



↑ A soaring red kite, *Milvus milvus*, looks for prey.
↓ Bridge crossing the Limmat River at Baden.

dominated by Hasenmatt (1,445m/4,741ft). Traditional stone walls lead the way along the ridge.

Soon the trail enters the Chasseral Nature Park, a protected area centered around Chasseral itself, which at 1,606m (5,269ft) is the highest peak in the Bernese Jura. The views from this gentle whale-back ridge are as superb as you might imagine, but an even better scenic delight awaits on the next stage: the Creux du Van. This famous cirque is a gigantic natural amphitheater, enclosed by cliffs up to 160m (525ft) high, and the trail heads around its rim to get the best views before plunging back into the forest again, then descending to the village of Sainte-Croix. The trail now resumes an echo of those first few days as it climbs and descends through a patchwork landscape of woods, hills, and pastures. Vallorbe is the next town stop, with its campsite and historic railway station. Excellent views over the Lac de Joux beckon the hiker onward.

There is one last key section of high ground to negotiate as the trail enters the Jura Vaudois Nature Park, starting with a big climb to the summit of Mont Tendre (1,679m/5,509ft)—the highest Swiss summit outside the Alps. Mont Tendre’s summit is a broad, undulating ridge dotted with trees, offering very good views over Lake Geneva and the Alps beyond. Mont Blanc can be seen glittering like a jewel on the horizon. Below, the eye will be drawn to the towns along Lake Geneva’s northern shore, including Nyon, where the Jura Crest Trail comes to an end. But the descent is a leisurely one, taking in as much of the ridge as possible before climbing up to one final peak to take in a last look at that dazzling view.



“Though its mountains have enough challenge, drama, and natural beauty to motivate any hiker, they are gentle enough to welcome the less experienced.”

↑ The alpenhorn is a traditional Swiss musical instrument with a distinctive sound.
← The Jura Crest Trail wanders through many scenic pastures.