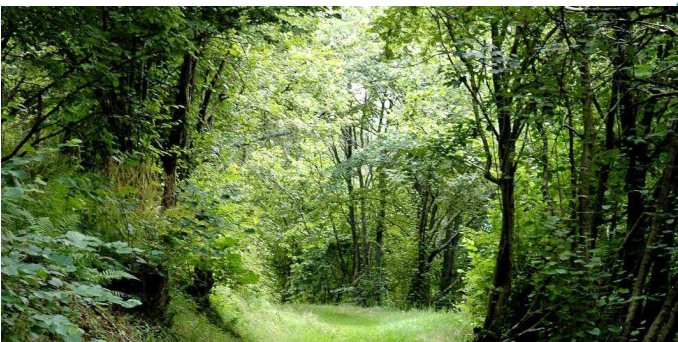


HIKING TRAIL C09: THE PANORAMIC TRAIL

Easy level



Start : Natzwiller



		7 km
		2h
		164 m

This hillside trail takes you on a wonderful walk with a chance to see the local trees and plants overlooking the village of Natzwiller. It can boast some beautiful views over the picturesque landscape of the Rothaine valley. A variant along the way includes a quick detour to a memorial site, the Struthof camp. It was built next to a granite quarry. Here, forced-labour prisoners extracted stones from the mountain. Among other things, the stones were used to make the road leading to the camp.

	<i>In front of the village hall (13 Rue Principale)</i>
	<i>Parking at the village hall (13 Rue Principale)</i>
	4,5 Km - Fouday



USEFUL INFORMATION

N'oubliez pas d'emporter une carte !
IGN N° de la carte : 1/25 000 Champ du Feu et Bruche 25
N° carte Club Vosgien : Secteur carte : 1/25 000 3716 ET



[GPX Track](#)

CONTACT

Office de tourisme de la vallée de la Bruche
03 88 47 18 51 - rando-bruche.fr




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STEPS

1 Start from Natzwiller




Follow the markings  all the way along the trail. Opposite the village hall, go up Rue de l'Eglise (sign towards the Town Hall/church/school) for 30 m, then take the first left (Rue des Jardins). Follow the street, which then turns into a path. On the way, you can enjoy a view of the Rothaine valley and, on the other slope, the village of Neuwiller-la-Roche.

2 View over the Rothaine valley

After 1.5 km, the path marked  takes a sharp turn to the right.


① Natzwiller, once called Saint-Ludel (the village's patron saint) stands on the right bank of the Rothaine. Historically, the village is Catholic and is part of the diocese of Strasbourg. So, it is not part of the same area as Neuwiller-La-Roche (although it is just opposite), since Neuwiller is a Protestant village in the Ban de la Roche. Another difference with Natzwiller is that you are more likely to hear Alsatian spoken, while in Neuwiller-la-Roche a local dialect of Latin origin is more common.

3 Arrival at the Natzwiller panoramic trail

About 700 m further on, cross the road and continue opposite along the forest road marked . There are a few tables and benches along the 2-km trail with very nice views over the Rothaine valley.


① The Rothaine valley runs from west to east in the Champ du Feu range. Unlike the Donon range, consisting of layers of volcanic rock with sandstone above, the Champ du Feu is formed by granite that slowly crystallised in the depths of the old Hercynian chain before being uncovered by erosion.

V Variation: A return trip to the Grande Carrière (+ 2 km, + 1 hr)

500 m further on, you will come to the quarry trail marked . Take the trail to the left, leading to the site of the old Struthof quarry. The path is very steep! Then retrace your steps to continue on your way.

① The granite stone from the Natzwiller quarry has an unusual pink colour (it is generally grey in the Champ du Feu range), which the German authorities wanted to mine in 1939-1945.

4 The upper village of Natzwiller

Carry on along the path marked  (about 2 km) until you get to the upper village. In this section, you will see a shelter to your left.

① Throughout history, Natzwiller has been the village where the miners working in Ban de la Roche (mainly the Rothau mines) lived. This work force came from Germany, which could explain the strong German influence on this side of the River Rothaine.

5 Back to Natzwiller

350 m after the shelter, follow a sharp bend to the right. At the crossroads, go straight ahead. Lastly, 150 m further on, at another intersection, you pass above a lake to your left and arrive at the first few houses.

① After the mining industry, the textile industry became the main activity in the region in the 19th century, along with farming for crops and livestock. In Natzwiller the Jacquel family set up their spinning mills, which continued production until the mid-20th century.

6 Back to the starting point



After 500 m, at the end of Rue du Mintzfeld, you will come to Rue Principale after a sharp turn to the left. The road heads to the right soon afterwards. Follow Rue Principale for 750 m to come back to your starting point.

① Today, the small village of Natzwiller is a refreshing haven, nestling in the Rothaine valley, a great place for a stroll and the chance to enjoy some beautiful scenery.

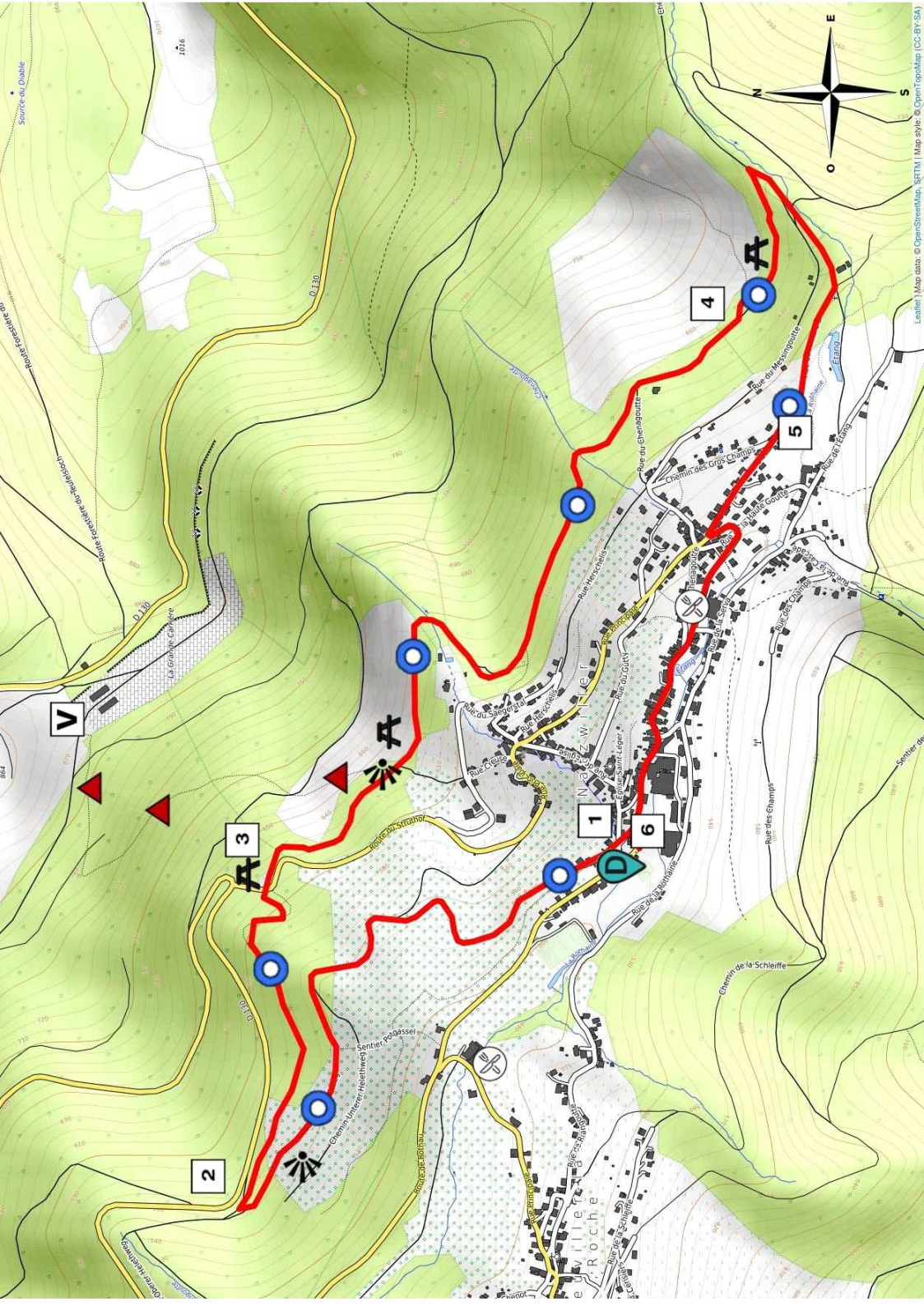
Other sights to see

Restaurants in Natzwiller:

- Auberge Metzger (03 88 97 02 42 - 55 Rue Principale): Fine French cuisine.
- Ferme Auberge du Charapont (03 88 97 98 46 - 5 Route de Rothau): farmhouse specialities.

Culture:

- Traditions Museum in Neuville-la-Roche (reservation required for visits on 03 88 97 98 44 - 19 Rue Principale): A collection of living history from another age (objects from daily life).
- Site of the Struthof concentration camp - Natzwiller (03 88 47 44 67 - D 130): Remains of the old concentration camp and a museum.



Source du Diable

Fontaine de la Roche

Fontaine de la Roche

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