

HIKING TOUR FROM THE FORGES TO WINDSTEIN CASTELS

Sportive level



Start : Windstein



In the heart of the Schwarzbach Valley, this hike will take you to some of the most iconic historical sites in the Niederbronn-les-Bains region: first, the Dietrich forges, which illustrate the intense metallurgical activity in our region between the 17th and 19th centuries, and then the ruins of the Windstein castles, dating back to the Middle Ages.

		9,4 km
		3h
		329 m
		329 m
	> >	
	> >	

Forges of Jaegerthal

Forges of Jaegerthal car park

6,7 Km - Niederbronn-les-Bains Train station



USEFUL INFORMATION

Carte IGN 3814 ET



GPX Track

CONTACT


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STEPS

Departure







The walk starts at the Jaegerthal ironworks. These ruins are a reminder of the De Dietrich family's metallurgical activities in Jaegerthal, which came to a definitive end in 1890. Walk north along the pond, following the  markings via the forest path to Nouveau Windstein Castle.

1 **Windstein**

Take the path that zigzags downhill with the  and  signs to cross the D53 opposite the Windstein hotel-restaurant. Do not descend to Martinet to avoid the D53. Cross the D53 at the footbridge upstream from the hotel-restaurant for good visibility. Pass the hotel and turn right onto Rue des Châteaux for 90 metres. Cross over to take the path that climbs up into the meadows on the left.

2 **Change of signage**



Join the marked trail  +  trail on the right until you reach Schlossberg Street, then follow the  +  markings opposite until you reach Nouveau Windstein Castle.

i **Nouveau Windstein castle**





Built in the 13th and 14th centuries and later modernised. It features the same defensive design as Wasenbourg Castle in Niederbronn-les-Bains. Nouveau Windstein was built after the first destruction of Vieux Windstein in 1332.





3 Continuation of the route



Google maps

After visiting the first castle, follow the signs  +  towards Vieux Windstein.

i Mittel Windstein

You will also see the few remains of Mittel Windstein between the two, on the ridge. A signpost indicates its location. Only a small tower escaped destruction. If you visit Vieux Windstein, be very careful, as it is not accessible to everyone ! Follow the  markings to the Guensthal pass for 2.6 km, leaving the  and then the  and following the .

i Vieux Windstein castle





OTI Alsace Verte

The Vieux Windstein is a semi-troglodytic castle built by the Hohenstaufen family at the end of the 12th century. With its network of underground galleries, it makes use of a rocky outcrop standing at an altitude of 365 metres.

4 Col de Guensthal




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At the Guensthal Pass, view the casemates without entering them, then follow the  and signs  to continue opposite to the lower blockhouse, near the junction with the GR531.

5

The Blockhouses




When you reach the blockhouse, turn right and follow the signs  towards Jaegerthal.

6

Back to Jaegerthal



On your return, you will pass by the Welschhof farm. Follow the same signs to  your starting point: the Jaegerthal forges.

