

WOMEN PAINTERS' TOUR IN OBERSTEINBACH

Easy level



Start : Obersteinbach



..... 3,3 km

1h

66 m



Obersteinbach Town Hall

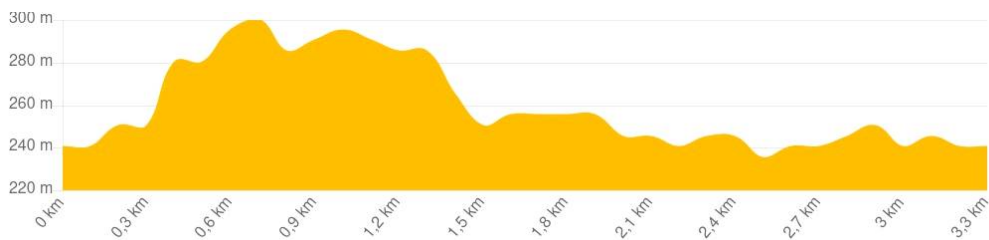


Parking opposite the Anthon Restaurant



15 Km - Niederbronn-les-Bains

From 1896 to 1918, a painting school for young women was held twice a year in Obersteinbach. The tour includes 13 panels recounting this extraordinary artistic adventure.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Carte IGN 3814 ET



[GPX Track](#)

CONTACT

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STEPS

Thank you for following these guidelines

Please remain vigilant during your walk. Some sections of the route may be temporarily closed during the breeding season to protect local wildlife. Quiet zones may also be designated to minimise disturbance and protect species. And access to certain castles may be prohibited for safety reasons.

1 Station 1



The biography of painter Franz Hein, 'Wille und Weg' (Will and Way), provides detailed information about the creation of the group of artists that became the 'Obersteinbach Painters' Colony' and its spirit.

2 Station 2



In 1895, Franz Hein wrote: 'We entered the Wasgenwald through the narrow birch valley along the Sauer. Suddenly, everything we had imagined was confirmed when the unique landscape of Fleckenstein opened up before us at the Tannenbrücke, like a noble stage set.'

3 Station 3



In 1896, Franz Hein discovered the Vosges, where he pitched his tents for several months at the foot of Wasigenstein, in Obersteinbach in Alsace, every year until the war. Hein is virtually unclassifiable from the current generation of painters. He claims to be a German story painter, and is known to a wider public as an illustrator of story books. His art expresses something gentle and tender, like the man himself, merciful and

4 Station 4



Sabine Hackenschmidt was born on 13 May 1873 in Windstein near Niederbronn-les-Bains and died on 6 June 1939 in Strasbourg. She was the daughter of Pastor Karl Hackenschmidt (1839-1915) and Emilie Baranowska from Basel. From 1905 to 1913, she taught drawing at the teachers' seminary in Strasbourg. With her painter friend Anna Winnecke, she presented her work in 1908 at the exhibition of young artists from Alsace-Lorraine at the

5 Station 5



It should be borne in mind that, at the time, such subjects were not considered 'worthy of painting'. Everyday rural life and its unassuming inhabitants, charming but unspectacular landscapes, the pure representation of nature without reference to an event or an idea - all these things only began to attract the attention of visual artists very slowly. Until then, the subjects of painting had generally been of a heroic,

6 Station 6



Franz Hein was looking for ways to renew crafts and the arts. He taught a number of students, including Margot Grube, Elisabeth von Hahn, Berta Wetz, the Peppmüller sisters, Gertrud Schäfer, Dora Horn-Zippelius, Käthi Baur and the sister of the poet O. E. Hartleben. In Obersteinbach, where he now stayed every year, he spent a few weeks with Fikentscher, Kampmann, Biese and H. R. von Volkmann.

7 Station 7



The castles attracted a number of artists, including Franz Hein, the founder and driving force behind the Obersteinbach painters' colony. In search of the historic location of the Waltherlind, he discovered the Burgenland around Obersteinbach and was able to inspire his fellow painters and pupils in the same way about the beauty of the landscape, the dark forests and birch avenues in the Steinbach and Sauer valleys. It was

8 Station 8



OTi de l'Alsace Verte

'With us, the new time arrives !' The era of reform begins : 'Lebensreform', life reform, critical movement against industrialisation in Germany, 'Reformation' clothes, simple lifestyle, return to nature, nutritional reform, vegetarian diet, renunciation of alcohol, biodynamic gardening and farming, health food shop, women's rights, emancipation, women's right to vote, new paths in painting and architecture.

9 Station 9



OTi de l'Alsace Verte

The two villages of Obersteinbach and Niedersteinbach were relatively isolated from the world until the end of the 19th century. Life there was quiet and peaceful, punctuated by work in the fields and daily chores. The nearest railway stations were in Reichshoffen (16km), Niederbronn (15km) and Woerth (18km). However, a yellow omnibus already ran from Woerth to Lembach, and passengers could take a postal carriage as far as

10 Station 10



OTi de l'Alsace Verte

The works of painter and graphic artist Franz Hein were greatly inspired by the picturesque village of Obersteinbach. The landscape around Wasigenstein is clearly recognisable in his fantastic paintings and drawings. Fellow painters such as Karl Biese and Gustav Kampmann also visited this idyllic spot. But it was Franz Hein in particular who came here with his male and female 'Malweiber' students to work for days and

11 Station 11



OTi de l'Alsace Verte

Franz Hein s'est engagé dans l'Art Nouveau, les oeuvres de ses élèves apparaissent plus modernes, ne se perdent pas dans de petites formes décoratives morcelées, mais captent les grandes lignes et les ambiances. L'effervescence artistique des femmes voit ainsi le jour.

12 Station 12



For the villagers, the young women in their bright dresses, armed with paint boxes, easels and umbrellas, are an unusual sight. They are known as 'Lehrmaidle' (apprentices) and 'Malweiber' (women painters).

13 Station 13



For various reasons, the 'Malerkolonie d'Obersteinbach' disappeared shortly before the end of the 1st World War. Directly to the north of the village, the national border now separated France and Germany, and each crossing required a passport and a lot of red tape. The economic situation and the problems of survival after the war relegated the artistic side and the desire to travel - especially abroad - to the background. Probably no

