

FRANCE – ALSACE WINE TRAILS

8 days / 7 nights self-guided easy to moderate inn-to-inn walking on the Alsace Route des Vins



Alsace, nestled between the Rhine River and the Vosges Mountains in the northeast corner of France, is a captivating region. The medieval villages of Alsace are like a fairy-tale come to life: cobble streets, half-timbered houses with flower-filled balconies, and storks nesting on church steeples and rooftops. Rolling vineyards are covered with the lush green of Riesling, Pinot Noir, Gewurztraminer, Sylvaner and Pinot Gris vines. Hilltop castles and fortresses provide breathtaking views over the Vosges massif and sometimes as far as the Alps.

Alsace is in strategic position on the Rhine River, a major trading and transport link since Roman times, and has been in dispute frequently throughout its history, most recently passing back and forth between Germany and France. Despite this (or perhaps because of it), Alsatians have held fast to their distinct identity, culture, language, traditions and cuisine – with French and German influences of course but still Alsatian to the core.

This self-guided walking holiday allows ample time to explore and discover the delights of Alsace, with two-night stays in each village, so you can choose to take the optional loop walks or simply relax and savour the local ambiance. The food and wine are a highlight – sample choucroute, *tarte flambée*, kougelhoppf, bretzels, and Munster cheese, paired with Pinot Gris, Riesling or sparkling Crémant d'Alsace. The walking itself is delightful, past vineyards and through peaceful forest, with visits to iconic landmarks like Mont Sainte-Odile and the hilltop Château du Haut-Koenigsbourg. Whether you are looking for history and culture, renowned food and wine, charming and scenic landscapes, or interesting, well-planned walking – Alsace will provide it!

Cost from: \$1845 per person twin share
\$2295 per person twin share, boutique hotels
Single room supplement and Solo Traveller supplement on request

Departs: Daily on demand, 1 April to 5 November, 2026

Starts: Barr **Ends:** Turckheim

Tour includes: 7 nights' comfortable twin-share accommodation in 3-star hotels or boutique, characterful 3- and 4-star hotels with ensuite facilities; 7 breakfasts; digital route book and GPX files; luggage transfers (1 bag per person, up to 20kg); client transfers as per the itinerary; emergency assistance hotline.

Not included: Lunches and dinners, drinks, entry fees & optional sightseeing, personal expenses, gratuities, travel to/from the start and end point of the trip, unscheduled transfers required during the trip. Printed route book & maps (one set per room) available for a supplement, ask for details

Trip Grading: Easy to Moderate, with 12-15km (4-5 hours) daily distances, average daily ascent 600m. On some days it is possible to shorten the routes using taxi transfers.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival day

Plan to arrive into Barr, a charming Alsatian wine village, 40 minutes by train from Strasbourg, mid-afternoon.

Day 2: Mont Sainte-Odile

optional walking @ 15km

A scenic circuit along shaded ridges to Mont Sainte-Odile and Hohenburg Abbey, founded in the 7th century and one of Alsace's most important pilgrimage destinations. There are sweeping views of the Alsace plain and the Vosges Mountains. The abbey is surrounded by tranquil gardens and the Pagan Wall, a drystone granite wall with mysterious origins. After soaking in the spiritual atmosphere, return to Barr on forest trails.

Day 3: Barr to Sainte Hippolyte

walking @ 13km

Walk through classic Alsatian wine country, following scenic vineyard paths and passing through postcard-perfect villages. Stop in Andlau, known for its Romanesque abbey and Riesling wine, and the hilltop village of Itterswiller, perched among the vines. From Itterswiller, a short transfer (included) brings you to Saint-Hippolyte, where you stay two nights. Shorten the day's walk by having the taxi collect you in Andlau (supplement for the longer transfer paid locally). Saint-Hippolyte is known for its red wine made from Pinot Noir grapes and is surrounded by medieval fortifications with one remaining defensive tower, the Tour des Cigognes (storks' tower).

Day 4: Chateau du Haut-Koenigsbourg

optional walking @ 12km

A circular walk on forested trails to Château du Haut-Koenigsbourg, a beautifully restored medieval fortress high above the Alsace plain. Explore its grand halls, towers, and ramparts (entrance fee paid locally), and take in broad-ranging views across the Vosges and toward the Black Forest. After exploring the castle, descend to Saint-Hippolyte along tranquil woodland paths. Or, enjoy a leisurely day in the village.

Day 5: Saint-Hippolyte to Ribeauvillé

walking @ 15km

A delightful walk on peaceful vineyard and forest paths to the medieval town of Ribeauvillé, at the foot of the Vosges Mountains. You pass the impressive ruins of the Three Castles of Ribeauvillé, medieval hilltop fortresses which once guarded the valley. Arrive in Ribeauvillé, famed for its vibrant old town, a true highlight of the Alsace Wine Route. Wander its cobbled streets and have a well-deserved meal at a *winstub* (a traditional Alsatian wine room and bistro), where you can enjoy a crisp white with local specialties like choucroute, pork knuckle, or *baeckeoffe*, a simple casserole of potatoes and wine-marinated meat.

Day 6: Circuit walk to Riquewihr

optional walking @ 15km

An optional loop walk to Riquewihr, a picture-perfect medieval village surrounded by vineyards, one of the Les Plus Beaux Villages de France (the Most Beautiful Villages of France). Riquewihr's old town and architecture is so well-preserved it feels almost like a living museum. Its half-timbered houses, many with distinctive oriel windows, date to the 15th to 18th centuries and are typically bedecked with colourful geraniums, petunias and pansies. Have lunch in a *winstub* and taste Riquewihr's renowned Riesling.

Day 7: Kayserberg to Turckheim

walking @ 14km

A morning transfer (included) to picturesque Kayserberg, to embark on your final day's walking on the Alsace Wine Route. Walk through vineyards and over rolling countryside to charming Turckheim, with its ancient fortifications, cobbled streets, and the iconic stork nests that grace its rooftops. For a shorter walk, join the scenic route to Turckheim in Ammerschwihr (supplement for the longer transfer paid locally).

Day 8: Departure day

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. From Turckheim take a local train or taxi to Colmar; from there you can reach Strasbourg and Paris by train, or the nearest airport Basel-Mulhouse by airport bus.



Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations:

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