

Season

From end of May to mid-October.

We recommend you to book this tour 3 or 4 months before the departure date if you plan to walk it in summer time. Great demand and few rooms!

Difficulty: grade 4

You walk more than 8 hours a day in mountains. Total ascent a day could be more than 1,000 m. It's quite challenging and you must have a high level of fitness.



Itinerary

7-day and 6-night self-guided walking holidays

Day 1 : Arrival at GUEBWILLER near Mulhouse. Located at the beginning of the valley, Guebwiller is described as a long street nestling in the valley and holding on each extremity a square and a nice rose-sandstone church. Enjoy a visit of the city and its monuments : Notre-Dame Church, the 18th century quarter, Saint Léger Church (12th century Romanesque church) and the ancient Dominican Convent with its very nice cloister.

Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.



Day 2 : GUEBWILLER - THANN (25 km – ascent :1000 meters). Walking through the forest, you will reach the Peternit and the Jadenhut Passes before arriving at le Grand Ballon (1424 m – highest point of the Vosges). From the summit, the panorama is exceptionally beautiful and, on a clear day, you will discover the whole of the Vosges, the Black Forest and the Alps. Walking the path that follows the crest (the famous "Route des Crêtes"), you will descend to the Sudelkopf and then the Amic Passes. You will pass by the ruins of the Château de Freunstein and arrive at the Silbeloch Pass. You will continue to Le Vieil Armand, name given by the French soldiers to the Hermanns-Willerkopf, one of the most devastating battlefields of World War I. From the top, you will have a sprawling view of the Alsacian plain, the Vosges and the Alps. Retracing your steps, you will arrive at the Monkelrain before coming to the forest and continuing the

descent towards Thann, passing the Grumbachkopf, the Grumbach Pass and l'Oeil de la Sorcière (Witch's Eye), remains of a round keep resembling an eye! From here, you will have a gorgeous view of Thann and its lovely Saint Thiebaut Church - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 3 : THANN - LE BALLON D'ALSACE (25 km – ascent : 1100 meters). From Thann you will ascent to Hundsruck Pass. Walking through the forest you will head to the Refuge de Waldmatt and then, walking on the "chaumes" (grassy area on the summits) and passing over the Vogelstein and the Belackerkopf Summits you will reach the Belacker Farm and Inn. You will cross through the forest of the Rimbach Pass and pass by Le Mittelrainkopf and Le Rimmbachkopf to the Perches Pass and the Lake Perches. From there, you will have a wonderful view of the lake below. The path passes around it and continues to le Ballon d'Alsace by way of la Tête des Charbonniers, the Charbonniers Pass, the Morteville Pass and la Ronde Tête. You will then start walking up to Le Ballon. After admiring the amazing view from the top, you will continue on to your hotel, located a few hundred meters beyond.

Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 4 : LE BALLON D'ALSACE - KRUTH (29 km – ascent : 600 meters). Though long, this stage is not a difficult one. You return to the Lake Perches and climb up to la Tête des Perches. You are now on the Chaumes, from where stretches a beautiful view of the Vosges. Once beyond la Tête du Rouge Gazon, you will again arrive at the forest and, by way of le Chalet de Saint Hubert, you will attain the Bussang Pass. You will skirt around the Steinkopf and will arrive at the farm-inn near the Drumont's summit, which presents a lovely panorama from the viewpoint indicator on the top. The path runs along the crests, passes through the Hasenkopf and la Tête de Felling before going down to the Oderen Pass. From there you will arrive at the Felsach Farm and Inn and will finally walk down to the hamlet of Frenz, where your hotel is located - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 5 : KRUTH – LA SCHLUCHT PASS (28 km – ascent : 1150 meters). From the hotel, you will walk down to the banks of the Kruth Lake, dominated by the Schlossberg and the remains of Château de Wildenstein. You will walk up to the crests by way of the Petit Ventron's summit. You will pass through the "chaumes" to the Grand Ventron summit and the cross through the forest to the Bramont Pass. You will skirt around la Ronde Tête to arrive at the l'Étang Pass and will walk up to the Rainkopf where wonderful views of the Vosges and the Blanchemer Lake await you. Through the "chaumes", you will pass around the Kastelberg and arrive immediately at Le Hühneck, one of the most famous summits of the Vosges. Breathtaking panorama of the Vosges Massif. You will walk down to the Falimont Pass and, finally, to Le Collet, where your hotel is located.
Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 6 : LA SCHLUCHT PASS - ORBEY (22 km – ascent : 300 meters). From La Schlucht Pass, you will walk along the path that follows the line of the crests, and will come to the chaumes known as "Gazon". Once passed the Tanet Summit you will discover Le Lac Vert (The Green Lake), which owes its unique colour to the lichens suspended in the water. You will then make your way through Le Gazon de Faite and Le Gazon de Faing, and will pass above the Truites Lake and the Lac Blanc (White Lake) before arriving at the Calvaire Pass. You will take the Freppet Path, which follows the other bank of the Lac Blanc, walk up to Le Rocher du Château Hans, and will arrive at the wild and isolated Lac Noir (Black Lake), by crossing through La Forêt des Deux Lacs. You will finally walk down to Orbey, consisting of several different hamlets - Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

Day 7 : ORBEY. Tour ends after breakfast.

Access to and from

Outward journey

By train: The nearest station is Mulhouse, well-served from the majority of the larger train stations in France. A taxi will bring you to the hotel. (on your own)

By car: Mulhouse is at the junction of the A35 (Strasbourg-Bâle) and A36 (Beaune-Mulhouse) motorways.

Where to park: Several free, unguarded car parks in Guebwiller

Inward journey

By train: To return, a bus or taxi will bring you from Orbey to Colmar, from where several trains leave daily to Strasbourg or Mulhouse

Getting back your car: first go to Colmar by bus or taxi, where you catch a train to Mulhouse from where you will take a taxi to collect your car

Accommodation

6 nights with accommodation in a 2-star hotel on half-board basis

Accommodation is normally in large bed or twin-bedded rooms, with en-suite facilities (at least shower, washbasin and toilet) when available, which is 95% of the time. However, you can stay in remote spots or small villages where there is little or no choice of accommodations and where facilities may be limited. In this case, you will share a bathroom or shower room and toilets with some other people on the same storey.

Picnic lunches are not included in the tour but are available from the hotel on request the previous evening, alternatively picnic materials can be bought at the stop village or at each of the towns and villages along the route. We indicate in the route notes where there are suitable restaurants or cafés for lunch stops. We recommend you to carry food and drinks if there are none convenient to the trail.

Included

- o Twin share accommodation with private facilities
- o Baggage transfer between hotels (except for STD option)
- o Route notes and maps
- o 6 dinners
- o Emergency phone number (8:00am to 7:00pm every day)

Not included

- o Visa fees, transportation fees to and from the walk area
- o Insurance (strongly recommended on all trips)
- o Transfers except those mentioned above
- o Drinks
- o Additional meals
- o Spending of personal nature e.g. laundry, souvenirs, phone calls...



La Caminade trademark of Sentiers de France

59 bis rue du Mûrier – BP 40226 – 37542 Saint Cyr sur Loire cedex – France
Tel : 00 33 (0)970 445 924 Fax : 00 33 (0)134 292 260 E-mail : contact@randolacaminade.com
Sarl au capital de 7630 euros –TO agreement n° LI 0940100008 –
Garantie bancaire APS – Assurances RCP : Covea risks