

CYCLING CIRCUIT C25: FROM ALBET TO PERHEUX VIA ROTHAINÉ

Intermediate level



Start : Schirmeck



		39 km
		All day
		820 m
		>
		>

Hop on your bike and set off to explore the high plateaux of Salm. From up here, you can see the outlines of the Ban de la Roche, your next stop. Discover this area by cycling up the Rothainé valley, before crossing the legendary Col de la Perheux and descending to the other side at Fouday. You then cycle along the Bruche valley cycle route back to Schirmeck.

	<i>Bruche Valley Tourist Office</i>
	<i>Parking Place du marché</i>
	<i>0,5 Km - Schirmeck - La Broque</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 + 3717 ET



GPX Track

CONTACT

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

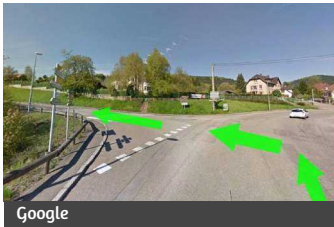



All trail markings are reproduced courtesy of the Club Vosgien © Fédération du Club Vosgien - 2021



STEPS

1 From Schirmeck to La Broque




From the Tourist Office, take Grand'Rue towards La Broque - Saint-Dié (Tourist Office on your left). After 200 m, you cross a bridge over the Bruche. At the crossroads, continue straight ahead towards **COL DU DONON - GRANDFONTAINE >**. You pass over the railway line. Turn left immediately into "Rue du Repos" - D 26 (markings ) , towards **FRECONRUPT >**.

i La Broque & Fréconrupt

La Broque is a French version of an old German name "Vor Brücke" ("before the bridge"). It is a heritage from the past, since before the French Revolution, it was the crossing point between the region of Salm and the diocese of Strasbourg. The crossing was made over a toll bridge on the River Bruche, hence the name "Vor Brücke". Activities and houses gradually grew up near the toll bridge and finally became a small town. La Broque is a modern grouping of several far older villages and hamlets (Fréconrupt, Les Quelles, Salm, etc.). The same is true of other places of the same kind in the valley, such as "Devant Fouday" or "Devant Saint-Blaise-la-Roche" ("Devant" meaning "before" or "in front of").


2 From La Broque to Fréconrupt



After 200 m (after the cemetery to your right), leave the cycle path and go straight ahead. After a climb of 3 km, you arrive in Fréconrupt (car park on the left with a view point and access to the Virgin of Fréconrupt, 600 m before the village). Continue straight head for 1 km and go through the town, following the markings  . When you leave the town (slight climb), turn left towards **SALM >**.

3 The hamlet of Salm



Continue for 2 km. You come to a clearing, then you pass the "Gros Chêne" (oak tree) to your right. 100 m further on, at the meeting point of some footpaths, turn left and you will arrive in Salm. At the end of the street,* do not follow the markings  but turn left. The road goes up and then down again before reaching a big crossroads.* Here, you can make a 3-km round trip to Étang du Coucou (picnic area), if you take the road to

i The legend of Salm Castle

During a future hike, visit the ruins of Salm Castle (18th century). It is still hiding plenty of secrets. It is said that some children from Salm were once sent to look after a flock near the ruins. There the children were astonished to see a big clock hanging from the castle wall and chiming the hour. Very practical! At the time agreed with their parents, when the clock struck, they went back down to the village with the flock. In the village, the old inhabitants didn't believe a word... But to make sure, they went up the next day and found no trace of a clock!

i Heritage & restaurants in Salm

The Mennonites, a branch of the Anabaptists, lived apart from the local population on the high plateaus, including in the hamlets of Salm, Les Quelles and Fréconrupt from the 18th century. They were known for their austere lifestyle but also for their talent for farming and raising livestock. During a future hike, you can explore the Mennonite heritage trail (available from the Tourist Office).

📍 1- Hotel-Restaurant Neuhauser (tel. 03 88 97 06 81 - Les Quelles, La Broque): a restaurant serving wonderfully prepared dishes. 2- Bambois farmhouse restaurant (tel. 03 88 97 60 82 - Le Geisloch, Plaine): specialities from the farm (meat, dairy products), reservation required.

4 Les Quelles to La Claquette



At the crossroads, you can make a return trip to the hamlet of "Les Quelles" 100 m away, if you continue straight ahead and go down the road to the left. To continue on your way, at the crossroads, turn left and follow the same route for 5 km through the Albet valley as far as La Claquette, where you will come to a roundabout.

5 From La Claquette to Rothau



Take the first exit at the roundabout, then after 300 m turn left into Rue de la Gare. You will cross the railway lines as you enter Rothau, and soon after you arrive at a big roundabout. Take the second exit towards **NATZWILLER - NEUVILLER - WILDERSBACH >**. You then begin the climb up the Rothaine valley.

6 From Rothau to Natzwiller



Follow the road for 4 km until you get to Natzwiller (half way, you can go to the Charapont farmhouse restaurant, on the right, follow signs to **NEUVILLER LA R. >**). Continue through Natzwiller, going straight ahead (follow Rue Principale keeping to the left) for 800 m as far as a sharp bend towards the left. Don't follow the bend, but go straight ahead into Rue de la Haute-Goutte. After 150 m, you cross a bridge

Restaurants in Natzwiller & Neuviller-la-Roche

- *Auberge Metzger (tel. 03 88 97 02 42 - 55 Rue Principale, Natzwiller): the Auberge Metzger serves excellent cuisine from Alsace. The kind welcome from Corinne is only equalled by the quality of the tasty cuisine made by Yves... A peaceful atmosphere on the terrace in summer and at the fireside in winter.*
- *Charapont Farmhouse Restaurant (tel. 03 88 97 98 46 - 5 Route de Rothau, Neuviller-la-Roche): the Charapont farmhouse restaurant gives pride of place to poultry raised on the farm: foie gras, duck pie, house terrine, cockerel in Riesling... Generous dishes featuring wild plants, with everything made on the premises. Reservation required.*

7 From Natzwiller to Neuviller-la-Roche



After the bridge (in Neuviller-la-Roche), turn right at the intersection. Go straight ahead down Rue de La Serva for 600 m (picnic area after 120 m on your right), until you come to a fork. Head left towards **NEUVILLER >** in Rue de la Rothaine, which continues as Rue de Riangoutte. Continue for 1.3 km until you come to the church and Town Hall of Neuviller-la-Roche on your left.

Heritage in Natzwiller & Neuviller-la-Roche

In the past, it was said that the waterfall at the top of the valley, beginning from Champ du Feu, was the home of the Lady of La Serva (who gave her name to the stream). When angry, she would set the wind roaring on the crests in the forest, a sign of bad weather to come... Other sights to see in the area:

- *Museum of Traditions of Neuviller-la-Roche (reservation required, tel. 03 88 97 07 18 - 19 Rue Principale): collection of objects from everyday life in the 19th century.*
- *The Struthof - Natzweiler concentration camp (tel. 03 88 47 44 57 - D 130): the remains of the camp and a museum.*

8 From Neuville-la-Roche to Wildersbach



Continue straight ahead towards **WILDERSBACH** >. After 1 km you will come to the village. At the first intersection, continue upwards, following the lane to the left for 1 km, "Rue du Champé", which becomes "Rue du Grand Chemin". At the end of the road (crossroads with Rue de la Perheux), go up to the left, towards **COL DE LA PERHEUX** >.

i Col de la Perheux

The Col de la Perheux is both puzzling and enchanting. Sometimes it is like a sunny terrace opening up wonderful views; sometimes it is a barren moor where the elements are unleashed! Its name may come from "Bär Höhe" in German ("Bear Height"), after a bear was executed here in 1709. It is said that you might meet witches, spirits, treasures, luminous apparitions, etc. The spot leaves no one indifferent, but make up your own mind!

📍 **Perheux farmhouse restaurant (tel. 03 88 97 96 07 - Col de la Perheux, Wildersbach): unique seasonal dishes, mainly made with ingredients from the farm and local suppliers, reservation required.**

9 Col de la Perheux and the "Amis de la Nature" house



You will go past the farmhouse restaurant of the same name before arriving 150 m further on at the Col. After admiring the view, take the hairpin bend to the right, then follow the markings **■ ■** (Chemin du Bas) for 1 km, and you will come to the "Amis de la Nature" house.

10 Solbach

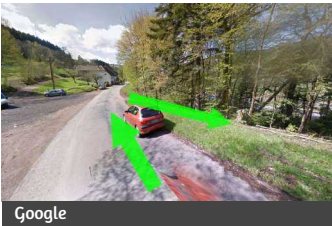



At the "Friends of Nature" house, turn left at the hairpin bend (unmarked path). Go straight ahead for 900 m and then turn right just before the sign for **SOLBACH**. Go straight ahead for 1.5 km (the road becomes a forest path) and turn left at the hairpin bend. Go down another 600 m to get to the road in the lower village.

Heritage & specialities in Solbach

"Solbach" is thought to come from the German, "salt stream". The village was originally much lower down in the valley. After repeated attacks during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), it was almost wiped off the map. The villagers who survived settled as high up in the valley as possible to hide from the enemy armies, as they moved along the River Bruche below. La Chèvrerie du Solbet (tel. 03 88 97 30 17 - 1 Chemin de la Croisette): cheeses made from goat's milk, on sale in the morning.

From Solbach to Rothau via Fouday



Go down to the right along the D 957. After 1.6 km you will see the first house in Fouday. 20 metres before that, turn right into the bend on the cycle path marked  - Chemin de la Folie. After 4 km, you will arrive near Rothau.

Fouday

In the past, it was dangerous to go to Fouday from Rothau, since the route ran through fields and marshes, subject to flooding. The footpath known as "Chemin de la Folie" ("Crazy Way") linked Fouday to Rothau, and was well named, since only the insane could imagine taking it without risking their lives. In 1890, the railway line was built. The little tramway that ran here had difficulty tackling the climb from Rothau. It was not unusual that 3rd class passengers got out to push the tram, while 2nd class passengers just walked alongside, and 1st class passengers remained seated on board. There were many accidents at night due to people walking along the railway line (which was safer than Chemin de la Folie) to go to Rothau...

Restaurants in Fouday & Rothau

In Rothau:

- Weekly market: Place du Général de Gaulle, every Saturday morning
- Banette Fieng bakery-pâtisserie (tel. 03 88 47 12 75, 3 Rue de Schirmeck).
- Restaurants: 1- Les Petits Plats de Mamama (tel. 03 88 47 15 28, 6 Place du Général De Gaulle), 2- Restaurant de la Place (tel. 09 81 91 89 20, 8 Place du Général De Gaulle).

In Fouday:

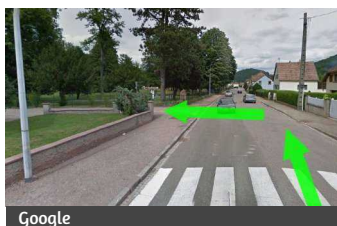
- 1- Restaurant Julien (tel. 03 88 97 30 09, 12, Route Nationale). 2- Restaurant de la Gare (tel. 03 88 97 30 21, 60 Rue Principale)

12 From Rothau to La Broque



Follow the cycle path marked . When you arrive in Rothau, cross the D 1420 (**be careful!**) and go down towards the right. You go through the brownfield of the old Steinheil factory and arrive on Grande Rue. Turn left to cross the railway line and you will arrive in La Claquette.

13 From La Broque to Schirmeck



Continue straight ahead along Rue du Général Leclerc. At the roundabout, take the first exit, and after 250 m, turn left just before you get to Albay Park and follow the cycle path marked . The path runs behind Albay Park and on the hills of La Broque.

14 Back to the starting point



After 1.5 km, you come to the intersection with the D 392. Leave the cycle path and turn right **"AUTRES DIRECTIONS" >**, you pass the railway lines (as you did on the way out) and go down towards a crossroads. Go straight ahead towards **STRASBOURG >**. You cross the Bruche and after 200 m turn right to arrive back at the Tourist Office (to your right), your starting point.

Local specialities in Schirmeck and La Broque

- *Schirmeck weekly market: Place du Marché, every Wednesday morning*
- *Tea rooms in Schirmeck: Pâtisserie DK (129 Avenue de la Gare) & Coffittivallee (165 Grand Rue),*
- *Pizza restaurants: Le Castello (tel. 03 88 97 01 02, 87 Rue de l'Eglise, Schirmeck) & Le Romain (tel. 03 88 97 99 68, 26 Route du Donon, La Broque).*
- *Restaurants in La Broque: Le Sabayon (tel. 03 88 50 58 35, 4 Rue de la Gare), La Schlitte (tel. 03 88 97 06 07, 26 Rue de Frécorrupt); in Schirmeck: Restaurant de la Bruche (tel. 03 88 97 04 21, 142 Grand Rue), La Taverne de la Perle (tel. 03 88 19 92 20, 131 Grand Rue).*

