

Through the 5 castles

Alsace Verte



Château du Schoeneck (M.Schampion)



Hiking trail through the Northern Vosges, passing by five castles: Nouveau Windstein, Schoeneck, Wineck, Wittschloessel, and Vieux Windstein.

In the Northern Vosges, medieval castle ruins stand atop sandstone peaks offering beautiful views of the forest-covered ocean. This route takes you to five of them, in varying states of preservation.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 5 h

Length : 17.1 km

Trek ascent : 705 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Loop

Themes : Géologie, Histoire & patrimoine, Point de vue, Château église abbaye

Trek

Departure : Menhir parking lot,
Windstein

Arrival : Menhir parking lot, Windstein

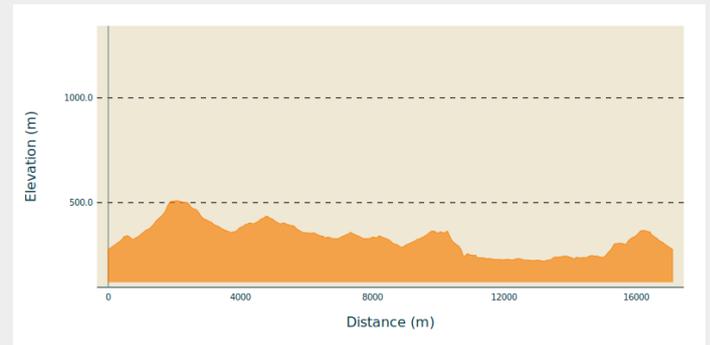
Markings :  Club Vosgien

Cities : 1. Windstein

2. Dambach

3. Obersteinbach

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 220 m Max elevation 509 m

From the parking lot, take the castle road to reach the red rectangle marker.

Before reaching the top of the road, you can access the Alcove Landscape Window via the field. Then return to the red rectangle through the forest.

Follow the red rectangle towards the ruins of Nouveau Windstein. Then continue towards Wineckerthal. Follow the road south, then turn right onto Rue du Buchwald. Turn right immediately and leave the red rectangle to follow the green triangle towards Schoeneck. Cross the road twice, then climb up to Schoeneck.

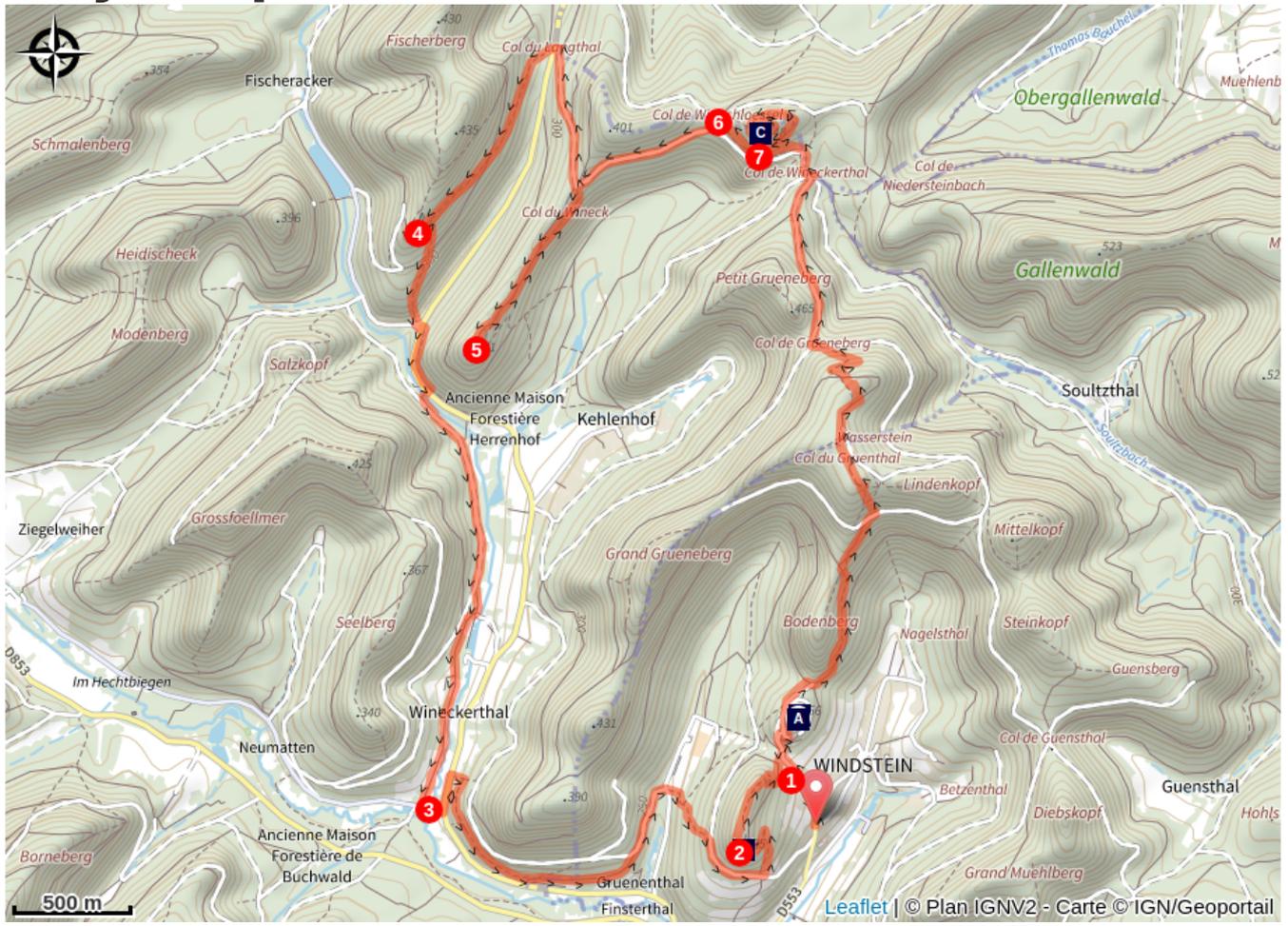
At the castle, follow the red triangle to the Langthal Pass. Cross the road and follow the yellow circle to Wineck Castle.

Retrace your steps with the yellow circle. At the crossroads, turn right onto the yellow triangle to the Wittschloessel pass.

At the pass, take the red rectangle again. Leave it to climb up to Wittschloessel Castle, following the red-white-red rectangle, then retrace your steps.

Follow the red rectangle to Vieux Windstein and then to the car park.

On your path...



 Rocher du Vieux Windstein (A)

 Vieux Windstein fortified Chateau (B)

 Wittschloessel Chateau (Ruins) (C)

 Nouveau Windstein fortified Chateau (D)

All useful information

Advices

IGN map:

3814ET - HAGUENAU LEMBACH

How to come ?

Access

From Haguenau, take the D27 towards Woerth. Then follow signs for Froeschwiller, Jaegerthal, and Windstein. The parking lot is located on the left after the town hall.

Advised parking

Menhir parking lot

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

Tel : +33 (0)3 88 80 89 70

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



On your path...



Rocher du Vieux Windstein (A)

Rocher du Vieux Windstein

Attribution : SYCOPARC



Vieux Windstein fortified Chateau (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



Wittschloessel Chateau (Ruins) (C)

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>



Nouveau Windstein fortified Chateau (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