



Views over Bouilland ©P. Gateau

## Circuit 1

### Tour of the Rhoin Valley

A pleasant circuit with superb views where you can immerse yourself in the past with the great prehistoric Châtelet de Bouilland and the medieval Abbey of St Marguerite.

- **Start:** Bouilland, 15 km from Beaune by the D18 then the D2
- **Parking:** On the way out of the village. Along the D2, heading for Pont d'Ouche
- **Distance:** about 9 km
- **Duration:** about 3 hours
- **Height gained:** about 375 m
- **Level:** medium
- **Markers:** directional posts and yellow paint marks on various objects (trees, walls, ground...)
- **Restrictions:** TAKE CARE during the hunting season (September to end-February) and official culls.

(post P134) From the car park, take Rue des Roches opposite, follow it for about 150 m, at the first junction 1 turn left and after 25 m turn left again and go up a grassy trail passing to the right of a house (still on the GR®).

Beyond this, turn left on the little tarmac road. At the junction, by the cross (post P91), leave the GR® and the Marianne trail and climb to the right. At the turn, continue straight ahead on a small path through a copse. Arriving at a wider path, continue straight ahead.

Coming out into a clearing, take the path on the right that takes you above the rocks of Bouilland (wonderful view of the village nestled in the valley, climbing school to the right at the foot of the rocks).

Continue along the path a few metres from the cliff edge, being careful, especially in wet weather and when children are present. The path passes above the hamlet of La Forge, then enters the forest.

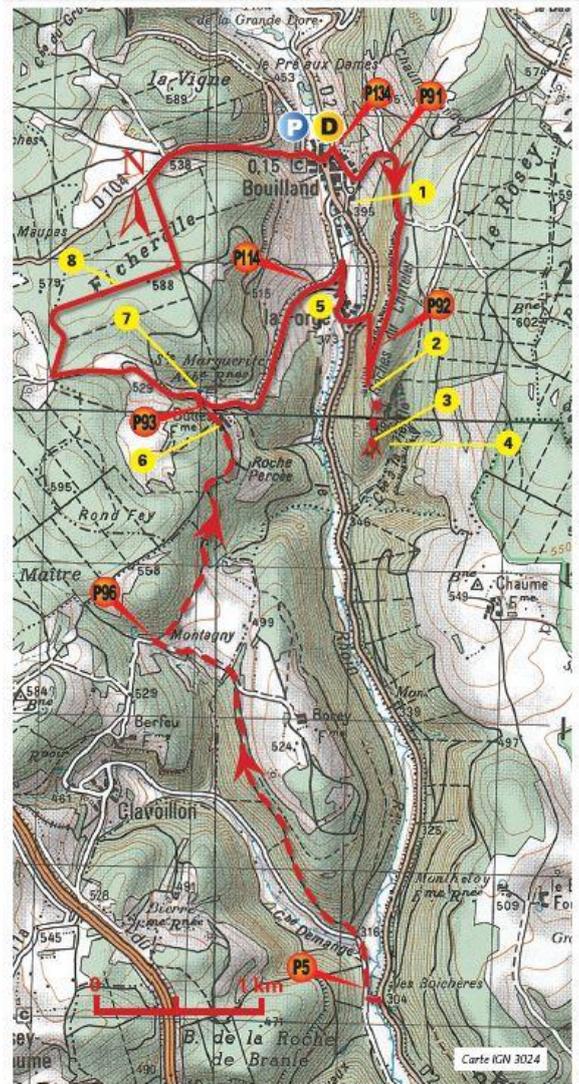
After approximately 600 m (post P92), leave the Marianne trail and Combes path to the left and continue slightly to the right for 200 m, turn right (*continuing straight ahead, round trip to see the Grand Chatelet de Bouilland and the splendid view from the spur 2, 3, 4, but stay away from cliff edges*) to join a narrow path heading down to La Forge. Arriving at the tarmac road D2 (cross with care), continue almost opposite on the gravel path, turning right into Rue de Savigny past a wash-house 5. Head uphill slightly, turn left into Rue de Chagney then left again (post P114) and continue along the tarmac road leading to the Abbaye Sainte Marguerite 6. Pass the car park of the Abbey 7 (post P93) (follow the red and white markings of the GR® to Bouilland), continue up the small partially tarred road for 200 m which turns into a paved path after nearly 700 m. At the end of the paved section of the road, turn right on the border path which then enters the wood.

After about 700 m, take a path on the right just before the start of a lane. Go straight ahead, soon crossing a type of stepping stones **8** (beware: slippery in wet weather). Then head left on the wide forest path to a gate, turn right on the D104 road, follow it for about 300 m (take care) ignoring a gravel road on the left, and immediately afterwards, veer right leaving the tarmac road to begin the descent to Bouilland. Return to the town hall and wash-house.

Link up with circuit no 4: (*post P93*), follow on the left the GR® 7 to *post P96*. Then follow the yellow signs to join circuit no 4 at *post P5* (3 km).



Magnificent cliffs : a remarkable natural site ©P. Gateau



## Don't miss :

**1** - After 150 m, church with a bell tower from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and a tuff steeple, definitely from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The transept and nave would be from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**2** - Grand Chatelet de Bouilland: leaving the forest, barred spur inaccessible on 2 sides, access via the plateau was blocked by two huge parallel walls of which these stone alignments are the remains, on either side of the path; very varied flora including some alpine plants.

**3** - Viewpoint towards the end of the spur (stay away from cliff edges): in front, at the top amid the greenery, Borey Farm; slightly to the right, on the ridge, the village of Bessey-en-Chaume with its various antennas (about 600 m); further to the right, the cliffs near Roche Percée, Buttes Farm and the ruins of the Abbey of St Marguerite. To the left of the spur, the deep cut of Combe à la Vieille, and above, the large cleared and cultivated area of the Ferme de la Chaume estate (deforestation was carried out in the Middle Ages by the monks to create a gap or barn, away from the communication routes and waterways).

**4** - Combe à la Vieille: very wild valley, surrounded by high limestone cliffs. Does the name come from the Grand Duke who lived within the walls, or in memory of the old woman, a fairy or witch who, according to legend, once lived in these parts?



5 - La Forge: steelworks established by the monks of the Abbey of St Marguerite, which was still working in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

6 - On the left, about 200 metres further on, Buttes Farm: the Beaune poet Joseph Pétasse lived there in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

7 - Ruins of the Abbey of St Marguerite: founded in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century by the canons of St Antoine (the Antonines). The Sires of Vergy were the first benefactors of the monastery affiliated to Cluny Abbey. The church was built in the style of Notre Dame de Beaune (Our Lady of Beaune) between 1120 and 1140. Of the original building, only the walls of the nave remain, with some fluted pilasters and a capital. The rest of the church is Gothic. The square tower serving as a dovecote dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century with, above the entrance, the coat of arms of Abbot Jacques de la Boulière. The home of the Abbot which appears to be from the 17<sup>th</sup> century has just been rebuilt.

8 - Weathered rock or karst area due to the partial dissolution of limestone in the tertiary era.



Covered wash-house © P Gateau



Fountain in wash-house © Atelier Muzard

RESPECT THE HARVEST AND PLANTING.  
DO NOT LEAVE LITTER.

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