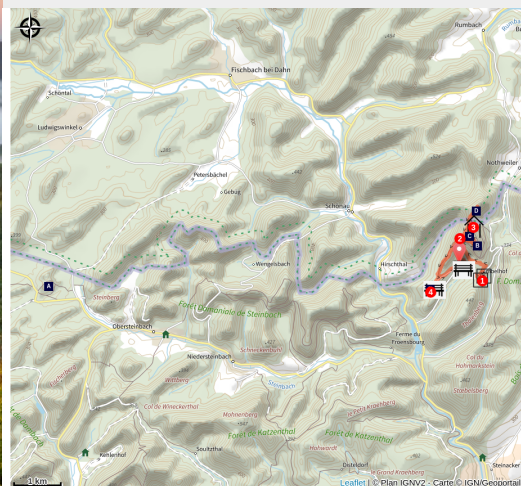


The 4 chateaux circuit

Alsace Verte - Lembach



Vue sur le Fleckenstein et les Vosges du Nord (T. Bichler)

A circuit without much difficulty for small and big adventurers lovers of castles!

Witnesses to the tumultuous past of the region, many medieval castles overlook the forests of the Vosges Nord - Pfälzerwald Transboundary Biosphere Reserve for generations. Built between the 12th and mid-14th centuries on impressive rocky outcrops, these castles, mostly troglodyte, seem to be one with their rocky support and offer superb views.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 6.7 km

Trek ascent : 328 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Château église abbaye

Trek

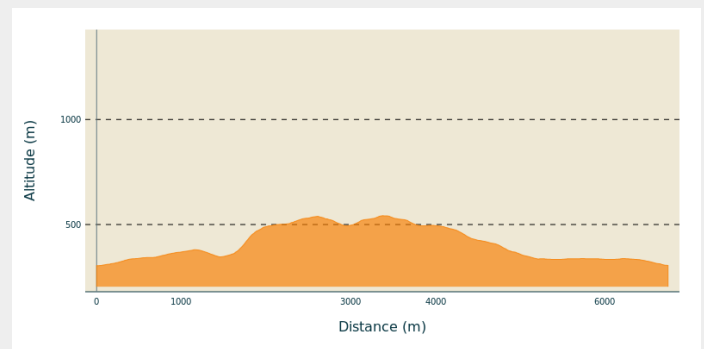
Departure : Parking at Fleckenstein Castle or Gimbelhof

Arrival : Parking at Fleckenstein Castle or Gimbelhof

Markings :  Club Vosgien

Cities : 1. Lembach
2. Wingen

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 304 m Max elevation 542 m

From the car park, join the white-striped red rectangle trail towards the Gimbelhof's medieval playground.

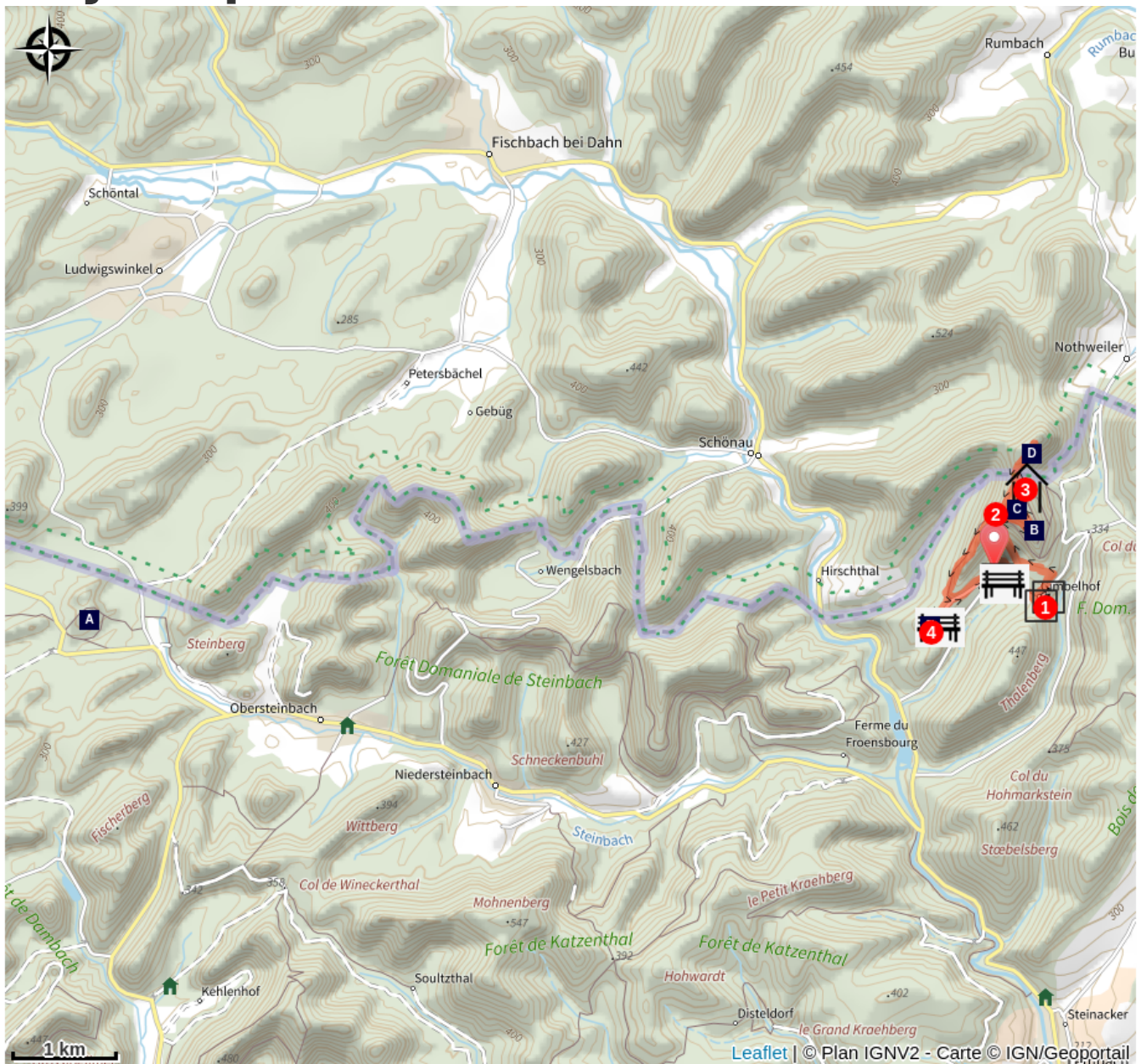
At the Gimbelhof, turn left towards the playground following the red disc. After the playground, turn left again. Go to the right of the big rock on the path then continue on the path opposite to the Hohenbourg pass.




At the pass, after the tree bearing the sign "Col Hohenbourg", continue on the white-striped rectangle path, starting on the right towards the ruin of Loewenstein, then continue towards the ruins of Hohenbourg.



At the Maidenbrunnen spring continue straight ahead to the Wegelnburg Castle. Then go back and walk down the red rectangle path towards Fleckenstein Castle.

From Fleckenstein Castle, return to the car park via the charbonniers trail along the access road to the Fleckenstein site.

On your path...



-  Lutzelhardt fortified Château (A)
-  Hohenbourg fortified Château (C)
-  Fleckenstein fortified Château (E)

-  Loewenstein fortified Château (B)
-  Wegelnburg fortified Château (D)

All useful information

Advices

Carte IGN : 3814 ET

À savoir : la visite du Château de Fleckenstein est payante. Plus d'infos [ici](#).

Variantes :

- Au col, possibilité de voir les rochers du Krappenfels (30 min aller-retour). Préférer le printemps ou l'automne pour voir ces derniers.
- Dans la descente vers le Fleckenstein, possibilité d'emprunter le sentier des roches. Attention, ce sentier peut être dangereux pour de jeunes enfants et par temps de pluie !

How to come ?

Transports

Ligne 317 - navette du Château de Fleckenstein au départ de la gare de Wissembourg. Circule les vendredis, samedis, dimanches et jours fériés du mois de juin au 1er novembre.

<https://www.fluo.eu/ftp/document/fp-ligne-317-2021-003-.pdf>

Access

From Haguenau, take the D27 towards Woerth then towards Lembach. Continue on the D3 direction Niedersteinbach then turn right towards Fleckenstein Castle.

Advised parking

Parking du château de Fleckenstein, Lembach

i Information desks

**Office de Tourisme de l'Alsace Verte
- Bureau d'information de Lembach**

2 route de Bitche, 67510 Lembach

tourisme@alsace-verte.com

Tel : +33(0)3 88 86 71 45

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



On your path...



Lutzelhardt fortified Chateau (A)

This castle, mentioned for the first time in 1250, was built to protect the seigneurie of Bitche and was destroyed in the 16th century. Built on a sandstone rock 20 m high and 60 m long, one can still see the small square keep with rusticated stones, the remains of the dwelling, as well as a filtration cistern, traces of construction and the lower courtyard.

Attribution : M. Schampion



Loewenstein fortified Chateau (B)

Built at the end of the 12th century at an altitude of 530 m and 300 m from the Hohenbourg, then ceded to the Ochsensteins, the castle became a den of robber knights before being besieged and destroyed by the troops of the Lichtenbergs and the bishop of Strasbourg in 1386. It was not rebuilt. Today, few remains remain except for traces of a pentagonal keep and a dwelling on the northern part, a cistern serving as access to the southern part, a spiral staircase and a well.

Attribution : PNRVN - A. Serylo



Hohenbourg fortified Chateau (C)

This semi-troglodyte castle built in, above and around a rock at an altitude of 550 m dates from the 13th century. Attacked twice in the 15th century, the new owners built important defensive works. But the castle was largely destroyed during a siege in 1523. It was rebuilt between 1571 and 1590 but was definitively destroyed by the troops of Montclar in 1680. The castle offers a magnificent view of the Palatinate to the north and the Steinbach valley to the south.

Attribution : A. Dorschner



Wegelnburg fortified Chateau (D)

Built at an altitude of 572 m, this ruin, first mentioned in 1247, is the highest in the Palatinate. After a robber knight attacking passers-by took shelter here, the castle was besieged in 1270 and illegitimately taken by the Fleckensteins. The castle changed hands frequently from 1330 onwards, before losing its military role and becoming a bailiff's residence in the 15th century. Plundered by Croatian soldiers in 1635, burned in 1644, it was finally destroyed by Montclar in 1680.

Attribution : PNRVN - A. Serylo



Fleckenstein fortified Chateau (E)

Built on a sandstone promontory 20 m high, 125 m long and 8 to 15 m wide at an altitude of 370 m, the castle has existed since the 12th century to control the roads to Lorraine and Haguenau. After the sieges of 1276 and 1315, it was restored in the 15th century, redesigned and modernized in the 16th century, but destroyed in 1680. The rock, cut vertically, was dug out to build chambers. On the upper platform there are remains of the 15th century palace and a chapel.

Attribution : Fleckenstein - Styl'List