



A bit of history...

Strasbourg's many walls and fortifications bear witness to the city's important role as a stronghold. After 1870, as a replacement for the Specclin and Vauban fortifications, deemed obsolete, two new lines of defence were erected: an 11 km city wall, and a ring of 19 advanced forts (16 in France, 3 in Germany).

Built while Alsace-Lorraine was part of the German Empire under Wilhelm I, the forts initially bore the names of key German politicians and military leaders, until they were re-named after 1918 in honour of French generals and marshals. The different forts, fortified structures, shelters and casemates are camouflaged under a canopy of black locust, chestnut and walnut trees.

Over the years, most of the forts have become completely overgrown, and **only 4 are now open to the public**, Fort Rapp (Moltke), Fort Frère (Baden), Fort Kléber (Bismarck) and the fortified Ducrot (Podbielski) structure. Exploring these forts combines history with pleasure, a path of discovery that is both fascinating and fun.

...Nature in abundance!

The Forts Trail is also an opportunity for cyclists to enjoy **the diversity of the surrounding landscape**, from the cool forest atmosphere to the shade of a café terrace, and from half-timbered buildings to lock-keepers' houses, as they play leap-frog over the Rhine, or stop for a picnic within the fortified walls.

The Forts Trail can also be accessed from the city centre or via the cycle tracks that run along the Marne/Rhine, Bruche and Rhône/Rhine canals. Discover shorter or longer sections of the Trail at your own pace, without any major difficulty, with family or friends.



Bruche canal

One trail, four themes

NATURE AND LANDSCAPES

From Fort Rapp (Moltke) to the banks of the River Ill, discover the distinctive landscape and flora of the Alsatian Ried, the Robertsau Forest and its bird reserve..

CROSS-BORDER

Celebrate the friendship uniting France and Germany, as the Trail passes first through the German town of Kehl, then winds its way through the bucolic scenery of the Ortenau forests, orchards and fields before crossing back into France via the forts Hoche (Schwarzhoff), Uhrich-Hoche (Werder-Schwarzhoff) and Uhrich (Werder).

SMALL TOWNS

This more urban section of the Forts Trail is just as exciting, as cyclists discover Illkirch-Graffenstaden, Ostwald, Lingolsheim and Eckbolsheim, all with sights worth seeing (eg. Château de l'Ill or the Joffre/Sachsen Fort in Holtzheim).

HILLSIDE AND HERITAGE

From Wolfisheim to Souffelweyersheim, enjoy a unique view from the heights of the Hausbergen villages over the Kochersberg and city of Strasbourg, with many forts along the way (Kléber/Bismarck, Frère/Baden, Foch/Kronprinz, Ducrot/Podbielski and Desaix/Roon).

Contact details for the forts open to the public:

Association des Amis du Fort Rapp
Tél.: 00 33 (0)6 81 57 50 27 - wencesla@evc.net

Fort Ducrot - Les Amis du Fort Ducrot
Tél.: 00 33 (0)6 36 60 21 58

CSAGS Fort Frère
contact@fort-frere.fr - Tél.: 00 33 (0)6 98 23 30 14

Association des Amis du Fort Kléber (AAFK)
aafk@orange.fr

Fort Ulrich Park – Illkirch-Graffenstaden Town Hall
Tél.: 00 33 (0)3 88 66 80 00 - www.illkirch-graffenstaden.fr

Open every day from 2 to 9 pm throughout the summer (until 21 September). Outside the summer months, please contact the Town Hall. The municipality reserves the right to close the site for safety reasons or due to poor weather conditions.



Jardin des 2 rives

La Wantzenau



Kléber Fort

How to pick up the Forts Trail

How to pick up the Forts Trail:

On cycle tracks

Via EuroVelo 15 – the Rhine cycle route

- > In France: to the north, from La Wantzenau and to the south in Illkirch, at the level of the Uhrich Fort
- > In Germany: to the north, in Auenheim, and to the south, at the Pierre Pfimlin bridge over the Rhine

Via l'EuroVelo 5 – Via Romea Francigena

- > To the north: in Souffelweyersheim, via the Marne-au-Rhin canal
- > To the west: in Wolfisheim, via the Bruche canal

By tram

9 tram stops are handy for the Forts Trail:

- > Line A: Ducs d'Alsace, Hautepierre Maillon, Illkirch Lixenbuhl,
 - > Line B: Hoenheim Gare, Le Ried, Elmerforst, Borie, Alouettes
 - > Line E: Robertsau Boecklin
- Bicycles are not allowed on the tram during peak hours (7 to 9 am and 5 to 7 pm).

By train

The Forts Trail can be accessed from all the railway stations within the Strasbourg Urban Community, as well as from Kehl.

85 km
of cycle
tracks
from forts
to nature



Kléber Fort

The Forts Trail (Piste des Forts) is a Franco-German cycle route combining heritage and nature at the gates of Strasbourg. Over 85 km, on both sides of the Rhine, cyclists can sample delights ranging from the Hausbergen hillside to the Ortenau countryside, the Rhineland forests of Illkirch-Graffenstaden, and the Wantzenau woodlands, while at the same time discovering the 19 fortifications making up the "Ring of Forts".

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No bike?
Not to worry,
think Vélhop!

With 5 shops and 13 self-service pick-up points, the cycle-hire facility "Vélhop" means you don't have to have your own bike to enjoy the Forts Trail. For an hour or a day, for a short bike ride or, for the more adventurous, the whole of the Trail, "Vélhop" is the answer - convenient, green and economical!

For more informations:

- > www.velhop.strasbourg.eu
- > 00 33 (0)9 69 39 36 67



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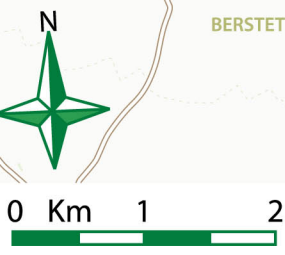
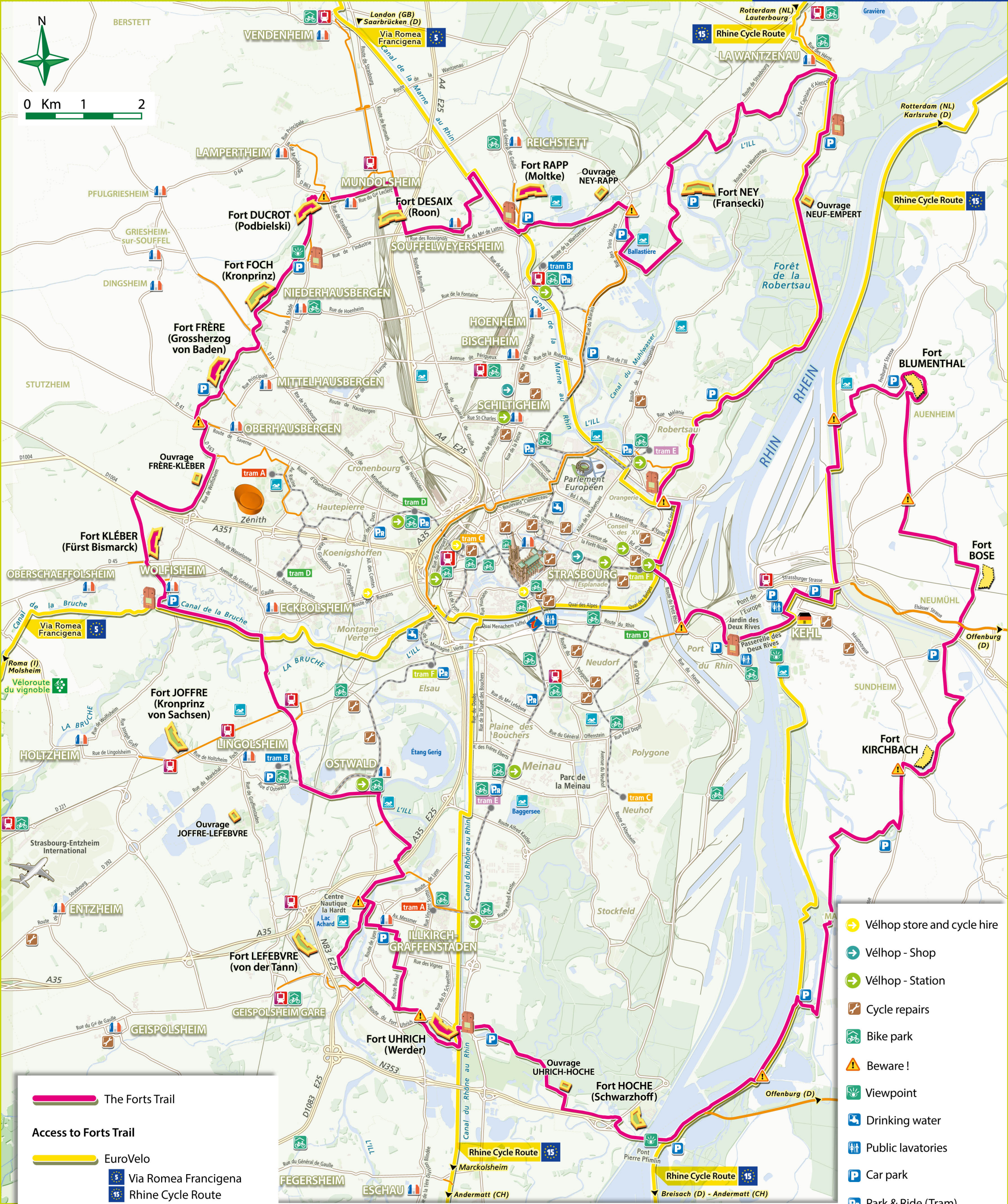
Welcome Byance - photos : Yvon Meyer - Emmanuel Georges



The Forts Trail
Strasbourg-Ortenau



- Communauté urbaine de Strasbourg
- 1 parc de l'Étoile
- 67076 Strasbourg Cedex - France
- www.strasbourg.eu



The Forts Trail

Access to Forts Trail

- EuroVelo
- Via Romea Francigena
- Rhine Cycle Route
- Other cycle routes
- Tram

- Vélhop store and cycle hire
- Vélhop - Shop
- Vélhop - Station
- Cycle repairs
- Bike park
- Beware!
- Viewpoint
- Drinking water
- Public lavatories
- Car park
- Park & Ride (Tram)
- Railway station
- Swimming pool
- Town Hall

- Fort
- Fort open for visits
- Fortifications
- Abandoned fort
- Entrance to Trail