



Since 2008: Regional Nature Park Candidate
387 km² area
35000 Inhabitants
Cantons of Berne and Neuchâtel



A striking lighthouse with a wide-reaching charisma

Chasseral is a familiar name ... The Jura mountain range with the characteristic telecommunication aerial towers above the Swiss Central Plateau and makes accessible one of the most beautiful panoramas on the north side of the Alps and to the older mountain ranges of the Vosges and the Black Forest.

Chasseral symbolises the point of interception of cultures: The place of encounter between the German and French language areas, melting pot for manual and industrial traditions, link between urban and country areas, interrelated complementing of mountain dwellers and lakeside residents.

Chasseral lies in the middle of the triangle of cities Biel, Neuchâtel and La-Chaux-de-Fonds. The park is thus easily reachable and offers an excellent hiking and rambling area.

Chasseral, where agriculture, nature and industry merge harmoniously

Chasseral offers the typical relief of the Jura folds, so to speak a geology textbook in the open air: anticline and syncline layers, terrain cuts and defiles,

dolines and elevations, moors and dry grassland...

The Romans feared the crossing of the Jura mountain range with its thick forests, in order to get to the Rhine basin. But from the 7th century monks such as Saint Immer (Saint Imier) began to clear the forests and cultivate the land. In the 17th century the land clearing intensified according to tradition by the Anabaptists, who found a new home as refugees in the Jura. Then in the 19th century came the requirements of the iron and glass industries, which needed wood for smelting.

A landscape which slowly reveals itself

On one day the walker can discover the thick forests on the north side, the dry meadows on exposed rocky and stony ground, the steep rock faces of the Combe Grède and the fantastic view from the Chasseral ridge.

Many "métairies", single alpine farms offer the guest a warm welcome and typical regional specialities such as gentian schnapps, country ham or alpine cheese – pure enjoyment, genuine and simple.

The park as the key to the future of the region

When a new quarry was built in 1998 for a cement works, many regional actors questioned the future of Chasseral. There was a need for action for controlling the Sunday lines of cars and streams of walkers, for the long-term maintenance of the nature as space for experience and in the creation of tourist offers, which would really bring in revenues. The Chasseral regional park was created in order to address these problems.

These concerns resulted in an initial series of projects: Cycle paths, sign-posting of the "métairies", clearing out the grottos, measures for the benefit of the wood grouse.

The 29 municipalities which constitute the park clearly declared their active participation in December 2008. The present task of the park is to bring the various geographic parts together under one roof with joint projects: Chasseral

www.parcchasseral.ch