

# HIKING TRAIL H02: THE CLIMONT AND THE SOURCE OF THE BRUCHE



Intermediate level



Start : Bourg Bruche



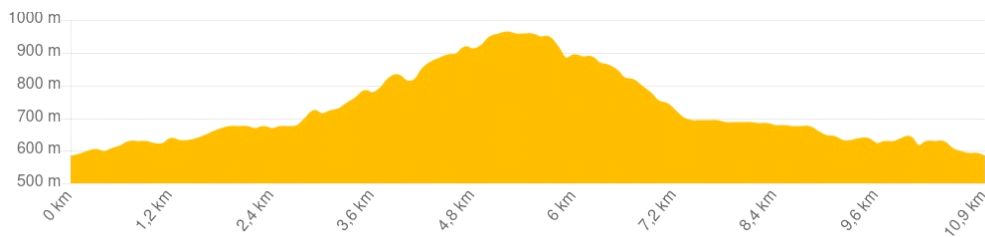
This walk winds its way through a haven of peace and quiet to one of the Bruche Valley's legendary peaks. Surrounded by green and leafy landscapes, the Climont is the region's water tower. Three rivers spring up alongside it: the Bruche, the Giessen and the Fave. The source of the Bruche is at an altitude of 690m. This site is home to a headstone sculpted by Raymond Keller using a sandstone block from the Champenay quarry. The Bruche then runs through a vast sun-soaked basin called the Hang Clearing.

	.....	11 km
		Half-day
		380 m
		+ > + >  > + >

Parking at La Fraise

Parking at La Fraise

2 Km - Bourg-Bruche



## USEFUL INFORMATION

N'oubliez pas d'emporter une carte !  
IGN N° de la carte : 1/25 000 Bruche 25  
N° carte Club Vosgien : Secteur carte : 1/25 000  
3717 ET



[GPX Track](#)

## CONTACT

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## STEPS



Starts from "La Fraise" car park



From Bourg-Bruche station, head towards the village. At the crossroads with the Salcée road, turn left, walk for 200 m and take the 2<sup>nd</sup> on the right, "Vielle Route". Continue for 350 m and take the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the right, "Chemin de Rassus". Continue for 850 m to "La Fraise" crossroads and car park.

### 1 Stage 1: Les Houures +

At "La Fraise" car park, turn left, following the markings + for 850 m until you get to an intersection, still following the markings +.

① *The Mennonites (Swiss Anabaptist farmers) settled in these challenging regions in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They lived austere and retired lives, and managed to get the best out of the infertile soils. Some of them left Alsace and settled all over North America.*

### 2 Stage 2: Below the Climont +

Following the markings + for a little over 1 km, until you come to another intersection. Turn left, following the markings ○.



① *The Climont, the finest range in the sandstone Vosges, is in a key position between the basins of St-Dié-des-Vosges and Villé. It is the region's "water tower" (source of the River Bruche, the Giessen and the Fave, an affluent of the River Meurthe). You can spot its unique outline from miles away: a cone with the top sliced off.*

### 3 Stage 3: Ascent of the Climont +

Follow the markings ○ and go around the mountain for a little over 1 km. At the intersection "3" turn right, following the markings + to go up the northern slope of the Climont.


① *Here you are taking the "Strassburger Weg", one of the historic trails created by the Club Vosgien in Strasbourg. Its members are in charge of a vast forest area between La Rothlach, Le Hohwald and Champ du Feu. The first trails were formed around the Climont to give access to a recent tower at the summit, which was inaugurated in 1897. The "Strassburger Weg" leads to the summit after a climb of 350 metres.*

#### 4 Stage 4: The summit of the Climont

After the climb, follow the markings  and you will get to the Climont summit. To go back down the southern slope, follow the markings .



*① At the summit, you will see the panoramic Climont Tower or Julius Tower, built in 1897 by the Strasbourg section of the Club Vosgien. The square tower in neo-medieval style is 17 metres high and was inaugurated in October 1897 by the authorities of the "Deutsches Reich". It has 78 steps and a commemorative plaque at the entrance in honour of Julius Euting, a famous Orientalist and founding president of the Club Vosgien. The tower cost 4,000 Reichsmarks to build at the time.*

#### 5 Stage 5: Descent of the Climont

During the descent, at the intersection 900 m after leaving the summit, make sure you turn right (hairpin bend), always following the markings .


*① The village of Bourg-Bruche, from where you set out, was formed from the union of two communities on either side of the River Bruche: Bourg, to the north-west of today's town centre, and Bruche in the valley to the west. Bourg was the original residential community, like a defensive barrier across the Bruche valley and the Roman salt road (from Villé to St.-Blaise-la-Roche). Bruche was a community linked to the bridge toll booth on the River Bruche, as were historically the villages of Devant-Fouday and La Broque.*

#### 6 Stage 6: The source of the Bruche

At the end of the descent you will come to the GR532 trail. Turn right and follow the markings . You will pass by the source of the Bruche, symbolised by a sandstone tablet to your right. Continue following the markings  for 1.5 km until you get to the crossroads with stage 7.

*① The River Bruche rises at an altitude of 690 m on the western flank of the Climont. It begins as a modest stream, crosses a vast sunny basin, the Hang Clearing, then flows into the valley, which is sometimes narrow, but gradually widens between the granite range of the Champ du Feu and the sandstone Donon range. The Bruche's waters are of excellent quality and perfect for*

#### 7 Stage 7: Back to the starting point

At the intersection turn left, following the markings . You return to your starting point, "La Fraise" car park, then Bourg-Bruche station.

*① You will again walk alongside the Hang Clearing. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, some of the Mennonite community members helped to develop glass and crystal craftsmanship. The industry finally disappeared, due to competition from Baccarat. If you look at the landscape, you might see some of the old Mennonite buildings, now abandoned.*

