

HIKING TRAIL C07: SALM AND LA CHATTE PENDUE

Intermediate level



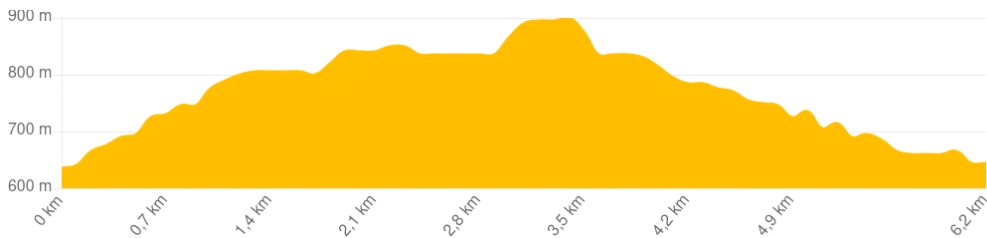
Start : La Broque



The Château de Salm was built in 1190 by Count Henri II, the lord protector of Senones Abbey. The site flourished in the 16th century. But it fell into ruin after being abandoned. The Château de Salm belonged to one of the most powerful families in Lorraine. The view from the Chatte Pendue is one of the highlights of the route. The 20m-high cliff, peaking at an altitude of 900m, has incredible views.

		7 km	
		Half-day	
		260 m	
		>	>

	<i>Salm forest house</i>
	<i>Parking at the Salm forest house</i>
	<i>7,7 Km - Rothau</i>



USEFUL INFORMATION

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



[GPX Track](#)

CONTACT

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STEPS



1 Stage 1: Salm Castle




To get to the start: From La Broque follow "Les Quelles" (to the right at the crossroads before the church in Rue des Quelles, when coming from Schirmeck). Then follow the signs to "Salm".

Start: Opposite the car park, on the other side of the road, take the path marked . After a climb of 500 m, turn right, follow the bends in the path and you will arrive at the castle ruins. *① From the top of the castle,*

2 Stage 2: Tête Pelée

Follow the path marked  through the ruins, then towards some cup and ring marks, before coming to an intersection with the Seigneurs forest road. Cross the forest road and continue along the path marked . The narrow and steep path goes up and around the summit known as "Tête Pelée". *① The Seigneurs forest road was a medieval path used to transport building materials to the castle. For more details, download the booklet "The Salm Castle Path" on www.valleedelabruche.fr or ask at the Tourist Office. Free guided tours in summer. See the "Sentiers plaisir" timetable.*

3 Stage 3: the Chatte Pendue protected nature zone

Just after Tête Pelée, you will take a ladder to go through an enclosure with a plantation of trees. After crossing the enclosure, carry on following the  markings and take the steps over the fence around the Chatte Pendue protected nature zone.

① The Chatte Pendue protected nature zone accounts for one-fifth of this sensitive crest forest covering 250 hectares. The aim of the area is to protect seedlings from being eaten by animals and to foster the gradual renewal of the adult forest. It should also be an area favourable to the reintroduction of the wood grouse.

4 Stage 4: Panoramic view of the Chatte Pendue

Continue for 300 m following the  markings leading to the Chatte Pendue viewpoint, where there is also a toposcope.

① The unusual name "Chatte Pendue" ("Hung Cat") has been diversely interpreted. There is no sinister story lying behind the name, but it comes from an expression in the local dialect. The area was once called "Pirre hhatte pendaie" (Hanging High Stone), but the guttural pronunciation of the "H" or errors in transcribing it changed the "hhatte" into "chatte" ("female cat"), hence the current name "Chatte Pendue". But there are other legends mentioning a witch who took the form of an old cat and was hanged here...

5 Stage 5: The Passeurs Trail ●

Retrace your steps, take the steps to leave the protected zone and turn left along the path marked ●. The path goes down, crosses a first forest path, then follows a steep and winding route down to a second forest road called "Route Forestière des Allemands" or "The Passeurs Trail" marked ✕. ⓘ *The "Germans' Forest Road" was built in 1914 on the orders of the German authorities by Polish and Russian prisoners of war in particularly terrible conditions, to give access to the border along the crest. During the Second World War, the route was used by courageous "people smugglers" ("Passeurs") and unsung heroes to help clandestine opponents or victims of the Nazi regime to escape from Germany.*

V Variation: Return to the start via Étang du Coucou (+45 mins) ●



Cross the Germans' Forest Road and continue down along the path marked ●. After 1.5 km you will arrive at Étang du Coucou. To come back to the starting point, turn right onto the path running alongside the tarmac road on its right. The path gently climbs for 1.5 km and is marked ● then ●. ⓘ *Prick up your ears and it is easy to hear the cuckoos in the forests.*

6 Stage 6: Back to the start along the Passeurs Trail ✕

From point 5, turn right onto the Germans' Forest Road (Sentier des Passeurs) marked ✕. After 2 km the road will take you back to your starting point.

ⓘ *To find out more about the Passeurs Trail, a themed booklet is available from the Tourist Office or on rando-bruche.fr. In summer, there are also guided tours as part of the "Sentiers plaisir" activities. The Passeurs Trail is also an exhibition site, taking the form of an open-air gallery, with ephemeral works of contemporary art (keep your eyes open!).*

🍴 Other sights to see



🍴 Restaurants:

- Restaurant Neuhauser (tel. 03 88 97 06 81 - Les Quelles, La Broque). Fine cuisine, traditional distillers of eau-de-vie. Located in a fine, sunny clearing, filled with serenity.
- Bambois Farmhouse Restaurant (tel. 03 88 97 60 82 - Le Geisloch, Plaine). Specialities: terrines, tomiflette, cheese and dairy dishes...

