

The Saverne Chateaux loop

Région de Saverne - Saverne



Jardin alpestre de la Grotte Saint Vit (Office de Tourisme du Pays de Saverne)

Discover the remains of castles near Saverne!

This hike will allow you to conquer many castles located near Saverne: the castles of Ochsenstein, Petit Géroldseck, Grand Géroldseck, Greifenstein await you and allow you to admire beautiful panoramas.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 8 h

Length : 22.9 km

Trek ascent : 842 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Loop

Themes : Point de vue, Château
église abbaye

Trek

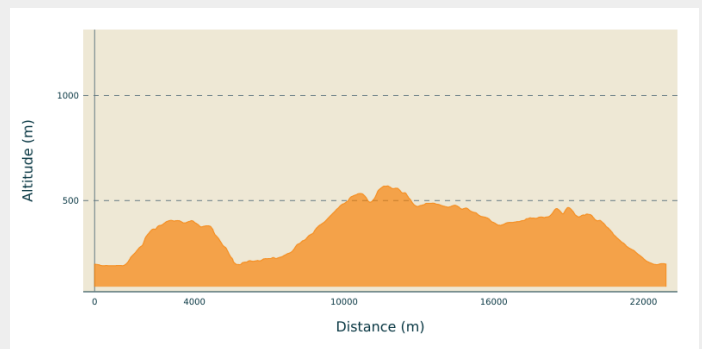
Departure : Écluse 16 bis de Saverne, Saverne

Arrival : Écluse 16 bis de Saverne, Saverne

Markings :  Club Vosgien

Cities : 1. Saverne
2. Haegen
3. Reinhardsmunster

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 190 m Max elevation 570 m

From the car park, go to the lock 16bis while crossing the road of Paris.

From the lock 16bis, take the cycle path along the Marne-Rhine Canal following the blue rectangle, then walk to the footbridge. Cross and take a left and go down the stairs to the RD132.

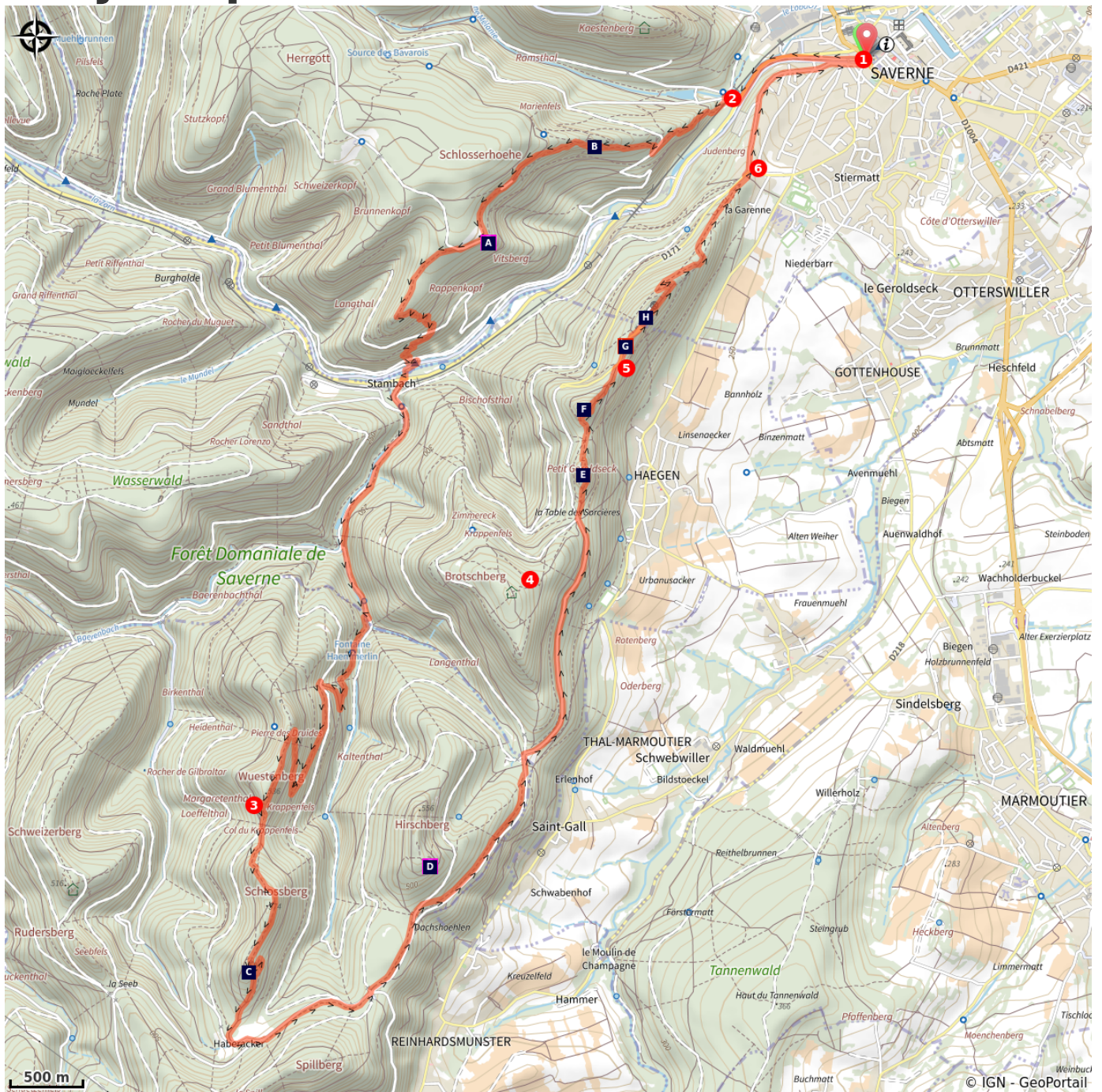
Continue on the GR®531 to get to Greifenstein Castle following the blue rectangle to the Saint Vitus Cave. Arrived at the Black Horse Rock (Rappenfels), turn right and go down to Stambach. Join lock 27 and cross the canal at the railway line. After 500m continue on the GR®531 and join the stone house on the left. Pass the tank on the right, cross the Keltenthal footbridge and continue to the Wuestenberg plateau. To reach the Ochsentein Castles, take the Krappenfels Pass. Cross the locality Haberacker. On the left, take the GR®53 red rectangle and walk to Schaeferplatz. Continue on the forest road that climbs to the cave and the Brotsch Rock, then the Brotsch Tower.

Descend to the Witches' Table following the red rectangle, then cross the forest road signposted red bridge to reach the Castles of Petit and Grand Géroldseck.

Continue on the GR®53 red rectangle to join the Chappe Tower and the Château du Haut-Barr. In front of the castle starts the forest trail green ring that joins the Garenne.

Join the city center following the red rectangle. At the canal, take the bike path to the city center to lock 16bis.

On your path...



- | | |
|--|--|
|  Saint-Vit Cave (A) |  Greifenstein fortified Château (B) |
|  Ochsenstein fortified Château (C) |  Rocher du Hibou (D) |
|  Petit Géroldseck fortified Château (E) |  Grand Géroldseck fortified Château (F) |
|  Châppe Telegraph Tower (G) |  Haut Barr fortified Château (H) |

All useful information

Advices

Carte IGN : 3715 OT

How to come ?

Transports

- TER : ligne Strasbourg – Saverne – Metz/Nancy
- Réseau 67 : lignes 404 Truchtersheim – Landersheim – Saverne, 405 Saverne - Duntzenheim, 410 Saverne – Sarre-Uion, 420 Wasselonne – Saverne,
- itinéraires en Alsace : <https://www.vialsace.eu/>

Access

From Strasbourg, take the A35 then the A4 towards Saverne (tolls) or take the A35, the A351, the N4 then the D1004 to Saverne.

Advised parking

Parking place des Dragons, Saverne

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 : Anciennes Carrières De Stambach

Sensitivity period:

i Information desks

Tourist Office of the Pays de Saverne

37 Grand'rue, 67700 Saverne

contact@tourisme-saverne.fr

Tel : +33 (0)3 88 91 80 47

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



On your path...



Saint-Vit Cave (A)

Autrefois lieu de pèlerinage où les malades venaient nombreux, il a été depuis transformé en jardin alpestre par les « Les Amis de St Vit ». On peut encore apercevoir les vestiges d'une chapelle.

Attribution : Office de Tourisme du Pays de Saverne



Greifenstein fortified Chateau (B)

This castle actually gathers 2 castles built on the same spur: the Old Greifenstein, which has the largest Romanesque keep of Alsace of which one can still see the door as well as the most recent square tower, and the Small Greifenstein of which one can only see the square keep in stones with bosses. Restored at the end of the Middle Ages to resist to artillery, then in project of fortification by Turenne around 1670, it will be finally dismantled in 1675. More information [here](#).

Attribution : SYCOPARC



Ochsenstein fortified Chateau (C)

Fief of the Ochsenstein house, a powerful medieval Alsatian family, it is perched on three sandstone spurs, corresponding in reality to three castles: the great Ochsenstein, the largest and the only accessible, the small Ochsenstein and the castle of Wachelheim. Its construction would be prior to the 12th century. It was destroyed after its restoration in 1559 and then dismantled by the Swedish troops in 1632. One can still see the remains of a chapel.



Rocher du Hibou (D)

Proche du Hirschberg, ce rocher a été baptisé « rocher du Hibou », à cause de sa forme rappelant (ou non) le rapace nocturne.

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



Petit Géroldseck fortified Chateau (E)

Built on a rocky platform with access by a staircase to the east, it appears for the first time in 1349 under the name "Neu Geroldseck". Closely linked to the Great Geroldseck, it was certainly destroyed during the siege that led to the destruction of the latter, which had become a den of brigands. Difficult to observe because of the vegetation, the keep, of irregular quadrangular plan, is made of stones with bosses. The castle offers a beautiful view on the hills and the plain of Alsace.

Attribution : A.Dorschner



Grand Géroldseck fortified Chateau (F)

Built in the 12th century by the lords of Géroldseck to protect their territories on a rock whose irregular shapes it follows, it combined housing and defense functions. Later it became a den of robbers and was besieged and destroyed in 1471. One can still see the square keep made of rusticated stones, the cellars of the large seigniorial dwelling and the barbican.

Attribution : A.Dorschner



Chappe Telegraph Tower (G)

Located near the castle of Haut-Barr, this tower was once part of the telegraph line connecting Paris to Strasbourg from May 31, 1798, until 1852. It was rebuilt in 1968. Today is a museum.

Attribution : Office de Tourisme du Pays de Saverne



Haut Barr fortified Chateau (H)

The castle existed from the beginning of the 12th century and was enlarged over the years before being dismantled in 1649. The chapel, built between 1170 and 1180, escapes the dismantling and is restored. Between 1701 and 1801, new elements appeared, like a telegraph station, barracks, a house. The last two elements were destroyed in 1845 and 1918. In 1901, a hotel restaurant was built.

Attribution : A.Dorschner