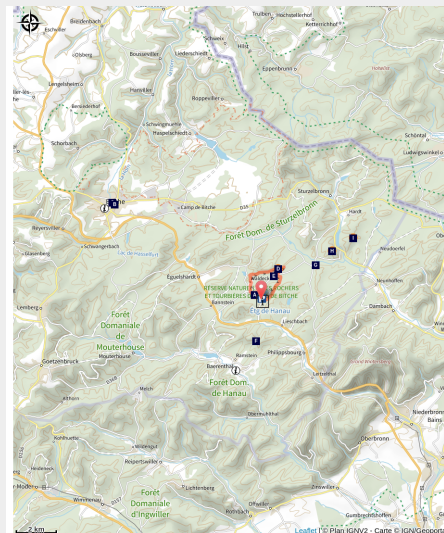


# Waldeck circuit

Pays de Bitche - Philippsbourg



Château du Waldeck dans la brume (J Meyer)



*A forest walk for the whole family to discover the natural and historical riches of the Pays de Bitche!*

Discover the wonders of the Pays de Bitche: peat bogs and their ecological wealth, sandstone walls, perched and semi-troglodyte fortified castles, ancient boundaries, Maginot Line works, and much more ...

## Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 2 h

Length : 6.5 km

Trek ascent : 120 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Étang, Château église abbaye

Accessibility : Poussette, Joelette

# Trek

**Departure** : Parking at the Hanau pond

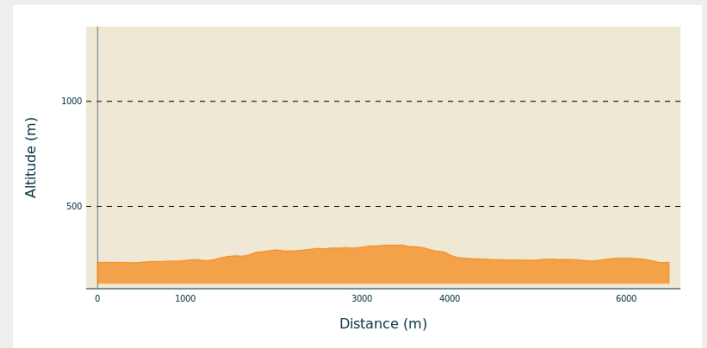
**Arrival** : Parking at the Hanau pond

**Markings** :  Club Vosgien

**Cities** : 1. Philippsbourg

2. Éguelshardt

## Altimetric profile



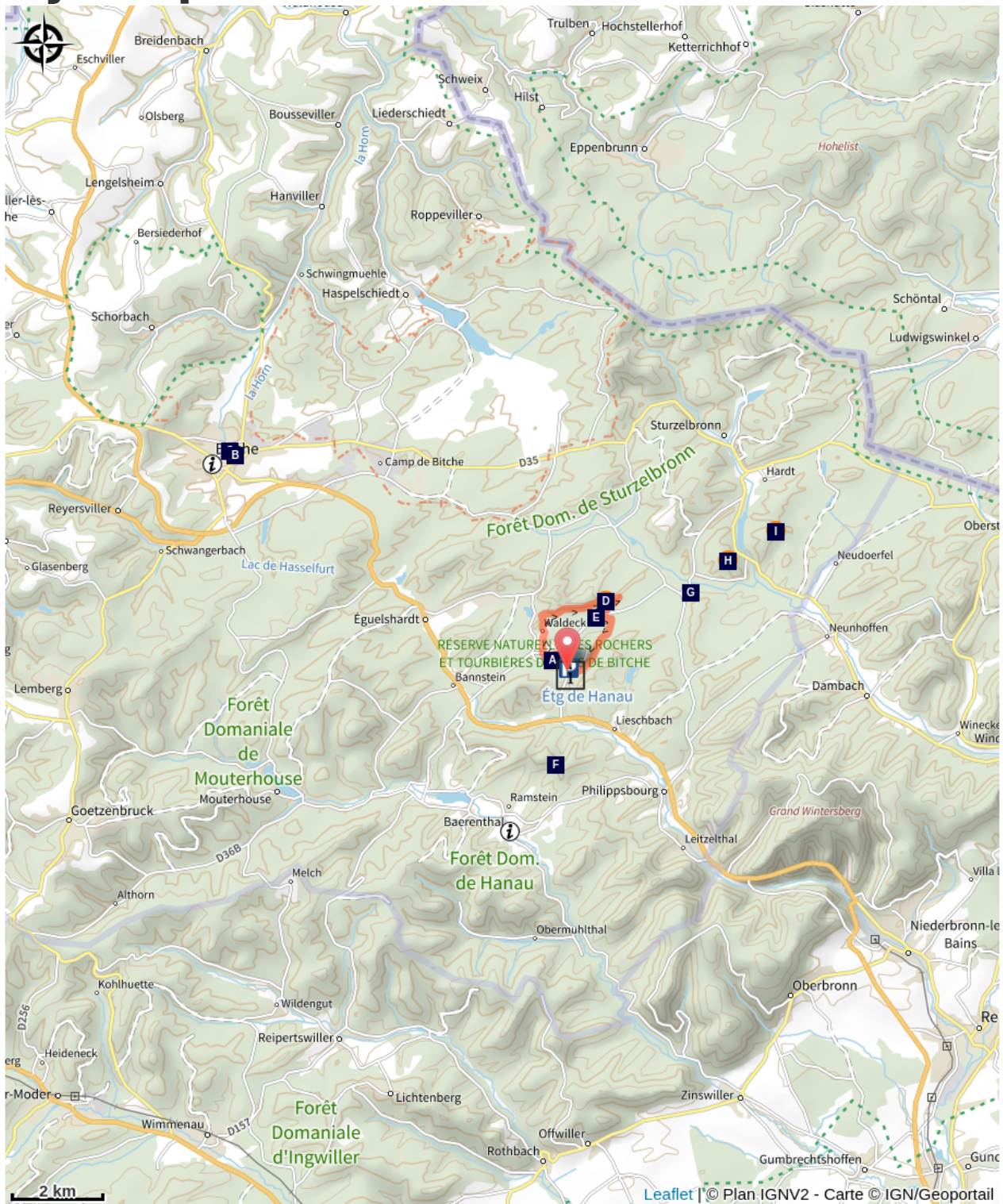
Min elevation 232 m Max elevation 316 m










Leave the parking direction of the D162F, then follow the green ring markings.

Walk through the bog forest, cross the forest road and then the meadow to reach the hamlet of Waldeck, which was originally a farmhouse built below Waldeck Castle. At the pass, climb the forest trail hairpin left to visit the castle Waldeck. Nice view from the platforms (be careful, the stairs are narrow and sometimes steep). Then go back in 2 and turn left then right towards Erbsenfelsen. At this last crossroads you can continue left to see Waldeck Pond.

After the rocky Erbsenfelsen and its arch, turn right towards the pond of Hanau. At the junction with the forest road of Hanau, a boundary marker stands next to a partially buried blockhouse. Continue straight on the Waldecker Hubel Forest Road and return to the car park.

# On your path...



- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Peatland (A)                       |  Citadel of Bitche (B)       |
|  Garden for the Peace of Bitche (C) |  Erbsenfelsen rocks (D)      |
|  17th century boundary stone (E)    |  Grand Dunkelthal Pass (F)   |
|  Rothenburg Chateau (G)             |  Rocher de l'Abrahamfels (H) |
|  Rocher du Pilsfels (I)             |   |

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Map IGN : 3713 ET

Be careful, from February to June, avoid approaching the Erbsenfelsen to preserve the nesting of the peregrine falcon. Please respect the access restrictions if mentioned locally.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

- Train TER to Bannstein.
- Itineraries in Alsace: [www.vialsace.eu](http://www.vialsace.eu)

### Access

In Philippsbourg, take the D662 towards Éguelshardt then take the D162F on the right before turning right again on the rue de l'étang.

### Advised parking

Parking at the Hanau Pond, Philippsburg

## **Accessibility**

---

 Poussette  Joelette

# 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.

## Réserve naturelle nationale des rochers et tourbières du Pays de Bitche

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

Contact: Email : [contact@parc-vosges-nord.fr](mailto:contact@parc-vosges-nord.fr) Tél. : 03 88 01 49 59

Créée en 1998, cette réserve naturelle\* (RN) est constituée de rochers et de tourbières dans un environnement de hêtraies-chênaies acidiphiles et de forêts de pins sylvestres

### Information desks

#### **Pays de Bitche Tourist Office - Baerenthal - Philippsbourg branch**

1 rue du printemps d'Alsace, 57230 Baerenthal

[contact@tourisme-paysdebitche.fr](mailto:contact@tourisme-paysdebitche.fr)

Tel : + 33 (0)3 87 06 16 16

<http://www.tourisme-paysdebitche.fr/>



#### **Tourist Office of the Pays de Bitche**

2 avenue du Général De Gaulle, 57230 Bitche

[contact@tourisme-paysdebitche.fr](mailto:contact@tourisme-paysdebitche.fr)

Tel : +33 (0)3 87 06 16 16

<http://www.tourisme-paysdebitche.fr/>



# On your path...

---



## ✿ Peatland (A)

This peat bog is part of the Natural Reserve of Rocks and Peatlands of Bitche. Peat bogs, which are original in Western Europe, are very fragile wetlands with remarkable flora such as sundew, small carnivorous plants or Sphagnum mosses that can absorb a large amount of water like a sponge. There are also many dragonflies and amphibians.

Attribution : PNRVN - A.Serylo



## Citadel of Bitche (B)

### The Citadel at Bitche

A true military master piece, the Citadel is the most important historical site in Pays de Bitche.

In the past, Pays de Bitche was the setting for many wars and invasions and of which the castle on the site of Bitche Citadel was a centrepiece. Neither the Swedish, the region of Lorraine, the French nor the Germans were able overthrow this stronghold.

In 1680, the castle was replaced by the Citadel designed by Vauban. It was dismantled in 1697, but rebuilt in 1740 by the architect Cormontaigne.

The most glorious feat was conducted by Commander Teyssier and his garrison during the 1870 Franco-Prussian war. While the rest of France was capitulated, they resisted for 230 days.

### The visit

Equipped with headphones, the visit around the Citadel takes you through the underground passages allowing you to relive the resistance against the Germans (1870-1871).

On the platform of the Citadel, the historical museum “The Men during the 1870 War” has records and photos, and a collection of arms and uniforms worn by the men on the battlefield. The recently restored Vauban Chapel exposes an original relief map of Bitche dating to 1794 which is now classified as a Historical Monument.

The Citadel is one the “Great attractions in Moselle”. The sublime Garden for Peace is at the foot of its ramparts

NOTE: the tariff for the citadel no longer includes the entry fee into the gardens. With the entrée ticket you now receive a reduced rate into the gardens (2euros/pers).

Adresse :

Rue Bombelles par Rue des Tilleuls  
09/20/2024 • Waldeck circuit

57230 BITCHE



## 🌸 Garden for the Peace of Bitche (C)

This garden, created in 2003, wants to be the commitment of a commitment of the future. Over 500m, a succession of different open gardens, each with its own history and ambition, revolves around a belvedere promenade, thus forming a floral universe combining glass, crystal, rustic plants, wrought iron ... It is part of the extension of the Jardins en Troc festival.

Attribution : SYCOPARC

---



## 🗿 Erbsenfelsen rocks (D)

It is a sandstone wall with a strongly eroded base 25 to 30 meters high and almost 450 meters long, located on the Erbsenberg. Characterized by a large arch of 12 m wide and 8m high, it is a privileged site for the nesting of peregrine falcons and ravens.

**WARNING:** This site is protected! From February to early July, avoid approaching the rock to preserve the nesting peregrine falcon. Please respect the access restrictions if mentioned locally.

Attribution : <http://vers-le-vent.blogspot.fr/>

---



## 🗿 17th century boundary stone (E)

A 17th century boundary marker marking the historical boundary between the ancient county of Hanau and the Duchy of Lorraine. Other similar posts are aligned along the forest road of Hanau or Bornes.

Attribution : PNRVN - A.Serylo

---

## 🏞️ Grand Dunkelthal Pass (F)

Located in the north-east of the Moselle, it is the lowest pass of the forest roads with 291 m of altitude.





---

## Rothenburg Chateau (G)

The castle dates back to the 9th century. It was part of the County of Bitche in 1353 before becoming a den for knight-robbers, which earned him to be ravaged by the Strasbourg militia. It is in ruins since the 16th century. In 1938, he was integrated into the passive defense system of the Maginot Line and was occupied by the troops until 1940, but did not know the fight.

Attribution : SYCOPARC

---



## Rocher de l'Abrahamfels (H)

Rock of the Abrahamfels

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

---



## Rocher du Pilsfels (I)

Rock Pilsfels

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