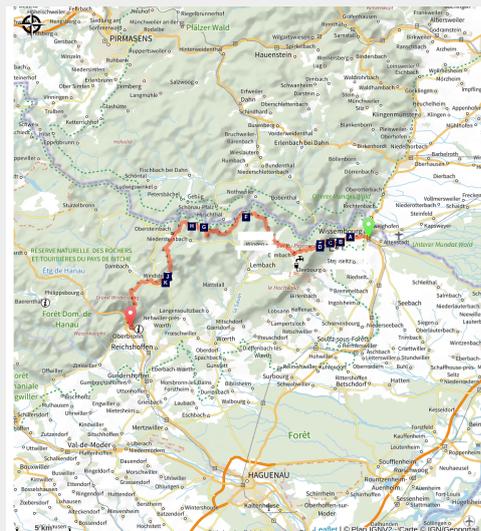


# GR®53 - Crossing the Vosges Mountains

Alsace Verte



Balancelle à La Petite Pierre (Y.Meyer)



## The hiking trail to discover the Northern Vosges

Have you ever heard of the GR®53? Now is your chance to discover a hiking trail that is off the beaten track but well worth the detour. Focus on the GR®53, Northern Vosges section

### Useful information

Practice : Traversée du massif des Vosges

Duration : 6 days

Length : 46.9 km

Trek ascent : 1789 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Crossing

Themes : Sports hiking, Rando sans voiture

Accessibility : Transports en commun

# Trek

**Departure** : Wissembourg SNCF train station, Wissembourg

**Arrival** : Rue des Châtaigniers, Wangenbourg

**Markings** :  GR®

**Cities** : 1. Wissembourg

2. Rott

3. Climbach

4. Wingen

5. Lembach

6. Niedersteinbach

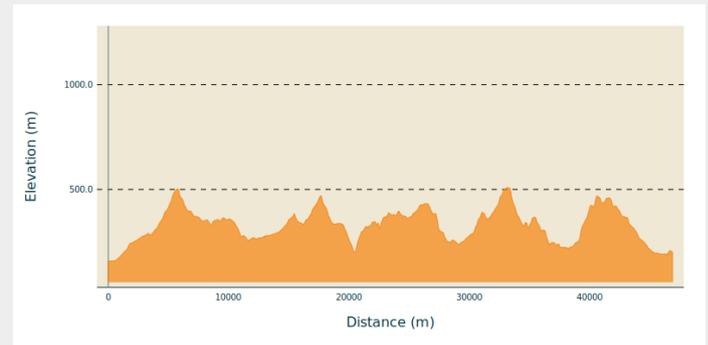
7. Obersteinbach

8. Dambach

9. Windstein

10. Niederbronn-les-Bains

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 157 m Max elevation 509 m

From Wissembourg to Saverne, the GR®53 trail winds its way through the iconic sites of the Northern Vosges: Fleckenstein Castle, Grand Wintersberg Tower, Lichtenberg Castle, Petite Pierre Castle, and more. Marked with a red rectangle along its entire route, the castles, sandstone landscapes, and forest settings will punctuate your days and your discoveries.

With accessible elevation gains of no more than 1,000 meters per stage, the GR®53 offers a wonderful adventure in the heart of the green ocean that covers the Northern Vosges: the forest.

## Stages :

1. GR® 53 : stage 1  
29.1 km / 1076 m D+ / 9 h 30
2. GR® 53 : stage 2  
15.4 km / 565 m D+ / 5 h
3. GR® 53 : stage 3  
18.7 km / 841 m D+ / 6 h 30
4. GR® 53 : stage 4  
17.2 km / 406 m D+ / 4 h 45
5. GR® 53 : stage 5  
20.5 km / 496 m D+ / 6 h
6. GR® 53 : stage 6  
23.9 km / 964 m D+ / 8 h

# On your path...



-  Wissembourg and the vineyard (A)
-  The Lauter walking trail (C)
-  Scherhol Tower (E)
-  Hichtenbach refuge (G)
-  Vieux Windstein fortified Chateau (I)
-  Nouveau Windstein fortified Chateau (K)
-  Lauter Valley (B)
-  Col du Pigeonnier shelter (D)
-  Rocher de Krappenfels (F)
-  Rocher des Bohémiens (H)
-  Rocher du Vieux Windstein (J)

# All useful information

## How to come ?

### Transports

Wissembourg SNCF train station

#### TRAIN

TER Strasbourg - Wissembourg line  
Deutsche Bahn line to Mainz

#### BUS

“Fluo Grand Est” bus stop in front of the SNCF train station  
[www.fluo.eu](http://www.fluo.eu) - Grand Est Region transportation website  
German “VRN” (Verkehrsverbund Rhein Neckar) bus stop in front of the SNCF train station - [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de) - [www.vrn.de](http://www.vrn.de) - [www.kvv.de](http://www.kvv.de)

Wingen-sur-Moder SNCF train station

#### TRAIN

TER Strasbourg - Sarreguemines - Saarbrücken line

Saverne SNCF train station

#### TRAIN

TER Strasbourg - Saverne - Metz line  
TER Strasbourg - Nancy - Metz line  
TGV Strasbourg - Saverne - Paris line

## Accessibility

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Transports en commun

# 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.

## Arrêtés préfectoraux de protection de biotope : Falkensteinerbach

Sensitivity period:

### 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>



#### **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 Alsace Bossue**

90 rue Principale, 67430 Lorentzen

[tourisme@alsace-bossue.net](mailto:tourisme@alsace-bossue.net)

Tel : +33 (0)3 88 00 40 39

<http://www.tourisme.alsace-bossue.net/>



#### **Tourist Office of Hanau - La Petite Pierre**

2A rue du Château, 67290 La Petite-Pierre

[tourisme@hanau-lapetitepierre.alsace](mailto:tourisme@hanau-lapetitepierre.alsace)

Tel : +33 (0)3 88 70 42 30

<http://www.tourisme.hanau-lapetitepierre.alsace/>



# On your path...

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## ✿ Wissembourg and the vineyard (A)

Magnificent view of Wissembourg and its vineyards. In the middle of the latter stands the Château St. Paul, the last of the 4 castles built to protect the city.

Attribution : PNRVN - A. Serylo

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## ✿ Lauter Valley (B)

A beautiful view of the Lauter valley. In the village Weiler stands the Langenberg, a former castle from the 13th century.

Attribution : PNRVN - A. Serylo

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## 👤 The Lauter walking trail (C)

Decided by Marshal de Villars in 1706, they were intended to lock the north of Alsace during the war of succession to the Spanish throne (1701-1714). Thus, 50 redoubts and 28 dikes constituted a continuous parapet allowing the valley to be flooded. An important redoubt was named Maréchal de Bourg, the man who improved and increased the lines in the Scherhol area.

Attribution : PNRVN - A. Serylo

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## 🏠 col du Pigeonnier shelter (D)

Shelter and refuge of the Club Vosgien at the Col du Pigeonnier

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## 🗼 Scherhol Tower (E)

On the site of an old redoubt of the lines of the Lauter was built a telegraph station from 1795 to 1860, which was replaced by a pyramid of logs to carry out geodesic measurements in 1875 before being used as belvedere to admire the landscape . Replaced by a stone tower in 1895, it served as a watchtower during World War II before being destroyed by the Germans dynamite. It was never rebuilt. More info here.

Attribution : PNRVN - A. Serylo



## Rocher de Krappenfels (F)

Site naturel d'escalade, il s'agit d'un rocher de grès à proximité du Château de Loewenstein, à 468 m d'altitude.

Attribution : A. Dorschner



## Hichtenbach refuge (G)

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 des Bohémiens (H)

Comme son nom l'indique, ce rocher aurait servi un temps de repère à des Bohémiens. On y trouve les vestiges d'un petit château semi-troglodytique.



## Vieux Windstein fortified Chateau (I)

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



## Rocher du Vieux Windstein (J)

Rocher du Vieux Windstein

Attribution : SYCOPARC



## Nouveau Windstein fortified Chateau (K)

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