



Explore France at your own pace

Day 1: Arrival in Strasbourg

Strasbourg, seat of the new European Parliament, is an ancient and lively city, filled with treasures to explore. It was named a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1988, the first city to be honoured with the title in its entirety. This tour allows you time to meander the canals, cobblestoned streets, and small boutiques of Strasbourg. Visit the old town, its picturesque quarters and half-timbered houses in the neighbourhood known as "The Petite France". Visit the Gothic cathedral and its famous astronomical clock, and the European Parliament. Be sure to sate your appetite as well with the pastries, giant soft pretzels and fresh cheeses at every corner. Dinner tonight in one of our favourite restaurants.

Day 2: Strasbourg to Saverne 48 Km / 30 Miles

Your first ride in Alsace is quite easy, as it follows a flat bike path the entire way, along the Canal of the Rhine to the Rhone. You leave Strasbourg passing by the buildings of the modern and impressive European Parliament on the banks of the Ill River. Take advantage of the many opportunities along the way to stop and detour into the typical Alsatian towns and villages for a coffee, or perhaps some thin-crust crispy - and at the same time melt in your mouth - tarte flambee for lunch. Your ride brings you at the end of the bike path to the Medieval town of Saverne, nestled up against the vineyard hills. You'll want to take some time to explore this lovely town, with its pedestrian zone, half-timbered houses, and the Castle of Rohan perched above, before hopping on to one of the several local trains with your bike - you'll love the easy half hour train ride right back to the heart of Strasbourg!

Day 3: Strasbourg to Obernai 46 km / 29 Miles

The first half of today's ride follows the very easy riding along the Bruch Canal, one of the prettiest bike paths in Europe. It will lead you out of Strasbourg and towards the vineyards, in Molsheim (a lovely town, which is also the home of Bugatti), where you can stop to explore. From there you ride through vineyard villages (such as Rosenwiller, with its ancient and haunting Jewish cemetery, Rosheim, with its three arched town gates, and Bischofsheim, with its abbey, perched high above the village), before arriving in Obernai itself. All of the villages will seduce you with their half-timbered houses and typical Alsatian feel. Be sure to stop to have your camera handy! Obernai, a wine-growing village itself, is nestled at the base of the vineyard covered hills. During the summer it's decked out with flowers; you'll love its winding cobblestone streets that challenge motorists and enchant pedestrians and cyclists.



Day 4: Obernai to Ribeauville 51 Km / 32 Miles

Today's ride is quite stunning, as you spend the day riding through the many villages of the Alsace wine region. Winemaking in Alsace has a long history; it is a region that produces primarily white wines, with its famous Rieslings and aromatic Gewurtzraminers, but you can also get a very drinkable and inexpensive red pinot noir here. There are plenty of opportunities to stop and taste wine, as you hop from village to village (you actually ride through 19 different villages over the course of the day! The route also takes you through the lovely town of Selestat, where you can explore with the walking tour we provide, and find lunch. Tonight you stay in tiny Ribeauville, with beautiful half-timbered buildings from the 16th and 17th centuries, and a variety of shops, wineries, and historic sites. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 5: Ribeauville to Colmar Ribeauville to Colmar 39 Km / 24 Miles

The beginning of today's ride has you pedalling along the Alsace Vineyard route again, through more tiny vineyard villages, starting almost immediately with Riquewihr. This town has much of its Medieval fortifications and a castle still intact; it largely escaped damage during the Second World War, and is quite beautiful. You'll also want to stop for some explorations in both Kayzersberg and Eguisheim. The route then turns away from the vineyards and across the plains, entering the town of Colmar on a tranquil bike path. The center of this town, where you are based, reveals its charm: the colors and atmosphere of streets still embody much of the Middle Ages. Churches, cloisters, half-timbered houses, facades with ornate wood sculptures, paintings, and edifices from the Renaissance abound. The shorter distance today allows you plenty of time for explorations once you arrive.

Day 6: Loop from Colmar into Germany 50 Km / 31 Miles

Today's ride is wonderful; a full day of very easygoing riding, through the small farming villages and forests to the east of Colmar. You will ride through the Vaubun-designed town of Neuf-Breisach (all of his fortified towns have been classified by UNESCO), with its typical protective walls and wheel-spoke design, before following a bike path over the Rhine River - au revoir to France, and hallo to Germany! You pass the old border crossing (before the European Union made them superfluous). Have some fun mixing up languages, while you explore the German medieval town of Breisach and get some lunch, before heading back over the river into France to finish your ride. The return ride is on another lovely bike path following a canal back into Colmar for a second night. Your final dinner is included this evening.

Day 7: Departure – Bon Voyage!

After a final delicious breakfast, there are easy connections out of Colmar train station for your continued travels.



What included in your Alsace tour package:

- 6 nights' accommodation in hotels of the comfort level of your choice: CLASSIC, CLASSIC+, or DELUXE
- All breakfasts, 3 dinners (drinks not included with the dinners)
- Fully equipped quality touring bike
- Orientation with our Trip Manager
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- A set of detailed maps and step-by-step route notes
- Uploadable GPS file of the routes to use on a free App on your smartphone (*can be used offline without international internet plan)
- Regional information and advice
- Phone call support 7 days a week

