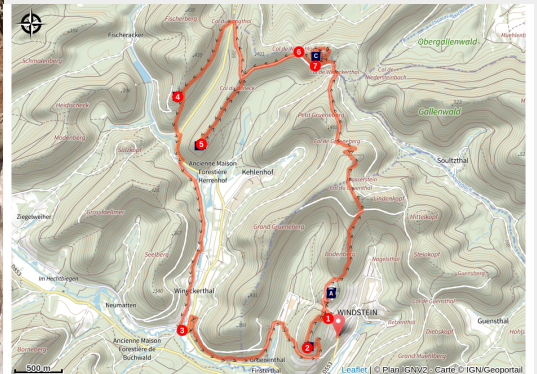


# Through the 5 castles

Alsace Verte



Château du Schoeneck (M.Schampion)



Hiking trail through the Northern Vosges, passing by five castles: Nouveau Windstein, Schoeneck, Wineck, Wittschloessel, and Vieux Windstein.

In the Northern Vosges, medieval castle ruins stand atop sandstone peaks offering beautiful views of the forest-covered ocean. This route takes you to five of them, in varying states of preservation.

## Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 5 h

Length : 17.2 km

Trek ascent : 709 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Loop

Themes : Géologie, Histoire & patrimoine, Point de vue, Château église abbaye

# Trek

**Departure** : Menhir parking lot, Windstein

**Arrival** : Menhir parking lot, Windstein

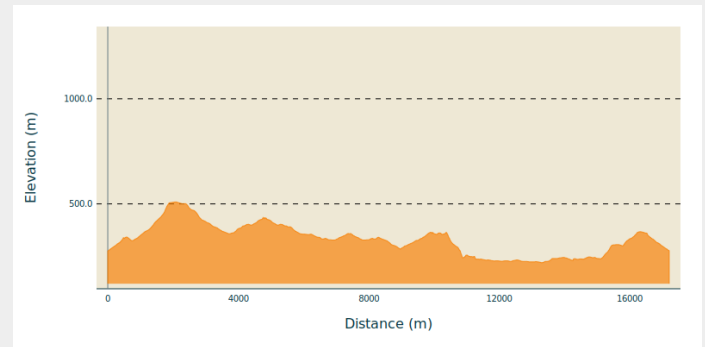
**Markings** :  Club Vosgien

**Cities** : 1. Windstein

2. Dambach

3. Obersteinbach

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 220 m Max elevation 509 m

From the parking lot, take the castle road to reach the red rectangle marker.

Before reaching the top of the road, you can access the Alcove Landscape Window via the field. Then return to the red rectangle through the forest.

Follow the red rectangle towards the ruins of Nouveau Windstein. Then continue towards Wineckerthal. Follow the road south, then turn right onto Rue du Buchwald. Turn right immediately and leave the red rectangle to follow the green triangle towards Schoeneck. Cross the road twice, then climb up to Schoeneck.

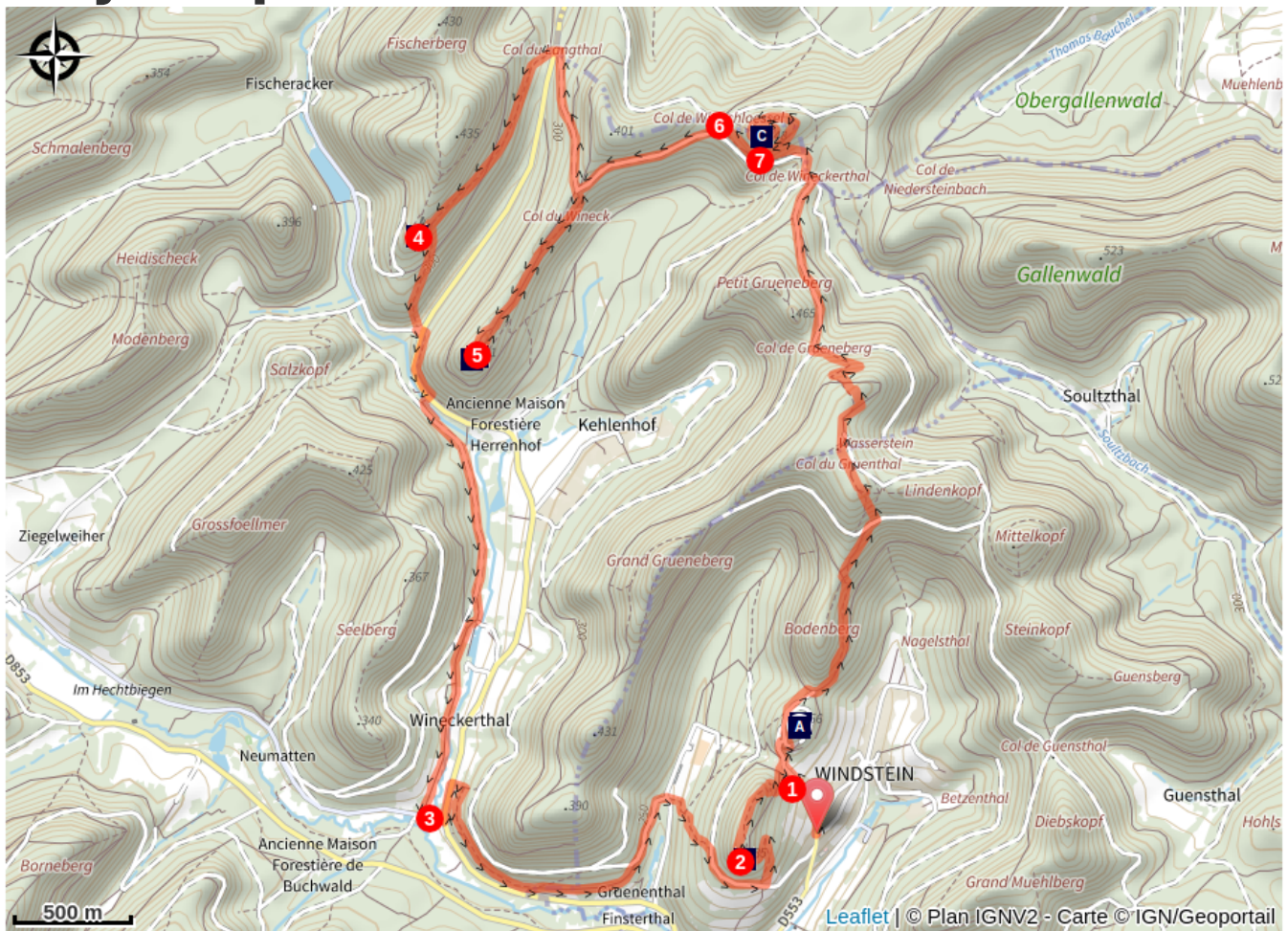
At the castle, follow the red triangle to the Langthal Pass. Cross the road and follow the yellow circle to Wineck Castle.

Retrace your steps with the yellow circle. At the crossroads, turn right onto the yellow triangle to the Wittschloessel pass.

At the pass, take the red rectangle again. Leave it to climb up to Wittschloessel Castle, following the red-white-red rectangle, then retrace your steps.

Follow the red rectangle to Vieux Windstein and then to the car park.

# On your path...



Rocher du Vieux Windstein (A)

Wittschloessel Chateau (Ruins) (C)

Castle Wineck (E)

Schoeneck fortified Chateau (G)

Vieux Windstein fortified Chateau (B)

Escalade : rocher du Wineck (D)

Wineck fortified Chateau (F)

Nouveau Windstein fortified Chateau (H)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

IGN map:

3814ET - HAGUENAU LEMBACH

## **How to come ?**

### Access

From Haguenau, take the D27 towards Woerth. Then follow signs for Froeschwiller, Jaegerthal, and Windstein. The parking lot is located on the left after the town hall.

### Advised parking

Menhir parking lot

## **Information desks**

### **Information Office of Niederbronn-les-Bains - Head Office of Alsace Verte Tourist Office**

6 place de l'Hôtel de Ville, 67110  
Niederbronn-les-Bains

[tourisme@alsace-verte.com](mailto:tourisme@alsace-verte.com)

Tel : +33 (0)3 88 80 89 70

<https://www.alsace-verte.com/#ot>



# On your path...

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## Rocher du Vieux Windstein (A)

Rocher du Vieux Windstein

Attribution : SYCOPARC

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## Vieux Windstein fortified Chateau (B)

Existing since 1147, it was besieged by the city of Haguenau, the bishop of Strasbourg and Hannemann of Lichtenberg to dislodge knight-brigands by digging a gallery on the west side of the site. It was then partially dismantled. At the beginning of the 16th century, the Duke of Lorraine seized it twice. The castle was burned down before being abandoned in 1664. You can still see a section of the stone wall with bosses, a vestige of the keep. More information here.

Attribution : M. SCHAMPION

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## Wittschloessel Chateau (Ruins) (C)

The Wittschloessel castle was a simple watchtower on a rocky ridge overlooking the Obersteinbach valley; only a few remains of the sandstone walls remain.

The history of this castle is not well known; it was destroyed at the end of the 17th century.

Attribution : <http://www.randoalsacevosges.com>

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## 🧗 Escalade : rocher du Wineck (D)

Escalade : rocher du Wineck.

Rocher équipé et conventionné pour la pratique de l'escalade avec matériel approprié sauf indications contraires présentes sur site. Cette convention a été élaborée conformément à la charte pour la pratique de l'escalade sur les rochers du Parc naturel régional des Vosges du Nord ([http://www.parc-vosges-nord.fr/medias/File/\\_doc\\_dyn/french/charte\\_escalade\\_20081223308490.pdf](http://www.parc-vosges-nord.fr/medias/File/_doc_dyn/french/charte_escalade_20081223308490.pdf) et [http://www.parc-vosges-nord.fr/medias/File/\\_doc\\_dyn/french/livret\\_escalade\\_compo-escalade1223300156.pdf](http://www.parc-vosges-nord.fr/medias/File/_doc_dyn/french/livret_escalade_compo-escalade1223300156.pdf)).

Attribution : SYCOPARC

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## ? Castle Wineck (E)

Advance post of Schoeneck Castle, sited on a rocky ridge, built circa 1300 and dismantled at the end of the 17th century on orders of the King of France. Vestiges of part of the five-sided keep walls, and of the curtain wall.

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67110

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Site web :  
<http://www.alsace-verte.com>

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## 🏰 Wineck fortified Chateau (F)

Le Château de Wineck, bâti vers l'an 1300 par la famille de Windstein, servit certainement de poste d'observation visant à compléter le système de défense du château de Schoeneck. Ce dernier a été démantelé à la fin du 17e siècle sur ordre du roi de France. Aujourd'hui n'est visible qu'une partie des murs en pierres de taille avec chaînes d'angles à bossage rustique du donjon polygonal, servant autrefois de bouclier au logis modeste.

Attribution : Commune de Dambach



## Schoeneck fortified Chateau (G)

The remains of the Schoeneck Castle are divided into two parts: the original castle, at the top of a narrow and high rocky strip, with a keep, and the lower castle, from the 16th century, whose enclosure includes a bailey and outbuildings. On the platform, some walls of the 13th (rusticated ashlar) and 14th century (smooth ashlar) construction remain. A large part of the 16th century works have been preserved.

Attribution : SYCOPARC

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## Nouveau Windstein fortified Chateau (H)

Mentioned as early as 1205 near the Old Windstein, the dwelling was modified at the end of the Middle Ages to be adapted against artillery. After having served as a refuge during the Thirty Years' War, soldiers occupied it between 1652 and 1654 and used it to plunder the region. It was destroyed as a possession of the Eckbrecht family of Durkheim, who had fought against France in the Dutch War. Its defense is based on a shield wall, allowing it to dominate the valley on 3 sides.

Attribution : M. SCHAMPION