

HIKING TRAIL C01: AROUND THE SMALLEST VILLAGE IN ALSACE

Easy level



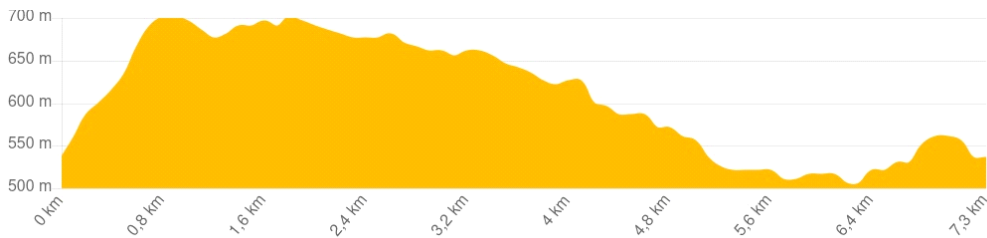
Start : **Blancherupt**



	7 km
		2h
		204 m
		> > >

The saying goes that everything small is cute. And it's not wrong. With just 38 inhabitants, Blancherupt is the smallest village in Alsace and certainly has a special charm. An award-winning advertising campaign in the 1990s said: "There's nothing in Blancherupt... nothing but what matters." What more encouragement do you need to visit this little piece of paradise?

	Church
P	Main street, just before the church
	3 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 3717 ET



[GPX Track](#)

CONTACT

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




All trail markings are reproduced courtesy of the Club Vosgien © Fédération du Club Vosgien - 2021



STEPS




1 La Boucherie

Follow the path marked , going up to the left after the church. This path climbs for 800 m (it is the hardest part of the trail) as far as the top of a bare crest called La Boucherie (alt. 710 m). Here, you have a fine 360° view over the Champ du Feu range and the village of Bellefosse, with Roche Castle above, emerging from the fir trees. Make a quick return trip for 100 m towards the left to see the panorama over the Donon range and the Col de la Perheux.



① Saint-André church in Blancherupt was built in 1861, so that local Catholics did not have to walk 3 km to Colroy-la-Roche church.

2 On pasture land




Turn right and walk alongside the fence. After 500 m you will come to an intersection of trails marked  and . *You can have lunch at Ban de la Roche farmhouse restaurant: at the crossroads, turn left and follow the path marked  for 800 m to the village. The farmhouse restaurant is on your left. Reservation required on 03 88 97 35 25.*





3 On the crest

From the trail intersection, take the path marked  -  to the right that leads into the forest after 600 m. *① The pasture land on the hills comes from a long tradition of pastoral farming in the upper Bruche valley. After the Thirty Years War, Mennonite farmers settled in high-altitude farms known as "censes" and owned by local lords. Here the farmers raised livestock and worked in the pastures on behalf of their masters. The Mennonites were particularly renowned for their farming skills, especially with livestock, and their technical knowledge linked to manure and irrigation, artificial meadows, etc.*



V Towards the ruins of Roche Castle (≈ 3 km, 1 hr)

After 500 m, before going into the forest, follow the path (hairpin bend) to the left marked . Continue for 1.7 km following the same markings to get to the ruins of Roche Castle. *① Roche Castle was built with Vosges sandstone and is at an altitude of almost 800 m. It dates from the 12th century. Like Ban de la Roche, it was owned by the Rathsamhausen zum Stein family. In 1469, it was occupied by a "robber lord" and destroyed after a siege lasting for 7 days by troops led by the Archbishop of Strasbourg, who was eager to rid the region of the troublemaker. The Archbishop forbade the Rathsamhausen-zum-Stein family from rebuilding the fortress.*

4 Towards the heights of Fouday ✕




After 1 km in the forest, follow the markings  to the right. After the crossroads, to your right, you will see a remarkable calvary. 400 m further on, take the path to the left marked . After 350 m, follow the same markings, turning right onto a small path, then, after 500 m, go straight ahead along the marked path . You then come to a viewpoint over Fouday with a bench. **Variation:** to shorten the trail by 3 km, from the calvary, stay on the downward path marked . After 700 m (bend to the right), you will see a "barefoot" trail to your right which is open in summer. 300 m further on, you will arrive back in Blancherupt. Turn left towards the church and return to the starting point.

5 Back to Blancherupt ▲

From the bench, carry on along the path marked  towards the right for 1 km. In a hairpin bend on the left, continue straight ahead along the path marked  and taking you to the village of Blancherupt.

① When the lord of Ban de la Roche adopted Protestantism in 1584, it became a Protestant enclave surrounded by Catholic regions. Blancherupt, which was not administratively part of Ban de la Roche, but linked to it geographically (by the Schirgoutte valley), became a Catholic enclave in the Protestant enclave, further increasing the village's isolation.

6 Back to the starting point

After 500 m, where the path marked  begins going down to the village to the left, go straight ahead (path leading to the  markings). You will cross the pastures of Blancherupt. 500 m further on, at the intersection, head down towards the left along the path marked  (you will see a new calvary on your left) to reach the village and your starting point.

① In Blancherupt you can also see the Way of the Cross in Saint-André church, made by 15 international artists in 2009.

Other sights to see nearby

📍 On the hills of Ranrupt there are some other farmhouse restaurants: Le Promont (tel. 03 88 97 62 85, 37 - Les Hauts Prés) and Le Haut Bois (03 88 97 67 56 - Route des Hauts-Bois).

*① Visit the J-F. Oberlin Museum: The J-F. Oberlin Museum (tel. 03 88 97 30 27 - 25 Montée Oberlin) is an interactive site recounting the story of J-F. Oberlin, the pastor of Waldersbach in the 18th century. **Get away from it all with your family during the Rose & Louise paperchase game in Waldersbach:** at each stop in the adventure, Rose and Louise invite you to take part in games from yesteryear. Brochures available from the Tourist Office or on bit.ly/brochuresOTVB.*

