

FRANCE - BURGUNDY VINEYARD TRAILS

8-days/ 7-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn walking holiday



A great walk for food and wine enthusiasts, with a lovely progression from gentle walking to moderate grade as the week unfolds. Burgundy has a rich and complex history and many areas of natural beauty. It is a beautiful and fertile land where farmers, foresters, and above all wine growers have nurtured the landscape for more than a thousand years. Burgundy is a multifaceted landscape just waiting to be explored, and, as elsewhere in France, the best way to enjoy it is to explore on foot its peaceful lanes and byways. Travellers will discover a fabled land of medieval chateaux, ancient monasteries and fragrant breezes where the art of living, *l'art de vivre*, is pursued to near perfection at a relaxed pace.

Beaune has a cluster of prestigious vineyards such as the Côte d'Or, Côte de Beaune and Côte de Nuits. Start with a visit to the mansion of the Dukes of Burgundy, the basilica of Notre Dame and the steep pitched patterned roofs of the Hotel Dieu, and sample wine in the village of Pommard. Join the 'Grande Randonnee' paths through oak forests to the village and chateau of La Rochepot. Visit Nolay, a medieval village of narrow streets and half-timbered houses. Ascend onto the escarpment and hilltops for glorious views to the Alps. Enjoy Rully, the ancient Château of Montaigu, the produce of the Côtes Chalonaises and many villages. The landscape is a mix of vineyards on the lower slopes, woodlands, and pastures and arable land on the plateau.

Cost from: **\$2445** per person twin share, Sunday to Wednesday departures.
\$2595 per person twin share, Thursday to Saturday departures
Single room supplement from **\$545** (Sun-Wed), **\$545** (Thu-Sat), solo traveler supplement **\$815**

Departs: March to November

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation in 2 and 3-star hotels with ensuite facilities; 7 breakfasts, 3 dinners, luggage transfers (1 bag per person up to 20kg), route notes and maps (one set per room), emergency hotline.

Not included: Lunches, 4 dinners, drinks, entrance fees and wine tasting, travel to start/end of trip, personal expenses, unscheduled transfers/taxis used during the trip, etc

Grading: Easy to Moderate, with daily distances of up to 24km (3 to 6 hours of walking), with altitude gains varying from very little to 500m. This itinerary is planned to allow time to visit historic sites and vineyards along the route. Much of the route follows the GR7 and GR76 long-distance footpaths.

Accommodation and Meals: The hotels described are our usual choice; if not available then we use alternatives (sometimes with a supplement) and you will be informed when booking. Accommodation on three nights is on a half board basis, breakfast and evening meals, which are tasty typical Burgundy dishes. On four nights bed and breakfast only is included.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations



Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Beaune

Plan to arrive mid-afternoon in Beaune, easily reached by train from Paris. Your hotel is an old and comfortable 3-star hotel in the historical part of Beaune, just a 10-minute walk or short taxi ride from the train station. The hotel is in a quiet back street and incorporates the old city walls in its structure. Dinner tonight is at your own arrangements as there is a wide selection of restaurants close by.

Day 2: Beaune to Meursault

walking @ 12km

Time for of sightseeing in Beaune before walking to Meursault, just 10km southwest of Beaune. Amidst the vineyards, the walk is mostly flat to Pommard for coffee and/or wine tasting. In Mersault, stay two nights in a comfortable 2-star hotel on the main square of this pretty village, reputedly the centre of the best chardonnay in Burgundy. On one night in Meursault dinner is at the excellent hotel restaurant. The other night is on a bed and breakfast basis. Your hosts can assist if you wish to organise some wine tasting at a local 'cave'.

Day 3: Meursault circular walk

walking @ 16km

A relaxed circuit from Meursault to the beautiful village of Saint Romain, an ideal spot for lunch. The ruins of the chateau include Roman foundations and the 12th Century church was a *prieuré* or small monastery.

Day 4: Meursault to Nolay

walking @ 18km

Leave the vineyards with a steady climb to join the GR76 and walk in the shade of the typical oak forest of Burgundy. Emerge from the forest into the village of La Rochepot with its stunning château (a visit to the château is worthwhile). Follow the GR7 before descending to the old market town of Nolay. Your hotel this evening is a 2-star hotel on the old market square in Nolay. Dinner is at your own arrangements.

Day 5: Nolay to Rully or Chassey le Camp

walking @ 21km or 17km

If starting Sunday to Wednesday walk Nolay to Rully ascending lovely pastures. Enjoy the views atop the ridge across the Saône plain to the Alps. Descend to Santenay and across the Canal du Centre to Rully for two nights in a hotel in the square. Rully is your base to explore the Côtes Chalonnaises and perhaps some wine tasting. If starting Thursday to Saturday walk to Chassey le Camp, about 4km from Rully, and spend two nights at a tranquil 3-star auberge. Dinner is included on both nights in either location.

Day 6: Circular walk to Mercurey

walking @ 17km or 19km

Walk a circuit to the well-known village of Mercurey and the ancient chateau of Montaigu to the south, following an undulating route between vineyards and woods along the Côtes Chalonnaises. On the way back you walk the GR7 through the villages of Aluze and Nantoux. The walk is about 2km longer from Chassey le Camp. Return to your hotel where dinner is included this evening.

Day 7: Return to Beaune

walking @ 25km or 23km

A long day back to Beaune across undulating ground. You cross the Canal du Centre at Remigny and walk through the vineyards of Chassagne and Puligny Montrachet, then through Volnay on the way back to Pommard. From here you can either retrace your steps back to Beaune (4km) or call for a taxi (not included). Return to the same Beaune hotel you stayed at on your first night. Dinner is at your own arrangements tonight.

Day 8: Departure day.

Tour ends in Beaune after breakfast. There are many daily connections to Paris via Dijon.

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Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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