

Les Chemins de la Contrebande franco-suisse



L'Orlogeur



Practical guide



PARC
NATUREL
REGIONAL



Parc du Doubs





The Orlogeur*

WALKING ROUTE
FROM MORTEAU TO LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS
5 STEPS – 60 KM



CONTENTS

Good walking tips p. 4

Step ❶ .. p. 6

Step ❷ .. p. 10

Step ❸ .. p. 14

Step ❹ .. p. 18

Step ❺ .. p. 22

On your way p. 26

The *Orlogeur* route is a walking route from Morteau to La Chaux-de-Fonds. The transfer from La Chaux-de-Fonds to Morteau can be done by train on the



Ligne des Horlogers

Information concerning times

- Stations of Morteau or La Chaux-de-Fonds
- www.ter-sncf.com (Franche-Comté region)
Tel: 0 800 802 479
- www.cff.ch (Switzerland)
Tel: 0 900 300 300



GOOD WALKING TIPS



MARKING

Marking used for the entire trail



Marking in France



Regional



GR®5

Marking in Switzerland



EMERGENCY



MAPS

IGN - France

3524 OT - Morteau Saut du Doubs

swisstopo - Switzerland

231 - Le Locle

232 - Vallon de St-Imier

✓ Book your accommodation

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

✓ Take ID

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

✓ Prepare 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.

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 changes in level into account. Adapt your pace. Do not set off too fast, take regular breaks and take the time to marvel at the beauty of the nature surrounding you!

✓ 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.



© Regis Ravagnani

CENTAUREA MONTANA

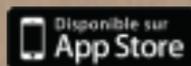
You will probably see this plant on your way, also known as mountain cornflower.

SMARTPHONE APPLICATION



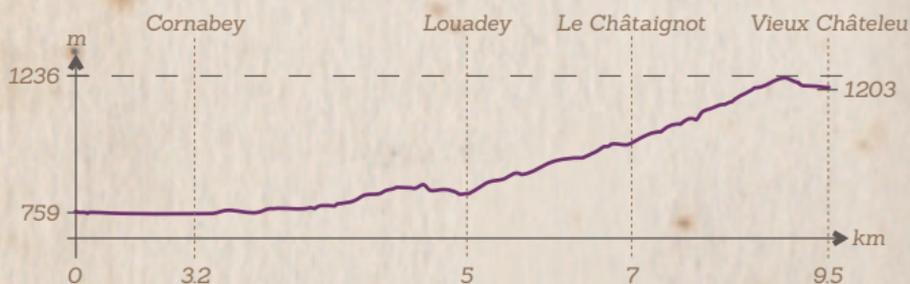
Flash the code to download the application free of charge

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.



STEP 1 Morteau - Le Vieux Châteleu

distance: 9.5 Km - ascent: 484 m - walking time: 4 ¹/₂ hours



WHAT TO EXPECT...

This first step starts at the Haut-Doubs Watch & Clock Museum in Morteau. You will then cross the Morteau plain, a vestige of a Palaeolithic lake, through which the Doubs gently flows.

The ascension starts in the forest beneath Mont Gaudichot up to "Le Châtaignot", above which you will reach the peak of this step. You will then descend again into the valley towards Le Vieux Châteleu. *Note: there are no opportunities to buy food and drink along the way.*

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26



Museum



Accommodation



Site of interest



Station



Restaurant



To see nearby



Picnic table



Riddle board



Car park

DEPARTURE

Morteau

M i  



DEPARTURE
STEP
1



P



Montlebon



Grand Combe-
Châteleu



1 KM

ARRIVAL
STEP
1





In Château Pertusier, built in 1576, you can discover watchmaking treasures: from the smallest mechanical watch (98 parts, less than 1 gram in weight) created by Jaeger-Lecoultrre in 1929 to an astronomical clock weighing 1500 kg made by Rémy Chauvin with a dial rotating in 25,806 years!

© Alpcorn signalétique



✉ 17 rue de la Glapiney - MORTEAU - FR
www.musee-horlogerie.com
+33 (0)3 81 67 40 88

🕒 Opening times: 1/05 to 30/09
every day 10am-12pm / 2pm-6pm
1/10 to 30/04: Monday to Friday 2pm-6pm

TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

NATURAL SITE



© Clément Vermot

THE FLOODED DOUBS

In the middle of the flooded plain, which temporarily looks as it did 12,000 years ago (known as the paleolac), you can make out the river bed, which is the lightest-coloured part.



Morteau paleolac

12,000 years ago, a colossal natural accident occurred downstream of Morteau. The gorges of the valley that surround the Doubs collapsed, creating a vast natural reservoir. Over time, transported sediments plugged the lake, which gradually turned into a flat plain.

The Doubs casually meanders through it. When the Doubs floods, the plain looks as it did 12,000 years ago.

The saviour of London

The Vieux Châteleu inn played a major role in the second world war.

At the height of the conflict, the AGIR network was founded in this inn. This network discovered and informed the allies via Switzerland of the existence of V1 reaction missiles, weapons of mass destruction intended to destroy London. Thanks to AGIR, and in particular Michel Hollard (the saviour of London), the launch pads were bombarded a few days before they were due to be used.



A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE TRAIL



Obertino bell foundry
Morteau



Museum farms of the
"Pays Horloger"
Grand Combe Châteleu



Mont Châteleu Viewpoint
Grand Combe Châteleu



MONT CHÂTELEU

An exceptional view awaits you from the summit. On a clear day, you can see the Alps and enjoy a spectacular sunrise or sunset!

To find out more about the farms and museum in the "Pays Horloger", flash this code



MUSEUM FARMS

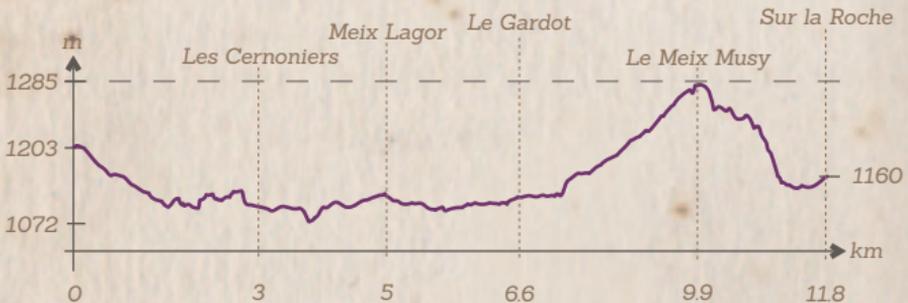
Discover typical farms of the Haut-Doubs, the lifestyle and crafts of the "montagnons" who lived here.



© Alpcom signalétique

STEP 2 → Le Vieux Châteleu - Sur la Roche

distance: 11.8 Km - ascent: 215 m - walking time: 3 1/2 hours



WHAT TO EXPECT...

This second step takes you to the French-Swiss border. After leaving Le Vieux Châteleu, you will go through a place called "Les Cernoniers" where you can see the Chapel of Saint Anne and admire farms with tuyé chimneys, typical of the Haut-Doubs. The path then goes towards Meix Lagor, where you can find a restaurant.

The route then goes alongside the border, where boundary markers still today mark the limit between the two countries. The path then takes you to a place called "Sur la Roche", where this second step ends.

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26.



Accommodation



Restaurant



Site of interest



Riddle board



Post bus



To see nearby



ARRIVAL
STEP
2

DEPARTURE
STEP
2



3

2

1



© Alpcorn signalétique

2



BOUNDARY MARKERS

Boundary markers are characteristic of the cross-border landscape. Their position and their sculptures bear witness to the changes in the boundaries and regimes of the frontier States over the centuries. The commune of Cerneux-Péquignot, near the path, is an illustration of this.

Cerneux belonged to Franche-Comté, which was French from 1678, until the fall of Napoleon. When the territory of Europe was re-organised, the village became part of Switzerland (treaties of Paris of 1814 and 1815). Following this, boundary markers were installed along the entire border between France and Neuchâtel in 1819. The markers show the year 1819 and the coats-of-arms of both states: the fleur-de-lys (Kingdom of France) and the chevrons of the principality and canton of Neuchâtel.

TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

HERITAGE



© Auberge Sur la Roche

3



Chopard farm

This farm and inn in "Sur la Roche" is a typical farm of the Haut-Doubs region. It was built in 1777 by the Chopard family and is a witness of the History and the lifestyle of the region's inhabitants.

Its impressive size is due to the necessity to provide shelter and protection from the harsh climate for the large families, their cattle and their food. This building is in perfect harmony with its environment and will take you on a journey through time.

CHOPARD FARM

A typical farm and listed Historical Monument due to its shingle façade. (Photo taken in 1895).

Zénobie's Grass

P'tit Claude was a local farmer. He was also a smuggler in his spare time. You could say he had a gift for this practice, which took him across the border into Switzerland smuggling goods, and even people during the second world war. He was arrested for trafficking movement-blanks for watches. When he was released from prison, he went to stay with his aunt Zénobie in her house in Grand Combe Châteleu. Often popping across the border to the village of Cerneux-Péquignot to get fodder from a plot of land belonging to his aunt, he intrigued Swiss and French customs officers. Despite their controls, they found nothing. On his deathbed, he revealed that he was involved in trafficking wheelbarrows all this time, right under their noses!

From a tale by Jean-Louis Joliot



1 CHAPEL OF SAINT ANNE

As you go through a place called Les Cernoniers, you will see this pretty little chapel, built in 1877.

Read the full story of "Zénobie's Grass" by flashing this code



A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE TRAIL



Sauge Artisans du Bois (Wood crafters)
Behind the Mont, in Montlebon



Grotte de la Grande Cave (Cave)
Le Vion Billard, in Montlebon.



Old boundary marker
in Cerneux-Péquignot.



SAUGE ARTISANS DU BOIS



© Regis Ravegnani

STEP 3

Sur la Roche - Les Brenets

distance: 139 Km - ascent: 210 m - walking time: 4 hours



WHAT TO EXPECT...

This step takes you to Villers-le-Lac to the Watch & Clock Museum. The route uses the GR5 - GTJ; it goes alongside Lac de Chaillexon (called Lac des Brenets in Swiss) and then overlooks the Bassins du Doubs. The path then goes down to the Saut du Doubs waterfall, giving you a lovely view of this magnificent waterfall. Note: for the return part of the trip, you will need to take the boat provided by the NLB company, on the Swiss side, just after the footbridge, to get back to Les Brenets and the end of the step (last departure is around 5 pm in high season; ask the boat company for information).

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26.



Museum



Accommodation



Site of interest



Information point



Restaurant



Camp site



Riddle board



Boat



To see nearby



i [bed icon] [fork and knife icon] [boat icon] M

Villers-le-Lac

ARRIVAL
STEP
3

DEPARTURE
STEP
3



WATCH & CLOCK MUSEUM



Plunge into the watch universe, from its origins in 1500 to the modern watch as we know it today. You will discover a multitude of objects from this universe, such as watch stands or the complex tools required to make and repair these time-keeping instruments. A reconstitution of a workshop of times gone by will take you on a journey back to the past.

© Musée de la Montre



© Alpcom signalétique

✉ 5 Rue Pierre Berçot - VILLERS-LE-LAC - FR
www.pays-horloger.com/musee-de-la-montre.html
 +33 (0)3 81 68 08 00

🕒 Opening times: 01/06 to 30/09
 every day 10 am - 12 pm / 2 pm - 5 pm
 At other times, appointments may be made
 for groups of 10 people and more.

TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

NATURAL SITE



Lakes and Saut du Doubs waterfall

After Villers-le-Lac, the Doubs turns into a vast expanse of water that flows gently, bordered with steep cliffs over 3.5 km. Boat trips are organised. In winter, the ice that covers this still water offers the biggest natural ice rink in Europe!

The Bassins du Doubs changes from scenery that offers something to marvel at with every turn into a rapid waterway that suddenly throws itself off a height of 27 m - the Saut du Doubs waterfall.



© Ch Girardot et Cie

SAUT DU DOUBS

- TALES WHILE YOU WALK -

Pierre Louis Guinand

Pierre Louis Guinand (1748-1824), a resident of Les Brenets (Switzerland), was passionate about making optical glass and began research in 1784 to obtain the best quality of flint glass (lead-based glass). Rosalie Bouvard, his employee, lived on the French side of Lac de Chaillexon, in Les Combes, and the glass was transported every day by boat.

The story goes that while crossing from one bank to the other, on a day when the weather was poor, the boat tipped over, along with the famous glasses, which sank to the bottom of the water. When Pierre Louis Guinand managed to recover them much later on, he noticed that, having been agitated by the current, the quality was better and the air bubbles had all gone. This led him to develop a stirring technique; from which he produced exceptional quality glasses. His technique was then taken up by all glass-makers.

A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE TRAIL



Chapel of Les Bassots
Les Bassots



Belvédère des Taillards
Villers-le-Lac

Discover the history
of this cave
by flashing
this code



GROTTE DU ROI DE PRUSSE (GROTTO OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA)

On the boat trip, you should be able to glimpse the Grotto of the King of Prussia (also called Grotte de la Toffière).

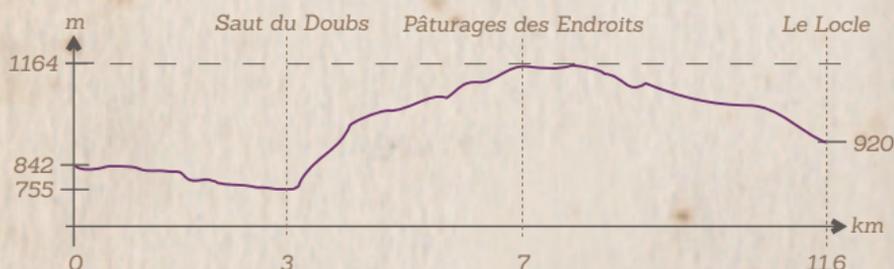


CHAPEL OF LES BASSOTS

Built in 1685 by Claude Binétruy-les-Veuves at his own expense. He wanted 108 masses to be celebrated here each year for him and his wife.

STEP 4 

Les Brenets - Le Locle

distance: 11.6 Km - ascent: 409 m - walking time: 4 ¹/₂ hours

WHAT TO EXPECT...

The route overlooks the Bassins du Doubs from the Swiss side and then descends towards the Saut du Doubs waterfall. A fairly steep climb, named the "smugglers' trail", then takes you to the Pâturages des Endroits.

At the end of the climb, go back down to the town of Le Locle, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Stop at the Le Locle Watch & Clock Museum in Château des Monts to discover the wonders of watchmaking expertise. *Note: there are no opportunities to buy food and drink along the way.*

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26.



Museum



Accommodation



Riddle board



Restaurant



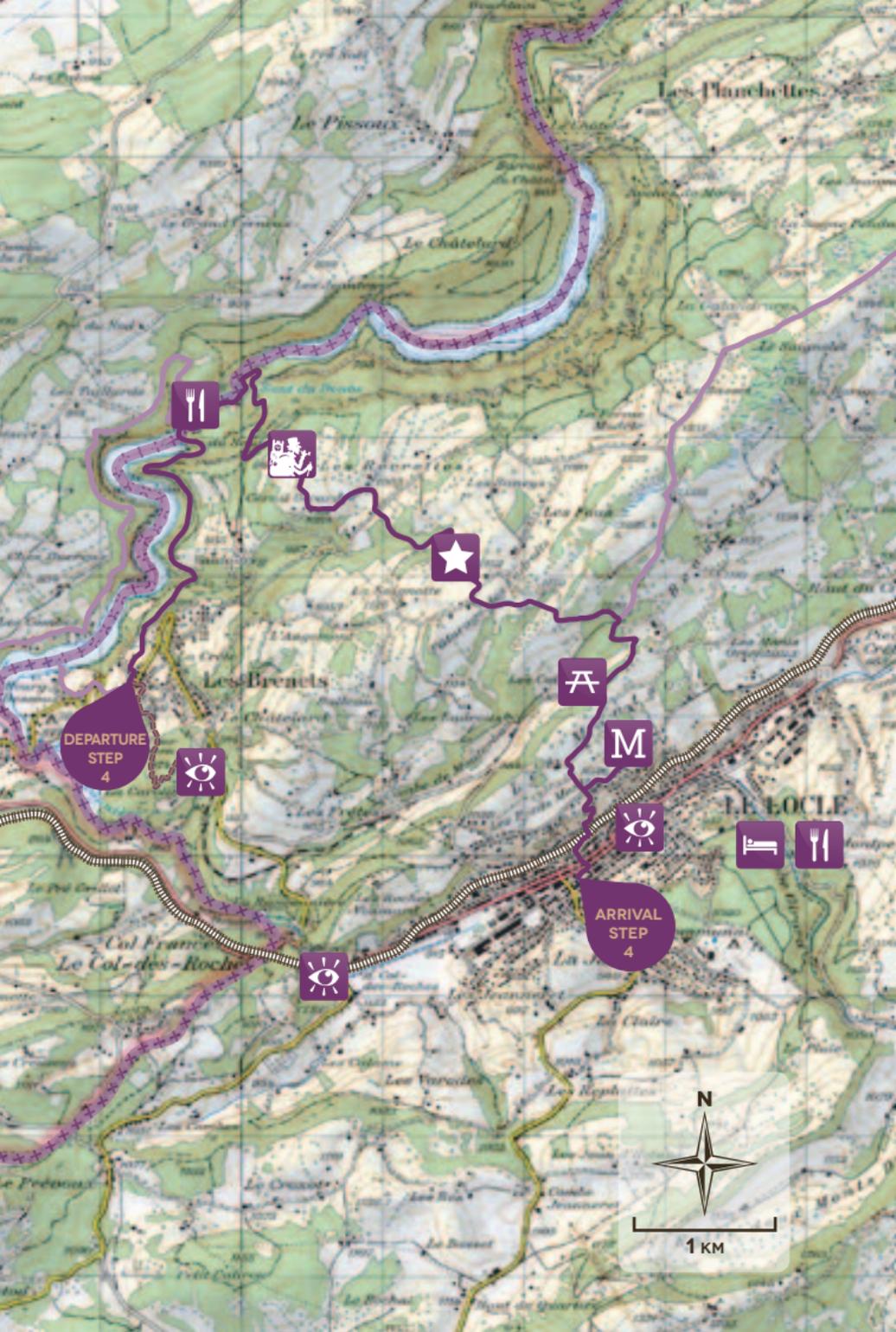
Site of interest



To see nearby



Picnic table



Les Planchettes

Le Pissot

Le Châteford

Les Brenets

LE LOCLE

DEPARTURE
STEP
4

ARRIVAL
STEP
4

N

1 KM



LE LOCLE WATCH & CLOCK MUSEUM

Château des Monts

Visit the sumptuous residence of a watchmaking master from the 18th century. Surrounded by greenery, the Le Locle Watch & Clock Museum in Château des Monts has remarkably rich collections: machines and watches donated by Maurice Sandoz, Neuchâtel clocks, longcase clocks, and clocks and mechanisms that bear witness to technical progress and the inventive flair of their manufacturers.

© C. Soderegger - Alpbloom signalétique



✉ Route des Monts 65- LE LOCLE - CH
www.mhl-monts.ch
+41 (0)32 931 16 80

🕒 Open from Tuesday to Sunday
from 1/05 to 31/10: 10 am - 5 pm non-stop
from 1/11 to 30/04: 2 pm - 5 pm

TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

HERITAGE



© G. Maradan

DRY STONE WALL

These walls and the fields and woods they limit are a particularity of the landscape in the Jura mountains.



Dry stone wall

In times gone by, local lords marked out their plots of land with wooden barriers. Anxious to preserve forestry resources and having available stones following the clearing of land, they built stone walls by piling up the stones, without cement, using a very precise technique.

Five types of stone are used (foundation, construction, filling, liaison and finishing) for a wall 70 cm wide and 1.2 m high.

- TALES WHILE YOU WALK -

Smugglers' Trail

Aware of the slightest sound, the smugglers operated in difficult conditions, in all weather, and more often than not during dark nights, always with the fear of being arrested. Once they had crossed the Doubs and the border, the smugglers used this trail from the bottom of the valley up to the Pâturages des Endroits.

From the banks, they watched out for customs officers to see if the way was clear and to decide when the moment was right to cross the border again. The steepest paths and the least well-known paths were used only by the most daring.



© DR

A SMUGGLER ON THE LOOK-OUT

Sketch published in the magazine 'L'illustration' on 23 December 1893 - sketched by Eugène Durand.

Discover the mysterious history of this tower by flashing this code



© Suisse Tourisme

A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE TRAIL



Jurgensen Tower
Les Brenets



The Underground Mills
of Col des Roches
Le Locle



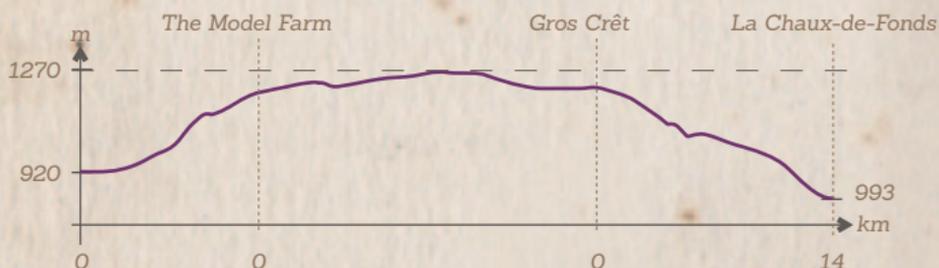
Fine Arts Museum
Le Locle

JURGENSEN TOWER

Tower belonging to a family of Danish watchmakers who set up home in Le Locle at the end of the 18th century. It hides a number of secrets...

STEP 5 → Le Locle - La Chaux-de-Fonds

distance: 14 Km - ascent: 350 m - walking time: 4 ^{1/2} hours



WHAT TO EXPECT...

This last step of your *Orlogeur Circuit* takes you to the Model Farm, after a climb from Le Locle. Walking in the footsteps of revolutionaries, you head towards La Chaux-de-Fonds and its particular architecture, listed as a World Heritage site.

After stopping at The International Watch and Clock Museum, the path ends at the Espace de l'Urbanisme Horloger. From the La Chaux-de-Fonds station, you can take the Ligne des Horlogers train back to Morteau. This train was used in the past by some smugglers.

DETAILED LIST OF SERVICE PROVIDERS ON PAGE 26.



Museum



Accommodation



Station



Information point



Restaurant



Site of interest



Riddle board



Car park



To see nearby



ARRIVAL

M i

P

ARRIVAL STEP 5

DEPARTURE STEP 5



1 KM

LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS

LE LOCLE



INTERNATIONAL WATCH AND CLOCK MUSEUM

The International Watch and Clock Museum conserves and exhibits a rich collection devoted to watch and clock making, from the beginnings to modern day.

Watches and clocks are presented in an exceptional architectural and museum setting.

© Alpcom signalétique

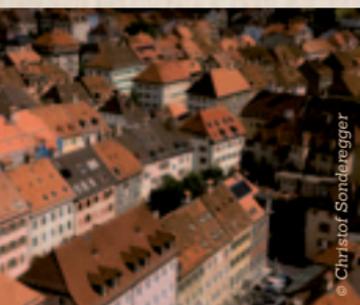


✉ Rue des Musée 29 - LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - CH
www.mih.ch
+41 (0)32 967 68 61

🕒 Opening times:
Tuesday - Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm
Closed on Mondays and on 1/01, 24-25 and 31/12

TO DISCOVER ON THE WAY

HERITAGE



© Christof Sonderegger

LA CHAUX- DE-FONDS

Architecture in the spotlight



Watchmaking centres

La Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle are the unique witnesses to an entire period marked by the development of watchmaking. Town planning and the watchmaking industry developed in harmony, with housing and workshops side by side to ensure the comfort of the watchmakers and their efficiency.

The uniqueness of this architecture was recognised and classified a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2009.

- TALES WHILE YOU WALK -

History of the road of revolution

After the French Revolution in 1848, inhabitants of Neuchâtel launched their own revolutionary movement and appointed Fritz Courvoisier as commander in chief.

In the morning of 1 March 1848, a revolutionary column set off on foot from Le Locle. At 8 pm, the Château de Neuchâtel was in the hands of the revolutionaries. On 3 March 1848, Swiss emissaries recognised the new government and the Republic was proclaimed.

To find out more about the road of revolution, flash this code



A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE TRAIL



Le Corbusier Villas,
La Chaux-de-Fonds



View over Lac de Moron
Les Planchettes



Farming and Craft Museum
La Chaux-de-Fonds



2



BOIS DU PETIT-CHÂTEAU

In the Bois du Petit-Château, the free zoological park is home to around 230 animals from the region and also has a vivarium.



3



TOUR ESPACITÉ

From the top of the tower there is a panoramic view of La Chaux-de-Fonds and the valley.



ON THE WAY



Accommodation



Accommodation
a few km from
the step



Restaurant



Boat



Museum



Camp site



Station



Information
point



Car park

FROM MORTEAU – FRANCE



OFFICE DE TOURISME DU VAL DE MORTEAU – SAUT DU DOUBS

For accommodation in Morteau: +33 (0)3 81 67 18 53



A NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS IN MORTEAU



FREE CAR PARK AT Champ de foire (next to the station)



MORTEAU STATION

13 avenue de la Gare - MORTEAU - FR / www.ter-sncf.com / +33 (0)3 81 67 15 94

STEP 1



HAUT-DOUBS WATCH & CLOCK MUSEUM

17 rue de la Glapiney - MORTEAU - FR / musee.horlogerie@wanadoo.fr / www.musee-horlogerie.com / +33 (0)3 81 67 40 88



AUBERGE DU VIEUX CHÂTELEU

LES GRAS - FR / contact@chateau.com / www.chateau.com / +33(0) 81 67 11 59



BED & BREAKFASTS - LA MAISON DES SEIGNES

Les Seignes - LES GRAS - FR / lamaisondesseignes@hotmail.fr / www.lamaisondesseignes.free.fr / +33(0) 81 68 82 20



REST HOUSE - RELAIS ÉQUESTRE LES SEIGNES

Les Seignes - LES GRAS - FR / acheval25@wanadoo.fr / www.relaisequestrelesseignes.com / +33(0) 81 68 88 91

STEP 2



AUBERGE DU MEIX LAGOR

Le Meix Lagor - MONTLEBON - FR / www.meix-lagor.fr / +33(0)3 81 67 26 03



AUBERGE SUR LA ROCHE

Le Chauffaud - VILLERS-LE-LAC - FR / contact@auberge-surlaroches.com / www.auberge-surlaroches.com / +33(0)3 81 68 08 94



AUBERGE DU PRÉVOUX

Le Prévoux 10 - LE LOCLE - CH / saveur@aubergeduprevoux.ch / +41(0)32 931 23 13

STEP 3



OFFICE DE TOURISME DU VAL DE MORTEAU – SAUT DU DOUBS

for accommodation in Villers-le-Lac: Tel.: +33 (0)3 81 68 00 98



WATCH MUSEUM

5 Rue Pierre Berçot - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / www.pays-horloger.com/musee-de-la-montre.html / +33(0)3 81 68 08 00



C.N.F.S. PANORAMIC BOAT TRIPS / SAUT DU DOUBS

2 Place Maxime Cupillard BP 30 - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / cnfs@saut-du-doubs.org / www.vedettes-panoramiques.com / +33(0)3 81 68 05 34



BATEAUX DU SAUT DU DOUBS

Les Terres Rouges - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / info@sautdudoubs.fr - www.sautdudoubs.fr / +33(0)3 81 68 13 25



RESTAURANT LE FRANCE

8 Place Maxime Cupillard - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / info@hotel-restaurant-lefrance.com / www.hotel-restaurant-lefrance.com / +33(0)3 81 68 00 06



RESTAURANT LE GRILL COMTOIS

2 Place Maxime Cupillard - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / +33(0)3 81 68 84 18



BRASSERIE PIZZERIA CHEZ JO

Bateaux du Saut du Doubs - Les Terres Rouges - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / +33(0)6 82 94 96 00



LE SARAY

2 rue des clos rondot - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / +33 (0)3 81 68 38 72



RESTAURANT DU PORT

2 Route du Port - Chaillexon - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / max.espadrille@orange.fr / www.restoduport.com / +33(0)3 81 68 00 47



CERNEUX BILLARD FARM

3 km from the car park to Saut de Doubs / Les Taillards

Le Cerneux Billard - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / resineux.haut.doubs@orange.fr / www.gitecerneuxbillard.fr / +33(0)9 61 31 66 57



L'ABSINTHE

Saut du Doubs - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / +33(0)6 16 03 44 39



RESTAURANT DU SAUT DU DOUBS

Le Saut du Doubs 225 - LES BRENETS - CH / info@saut-du-doubs.biz / www.saut-du-doubs.biz / +41(0)32 932 10 70



LE PASSIFLORE

Grand-Rue 18 - LES BRENETS - CH / info@lepassiflore.ch / www.lepassiflore.ch / +41(0)32 920 31 15



HÔTEL LES RIVES DU DOUBS

Pré du Lac 26 - LES BRENETS - CH / contact@rives-du-doubs.ch / www.rives-du-doubs.ch / +41(0)32 933 99 99



LAC DES BRENETS CAMP SITE

Champ de la Fontaine - LES BRENETS - CH / campinglebrenets@kfnmail.ch / www.camping-brenets.ch / +41(0)32 932 16 18



GÎTE DU CHÂTEAU

Les Frêres 158 - LES BRENETS - CH / info@giteduchateau.ch / www.giteduchateau.ch / +41(0)32 932 16 28



HOTEL RESTAURANT LES CYGNES

Les Pargots - VILLERS LE LAC - FR / hotel-les-cyignes@wanadoo.fr / www.hotelrestaurantlescygnes.com / +33(0)3 81 68 01 20



NAVIGATION SUR LE LAC DES BRENETS (NLB)

LES BRENETS - CH / info@nlb.ch / www.nlb.ch / +41(0)32 932 14 14

STEP 4



A NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS IN LE LOCLE



HÔTEL DES TROIS-ROIS

Rue du Temple 29 - LE LOCLE - CH / info@hotesdestroisrois.ch / www.hoteldestroisrois.ch / +41(0)32 932 21 00



BED & BREAKFAST MAISON DUBOIS

La Pâtüre, 2400 Le Locle - CH / maisondubois@bluewin.ch / www.maisondubois.ch / +41 (0) 79 342 25 37



BED & BREAKFAST LES SAPINS

Chemin des Sapins 9 - LE LOCLE - CH / bnb.sapins@bluewin.ch / www.bnbsapins.ch / +41(0)79 342 25 37



LE LOCLE WATCH & CLOCK MUSEUM - CHÂTEAU DES MONTS

Route des Monts 65 - LE LOCLE - CH / mhl@ne.ch / www.mhl-monts.ch / +41(0)32 931 16 80

STEP 5



MODEL FARM SNACK BAR

LE LOCLE - CH / +41 (0) 32 931 15 16



LE MAILLARD SNACK BAR

Eplatures Jaune 115 - LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - CH / lemaillard@bluewin.ch / www.buvette-lemaillard.ch / +41 (0) 32 914 15 15



INTERNATIONAL WATCH AND CLOCK MUSEUM

Rue des Musées 29 - LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - CH / mih.vch@ne.ch / www.mih.ch / +41 (0) 32 967 68 61

ON ARRIVAL AT LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS -SWITZERLAND



TOURISME NEUCHÂTELOIS

For accommodation in La Chaux-de-Fonds: +41 (0) 32 889 68 95



A NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS IN LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS



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LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS STATION

Place de la Gare - LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - CH / www.cff.ch / +41 (0)900 300 300

INFORMATION



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Morteau Office

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WEBSITE OF THE SMUGGLERS' PATHS

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 programme.

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 natural park



LE PARC DU DOUBS

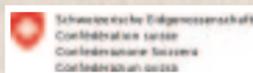
Labelled a "Regional natural park of national importance" in 2013



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

To find out more: www.parcdoubs.ch

WITH THE FINANCIAL BACKING OF



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



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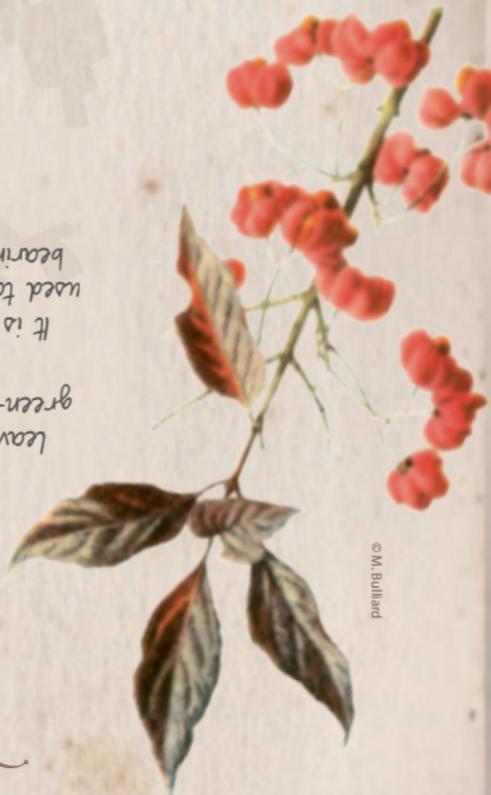
© M. Bulliard

Fraxinus excelsior L. can reach a height of 30 metres and its trunk can grow to 1 metre in diameter. The trunk has a grey, grooved bark. The leaves, in the shape of a bird's tongue, usually have 7 leaflets. Ash tree wood is a dense wood used for handles of watchmaking tools, such as hammers.

Ash tree

Euonymus europaeus is a shrub that grows between 3 and 8 metres tall. Its upright and rounded stems are matte green. Its leaves are finely serrated with small green-yellow flowers. In autumn its fruits become pink capsules. It is used to clean the "jewels" (which are used to be real precious stones), which are bearings in a watch movement to reduce friction.

European spindle



© M. Bulliard



NATURE LOVER'S CORNER



Here are a few species of trees and shrubs that you will come across on your way. The *Orthocentrus* found the raw materials they needed to make some of their tools in nature.

Philémon

Common dogwood

Cornus sanguinea is a shrub measuring 1 to 5 metres in height. It gets its name from the blood red colour of its leaves at the end of summer. The young branches exposed to sunlight also go bright red. The wood of the branches is used to make handles of the tools used by the *Orthocentrus*.

Black elder

Sambucus nigra is a shrub with white or cream-coloured flowers which then turn into little bouquets of red, blue or black berries. Birds love these berries. It differs to dwarf elder by flowering earlier, drooping fruits and its height, which can exceed 1.80 metres. The pith of the elder is used to clean watchmaking parts and tools.



© M. Bulliard



© M. Bulliard

Rub the plaque with a pencil here, after solving the riddle of the fifth board.

Specific name



MUSEUM STAMP

Go to the La Chaux-de-Fonds International Watch Museum (step 3) to identify this object, get your guide stamped to validate the step and collect the last part of the mechanism.

Congratulations, your initiation into the Orlogeur's trade is nearly finished. In my day, we would receive a gift marking our belonging to this profession. Philémon, Does that still happen today?

Go to the Espace de l'Urbanisme Horloger. Combine the four parts you now have and rebuild the mechanism which will activate the mysterious gearing. If you manage, you will receive a prize.

Philemon

As you are nearing the end of your journey, you will see that this watchmaking speciality goes with the trip you have just made.

What you don't know is that the Courvoisier & Cie company made something specific, and Fritz Courvoisier was its best representative.

To help you with this last step is Fritz Courvoisier, watchmaker, soldier and politician. A real strategist and leader of the revolution of Neuchâtel in 1848 against the King of Prussia, he has gone down in the history books for his involvement in his troops' victory. He is forgotten, however, for his part in creating the railway line connecting La Chaux-de-Fonds, Le Locle and Morat. You will probably use this railway line to go back.

Orloges or watchmakers? Now you're at the last step of your initiation. You are no longer an apprentice, but a journeyman. In our trade, discipline is very important.

Solve the riddle on the fifth board.

Rub the plaque with a pencil here, after solving the riddle of the fourth board.

Specific name

Go to the Le Locle Watch and Clock Museum - Château des Monts to identify this object, get your guide stamped to validate the step and collect the third part of the mechanism.

MUSEUM STAMP



ACCOMMODATION STAMP

Congratulations, you have completed Step 4. See you at the next steps riddle board.

Solve the riddle on the fourth board.

I can see that you appreciate all the aspects of the watchmaking trade; curiosity is the main asset of an Orlogeur. Here is a true gift: the unique experience of Jacques David, a master in this field, who often came to see me to tell me his stories of plotting and espionage.

He worked for the highest secret functions and in 1876 he was sent to the universal exposition in Philadelphia for an industrial espionage mission for a local company, the Société inter-cantonale des industries du Jura.

On his return, he was chased by the American companies' henchmen and had to hide the plan of a revolutionary mechanism he had stolen. To trick his persecutors, he coded his text so that he could pass it on to somebody he trusted.

You must use logic, which is essential in this profession, to decode the riddle and find the hidden plan.

Philemon

Use this key to solve the riddle.

1-Z
2-Y
3-X
4-W
5-V
6-U
7-T8-S
9-R
10-Q
11-P
12-O
13-N
14-M15-L
16-K
17-J
18-I
19-H
20-G
21-F22-E
23-D
24-C
25-B
26-A

Rub the plaque with a pencil here, after solving the riddle of the third board.

Is the flame shining? It's the signal! You can now cross the border without being stopped.

Have your guide stamped to validate the step.



— ACCOMMODATION STAMP —

Congratulations, you have completed Step 3. See you at the next steps riddle board.

This is a smuggling centre, the *Saut du Doubs*. Many of us demonstrated great imagination to get over this frontier and many were taken away by the current. Luckily, we had a few accomplices who told us when the way was free. You have to find out how.

The "castus", meaning customs officers, were always a problem and were increasingly vigilant. In addition, the state sent us customs officers from the Basque Country, from the Dauphiné or from the South, who were former smugglers. They had to choose between "traitors" knew our tricks and we had to be ingenious to avoid being caught. Your challenge is to cross this customs border without being stopped.

To help you, solve the riddle and the light will show that the way is free.

Once the hidden object has been identified, you will get your pass.

Philemon



Rub the plaque with a pencil here, after solving the riddle of the second board.

Specific name

Go to the Villers-le-Lac Watch Museum (step 3) to identify this object, get your guide stamped to validate the step and collect the second part of the mechanism.

MUSEUM STAMP



ACCOMMODATION STAMP

Congratulations, you have completed Step 2. See you at the next steps riddle board.

Solve the riddle on the second board.

Now you're at the second step of your initiation. To help you learn, here is Theophile Prêtre, a famous watchmaker from our region. You might not be familiar with the name, but if you look upwards to our churches' clock towers, you will see his signature. We came from the same village and ran wild together, carrying out small scavens and chasing after the ladies.

Theophile was an Orlogeur and smuggler and was caught by a patrol of Gabelous. He had to get rid of the illicit content he was hiding in his nest of drawers, but in the rush he lost a part essential for making an "oignon".

You need to master the ins and outs of watchmaking to understand the precision of our trade and the patience it takes to repair a watch.

Also, having perfect knowledge of the geography at the borders will make you an even more skilful smuggler...

Solve the riddle and you can find the missing part.

Philemon

Solve the riddle on the first board.

This is Laurent Mégervand, our first character from Swiss watchmaking. I knew him at the start of my career as a smuggling Orlogeur. I supplied him with poor quality French gold for the backs of his watch cases, which I discretely passed through customs in my nest of drawers. He was found out and banished from Geneva for five years.

His love story with Switzerland did not end there! In 1793, he went into exile with 80 Swiss watchmakers who had been disgraced for having supported the French revolution. In his race to escape justice, he lost his favourite tool with a wooden handle.

You have to be familiar with nature to be a good Orlogeur. Some types of wood are very useful for making parts and tools used for watchmaking. Identify the tree species by solving the riddle and using the comments in the nature lover's corner.

Philémon

Identify the tree, find the plaque and rub it with a pencil (below) to discover the watchmaking tool.

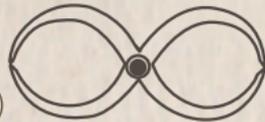
Congratulations, you have completed Step 1. See you at the next steps riddle board.

Solve the riddles on the starting panel in the park of the Morteau Watch & Clock Museum using the sketches to help you and write the answers (common names) below.

Let's see if you're a talented apprentice. Solve the four riddles and identify the tools which are essential for the watchmaking trade. I have left clues to guide you. You need to use skills of thought, research and precision - the first qualities of being a good *Orlogeur*.

Philemon

Common name / Specific name



1

Common name / Specific name



4

Common name / Specific name



3

Common name / Specific name



2

Go to the Morteau Watch & Clock Museum to identify these tools. Write their specific names and then have your guide stamped to validate the step and collect the first part of the mechanism.

MUSEUM STAMP



ACCOMMODATION STAMP

You open the first page and discover the introduction written by your ancestor, Philemon, in the 20th century...

My name is Philemon. If you are reading these words, you must be my inheritor and this place is rightfully yours. However, it hides many secrets. The book you are holding will help you understand the signs and learn about the finest profession, that of the Orlogeur. To do this, I have left clues and directions with Mother Nature, so that you can find out about the expertise of my peers - famous watchmakers.

Before all that, I need to tell you the story of my life, which made the fortune of our family. It all began in 1816, when the country was hit by a food shortage. I was a farmer and had no choice but to feed the mouths in my household. To do this, I had to find a new trade, which took me to watchmaking, and sometimes smuggling watch parts.

I want to pass this knowledge on to somebody in my bloodline. Do you accept to set off on a quest to learn about the masters of time?

Collect all the parts of the mechanism and you will own the secret. See you at Châteaueu Pertuisier*.

Philemon

July 1835

To the person reading this letter: pray for us...

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



You have just inherited a superb building near Morteau. On site, you discover a magnificent farm. As you explore your new home, you come across an old notebook in the attic, with the title:

"Orlogeur initiation guide".

Inside this notebook is a loose sheet with a list of words and their definition. This list of words appears to be the key to a specific language...

© Etienne Druon



- Castus: customs officers
- Gabelous: customs officers
- Layette: small, portable nest of drawers
- Orlogeur: term that appeared in the 1600s meaning a travelling clock/watch repairer.
- Oignon: pocket watch
- Tuze: large chimney, typical of the region
- Initiatique: relating to initiation, revelation of knowledge through discovery and training

PRINCIPLE OF THE GAME, POSSIBLE FROM 1/06 TO 30/09

The first riddle is on the route's starting panel, at the Haut-Doubs Watch & Clock Museum. You will then find a riddle to solve on each board along the way. The solution will lead you to find a plaque, which you need to rub over with a pencil to make a drawing appear. This drawing represents an object, which you need to name and identify in the museums, which are free to enter. Once you have completed this quest, the museums will each give you a part with which you will be able to operate a mechanism at the end of the circuit.

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

DON'T FORGET YOUR PENCIL!



Plaque to rub with pencil on the initiation guide.

Riddle to solve



ON THE WAY

Object to find and identify in the museum using this label.

Norm spécifique à l'horlogerie :



ETAPE 1

Specific name of the item to write on the guide.



Step validated by the stamp of the museum and host.



IN THE MUSEUM AND AT YOUR HOST'S.

WALK IN THE FOOT- STEPS OF THE ORLOGEUR

PRESENTATION OF THE CHARACTER

The word *Orlogeur* is a local term, which appeared in the 1600s and has now disappeared from the French language. The *Orlogeur* was an important character in the world of smuggling.

His proper role was to go from farm to farm to repair, maintain or adjust family clocks, which were luxury items passed on from generation to generation or received as a wedding gift. The scarcity and importance of this object for daily life made it very valuable.

For all of these reasons, families did not want the clock to leave the home and therefore called on *Orlogeurs* to look after it in their homes.

This travelling trade, with its specific equipment, was particularly well suited to smuggling expensive parts as well as less expensive clock parts.



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AIM OF THE GAME

We invite you to play a game during your initiation trip! Solve the riddles on the boards along the way, collect the parts of a mechanism in the French and Swiss watch and clock museums and take them to La Chaux-de-Fonds. These parts will activate a mysterious mechanism, from which a well-deserved prize will be released to prove you have learned all about the *Orlogeur*.



WWW.LESCHEMINSDELACONTRBANDE.COM

on the Chemins de la Contrebande website

CREATE YOUR ONLINE TRAVEL NOTEBOOK



with stamps by the service providers identified by this plaque

HAVE THE TIME YOU SPEND IN ACCOMODATION / THE STEPS VALIDATE



thanks to the initiation guide and boards

STEP INTO THE SHOES OF A SMUGGLER



using our practical guide and mobile application

ROAM THE CHEMINS DE LA CONTRBANDE



AN OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY AND SHARE

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN...



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'Orlogeur* and *Le Colporteur* trails) and one "customs officer" trail. Experience a unique adventure as you journey back in time. Welcome to the Valley of the Doubs.

In addition to the role-playing adventure, you can admire the majestic landscapes, the Mont Châteleu and its panorama, and the tumultuous Saut du Doubs waterfall. On the way, you will come across Jura farms and their architecture suited to the practice of watchmaking, museums filled with treasures which are the fruits of local watchmaking know-how and the watchmaking hubs of Le Locle and La Chaux-de-Fonds, a joint World Heritage site.

You have chosen to smuggle watchmaking goods. Congratulations for this wise choice and welcome to an adventure made of riddles, games, poetry and learning experiences.

Forget your usual markers, you now belong to the masters of time and contraband. Dive into the *Orlogeurs'* history, meet the most famous historical characters, read between the lines, be curious and logical. This cross-border hike will be an initiation into the secret practices of this profession and reveal the history of contraband of times gone by.

* An *Orlogeur* was a travelling watchmaker



Initiation guide

First name:

Surname:

5 days on the trail of watch
and clock smugglers...

L'Orlogeur



franco-suisse

Contrebande

de la

Chemins
Les

