

CYCLING CIRCUIT B06: FROM GRENDELBRUCH TO LA PERHEUX



Intermediate level



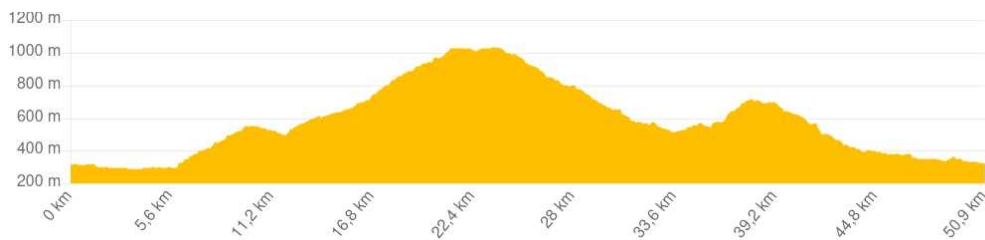
Start : Schirmeck



		50 km
		All day
		1109 m

This route takes you to the heights of Gendelbruch for a beautiful walk along the ridges as far as the car park at hill 1000. You then cross the champ du Messin (viewpoint over the Rothaine valley), before descending to the village of Natzwiller and then Neuwiller-la-Roche. This route then takes you over the mythical Col de la Perheux, a place of legends and stories, before returning to Fouday via the village of Solbach, then Schirmeck via the Bruche Valley cycle route.

	<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



[GPX Track](#)

CONTACT

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

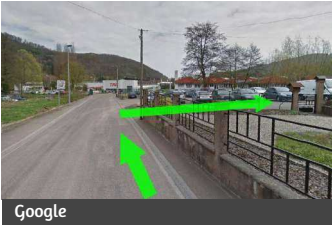




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STEPS

1 Towards the Bruche valley cycling trail




With the tourist office behind you, take Grand'Rue towards Molsheim - Strasbourg. After 400 m, at the crossroads, turn right onto the no-through road to get to the cycle path marked  towards **MOLSHEIM >**. After 500 m, just before the car park, turn right onto the tarmac road and follow the markings .

Restaurants in Barembach, Russ and Schwartzbach

- Italian restaurant, Castel Del Monte (tel. 03 88 99 63 78, 5, Route Mal. de Lattre de Tassigny, Barembach): Italian specialities, pizzas, pasta, meat, fish & seafood...
- Italian restaurant La Toscana (tel. 03 88 97 94 10, 2 Place des Marronniers, Russ): pizzas and Italian specialities, flammekueche made with pizza dough nicknamed "Flamm's à l'italienne".
- Restaurant at Le Brûlot (tel. 03 88 47 39 30, 19 Rue de la Chapelle, Schwartzbach): traditional cuisine, meat, flammekueche and wood-fired pizza.

2 To Schwartzbach



Follow the cycle path marked . After 1 km, the trail follows a path to the left going under a roundabout. 2 km further on, go round a second roundabout to the left, then go under the D 1420, turn left and continue alongside the D-road. Carry on for 2 km to the intersection with the road with a calvary opposite.

Russ

Russ (the village before Schwartzbach to your right) is first mentioned in the 14th century with the names "RUGI" (stream) or "NUZI" (countryside), probably of Celtic origin. Russ (as it was finally known after the French Revolution) then consisted of two hamlets, Oberruss and Niederruss. Unusually, the two hamlets were not located in the same place as today's village, but were higher up the valley, near Muckenbach (an area now covered in forest). Wars, harsh living conditions and poverty prompted the inhabitants gradually to go down into the valley. Near Russ is a place called "La Marbrière", where grey marble was mined in the 19th century.

3 To Grendelbruch



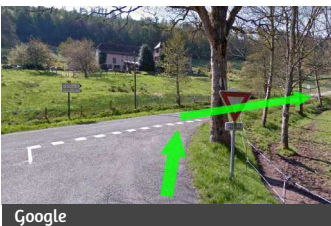
Leave the cycle path and turn right to follow the D 804 for 1 km. It turns into "Rue de la Chapelle" in Schwartzbach. Cross the village and as you leave, at the intersection with the D 204, turn left towards **GRENDELBRUCH >**. Continue along the D 204 for 5 km until you get to Grendelbruch and then carry on along this road (Route de Schirmeck) until you come to the church in the centre of the village.

i Grendelbruch

Grendelbruch was first mentioned in the 11th century. It is a forest village at an average altitude of 550 m. It is notable for being nearby Guirbaden Castle (about 3 km away), thought to be the strongest fortress in Alsace in the Middle Ages. The presence of the fortress involved the village in several conflicts, until the castle was finally destroyed by the Swedes during the Thirty Years War. But mankind's presence in the area is much older. On the Purpurkopf, facing the castle, on the other side of the Magel, are stone walls and traces of Celtic and Roman camps.

☺ Restaurants: La Grenouille (tel. 03 88 95 52 27, 26 Rue de l'Eglise) - Au Pot au Feu (tel. 03 88

4 To La Rothlach



Turn right onto the D 66, towards **LE CHAMP DU FEU >**. After 600 m, head to the left at the sign **TOUTES DIRECTIONS >**, then at the next crossroads, turn right, staying on the D 66, towards **LE CHAMP DU FEU >**. After 7 km, at the intersection, turn right onto the D 214, towards the same destination. Continue for 1.5 km and you will arrive at the Rothlach crossroads.

i La Rothlach

During your next hike, at the Rothlach crossroads, follow the markings ▲ to the left (1 km of forest road, then 400 m of footpath). You arrive at the Neuntelstein rock (viewpoint over the southern Vosges range and the Black Forest). La Rothlach and the Croix Rouge (next crossroads) seem linked to the colour red ("rot" in German). This may be due to the blood spilled during skirmishes that took place here in the 13th century between the Rathsamhausen family in the Ban de la Roche and the town of Andlau and caused by disputed property rights on the hill pastures (some localities are called "Strittwald" = battle forest in German).

☺ Auberge de la Rothlach (tel. 03 88 08 34 33, La Rothlach, Le Hohwald): local specialities.

5 The Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp - CERD



Continue straight ahead along the D 214 towards **LE CHAMP DU FEU >**. After 800 m, turn right onto the D 130 ("Cote 1000" car park), towards **LE STRUTHOF >**. Follow this road for 7 km. You go through the Champ du Messin (a field with a beautiful view over the Rothaine valley), before arriving at the Natzweiler-Struthof - CERD concentration camp.

i Centre of Deported Resistance Fighters - Former Natzweiler-Struthof camp

The "Konzentrationslager-Natzweiler" opened in May 1941. Its aim was to provide the Reich with slave labour for its industry with mainly political deportees as prisoners. 52,000 deportees were interned in the camp (either in the central camp or in one of 70 satellite camps). Almost one-third of them died. In 2005, the European Centre of Deported Resistance Fighters (CERD) was opened. It features a permanent exhibition devoted to Nazism and the resistance. Lastly, above the camp is the national necropolis, recognisable by a monument in the form of a flame.

For picnics, there are tables and benches near the CERD car park.

6 To Natzwiller



Go past the camp and continue along the D 130. After 3 km, along a steep descent, leave the D 130 as it turns to the right, and take a small tarmac road in the bend, towards **NATZWILLER >**.

7 From Natzwiller towards La Haute-Goutte



Continue down the small road until you get to the village of Natzwiller and reach an intersection with several sloping lanes. Go straight ahead along Rue Principale - D 530 and after 700 m you will arrive at a bend in the road to the right.

📍 Auberge Metzger (tel. 03 88 97 02 42, 55 Rue Principale, Natzwiller): Tasty and delicately prepared Alsace cuisine.

8 La Haute-Goutte



In the bend, turn left into Rue de la Haute-Goutte. After 150 m, you will cross a small bridge over a stream, La Serva. After the bridge, turn right at the intersection (100 m further on, you will see a picnic table on the right). Go down Rue de La Serva for 600 m, until you come to a fork in the road.

9 Towards Neuville-la-Roche



At the fork, turn left into Rue de la Rothaine, towards **NEUVILLER >**. It then becomes Rue de Rianguotte. Continue for 1.3 km until you get to the church, then Neuville-la-Roche Town Hall on your left.

🍷 Charapont farmhouse restaurant (tel. 03 88 97 98 46, 5 Route de Rothau, Neuville-la-Roche): specialities made from poultry, foie gras, duck pie, house terrine, cockerel in Riesling...

i Neuville-la-Roche and Wildersbach

Before the French Revolution, the River Rothaine marked the boundary between the county of La Roche (left bank) and the lands of the Diocese of Strasbourg (right bank). The inhabitants of the villages of Neuville-La-Roche and Wildersbach were Protestants and spoke a Latin dialect, while the inhabitants of Natzwiller, although close to Neuville-La-Roche, were Catholics and spoke Alsatian. These remote localities made a living from farming livestock and crops until the development of mining and later the textile industry, as can be seen in the different buildings. To explore these ancient traditions, visit the Museum of Popular Traditions in Neuville-la-Roche (reservation required, tel. 03 88 97 07 18, 19 Rue Principale).


10 Wildersbach



Continue straight ahead towards **WILDERSBACH >**. After 1 km you will come to the village. At the first intersection, continue upwards, following the lane for 1 km, "Rue du Champé", which continues as "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 >**.


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



Go up towards Col de la Perheux for 1.3 km, along the tarmac road that continues as a forest path. You 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, until you get to the "Amis de la Nature" house.

Col de la Perheux

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 come across 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.

12 Solbach



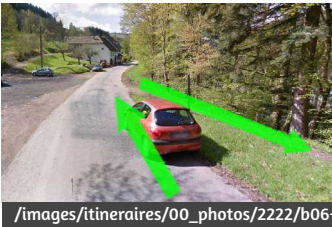
At the "Friends of Nature" house, turn left at the hairpin bend (unmarked path). Go straight ahead for 900 m and then turn right just before the sign for **SOLBACH**. Go straight ahead for 1.5 km (the road becomes a forest path) and turn left at the hairpin bend. Go down another 600 m to get to the road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

Solbach

The villages of Alsace were ravaged by terrible suffering during the Thirty Years War. But at this altitude, Solbach enjoyed a remote location and was almost hidden, so that the village sometimes escaped from the terrors of war. However, after being pillaged several times, it is said that Solbach was almost completely destroyed. The inhabitants decided to rebuild the village much higher up, under Col de la Perheux, to conceal it even more from soldiers in the valley.

Visit the Solbet goat farm (tel. 03 88 97 30 17, 1 Chemin de la Croisette, Solbach): fresh goat's cheeses, plain and flavoured, on sale in the morning.

13 To Fouday



Turn right onto the D 957 and you will see the first house in Fouday after 1.6 km. 20 m before that, turn right in the hairpin bend onto the cycle trail marked - Chemin de la Folie. After 4 km, you arrive near Rothau.
☉ Restaurants in Fouday: 1. Hotel-Restaurant & Spa Julien (tel. 03 88 97 30 09, 12, Route Nationale) - 2. Restaurant de la Gare (tel. 03 88 97 30 21, 60 Rue Principale).

14 Back to Rothau, La Claquette, then La Broque



Follow the cycle trail marked . When you get to Rothau, cross the D 1420 (**be careful!**) and head down towards the right. You will go through the brownfield of the old Steinheil factory and arrive in Grand Rue. Turn left onto this street. You pass the railway line and arrive in the municipality of La Claquette.



Restaurants in Schirmeck, La Broque and Rothau

- *Tea rooms in Schirmeck: Pâtisserie DK (129 Avenue de la Gare) & Coffitivallee (165 Grand Rue),*
- *Restaurants in Rothau: Les Petits Plats de Mamama (tel. 03 88 47 15 28, 6 Place du Général de Gaulle) & Restaurant de la Place (tel. 09 81 91 89 20, 8 Place du Général de Gaulle); 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), Le Castello (tel. 03 88 97 01 02, 87 Rue de l'Eglise); in*
La Broque: *Le Romain (tel. 03 88 97 99 68, 26 Route du Donon), Le Sabayon (tel. 03 88 50 58 35, 4 Rue de la Gare), La Schlitte (tel. 03 88 97 06 07, 26 Rue de Fréconrupt).*

15 Back to the starting point



After 700 m, at the roundabout, take the first exit and continue straight ahead along Rue du Général Leclerc, leaving the cycle lane that heads left after 500 m. Cross La Broque for 1.5 km. At the intersection with the N 420, turn left. Continue for 600 m and, at the crossroads, turn right towards **STRASBOURG >**. You pass the River Bruche and after 500 m, you come back to your starting point on the right.

