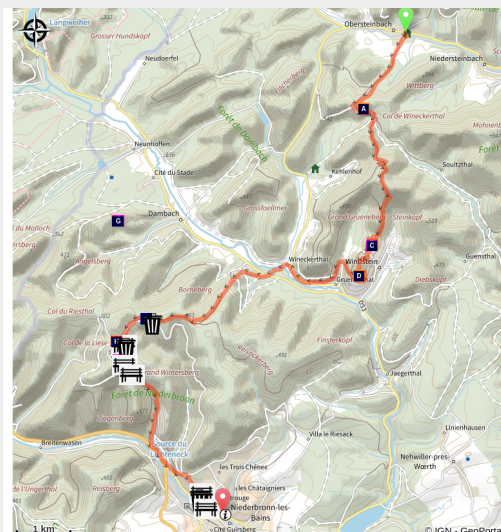


# GR® 53 : stage 2

Alsace Verte - Obersteinbach



(M. Anglada)



*Second stage of the Crossing of the Massif des Vosges, this hike connects Obersteinbach to Niederbronn-les-Bains.*

The Grande Randonnée® 53 trail is a variant of the GR® 5 that links Wissembourg to Masevaux, that is to say the north and south of Alsace, via the Vosges ridges. This hike roaming through part of the Regional Natural Park of Vosges du Nord, you can pass near castles in ruins from which you can admire beautiful views!

## Useful information

Practice : Traversée du massif des Vosges

Duration : 5 h

Length : 18.4 km

Trek ascent : 836 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Crossing

Themes : Point de vue, Château  
église abbaye

# Trek

**Departure** : Hiker's House, Main Street, Obersteinbach

**Arrival** : 7, Rue de la République, Niederbronn-les-Bains

**Markings** : ■ Rectangle rouge

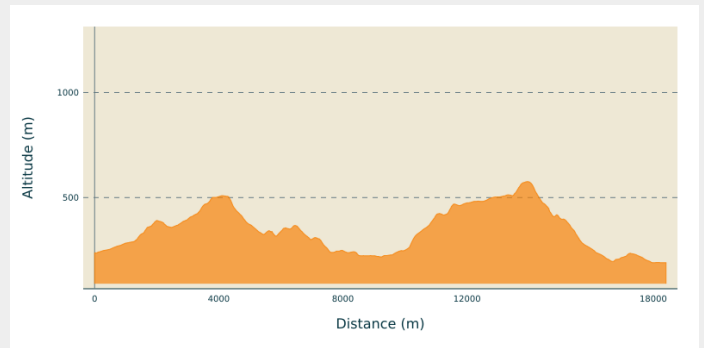
**Cities** : 1. Obersteinbach

2. Dambach

3. Windstein

4. Niederbronn-les-Bains

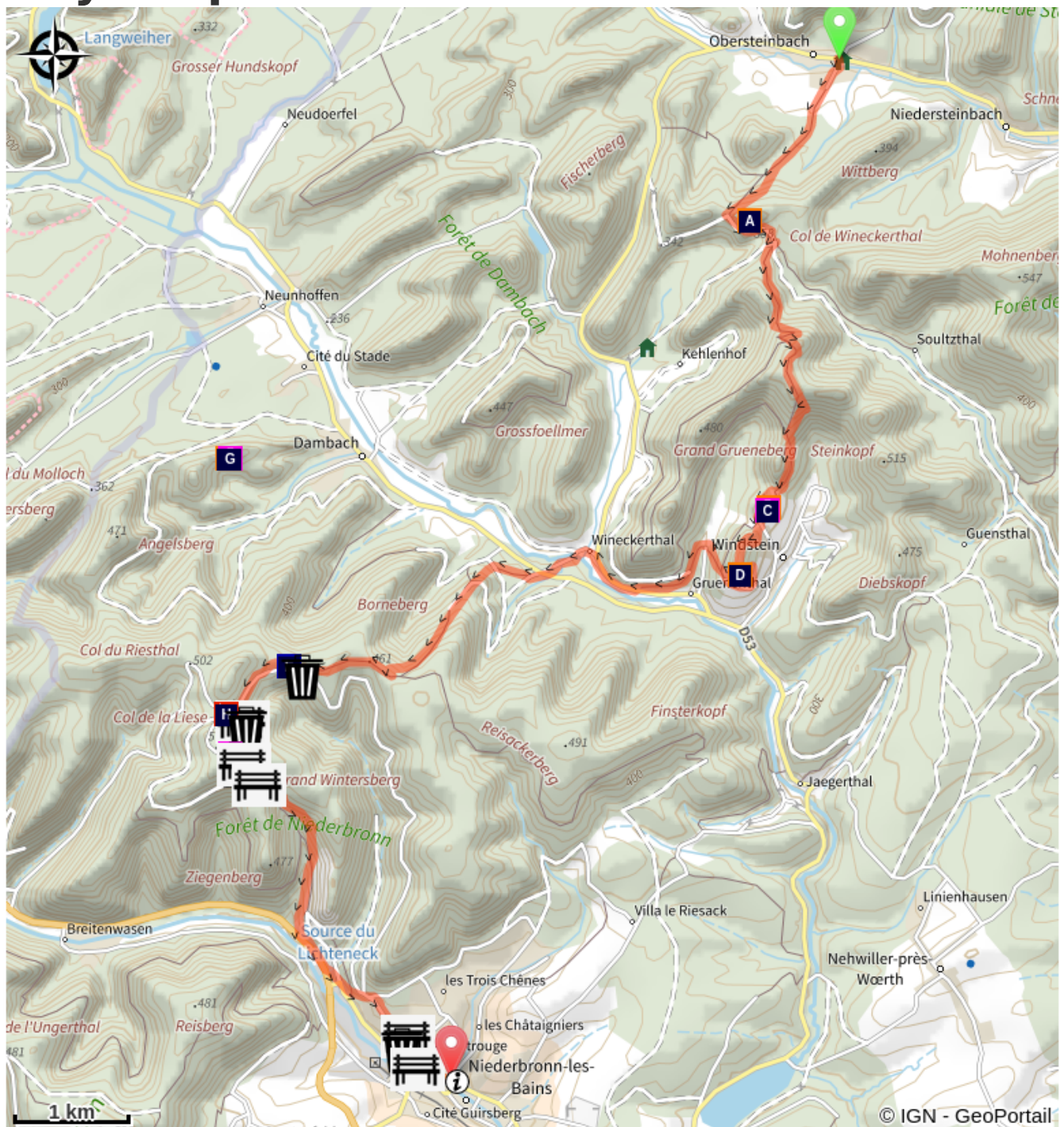
## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 190 m Max elevation 576 m

Along the way, follow the red rectangle markup.

# On your path...





 Wittschloessel Chateau (Ruins) (A)

 Rocher du Vieux Windstein (C)

 Pottaschkopf refuge (E)

 Rocher de Hohenfels (G)

 Grand Wintersberg (I)

 Vieux Windstein fortified Chateau (B)

 Nouveau Windstein fortified Chateau (D)

 Hohenfels Chateau (F)

 Rocher de la Liese (H)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Carte IGN : 3814 ET et 3714 ET

## **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 D263 then the D27 towards Woerth to Lembach, then take the D3 to Obersteinbach.

### Advised parking

Parking rue du Wittberg, Obersteinbach



## **Information desks**

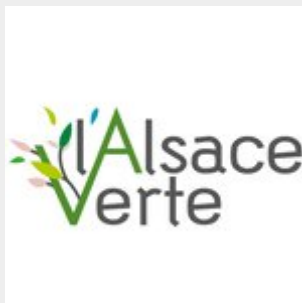
### **Information Office of Niederbronn-les-Bains - Head Office of Alsace Verte Tourist Office**

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>



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

2 route de Bitche, 67510 Lembach

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

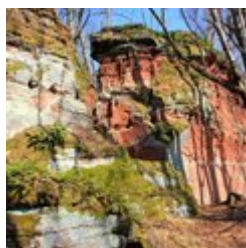
Tel : +33(0)3 88 86 71 45

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



# On your path...

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## Wittschloessel Castle (Ruins) (A)

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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## Vieux Windstein fortified Château (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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## Rocher du Vieux Windstein (C)

Rocher du Vieux Windstein

Attribution : SYCOPARC

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## Nouveau Windstein fortified Château (D)

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



## Pottaschkopf refuge (E)

Open shelter on the GR® 53 at 800 m north-east of the Liese pass (Club Vosgien chalet).

- benches all around the small room on the ground floor;
- space to sleep under the roof but difficult to access.

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



## Hohenfels Chateau (F)

Castle Hohenfels is built on a peak, difficult access; the rocky bar was deeply cut on the north-east side; from the barnyard there remain only fragments of walls and a cistern; the western platform has preserved some vestiges, as well as a small room dug in the rock; the seigniorial dwelling, at the top of the east rock, has kept its north wall in freestone, on three levels

Attribution : PNRVN



## Rocher de Hohenfels (G)

Rocher de Hohenfels

Attribution : SYCOPARC



## Rocher de la Liese (H)

This monolithic block from the Celtic or Gallo-Roman period was damaged in 1935 and 1945. A dubious restoration was carried out in 1951: the block was covered with mortar bearing the effigy of an Egyptian goddess. According to the popular legend, sliding on this rock would allow women to be fertile or to make men fall under their charms that they desired. There are many other legends around this rock.

Attribution : PNRVN - A. Serylo



## ✿ Grand Wintersberg (I)

On the highest point of the Northern Vosges, the Club Vosgien, the oldest hiking association in France, decided in 1890 to build the highest tower in Alsace. A tower of 25 m and 110 steps is added to the existing 581 m and allows to admire a breathtaking panorama on the massif of the Northern Vosges and the Palatinate, the Lorraine plateau, the plain of Alsace and the Black Forest.

Attribution : M. Baumgarten