



Detailed trip file

Alsace: traditions,
culture and
vineyards

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SELF-GUIDED

STRASBOURG CATHEDRALE
TRADITIONAL VILLAGES
TYPICAL RIQUEWIHR
MONT SAINTE-ODILE
HAUT-KOENIGSBURG
HEARTY ALSACIAN CUISINE

Summary

Fancy a breath of fresh air, a return to the roots? **Parks, gardens, nature reserves, the Ballon d'Alsace, the renowned Wine Route...** Alsace can quench your thirst for greenery and fulfilment!

There are no less than **21 nature reserves** in Alsace: if you want to be convinced, come to the Alsatian Petite Camargue, to the Delta de la Sauer or on the Rhinau Island where abundant creepers, a multitude of birds and root trees in the water will transport you far from the places you think you know. Finally, gain height! Mountain enthusiasts will find happiness in Alsace by discovering **the marked Alpine character of the Honeck Mountain** or by admiring the magnificent Lac Blanc, overlooked by a rock in the shape of a fortress.

Moreover, **fortified castles** highlighting the foothills of the Vosges, bunkers of the Maginot Line, the fortifications of Vauban listed a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, just like Strasbourg and its Grande Ile ... In Alsace, more than elsewhere, heritage rhymes with legacy. **A clever mix of German and French cultures**, the wealth of our sometimes troubled past is marked in the Alsatian countryside. So, enthusiasts of stones loaded with history, travel through towns and villages! And one cannot mention Alsatian heritage without mentioning the living heritage. You will be impressed by the know-how of craftsmen, in line with **tradition** with a touch of unsuspected **modernity**...

Alsace invites you to discover its **traditional cuisine**: Alsatian recipes (Sauerkraut, flammekuche, pie outbreak ...), wines, local products and gastronomic routes (Alsace Wine Route). Its cuisine is distinguished by its know-how and taste, for both savoury and sweet dishes. **Thousands of flavours** will accompany your meal eaten in a starred restaurant, a bierstub or a winstub, which are meeting places that reflect what the Alsatian love above all: **sharing good things, which is typically French!**



Itinerary

8 days itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Strasbourg

Day 2: Strasbourg

Day 3: Obernai to Andlau 21,6km/5h25

Day 4: Andlau to Châtenois 23,5km/5h55

Day 5: Châtenois to Thannenkirch 15,8km/4h00

Day 6: Thannenkirch to Kaysersberg 16.4km/4h10

Day 7: Kaysersberg to Colmar

Day 8: Colmar

Day 1: Arrival in Strasbourg



Arrival at Strasbourg airport or in the city centre in your accommodation. Welcome to the heart of Alsace, a land of traditions and culture!

We decided to include Strasbourg in the itinerary because Strasbourg is one of Europe's most attractive cities and is definitely well worth a visit, to discover its history, its cuisine and its unique atmosphere.

Day 2: Strasbourg and train to Obernai - 30min



With its monumental cathedral featuring carvings as delicate as any piece of lacework (The cathedral of Notre-Dame, a masterpiece of Gothic art), Strasbourg is one of Europe's most attractive cities. Thanks to the richness and sheer density of its heritage sites (the Kammerzell house: enjoy a journey back in time, the Petite France quarter: "The district on the waters", the Church of Saint-Thomas, an intriguing mystery...), the entire town centre has been listed as UNESCO World Heritage. Strasbourg is definitely well worth a visit, to discover its history, its cuisine and its unique atmosphere. Finally, Strasbourg is one of the only cities in the world which is home to international institutions without being national capitals (the Council of Europe, the Human Rights Building, the European Parliament).

Day 3: Obernai to Andlau - 21,5km/6h15



In the charming village of Obernai you will enter in the heart of vineyards and wine culture, an authentic tradition in Alsace. The Obernai region, which was the property of the dukes of Alsace in the 7th century, is the birthplace of St. Odile, daughter of the Duke, who would become the Patron Saint of Alsace. For that matter, you could discover in this first stage the Mont Sainte Odile, a spiritual shrine at the top of a hill. Mont St. Odile will amaze you with its extraordinary views and its exceptional natural and archaeological environment, with marked paths for hikers, places that invite meditation. You will discover the Château du Landsberg, listed since 1965 as a "Monument Historique", just before to arrive in Barr and then Andlau, your next stage.

Day 4: Andlau to Châtenois - 19km/6h00



The authentic village of Andlau owes its origin to Andlau Abbey which was founded in 880. It is famous for its former collegiate church, now parish church, Saints-Pierre-et-Paul. Two castles are found in the immediate vicinity. The Château d'Andlau was built in Andlau from 1246 and 1264. The Château de Spesbourg, located in the hills immediately above Andlau, was built between 1246 and 1250.

The way to reach Châtenois offers vineyards as far as the eye can see and several castles at the top of hills, where you will have a wonderful panorama of Alsatian plain: summit of Ungersberg (901m), Bernstein (552m), Ortenbourg (450m) and Ramstein (384m) ruins, castles which are listed as "Monument Historique" for almost 90 years.

Day 5: Châtenois to Thannenkirch - 15km/4h00



On the wine route and at the mouth of two valleys in the Vosges, Châtenois is a city of Celtic origin, which has preserved the remains outstanding: Witches Tower built in the 15th century, Church of 1759 with a magnificent organ Silbermann from 1765...

The path for the next stage climbs to reach the Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg on a high hill overlooking the Alsatian plain. The castle, which has been listed as a Monument Historique since 1862, is the only castle in Alsace has been rebuilt in 1899 by the German Emperor Wilhelm II. After crossing Schaentzel Pass (583m), the way continues until Thannenkirchen.

Day 6: Thannenkirch to Kaysersberg - 16,5km/4h15



Situated below the Taennchel mountain (992 m) Thannenkirch is classified as a «zone of tranquillity and silence». In the spring, this village, which has preserved its authentic character and its simplicity, is the scene of a thousand flowering cherry trees, of a rare beauty, the blooms of which you can admire in any of the village's many orchards.

This stage is quite small to leave plenty of time for visits of Ribeauville, Riquewhir and Kaysesberg. Before you arrive to Ribeauvillé, you will see other relics of the past as the Château du Haut-Ribeaupierre (650m), Château Saint-Ulrich (510m) or Château du Girsberg (510m) ruins.

The picturesque town of Ribeauvillé is in part surrounded by ancient walls, and has many picturesque medieval houses, and two old churches, of St Gregory and St Augustine, both fine Gothic buildings. Some kilometres later you arrive in Riquewhir, a romantic medieval city between mountain and vineyards. Famous for its historical architecture, Riquewihr is also known for the Riesling and other great wines produced in the village. The village is a member of the Les Plus Beaux Villages de France ("The most beautiful villages of France") association.

Day 7: Kaysersberg to Colmar with bus – 22min



Kaysersberg is considered one of the most beautiful cities on the wine route. The high fortress that dominates the city serves as a reminder of both its strategic importance and its warlike past. Before World War One, Kaysersberg was part of Germany.

You have the possibility to visit the town at the morning and take just after the bus to go to Colmar and visit it.

Situated along the Alsatian Wine Route, Colmar considers itself to be the "Capital of Alsatian Wine".

Without going over the top with superlatives, Colmar undoubtedly remains an exceptional town due to the wealth and variety of its historical and architectural heritage: Saint Martin's Collegiate Church, The Dominican Church, House of Heads, Voltaire's residence... Wonderfully preserved from the ravages of time, its homogenous historical centre is classed as a "protected area".

We decided to include Colmar in the itinerary because, preserved from the ravages of time, Colmar undoubtedly remains an exceptional town due to the wealth and variety of its historical and architectural heritage.

Day 8: Way back from Colmar



We can arrange extra nights anywhere on the itinerary after your last walking day. We can also arrange station/airport transfer. Please get in touch: info@onefootabroad.com for more info.

How to get there

Way in: to Strasbourg



Best airport is Strasbourg-Entzheim (12 km west of Strasbourg's downtown) or Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden (58km from Strasbourg). Other possible airports: Paris Orly and Paris Charles De Gaulle (490km from Strasbourg), Basel-Mulhouse (130km from Strasbourg) or Frankfurt (210km from Strasbourg).

For more information, click on our flights to France tool.

Daily direct flights:

Strasbourg-Paris (1h) - Air France
Strasbourg-Lille (1h) - Air France
Strasbourg-Amsterdam (1h15) - Air France
Strasbourg-Brussels (1h05) - Brussels Airlines
London - Frankfurt (1h15) - Ryanair
London - Karlsruhe (1h30) - Airberlin
London - Paris (1h20) - British Airways
Dublin - Frankfurt (2h) - Ryanair or Aer Lingus
Dublin - Paris (1h45) - Aer Lingus
Cork - Paris (1h35) - Aer Lingus



Daily TGV from/to:

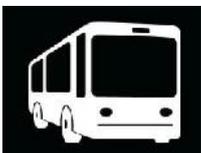
Stuttgart (1.20 hrs)
Zurich (2.05 hrs)
Paris (2.20 hrs)
Lille (3.20 hrs)
Munich (3.40 hrs)
Nantes (5.10 hrs)
Rennes (5.15 hrs)
Avignon (5.55 hrs)
Bordeaux (6.45 hrs)

TER regional train (for Alsace region):

Strasbourg-Entzheim Airport - Strasbourg (7min)
Strasbourg - Obernai (30min)
Strasbourg - Colmar (30min)
Strasbourg - Mulhouse (45min)

Details on prices and time on the sncf websites:

For TGV trains
For TER trains (Alsace region)



Bus:

Kaysersberg - Colmar (22min): Line 145A



Motorway:

- Paris - Strasbourg (5.05 hrs): A4
- Lille/Brussels - Strasbourg (5.15/4.35 hrs): E411 and A4
- Lyon - Strasbourg (4.55 hrs): E6 and A36
- Basel/Mulhouse - Strasbourg (1.35/1.20 hrs): A35
- Stuttgart - Strasbourg (1.45 hrs): A8 and A5
- Frankfurt - Strasbourg (2.25 hrs): A5

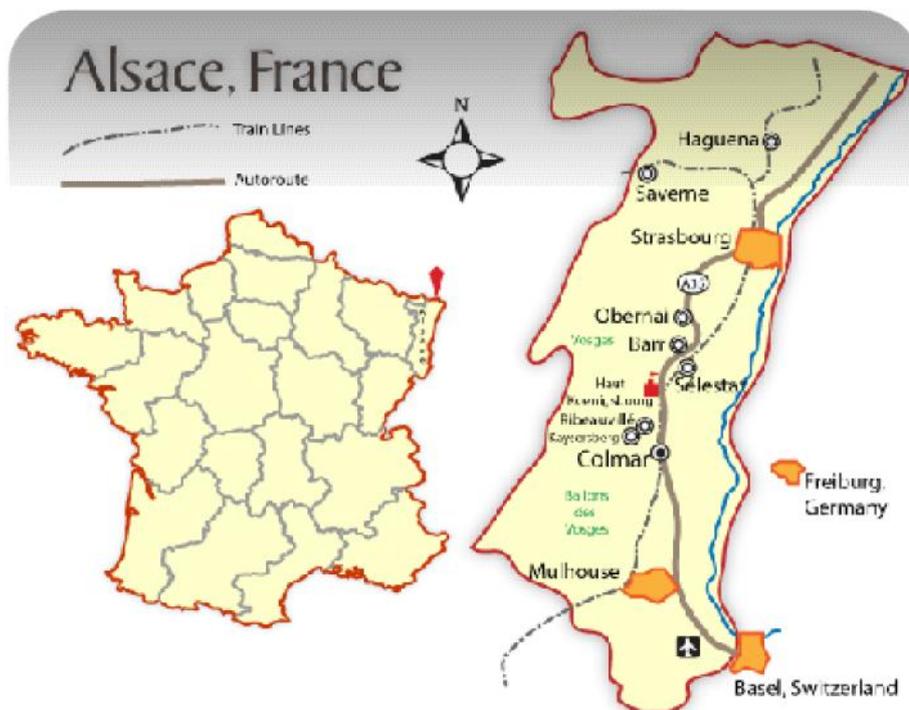


See our options in Dates & Prices.

Way back: from Colmar



TER regional train (for Alsace region):
Strasbourg - Colmar (30min)



What is included?

See below what it is included in this trip as standard. Service selected/unselected will be reflected in your price (Check dates & Prices section).

Included	Optional	Not included
		
7 nights in 2* or 3* hotels	Post-stay days	Flights/trains (See how to get there tab)
7 breakfasts	Transfer from/to airport	Insurance
Roadbook (Guide book)	Upgrade hotels: 4*	Drinks
Emergency phone number		Transfers by train/ Taxi between towns Day 2 and 7
Your luggage transported from hotel to hotel (day 3,4,5,6,7)		
Customer service		

See you soon

✓ *Keeping in touch*

Thank you for choosing “One Foot Abroad”. We are committed to provide you with the highest quality of service. For this reason, we would be really grateful if you send us your feedback by completing a simple and quick questionnaire at the internet link:

We use your answers to continuously improve the quality and accuracy of the walking notes and, more generally, of our services. We look forward to hearing from you again, so please contact us for information about your walking holiday:

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