

LA BERRA AND LAKE GRUYÈRE

PARADISE FOR WATER AND MOUNTAIN SPORTS

La Berra, situated in La Gruyère, is a small but beautiful recreational and sports area. The view from the 1,719-metre-high summit of La Berra is spectacular. You can see Lake Gruyère with the Ogoz Island and far beyond, the Three-Lakes Region and the Jura, past the Fribourg Pre-Alps, to the snow-covered peaks of the Bernese Alps.

Located in the vicinity of Fribourg and Bulle, skiing began here in the 1920s. Today, the family-friendly La Berra offers a hybrid lift with chairs and cable cars, as well as four ski lifts. La Berra is a popular destination for snow sports enthusiasts thanks to over 20 kilometres of slopes, two restaurants, a ski school, signposted snowshoe trails and great conditions for ambitious ski tourers.

In summer, La Berra is transformed into a hikers' paradise, and attracts cyclists from far and wide to the Berra Bike Park and its two downhill runs. Forest, pastures and typical Alpine chalets, with their shingle roofs, characterise the landscape. There are loads of great vantage

points on the circular biking trail that runs from Plaffeien along the mountain ridge around the Plasselbschlund. Before heading back down via the Schwyberg, a stop at La Berra offers breathtaking panoramic views. The signposted hiking trails can be combined with the cableway, which is accessible by public transport from La Roche at the weekends of summer and winter season. From the Chalet de La Berra, the restaurant at the summit, it is possible to take panoramic walks to the nice Buvette du Gros Cousimbert, for example. Visitors who cannot get enough of the spectacular views of Kaiseregg and Schwyberg can spend the night in two Alpine huts. It is very easy to get into the holiday mood on the theme trails, the playground and by studying the panorama boards in La Berra and its surroundings.

Water sports enthusiasts should head to Lake Gruyère, where they can hire all the kit they need – kayaks, stand up paddles, boats, and much more besides. The 44-kilometre-long lakeside trail leads around the lake in three stages. >>



BERRA BIKE PARK



Action – La Berra (altitude: 1,719 m) offers beautiful panoramic views and is a great destination for mountain bikers, with two cool downhill runs with elevation gains of 600 m. The blue 5.4-kilometre-long run starts at the top station and goes along the ski slope. The steeper red route is 3.4-kilometres-long and runs directly under the cableway. The Berra Bike Park also has a free pump track, located at the bottom station. Equipment can be hired on site. >>

WATER SPORTS



On the lake – Lake Gruyère has everything that water sports fans might need. You can rent single or double kayaks, canoes, pedalos, stand up paddles and even a giant SUP for the whole family, not to mention fishing and sailing boats. Adventure-seekers can set sail, either alone or with a guide, for Bird Island or the scenic Ogoz Island. Other activities include sailing courses and fun treasure hunts, including photo scavenger hunts. >>

NATURE TREK



Trekking – From Charmey, set out to conquer the summit of La Berra! This two-day trek takes you through forests and alpine pastures to a 360° panoramic view over Lake Gruyère, the Swiss Plateau and the Alps. A getaway that lets you fully experience the spirit of the Fribourg Pre-Alps. >>

OGOZ ISLAND



Excursion – The village of Ogoz had been inhabited for at least 10,000 years before it became an island in 1948, when the dam was built to create Lake Gruyère. The two castle ruins and the chapel dedicated to St. Theodul originate from the Middle Ages. From May to October, there is a boat trip every Sunday at 2 pm and 3.30 pm from Le Bry harbour on the lake and a guided tour of the Ogoz Island. It is also worth making enquiries about a group tour, a taxi ride or even a wedding on Ogoz. >>

KEY DATES

- 1934** The first ski lift opens
- 1947** Construction of the dam and creation of Lake Gruyère
- 2013** New combined cableway with chairs and cable cars opens
- 2017** Inauguration of the new lower station
- 2018** Launch of the downhill trails

IN NUMBERS

- Population:** 21,611 inhabitants (in the communes around Lake Gruyère)
- Language:** French
- Altitude:** 673 m (lake),
1,719 m (La Berra summit)