

Season

From mid-April to end of 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 1

This tour presents no major difficulty but length of some stages is over 18 km. You walk in an undulating terrain and there are no prolonged ascents or descents and no steep gradients.

It's easy to follow the path marked with different splashes.



Itinerary

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

Day 1 : Arrival at OBERNAI (birthplace of Saint Odile). This charming small town, one of the most beautiful in Alsace, has preserved a large part of its ramparts. Behind them, multicolored half-timbered houses and high gables crowd a labyrinth of small lanes. The market place is famous for its beauty and, wandering through it and the nearby streets, you will enjoy the courtyards and old wells that decorate the scenery. Half board accommodation in a family-run hotel with all conveniences



Day 2 : OBERNAI - ANDLAU (15 km – 5 hours). You will leave Obernai and pass through the villages of Bernardwiller and Heiligenstein. You will reach Barr, an industrial town and an important wine-producing center, and continue on to the picturesque village of Mittelbergheim, clinging to the hillside. You will then head to your evening's destination, Andlau, nestling in a green valley, that has kept some old houses and the church remains of a former monastery.

Half board accommodation in a family-run hotel with all conveniences

Day 3 : ANDLAU – CHATENOIS (18 km – 5.30 hours). After having passed through the villages of Itterwiller and Blienschwiller, you will arrive at Dambach and the Saint Sebastien chapel, which has looked over this medieval city as it has turned more and more to the cultivation of wine. The medieval town center is surrounded by ramparts of which three town gates are still standing. Then you go to Scherwiller and cross this peaceful viticultural village, following the Aubach River, admiring the 18th century half-timbered homes that spot the river's banks. This day's journey will end at Châtenois - Half board accommodation in a family-run hotel with all conveniences

Day 4 : CHATENOIS - RIBEAUVILLE (14 km – 4.30 hours). You will visit the small town of Châtenois, and its remarkable buildings, such as the Romanesque belfry and the picturesque gatehouse known as the Tour des Sorcières – the Witches' Tower. Passing by flowered fountains and the Gothic church of Saint Hippolyte, you will continue your walk to Ribeauvillé, a typical village whose main street is lined with colorful half-timbered houses. It is overlooked by the ruins of the three castles of the Lords of Ribeaupierre

Half board accommodation in a family-run hotel with all conveniences

Day 5 : RIBEAUVILLE –KATZENTHAL (17 km – 5 hour walk). Taking again to the vineyards, you will head in the direction of Hunawir and then Riquewihr, a sublime Alsatian village highly recognized for its Riesling. Lose yourself in the winding lanes of the village to explore the wonderful old homes, each one splendid in its own right. You will take up your walk again and continue on to Kaysersberg, another Alsatian village that has kept its medieval character. On leaving Kaysesberg you will head to the beautifully flowered village of Ammerschwihr before reaching Katzenthal.

Half board accommodation in a family-run hotel with all conveniences



Day 6 : KATZENTHAL - EGUISSHEIM (18 km – 5 hour walk). You will continue on and make your way through the village of Niedermorschwihr to reach Turckheim. This wonderful old city is encircled in ramparts and adorned by many



renaissance structures. As you continue your hike, you will find yourself in Wettolhseim, which might just be the cradle of the Alsatian wine-growing region, the first vines having been planted by the Romans. You will end your day in the beautiful viticultural city of Eguisheim.

Half board accommodation in a family-run hotel with all conveniences

Day 7 : COLMAR. Transfer by taxi to Colmar only for people who take the luggage transportation extra otherwise you walk to Colmar through the vineyards (5 km). You will spend the entire day strolling the town center, which has kept a wonderful medieval Alsatian character, evident in the streets, lined with half-timbered homes. Discover the fantastically restored Petite Venise – the former tanners' district near the

Lauch River, and the Musée d'Unterlinden, housed in an former convent. It holds fascinating collections of paintings and sculptures from Middle-Ages and Renaissance, as well as Alsatian popular art and decorative collections showing Alsatian life in centuries past.

Night and breakfast in a 2-star hotel with all conveniences

Day 8 : COLMAR. Tour ends after breakfast

Access to and from

Outward journey to Obernai

By train : Obernai is on the Strasbourg Molsheim - Selestat rail line and can be easily reached in the two directions. Numerous trains a day

By car : Obernai and Colmar are easily reachable from the Strasbourg-Mulhouse motorway.

Where to park : guarded or unguarded car parks at Obernai

Inward journey from Colmar

By train : Colmar is on the Strasbourg - Bale line and many connections with the other French rail stations from these 2 towns

Getting back your car: Train From Colmar to Obernai with a connection at Selestat

Accommodation

6 nights with accommodation in family-run hotels on half-board basis

1 night with accommodation in 2-star hotel on lodging and breakfast 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...

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