



Explore France at your own pace

Day 1: Arrival

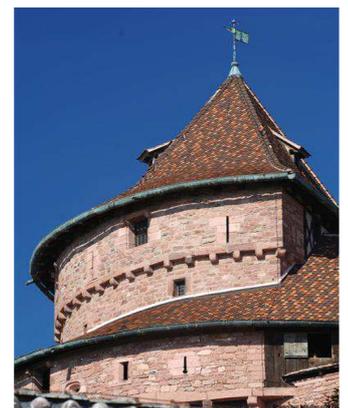
Strasbourg, seat of the new European Parliament, is an ancient and lively city, filled with treasures to explore. It was named a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1988, the first city to be honoured with the title in its entirety. This tour allows you time to meander the canals, cobblestoned streets, 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 cheeses at every corner. Dinner included tonight at one of our favourite restaurants.

Day 2: Rosheim to Obernai 13 km / 8 miles

After breakfast, we transfer you westwards, to the base of the Vosges Mountains that you will be exploring for the rest of the week. You start in the pretty village of Rosheim with the Romanesque Saint Peters and Paul Church, and its three Medieval town gates, its small rose-gardens, and the Romanesque house, - recognized as the oldest in the region, and beautifully restored. After explorations in town your walk takes you up in the hills, through the small village of Rosenwiller with its Jewish cemetery – the largest and oldest in Alsace. From there, descend into the vineyard village of Boersch, with its three fortified medieval gateways and magnificent Renaissance town hall. You can stop to explore the town, perhaps do a wine tasting, and find some lunch or a cold refreshment. Your walk from there takes you on small paths and roads following along the Ehn River for a stretch, and passing an old mill. Your final destination is Obernai, entrenched in centuries of history, and with wonderful restaurants and boutiques to explore.

Day 3: Chateau Haut Koenigsbourg to Ribeauvillé 14 km / 8.7 miles

This morning we transfer you up to the incredible castle of Haut Koenigsbourg. This impressive medieval-lesque castle is nestled at a strategic location on a high hill overlooking the Alsatian plain; as a result it was used by successive powers from the Middle Ages until the Thirty Years' War when it was abandoned. In 1900 it was restored under the direction of Emperor Wilhelm II who wished to create a castle with Medieval qualities and more generally of German civilization. He hoped it would reinforce the bond of Alsatians with Germany, as they had only recently (1871) been incorporated into the German Reich. After your visit, your walk heads overall downhill, leaving the dense Vosges forest and passing along the way several lovely small villages: St Hippolyte, Rohrschwihr, and Bergheim, each worth some exploration. You finish the day descending into Ribeauville, with beautiful half-timbered buildings from the 16th and 17th centuries in the old town, and a variety of shops, wineries, and historic sites.





Day 4: Ribeauvillé To Katzenthal: The Wine Route 16 km / 9.7 miles

This morning you walk southwards from Ribeauvillé along the Alsatian wine route, passing through beautiful vineyards, orchards, and charming small villages, such as Ammerschwihr, with its unique Kaefferkopf Grand Cru wines, and Kientzheim, with its medieval ramparts. One of the highlights of the day though will certainly be the town of 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 simply gorgeous. You'll want to stop long enough to do the little walking tour of the historic centre that we provide. The route brings you at its end to the vineyard village of Katzenthal. This lovely village, at the bottom of a pretty valley, is surrounded by the vineyards, including its Grand Cru Wineck Schlossberg, named after the castle, originally built in the year 1200. The ruins of the castle are above the village if you feel like an additional climb, before your transfer back to Ribeauvillé for a second night.

Day 5: Departure – Bon Voyage!

After a final delicious breakfast, we transfer you in to Colmar, for train connections for your continued travels



What's included in your Alsace walking tour:

- 4 nights in charming hotels of the comfort level of your choice: CLASSIC, CLASSIC+, or DELUXE
- All breakfasts, 2 dinners (drinks not included with the dinners)
- Orientation by phone with our Trip Manager
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Taxi transfers for the walks, as described in the itinerary
- Transfer to Colmar train station (or hotel) at the end of the trip
- A set of detailed maps and step-by-step route instructions
- 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

