

Alsace Wine Trail

Hotel-to-hotel  independent walking

- Easy walking through vineyards, ancient oak forest and totally unspoiled gingerbread villages bedecked with flowers
- Romantic castles, Gothic churches, exquisite Riquewihr and Colmar - the Venice of Alsace
- Great views of the Black Forest, Vosges mountains and their string of stone castles on panoramic crags
- Storks, butterflies, orchids, birds of prey
- Take the high speed TGV from Paris or fly into Strasbourg



This gentle, relaxed walking route runs in parallel with the central part of the famous *Route du Vin*, where practically every colourful village has its own vineyard and east-facing ruined castle. There are countless opportunities to taste wines along your way. The Alsatian *vignerons* are so proud of what they produce that they will insist you sample their whole range, while everyone enjoys a good chat. We find them really hospitable and welcoming.

The walks average three hours a day - options to extend on some days - and follow *sentiers viticoles* (paths via neatly-groomed vineyards) and pleasant forest tracks. And all along your way, you'll find exquisitely preserved villages, dominated from the heights by their own feudal castles, usually only two or three kilometres apart. Geraniums spill from window boxes and balconies, and the half-timbered buildings can be plastered in pastel colours, bright blue, apricot or red.



Book now on 1-800-567-6286 or visit www.breakaway-adventures.com for more information

ALSACE WINE TRAIL | DAY BY DAY



Day 1 Arrive at Turckheim

Here you stay in a friendly Alsatian hotel in the heart of the village. With so many restaurants on your doorstep, we've left you free to choose where to dine this evening.

Day 2 Turckheim to Kaysersberg 10km/6mi/3hr or 17km/10mi/5hr

Time to explore Turckheim's Renaissance church and medieval gate where storks still nest. Your walk through the vines takes you past flower-filled Niedermorschwir and Ammerschwihr where you can taste the local vintage, Kaefferkopf, in cozy wine cellars. It's then on to the fortified town of Kaysersberg and our hotel on a quiet cobbled street in the old town.

Day 3 At Kaysersberg

In the morning why not stroll up to the ruins of the mediaeval castle for a bird's eye view over Kaysersberg's half-timbered houses decked with geraniums along the River Weiss? Afterwards, perhaps follow a valley trail to Kientzheim or visit Colmar (local bus, 25 mins), the "Venice of Alsace" and a honeycomb of pretty canals and gorgeous pastel-colored houses.

Day 4 Kaysersberg to Riquewihr 10km/6mi/3.5hr

A gentle climb through oak and beech forest to Chapelle St Alexis hidden in the woods - great *auberge* for lunch. Your route then descends in and out of pine forest and before long, you get your first glimpses of the showcase of Renaissance houses that earn Riquewihr its nickname - Pearl of the Vineyards.

Day 5 At Riquewihr

The town of Riquewihr is so enchanting it has been declared an historic monument in its entirety. You'll be bewitched by its cobbled alleys, galleried courtyards, fountains, and colourful signboards.

Day 6 Riquewihr to Bergheim 10km/6mi/3hr or 17km/10mi/5hr

You pass through the heart of medieval Alsace via the Riesling vineyards nestling at the foot of the mountains. Hunawihr has a fortified church and stork sanctuary - you'll also find otters, butterflies and orchids in the reserve there. Three ruined castles of the once powerful counts of Ribeaupierre look down as you walk on through the vines to Bergheim.

Day 7 At Bergheim

This colourful and ancient market town was a medieval refuge where criminals on the run were safe from persecution - unless they were thought to be witches! There are lots of beautiful timber-framed houses and a decorated fountain in the old square. Be sure to take the short taxi ride to the amazing Haut Koenigsbourg Castle - it's a gentle downhill walk back!

Day 8 Bergheim to Turckheim 11km/7mi/3.5hr

You continue parallel to the *Route du Vin* to a poignant WW2 German military cemetery - panoramic views over to the famous restored castle at Haut-Koenigsbourg. At St Hippolyte there's a Gothic church and fountain, while the ruined court of medieval Kintzheim Castle is the setting for spectacular flying displays by birds of prey including eagles and vultures. We give you a lift back to Turckheim.

Day 9 Leave Turckheim



"You consistently reach very high standards and your holidays are as stated in the brochure."

Mrs Pottinger

Dates and Prices

Departs every two days **Tour Only**

2012 departures

May 13-25, Sep 12-24	\$2,599
May 27-31, Jun 8-12	\$2,599
Sep 2-10	\$2,599
Jun 2-6, Jun 14-Jul 8	\$2,649
Aug 29-31	\$2,669
Jul 10-Aug 27	\$2,669
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,666

Singles: Add \$53 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Room upgrade: Prices from \$47 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

Departs: Every two days from May 13 to Sep 24.

Duration: 9 days (8 nights).

Meals: Continental breakfast and 4 evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Strasbourg Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Colmar train station at 15:03 (transfer to hotel, 15 mins, provided). Return: Colmar train station by 13:30 (transfer provided).

Rail Options: Strasbourg to Colmar, 13:51/14:27 (will need to wait until 15:03 for pick up). Return: Colmar to Strasbourg 13:57:14:33 (drop off is for a 13:30 train, will need to wait 20 min).

Second Class French Rail: Add \$53 per person, round trip.

First Class French Rail: Add \$75 per person, round trip.

Tour only: Transfers included from Colmar train station at 15:03 and back to Colmar departing hotel at 13:00.

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ALSACE WINE TRAIL | WHERE YOU STAY



Hotel des 2 Clefs
★★★
Turckheim
Days 1+8



Hotel Constantin
★★★
Kaysersberg
Days 2+3



Hotel à l'Oriel
★★★
Riquewihr
Days 4+5



Hotel Chez Norbert
★★★
Bergheim
Days 6+7

For extra nights we recommend Turckheim, and city add-ons can be arranged in Strasbourg.

ALSACE WINE TRAIL | WALKING DETAILS



Gentle walking, mainly through vineyards, woodland and heavily scented pine forests. No particularly challenging sections; however some paths are stony so protective footwear is advised.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

16 19 21 20 15
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

65 73 75 70 60
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP