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 www.selestat.fr <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v...>

**Route de Marckolsheim
Service environnement
67600 Selestat**

+ Description

Located in the heart of the Alsace plain, the Ill*Wald preserves an exceptional wetland area recognised at European level. Covering about 1855 hectares, the Ill*Wald is one of the largest regional nature reserves in France and the largest in Alsace. The Ill*Wald takes its name from the "Ill forest" (Illwald in Alsatian). The asterisk symbolises the interactions between the natural environments (forest, meadows, marshes, water) and the strong involvement of man in the site.

This nature reserve lives by the rhythm of the water. The annual floods (mainly in winter), the consequence of the rising water table and the flooding of the Ill, are the most spectacular evidence of this, offering another face to the Ried de Sélestat submerged by the waters.

The natural environments of the Ill*Wald are home to a multitude of plant species: forest and meadow flora, wetland and aquatic environments. And also animal species (mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, invertebrates), 78 of which are of heritage interest. At the bend in the path, you may be able to spot a few individuals of the largest wild population of fallow deer in France.

Throughout the year, the environmental department of the town of Sélestat offers themed outings and visits to discover the Ill*Wald.

Please note: in case of wind, which increases the risk of falling trees, it is forbidden to enter the forest, even on the secured paths. For your own safety, we ask you to respect these instructions... which do not, however, mean the end of beautiful walks and discoveries in the nature reserve with your family!