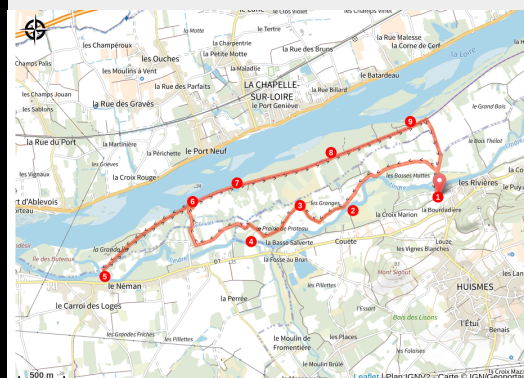


# Le bocage de Bois Chétif

Balades et randos région de Chinon - Huismes



No photo



## Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 10.8 km

Trek ascent : 20 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Exceptional views,  
Forest, River and stream

*Located at the confluence of the Indre and Loire rivers, the Sensitive Natural Area of Bois Chétif - Dr Marc Jacquet (former departmental councillor behind the protection of the site) is a wet bocage rich in biodiversity. It has been preserved thanks to a partnership with farmers. You will be crossing grazed meadows, so please respect the work of the farmers: don't open the gates, don't approach the animals, and keep your dogs on a lead. Please note! This is a wetland area, and part of the path is impassable in winter.*

**Departure** : Aire de pique-nique de Huismes

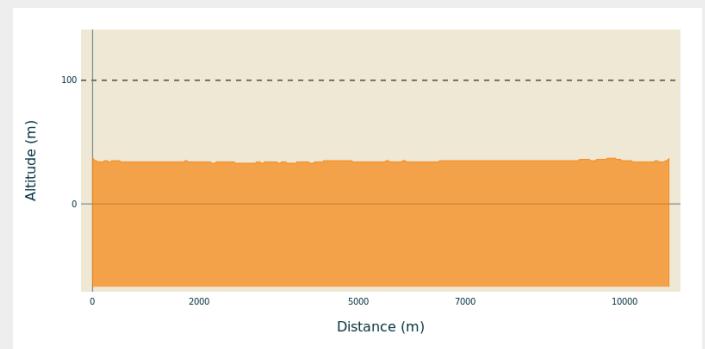
**Arrival** : Aire de pique-nique de Huismes

**Cities** : 1. Huismes

2. Avoine

3. La Chapelle-sur-Loire

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 33 m Max elevation 37 m

### 1. Parking and picnic area

This area, with its children's games, toilets and tables, is the starting point for your walk. Take the narrow road northwards. After the bridge over the Indre, turn left and continue west.

### 2. View of the Indre

The Indre flows through southern Touraine, meeting the Loire a few hundred metres from here. The river frequently floods the surrounding meadows. They fertilise the meadows. These are natural flood expansion zones that protect the market towns from damage.

Go straight ahead and take the wooden walkway next to the meadow fence. You are now on a farm track between hedgerows.

### 3. The pastures

The bocage landscape is shaped by livestock farming, with meadows interspersed with hedgerows that demarcate the plots and shelter the animals from the heat, wind and rain. The wet meadows produce good quality grass, in large quantities and for much of the summer.

Continue straight ahead through the undergrowth.

### 4. Pollarded trees

A pollarded tree is one that is periodically pruned to the same height (every 5 to 10 years), giving it a characteristic puffy head. Trees surrounding meadows were once pollarded to produce firewood and fodder for animals in dry years? This high pruning protected the branches from the teeth of animals, ensuring the tree's survival. These 'trognes' are extremely valuable for biodiversity, as old trees contain cavities that provide habitats for xylophagous insects, bees, bats, owls, etc. ....

Follow the signs through the undergrowth, cross the meadow and return to the farm track. At the end of this road, turn right to join the Loire à Vélo cycle route.

### 5. The confluence of the Indre with the Loire

Take a round trip and you'll be able to admire the 2 arms where the Indre meets the Loire on either side of the Ile des Buteaux opposite you. Depending on the

water level of the 2 rivers, the water flows in one direction or the other! This is where the Indre ends its journey from its source 279 km away in the Creuse département.

6. Viewpoint over the Loire and La-Chapelle-Sur-Loire

This is one of the best views of the Loire. Take the time to admire it. The last 'wild' river in France, it is still home to unspoilt nature, including many birds. On the other bank, you can see the village of La-Chapelle-Sur-Loire and its church in the distance.

7. Embarcadère

In summer, the Vents d'Galerne boatmen from La-Chapelle-Sur-Loire offer scheduled crossings of the Loire. On a toue - a boat that used to be used for traditional fishing - you can go to the right bank of the river. Please note that the landing stage can be moved depending on the location of the sandbanks in the Loire and the water level.

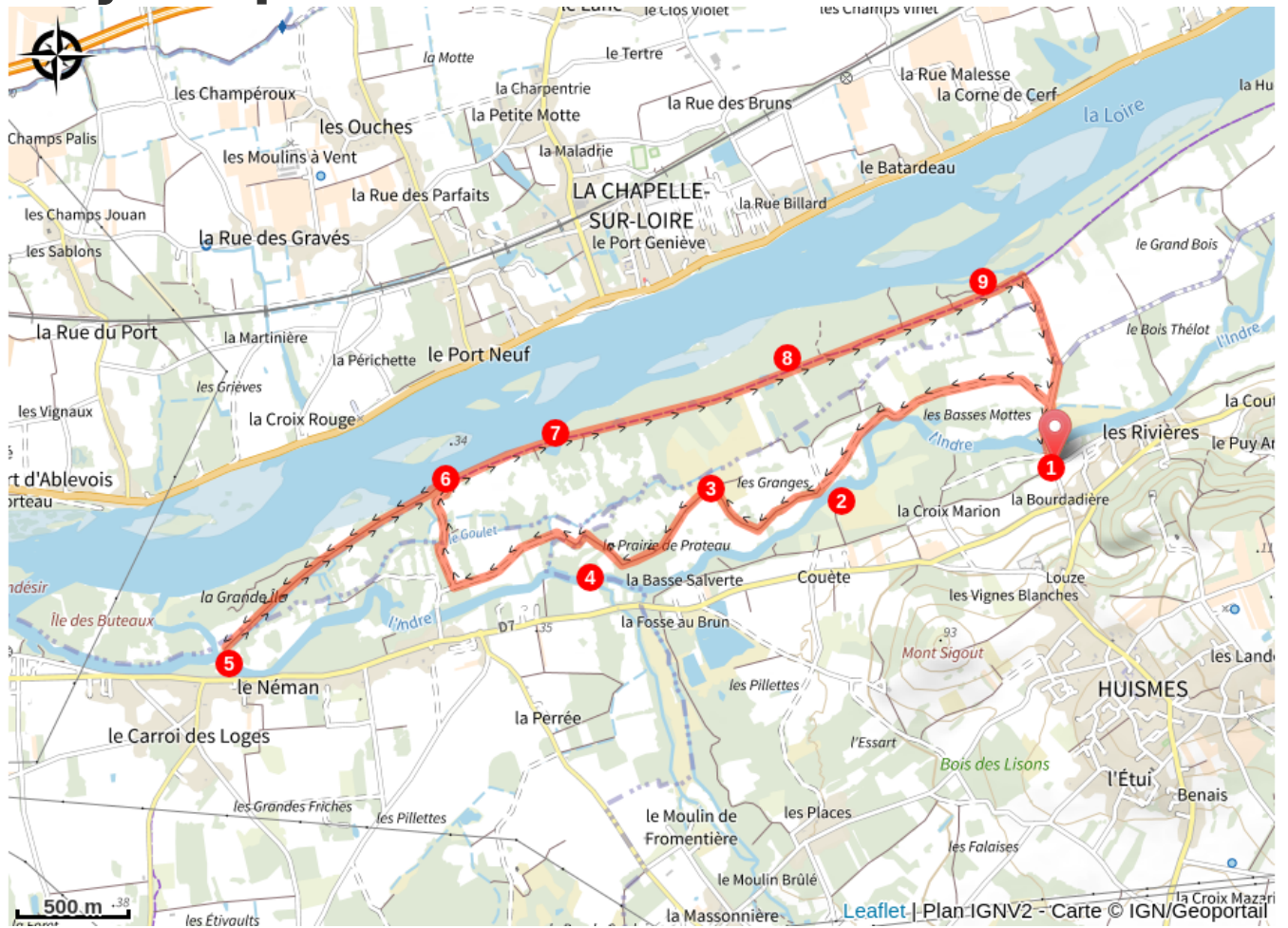
8. Ponds

There are a number of woodland pools along the Bois Chétif levee, most of which were created when land was borrowed to build the levee in the 1850s. Forest pools are useful for amphibian reproduction.

9. The dyke

The end of your walk is approaching. After walking along a small cobbled path that bears witness to the partial levelling of the dyke following the flooding of La Chapelle-sur-Loire in the 19th century, you will leave the banks of the river by taking the path on the right to get back to your starting point.

# On your path...



# All useful information

 **At the water's edge**

# Environmental sensitive areas

Along your trek, you will go through sensitive areas related to the presence of a specific species or environment. In these areas, an appropriate behaviour allows to contribute to their preservation. For detailed information, specific forms are accessible for each area.

## Site Natura 2000 des basses vallées de la Vienne et de l'Indre

Sensitivity period: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, Decembre

The site was designated in 2005 under the Birds Directive. The Park has been coordinating the site since 2010 (initially for the period 2010-2016, then renewed for 2016-2019 and 2019-2022), in conjunction with the CPIE Touraine-Val de Loire and the Indre-et-Loire Chamber of Agriculture.

The low valleys are largely covered by natural flood meadows, which are mown and/or grazed. These meadows form large complexes that are home to rare and endangered birds: corncrake, red-backed shrike, meadowlark, spotted crane, etc.

Certain sectors are characterized by a dense bocage network, with pollarded trees surrounding the meadows (Véron bocage): this is the home of the Common Fritillary, Natterjack Toad, Great Capricorn...

Finally, the banks of the Vienne and Indre rivers are occupied by alluvial woodlands and poplar plantations.

### Information desks

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