS



Bichon viewpoint
(an extra 1 1/4 hours)
La Chaux-de-Fonds



Maison-Monsieur

MAISON-MONSIEUR

In 1545, René de Challant, Count of Neuchâtel, had a house built on the site of the toll hut. It became known as "Maison à Monsieur".



© Bruno Mathieu

STEP 4 Maison-Monsieur - Bonnétage

distance: 16.8km - ascent: 539m - walking time: 5 hours 10 minutes



WHAT TO EXPECT...

You will cross the border as you walk across the Eiffel-style La Rasse Bridge. Before you climb towards Fournet-Blancheroche plateau, explore the hamlet, originally famed for the production of watch parts.

Once you reach the high plateau, stop in the middle of Louisots Glacial Combe and enjoy the Philiberts viewpoint and its views over the Valley of the Doubs.

On your way, do not be surprised to see blockhouses. They are vestiges of World War II and the famous Maginot line. On the plateau, admire the characteristic architecture typical of the Haut-Doubs, tuyé farms.

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26.



Accommodation



Shop



Site of interest



Restaurant



Don't miss



Riddle board



ARRIVAL
STEP
4



DEPARTURE
STEP
4



1

2



1KM

STEP 4



LA RASSE

A sawmill was located here to make the most of the hydraulic power of the river. It gave the hamlet its name: "La Rasse" means saw in old French.

A watch factory was then set up here, and the hamlet became an important watchmaking location. A factory producing ebauches (parts to which would be added the watch movement) employed 160 workers.

When electricity arrived, industries disappeared from the valley, and only the inns and a few houses remained.



TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

NATURAL SITE



Louisots glacial combe

These combes are typical of the Jura. They were formed following the erosion of an anticline during the last glacial period (20,000 to 12,000 BCE).

This is a very sensitive and fragile environment of great ecological interest. The flora is specific. In fact, there are various species which can only develop on these calcicolous prairies such as certain orchids, yellow gentian and *Carlina acaulis*.



© Dominique Delfino

GLACIAL COMBE

Twin calves

Legend tells that the cows owned by a farmer with fields on both sides of the border always had twin calves. At the time, cattle were cheaper in France than in Switzerland. When one his cows was on the point of calving, the farmer would go and buy a calf in France. He would smuggle it across the border in a boat during the night and place it beside the Swiss calf born a few hours earlier. On all his official declarations, his cows gave birth to two calves.



TUYÉ FARMS

The specific architecture of these large buildings with their double-sloped roofs was designed to shelter fodder and cattle during the winter season. The south side of the building was inhabited. The tuyé is a large chimney. The rooms inside the house were set around it.

The tuyés were used to smoke meat such as Morteau sausages, brési (salted smoked beef) and hams.

BLANCHEROCHE BLOCKHOUSE AND THE MAGINOT LINE

The Maginot line was made up of several levels of defences. Blancheroche blockhouse was part of the final line of defence.

One surprising fact is that these military buildings were never used during World War II. In fact, they were never even armed!



ON YOUR WAY, DON'T MISS

-  Philiberts viewpoint
Fournet-Blancheroche
-  Guinots tuyé farm
Bonnétage
-  Three firs site
Le Russey



© Dominique Delfino

STEP 5



Bonnétage - Maïche

distance: 16.1km - ascent: 362m - walking time: 5 hours



WHAT TO EXPECT...

During this last step, you will cross the mysterious peat bogs. Numerous legends tell us that the Vouivre, half-mermaid, half-snake, lives hidden here.

On your way, don't miss the dolines, geographical curiosities particular to the limestone Jura.

As the *La Bricotte* route draws to a close, pause for a moment at the Faux-Verger viewpoint (978m) and take in the spectacular views across the Alps and the Vosges.

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26



Information point



Accommodation



Shop



Restaurant



Site of interest



Car park



Riddle board



Don't miss



ARRIVAL

ARRIVAL
STEP
5

1

2

DEPARTURE
STEP
5

N

1 KM



CREUGNOTS PEAT BOG

A Natura 2000 site



© Noël Jeannot

Peat bogs are called the children of glaciers. They were formed after the last glacial age, 12,000 years ago.

These mysterious environments gave rise to legends and were thought to carry illness. They were often drained as much as possible and the peat used as a heating fuel. They are now protected.



© Alpoom signalétique

The vegetation that grows in them is specific, and well suited to the acid environment (sphagnum, or peat moss). Numerous carnivorous plants, such as drosera, grow in them.

The name Creugnot means hook pine, another plant species that grows in this specific environment.

TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

NATURAL SITE



Faux-Verger



© Dominique Delfino

At 978m, Faux-Verger is the highest point on the Maïche plateau. It was formed by the geological upthrust resulting from compression caused by the Alps 35,000 years ago. On a clear day, it offers amazing 360° views of the Bernese Alps and the Vosges.

Faux-Verger is a great observation point for all enthusiastic bird-watchers as numerous migrating birds pass through.

ORIENTATION TABLE

Viewpoint
Faux-Verger

La Vouivre

The Vouivre comes from the old word "guivre", meaning viper. This creature, half-snake, half-mermaid, is a common feature in legends in the Doubs. It lives in damp places such as peat bogs, lakes and rivers.

"The Vouivre wears in her hair a tiara decorated with a large ruby so pure that it would cost practically all the gold in the world to buy. (...) Before slipping into the water to bathe, she takes off her tiara and leaves it and her dress on the bank. Just at this moment, an occasional daredevil will try to make off with the jewel.

However, no sooner does the thief start to run away than thousands of serpents appear from all directions and chase after him. The only option he has if he is to save his skin is to throw the tiara as far away as he can."

Source: From "La Vouivre", a novel by Marcel Aymé, published in 1941 by Folio



DOLINE

Dolines are a geological curiosity typical of the Jura. They result from the folding of limestone rocks and are the opposite of a hill. At the bottom of a doline, we find *emposieux*, funnel-shaped gulleys through which the water runs away.

FORTIFIED STORE:

In years gone by, farmers built small buildings known as "fortified stores" a distance from their farms.

They were like safes built with shutters. Farmers used them to stock their seeds, harvests and savings.

The farmer's wealth was consequently protected should the farm itself catch fire.

ON YOUR WAY, DON'T MISS



Dolines



Peat bogs

ON THE WAY



Accommodation



Accommodation
a few kilometres
from the step



Restaurant



Boat



Information point



Car park



Station



Departure

FROM MAÎCHE – FRANCE



MAÎCHE - LE RUSSEY TOURIST OFFICE

+33 (0)3 81 64 11 88

maiche@pays-horloger.com / www.pays-horloger.com

Information on accommodation and places to eat in Maïche



FREE PARKING

Towards Saint-Michel cinema, rue Joseph Aubert

STEP 1



BAR RESTAURANT LA COMBE SAINT PIERRE

25140 CHARQUEMONT - FR / +33 (0)6 88 57 79 26



HÔTEL-RESTAURANT - AU BOIS DE LA BICHE

Le Boulois - route de la Cendrée - 25140 CHARQUEMONT - FR / thierry.marcelpoix@orange.fr

www.boisdelabiche.fr / +33 (0)3 81 44 01 82



GUEST HOUSE - LES GRILLONS

Bois de la Biche - 25140 CHARQUEMONT - FR / +33 (0)3 81 44 07 01

STEP 2



RESTAURANT DE BIAUFOND

Biaufond - 2336 LES BOIS - CH / +41 (0)32 968 64 85 / <http://www.biaufond.ch>



MAISON ROUGE

2336 LES BOIS - CH / +41 (0)32 962 50 62 / <http://www.philippos.ch>



HÔTEL DE LA COURONNE

Rue Guillaume-Triponez 17- 2336 LES BOIS - CH / +41 (0)32 961 12 36

STEP 3



HÔTEL - RESTAURANT LOGIS DE LA LICORNE - closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

17 Grand'Rue - 2616 LA FERRIÈRE - CH / +41 (0)32 961 15 55
hager-jost@bluewin.ch / <http://www.logis-de-la-licorne.ch/fr/>



HÔTEL - RESTAURANT LA MAISON MONSIEUR

15 Côtes-du-Doubs - LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - CH / +41 (0)32 558 37 37
info@maisonmonsieur.ch / <http://www.maisonmonsieur.ch/>



LE CAPRICE

19 Côtes-du-Doubs - LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - CH / +41 (0)32 968 23 38
isa.renevey@bluewin.ch / <http://www.buvette-caprice.ch/>



HÔTEL - RESTAURANT DE LA RASSE

Au Bord du Doubs, La Rasse - Fournet Blancheroche - FR / +33 (0)3 81 68 61 89
contact@hoteldelarassee.fr / www.hoteldelarassee.fr



STEP 4



RESTAURANT LES GENTIANES

32, av. Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny - 25210 Le Russey - FR
+ 33 (0)3 81 43 77 94 / info@restaurantlesgentianes.fr



RESTAURANT PIZZERIA LA REGALADE

4 bis rue du Maréchal Leclerc - 25210 Le Russey - FR / + 33 (0)3 81 43 84 14



HÔTEL - RESTAURANT DU COMMERCE

15 place Parrenin - 25210 Le Russey - FR / + 33 (0)3 81 43 73 47
monnereau.didier@wanadoo.fr / www.hotelducommercelerussey.com





HÔTEL - RESTAURANT - LES PERCE NEIGE

12/14 Route de Pontarlier - 25210 Bonnetage - FR / + 33 (0)3 81 68 91 51 / patrick-bole@wanadoo.fr
www.hotel-les-perce-neige.com



HÔTEL - RESTAURANT - L'ÉTANG DU MOULIN

6 rue de l'Étang du Moulin - 25210 Bonnetage - FR / + 33 (0)3 81 68 92 78 / etang.du.moulin@wanadoo.fr
www.etang-du-moulin.fr

ARRIVING AT MAÎCHE – FRANCE



MAÎCHE - LE RUSSEY TOURIST OFFICE

+33 (0)3 81 64 11 88
maiche@pays-horloger.com / www.pays-horloger.com
Information on accommodation and places to eat in Maïche



FREE PARKING

Towards Saint-Michel cinema, rue Joseph Aubert

INFORMATION



MAÎCHE - LE RUSSEY TOURIST OFFICE

+33 (0)3 81 64 11 88
maiche@pays-horloger.com / www.pays-horloger.com



TOURISME NEUCHÂTELOIS

La Chaux-de-Fonds tourist centre

Espace 1, 2302 - LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - CH / info.cdf@ne.ch / www.neuchateltourisme.ch / +41 (0) 32 889 68 95



CHEMINS DE LA CONTREBANDE WEBSITE

www.lescheminsdelacontrebande.com



ROUTE SUGGESTED BY LE PAYS HORLOGER AND LE PARC DU DOUBS

"Les Chemins de la Contrebande franco-suisse" is a cross-border co-operation scheme organised by Le Pays Horloger (France) and the Doubs Regional Nature Park (Switzerland) as part of the European Interreg IV A French-Swiss cooperation programme 2007-2013.

The aim of the project is to create an original tourist product to promote the heritage of both countries. It is inspired by the eco-tourism concept; it incorporates environment-friendly practices and contributes to local economic development.

LE PAYS HORLOGER

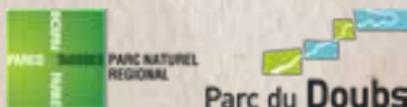
Project of the Regional Nature Park



To find out more: www.pays-horloger.fr
Tourist website: www.pays-horloger.com

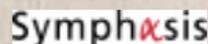
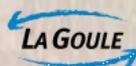
LE PARC DU DOUBS

Labelled a "Regional Nature Park of national importance" in 2013



To find out more: www.parcdoubs.ch

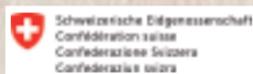
WITH THE FINANCIAL BACKING OF



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



A FRENCH-SWISS PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



FEDER

The Interreg European territorial co-operation programme supports cross-border projects organised jointly by French and Swiss partners, such as Les Chemins de la Contrebande franco-suisse.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is involved in financing the French part of the project, while federal and/or cantonal credits finance the Swiss part.

This European programme financed more than 150 French-Swiss projects between 2007 and 2013 in the spheres of economic development, innovation, culture, tourism and coordinated development in the cross-border region.

A new period begins in 2014, offering new support opportunities for other French-Swiss projects.

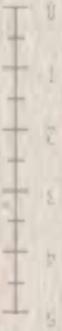
To find out more, visit www.interreg-francesuisse.org (in French)



© Le Pays Horloger / Parc du Doubs 2015

Source of data: Office fédéral de topographie (BA140429)

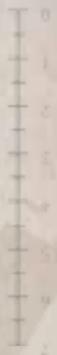
Printed on recycled paper



At the time our story is set, people were wary of foxes. Although they are naturally timid, suspicious animals, they often carried rabies. Disorientated by the virus, they approached people and often bit them. Rabies was eradicated from France in the 1970s.

FOX:

Wolves have always had a bad reputation. They roamed the Valley of the Doubs until the early 20th century. According to the archives, the last wolf in the Valley of the Doubs was killed at Poyllere in 1860. A straggled wolf can be seen at La Chaux-de-Fonds natural history museum. Sporadic wolf sightings are still recorded in the Jura Mountains today.



WOLVES:



Bears lived in the Franche-Montagne areas of France and Switzerland until the 19th century. A bear killed at Gournio in 1821 was straggled, and is displayed at Forretzweg. The last bear in the northern Jura mountains was shot at Glère in 1826.

BEAR:



NATURE LOVER'S CORNER



Large wild animals were native to the Jura mountains, and they roamed the forests of the Valley of the Doubs in France and Switzerland just like the customs officers. The animals gradually disappeared, due to hunting, the considerable human presence at the time (saw mills, mills, forges, etc.) and above all because their natural habitat was destroyed as the forests were cut down (in particular to fuel glass works).

Certain animals have been reintroduced into the Jura Mountains through reintroduction programmes. Lynxes were reintroduced to Switzerland during the 1970s. They are now established throughout the Jura Mountains (French and Swiss).

MARTEN:

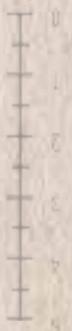
Martens are related to weasels. They can be distinguished from weasels by their dark brown fur and orange breasts. They live mainly in coniferous forests. These wild animals are formidable predators. They mostly eat small mammals, birds, insects and fruit.



Right back paw



Right front paw



LYNX:

It is rare to catch a glimpse of a lynx, nicknamed the ghost cat. Lynxes have enormous territories (300km for males, 200km for females) and live mainly in the forest, which partly explains why they are rarely seen. Their favourite prey are roe deer and chamois, which they devour almost completely. These make up 90% of the lynx's diet.



Cards were taxed. They were considered a source of guerrilla, blasphemy and murder! They were smuggled right up until World War II.

DECKS OF CARDS:



This typically Swiss foodstuff was used in place of caster sugar or lump sugar. It was also used to make alcohol.

MOLASSES:



Tobacco was sold as dried leaves or rolls. The rolls were easier to transport in the false bottoms of marmottes (chests) carried by colporteurs (pedlars) or in other hiding places.

TOBACCO LEAVES OR ROLLS:

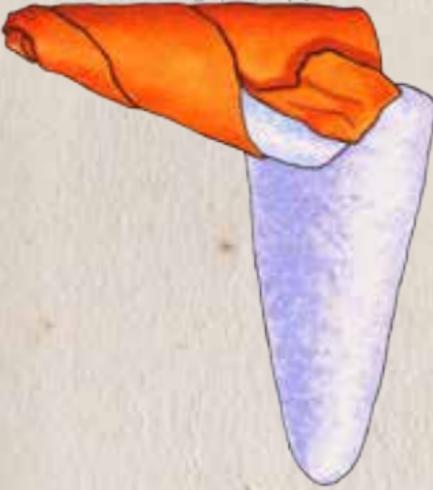




© Antoine de Gorostarzu

These matches could be lit by rubbing them against any surface, no special striking surface was required. It was common for matches to catch fire while they were being smuggled.

PHOSPHORUS MATCHES:



© Antoine de Gorostarzu

A sugar loaf weighed around 10kg. Pieces were cut off of it to be sold.

SUGAR LOAF:

Here are some items from days gone by. These items were staples of everyday life. They were commonly smuggled, both by petty smugglers and on a larger scale.

LA BRICOTTE CORNER



Have your guide stamped to validate step 4.



— ACCOMMODATION STAMP —

You've been stopped by Matche mobile customs patrol! Spin the wheel on the step 5 riddle board. (The instructions are the same as for the previous step.)

DON'T FORGET TO TICK THE BOX FOR THE RESULT OF WHEEL 2 ON PAGES 10-11.

Have you fulfilled all your requests? Tick the "kept" box on pages 10-11 for the items you have successfully smuggled (ie. those you have not lost or swapped).

COME TO MATCHE TOURIST OFFICE TO FULFIL YOUR REQUESTS AND RETURN YOUR BAGS.

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A REWARD FOR HAVING COMPLETED THE BRICOTTE TRAIL.

Have your guide stamped to validate step 3.



— ACCOMMODATION STAMP —

CUSTOMS CHECKS – STEPS 4 AND 5

Gabelous check! Spin the wheel on the step 4 riddle board. Tick "lost" for the relevant items, based on the result you obtain.

DON'T FORGET TO TICK THE BOX
FOR THE RESULT OF WHEEL 1 ON PAGES 10-11.

At a partner café or bar, you can swap your items for a standard drink (tea, coffee, etc.). If you do, tick "swapped" for the relevant item (pages 10-11).



● Venues taking part
in the swap scheme
(step 4)

- Item lost
- Item swapped
- Item kept

As you go through the next steps (4 and 5), you can lose items during checks, or you can swap them or keep them.

Tick the relevant boxes for the items.

Fill in the boxes during steps 4 and 5.

- Item lost
- Item swapped
- Item kept

- Item lost
- Item swapped
- Item kept

Most women wear several petticoats under their skirts. The fabric has linings or pockets in which they can hide numerous items.

SKIRT-PETTICOATS:

- Item lost
- Item swapped
- Item kept



© Antoine de Gorostartzu



© Antoine de Gorostartzu

space to hide one item.

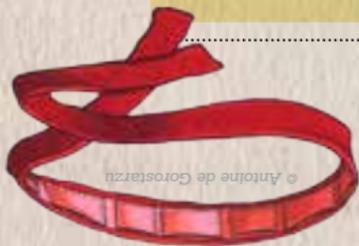
IN THE HOLLOW WALKING STICK:

- Item lost
- Item swapped
- Item kept

- Item lost
- Item swapped
- Item kept

There are small pockets sewn inside your belt. You can hide a few small items in them.

BELT:



© Antoine de Gorostartzu

To get past the customs officers, you will need to hide your goods.

Use the clues on the step 3 riddle board to help you hide your items in the most suitable hiding place(s).

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each item can only be hidden in one hiding place (you cannot split an item across two different hiding places).

However, if there is enough space, you can hide more than one item in the same hiding place.

Choose a hiding place for each item you have collected. Note down what you have hidden in each hiding place in the relevant space (.....).

UNDER YOUR DIAIRI

Space to hide one item.

Item lost

Item swapped

Item kept



HOLLOW SHOE HEELS:

One item can be hidden in each heel.

Item lost

Item swapped

Item kept



Item lost

Item swapped

Item kept

You bump into one last friend before you reach Switzerland. Note down her request.

NOTE DOWN BERTHE'S REQUEST:

.....

.....

.....

PURCHASES – STEPS 2 AND 3

Switzerland at last! Make your "purchases" from partner restaurants and accommodation, using the map below. Use your bags to carry the goods.

Your goods will be given to you free of charge when you present this guide with your requests noted in it.



Should the accommodation or restaurant be closed, you can collect your items from the next location.

Have your guide stamped to validate step 2.



ACCOMMODATION STAMP

Note down the goods people request from you from the departure panel and the riddle boards at steps 1 and 2.

NOTE DOWN YOUR MOTHER SUZANNE'S REQUEST:

.....

.....

.....

NOTE DOWN YOUR NEIGHBOUR NICOLAS'S REQUEST:

.....

.....

.....

NOTE DOWN FATHER MATHIEU'S REQUEST:

.....

.....

.....

Have your guide stamped at the accommodation to validate step 1.



ACCOMMODATION STAMP

CUSTOMS CONTROLS:

You will need to hide them before you cross the border. Use the information on the step 3 riddle board to help you find the best hiding place for each item.



Once you are the other side of the border, you may well run into the gabelous. They will stop you and check what you're carrying. These checks (pretend ones, of course!) are carried out randomly using the riddle boards. Spin the wheel on the riddle board and complete your guide according to the result.

Follow the instructions in this guide and on the puzzle boards for each step! Have fun and

DON'T FORGET YOUR PENCIL!



Have your guide stamped at partner accommodation.



HOW TO BECOME A BRICOTTIÈRE

PREPARE FOR YOUR TRIP:

Before you leave for Switzerland, you will need to call in at Matche tourist office to collect the bags in which you will transport your goods.



REQUESTS:

On your way to Switzerland, you will meet friends and neighbours who will ask you to bring things back for them. These requests will be written on the puzzle boards. Note them down in your guide.



PURCHASES AND HIDING PLACES:

Once you are in Switzerland, make your purchases from your accommodation. Record the goods you have collected in your guide:

- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Matches



LEXICON

- Gabelous: a nickname given to customs officers in reference to the "gabelle" or salt tax
- Intitague: relating to initiation, revelation of knowledge
- Bricotte: non-lucrative petty smuggling
- Diain: this term originally referred to a chignon. A "cale à diain" was a cap worn over a chignon.

You are now Marie. You are thirty years old. Your parents are Philemon* and Suzanne and you have four children of your own. Since you were a child, you have been going backwards and forwards to Switzerland, generally on a Thursday, to bring back sugar, coffee, matches and other basic necessities for your own family and your mother. As Marie la bricottière (petty smuggler), you need to bring supplies to your family and neighbours. To pass your goods on without losing them, you'll have to make sure you don't get caught. Make sure you hide everything really well!

Before you leave, you need to take orders from family and friends. On your journey, you will need to find the goods, buy them and bring them back from Switzerland without being caught by the French customs officers. You will learn all about the world of petty smuggling. It was the only way to survive in difficult times.

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



FOLLOWING IN THE PETTY SMUGGLERS' FOOTSTEPS

In Franco-Comtois patois, bricotte means the petty smuggling generally carried out by women and children.

It's 1816. The country is in the grip of famine. Poorer and pauper families engaged in petty smuggling out of necessity. It was the only way they could survive. Our heroine, the role that you are playing, is a *bricottière* who travels to Switzerland once a week to bring back basic staples.

La Bricotte is petty trafficking, involving 2 or 3kg of goods (sugar, coffee, phosphorus matches, tobacco, chocolate, etc.). It went on all along the border.

To avoid having their meagre booty confiscated, *bricottiers* would use numerous stratagems and hiding places: they would divert the customs officer while their dog ran off carrying the goods in its pack, hide the goods in their clothes (linings, pockets, stockings, etc.) or use hollow walking sticks to conceal the most expensive and precious items.



© Antoinette de Gorostarzu

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN...

AN OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY AND SHARE

ROAM THE CHEMINS DE LA CONTREBANDE

using our practical guide
and mobile application



STEP INTO THE SHOES OF A SMUGGLER

thanks to the initiation guide
and riddle boards



HAVE YOUR STAY IN THE ACCOMMODATION AND THE VARIOUS STEPS VALIDATED

with stamps by the service providers
identified by this plaque.



CREATE YOUR ONLINE TRAVEL BOOK on the Chemins de la Contrebande website:

WWW.LESCHEMINSDELACONTREBANDE.COM



ON THE SMUGGLERS' PATHS

Travel between France and Switzerland to discover the scenic, cultural, heritage and historical treasures of the Valley of the Doubs. Choose one of our four routes, of which three are "smuggler" trails (La Bricotte, L'Origeur and Le Colporteur trails) and one "customs officer" (gabellou) trail. Experience a unique adventure as you journey back in time. Welcome to the Valley of the Doubs.

Follow in the footsteps of bricottiers of days of old and discover the techniques and tricks of the petty smuggling that helped them get by.

Your adventure is the perfect opportunity to discover and marvel over numerous stunning views of the Doubs. You will follow real smugglers' trails and passages such as the Echelles de la Mort, Biaufond Lake, Maison-Monsieur and La Rasse.

You will step into the shoes of a bricottière for this cross-border journey. Make your way over to Switzerland to buy the goods your family needs. On your way, friends and family will ask you to bring things back for them. Make sure you hide the goods well before you start back. Watch out for the gabellous!





Initiation guide

First name:

Family name:

5 days following in the footsteps
of petty smugglers...

La Bricotte



Les Chemins
de la
Contrebande
franco-suisse

