

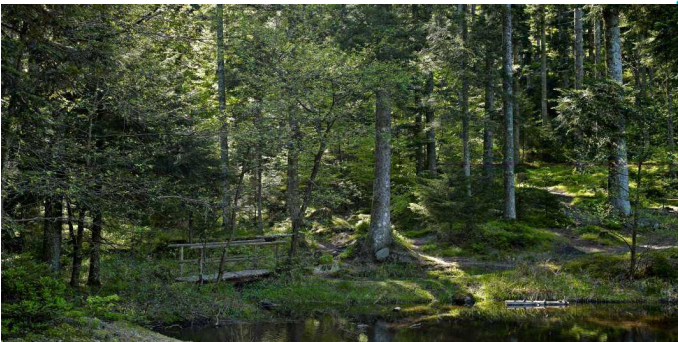
HIKING TRAIL D07: LAKE DE LA MAIX



Intermediate level



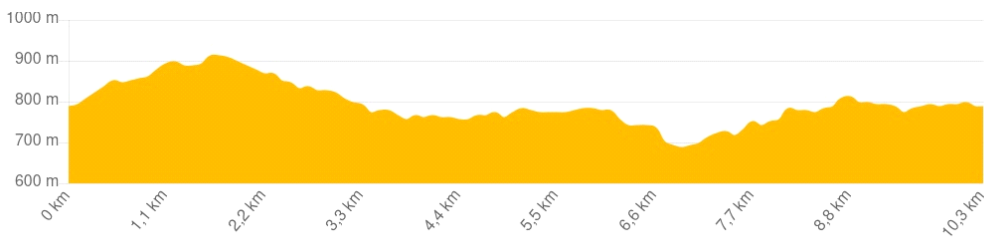
Start : Grandfontaine



A wonderful trail filled with stories and legends. From the Col de Prayé, the route follows a section of the Déodatie region GR trail and will take you to the Haut du Bon Dieu plateau. Just below this site is the legendary Maix lake, with waters that are clear for some and dark for others, and are hiding a whole host of secrets.

	10 km
		All day
		237 m

	Col de Prayé
P	Col de Prayé
	15 Km - Schirmeck-La Broque



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
3716 ET



[GPX Track](#)

CONTACT

Office de tourisme de la vallée de la Bruche
03 88 47 18 51 - rando-bruche.fr



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STEPS



Access to the start from the Col du Donon by car






Outside of periods of high snowfall (forest road closed), from the Col du Donon, follow the D 392 towards Lunéville. After 500 m, in the right-hand bend go straight ahead along the Prayé forest road for 5 km. You will pass through several intersections (Etoile I, Etoile II & Etoile III) and finally arrive at the starting point, the Col de Prayé.

1

Bipierre chapel




From the Col de Prayé, follow the forest track, then the path towards the left marked  -  -  towards the chapel and the Tête de Bipierre. After a climb of 450 m, you arrive at a crossroads. You can make a 160 m return trip to the locality of "Chapelle de Bipierre".

① The Bipierre chapel is a geological curiosity formed by 3 niches dug out of a rock. Around the 2 central niches appear engraved crosses (hence the name "chapel"). The earliest marks are thought to date from Neolithic times, the more recent one from the last few centuries.

2

Tête des Blanchés Roches



At the crossroads, continue towards the right along the path marked  for 500 m to get to Tête des Blanchés Roches (alt. 916 m) with some great views over the Bruche valley.








① At the summit of Tête de Bipierre are two border stones standing side by side, one French and the other German. The hatred between the two peoples at that time made it impossible for them to engrave their marks on the same stone. The two border stones may be the origin of the name Bipierre ("Bi-stone"), unless it came from the unusual shape of the rock itself?

① The region is known by the strange name of "Déodatie". The term comes from Saint Deodatus, the founder of the town of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges and the surrounding area. The



3

Towards "Haut du Bon Dieu"






Continue along the path marked . After 300 m, head right along the forest path, then at the first crossroads, follow the markings to the left  -  - . 800 m further on, go down the forest path to the right, then after 450 m, turn left onto the path marked . After 1 km, you will come to a small tarmac road. Go up the forest road opposite marked . After 1.5 km, you will come to a crossroads with an oratory (on the left), the locality of "Haut du Bon Dieu". **Variation:** Make a 600 m round-trip to the left along the path marked  to see the archaeological remains in the undergrowth to your right (rocks with strange shapes, probably sculpted and cup and ring marks).





4 Maix lake

From Haut du Bon Dieu, go down towards Maix lake along the steep path marked  - . Walk around the lake to the left, following the same markings. *① Maix lake (15 m deep, altitude 678 m) is one of the last natural lakes of glacier origin in the Vosges mountains. It is a place of worship (chapel nearby) and legends, and here is one of them... One day, the "Violinist Devil" is said to have come to make the villagers dance. They danced so well that they forgot to go to mass. The divine punishment was to open up the earth beneath the dancers' feet, and they were instantly drowned in a lake that had just appeared. They were condemned to dance to judgement day... It is said that on some nights you can still hear the sound of the violin.*

5 Return along the Prayé forest road


From Maix lake, continue along the trail marked  -  - . After 1.7 km you turn right onto a forest road. Soon afterwards, at the next crossroads, you follow the forest path to the left. 600 m further on, you come to the Prayé tarmac forest road. *① Recommended hikes to explore the traces from the First World War in the Donon mountains: D01 "The Bunkers trail", D03 "Fortified positions north of the Donon", D04 "Fortified positions south of the Donon" (totally accessible only in July and August) and D06 "The Petit Donon, sanctuary of the Great War", available from the Bruche Valley Tourist Office or on rando-bruche.fr.*

6 Back to the starting point

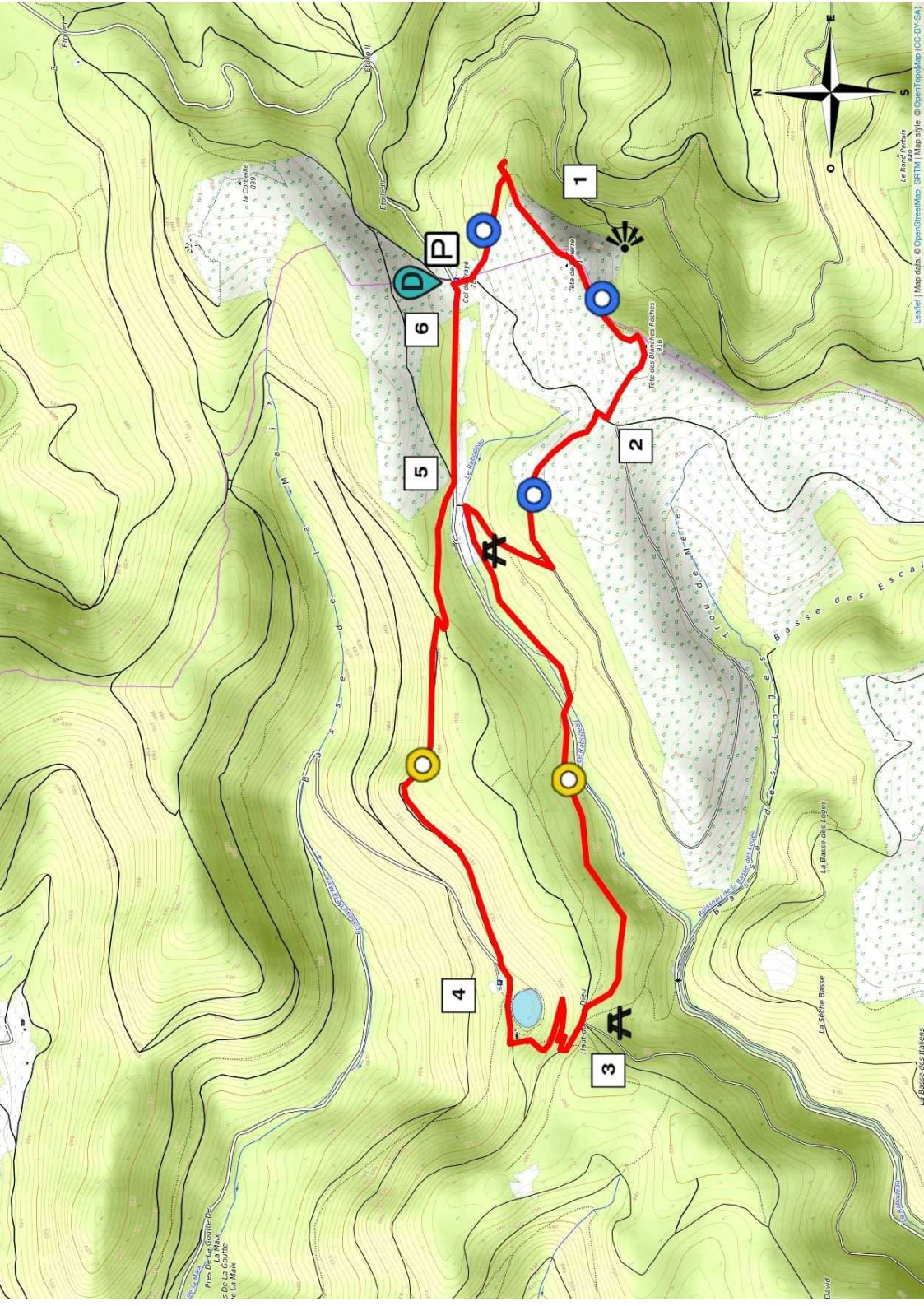
Follow the Prayé tarmac forest road to the left marked  -  -  -  for 1 km to get to the Col de Prayé, your starting point.

🍷 At the Col du Donon: Restaurant "Velleda" (tel. 03 88 97 20 32): traditional French dishes made from fresh ingredients. Brasserie Thom's - Pizzeria du Donon (tel. 06 22 91 32 82): if you are feeling peckish. ① 10 km away from the Col du Donon, visit the Depierre workshop. Here, since 2008, they have been making jewellery of all kinds and for all budgets (necklaces, bracelets, earrings, etc.) with fine, high-quality stones (gems and semi-precious stones). As well as visiting the workshop, you can also enjoy the permanent exhibition of minerals and

Other sights to see at the Col du Donon

Option to visit the temple at the summit of the Grand Donon, starting out from the Le Velleda hotel-restaurant along the archaeological & historic Donon footpath. It is a round-trip (≈ 5 km, ⌚ 2 hrs 30 mins, ↗ 270 m) marked . A themed leaflet describing the trail is available from the Tourist Office or on bit.ly/brochuresOTVB.

In the Donon area you can also see the vestiges of the Great War in a wide range of trails, including "D04: Fortified positions south of the Donon" and "D06: The Petit Donon, sanctuary of the Great War". Topographical guides with details about the trails are available from the Tourist Office or on www.rando-bruche.fr.



Pres de La Courbe
Des Laux
La Mire
La Mire

La Sienne Basse

La Base des Loges

Basse des Escal

Le Buisson

Tête des Blancs Roches

Cof de L'oye

Le Nord Permis

Le Nord Permis

Le Nord Permis

Le Nord Permis