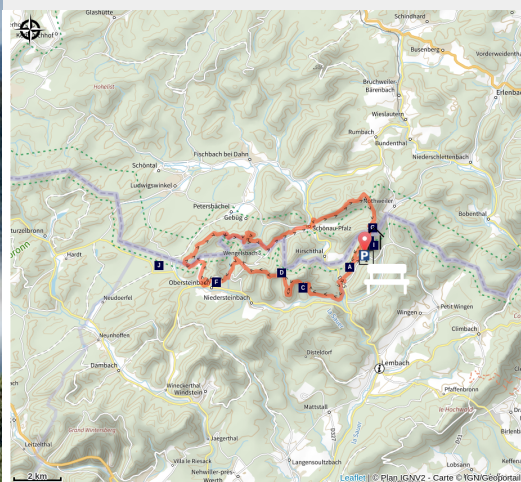


From castle to castle

Alsace Verte - Lembach



Panorama sur les Vosges du Nord (T. Bichler/Best of Wandern)



This hike takes you to the discovery of no less than 8 ruins of castles between Northern Vosges and Palatinate!

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 twelfth and mid-fourteenth century on impressive rocky spurs, these castles, mostly troglodyte, seem to often be one with their rocky support and offer superb views.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 2 days

Length : 33.8 km

Trek ascent : 1365 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Loop

Themes : Point de vue, Château
église abbaye

Trek

Departure : Parking du château de Fleckenstein, Lembach

Arrival : Parking du château de Fleckenstein, Lembach

Markings :  Club Vosgien

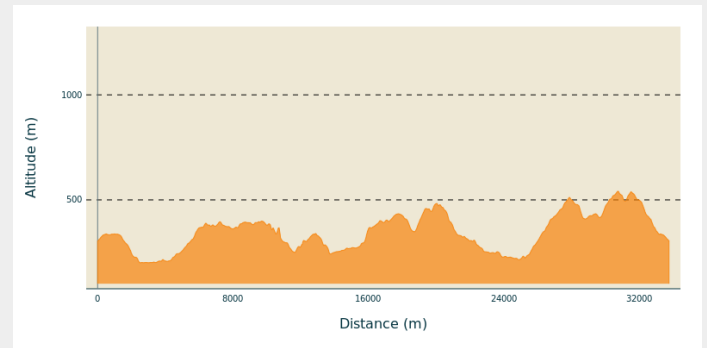
Cities : 1. Lembach

2. Niedersteinbach

3. Obersteinbach

4. Wingen

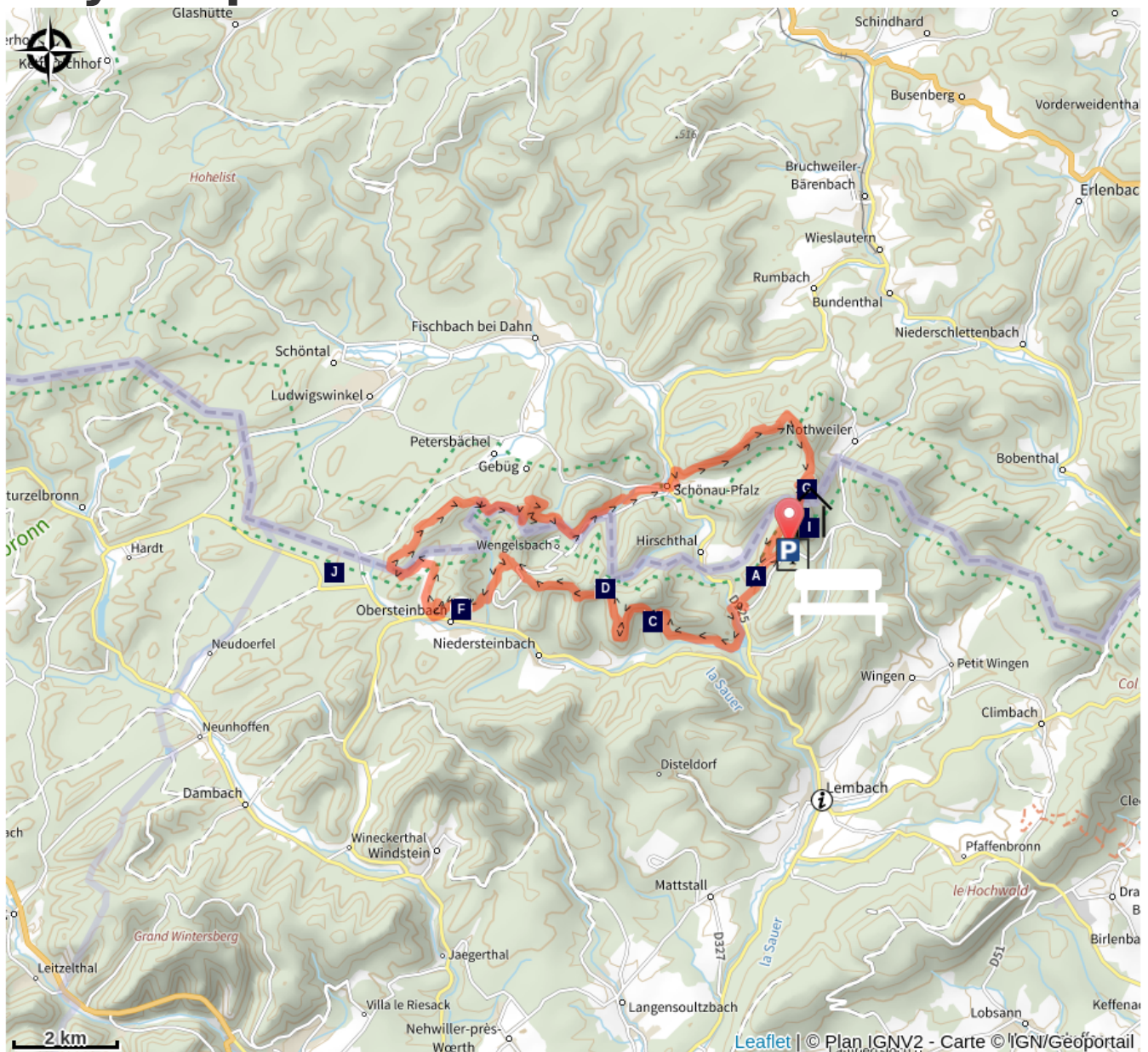
Altimetric profile













Min elevation 201 m Max elevation 541 m

From the car park, reach the Fleckenstein site. Then follow the castle symbol along this cross-border route.

On your path...



-  Fleckenstein fortified Chateau (A)
-  Escalade : rocher du Froensbourg (C)
-  Rocher de l'Arnsberg (E)
-  Wegelnburg fortified Chateau (G)
-  Loewenstein fortified Chateau (I)

-  Froensbourg Chateau (B)
-  Hichtenbach refuge (D)
-  Petit-Arnsbourg fortified Chateau (F)
-  Hohenbourg fortified Chateau (H)
-  Lutzelhardt fortified Chateau (J)

All useful information

Advices

Carte IGN : 3814 ET

Nous vous recommandons de prévoir cet itinéraire sur 2 jours.

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

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...



Fleckenstein fortified Château (A)

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



Froensbourg Château (B)

Built in the 13th century, destroyed by Lichtenberg's troops in 1359 and then completely restored in the 15th century by the lords of Fleckenstein, the semi-troglodytic castle is built on two 40 m high rocks. Today, one can see rooms dug into the rock, an old cistern, an old square cistern as well as the remains of a residential tower whose broken arch door dates from 1481.

Attribution : SYCOPARC



Escalade : rocher du Froensbourg (C)

Rock equipped and agreed for the practice of climbing with appropriate equipment unless otherwise indicated on site. This agreement was elaborated in accordance with the charter for the practice of climbing on the rocks of the Vosges du Nord Regional Nature Park (http://www.parc-vosges-nord.fr/medias/File/_doc_dyn/french/charte_escalade_20081223308490.pdf and http://www.parc-vosges-nord.fr/medias/File/_doc_dyn/french/livret_escalade_compo-escalade1223300156.pdf).

Before going to the site to climb, please read the temporary restrictions at the following address: http://www.escalade-alsace.com/forum/weblog_entry.php?e=509

In any case, please follow the information on the site.

Attribution : SYCOPARC



Hichtenbach refuge (D)

Au col du même nom.

Plus d'infos : <http://www.refuges.info/point/2795/cabane-non-gardee/Vosges-du-Nord/Abri-du-Hichtenbach/>

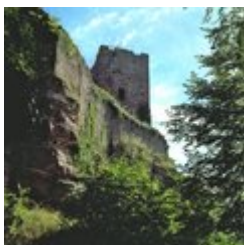
Attribution : <http://www.refuges.info>



Rocher de l'Arnsberg (E)

Rocher de l'Arnsberg

Attribution : Guy Schnell - <http://www.randoalsacevosges.com>



Petit-Arnsbourg fortified Chateau (F)

Mentioned for the first time in 1316, it belonged to the abbey of Wissembourg and to the family of Wasigenstein. Passing from hand to hand, its last owners were the Hanau-Lichtenberg family between 1604 and 1606. It was destroyed during the Thirty Years War in 1635. Isolated at the top of a hill, it was equipped with a wooden structure allowing to gain on the void and to widen the dwellings. One of the doors, carved in the rock, with a double frame, bears the date of 1494. More information [here](#) and [there](#).

Attribution : SYCOPARC



Wegelnburg fortified Chateau (G)

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



Hohenbourg fortified Château (H)

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



Loewenstein fortified Château (I)

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



Lutzelhardt fortified Château (J)

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