

## ALSACE Vineyards, Villages and Medieval Castles



This is the most beautiful walking holiday within the range of 400 and 760 metres' altitude that you could possibly find in Alsace! This long-distance walk could be renamed, 'The Medieval Alsatian Way' – a traverse through the region which is full of ravishing landscapes and wonderful views.

From the medieval village of **Turckheim** (where you can meet the last night watchman/town crier in France) to the pretty old town of **Obernai**, you can see a succession of **villages: Niedermorschwihr, Ammerschwih, Kaysersberg** (here you can visit the castle overlooking the Alsace plains and feast your eyes on all sorts of ancient relics), **Riquewih** (a fortified town of the middle ages with double ramparts which are beautifully preserved, and date from the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 16th century), **Ribeauvillé**, and **Ottrott**. From here you climb up on to the plateau of the Mont Sainte-Odile (an ancient monastery proudly perched at 763 m on a rocky pinnacle).

You can also visit the ancient fortresses of **Hagueneck** (400m), **Hohlandsbourg** (645m), **Haut-Koenigsbourg** (710m first built in the 12th century), **Saint-Ulrich** (standing over the village of Ribeauvillé) and **Ortenbourg**...

### PROGRAMME

FL275

7 days – 6 nights – 6 days' walking

### DAY 1 : TURCKHEIM

Arrive around 18h at the hotel at Turckheim (235m). This lovely medieval walled town is situated on the Wine Road, the Route des Vins at the entrance to the Munster valley. Not only is it famous for its historic centre and the quality of its wine, but also for its night watchman. You stay here for two nights. Your evening meal is at a place of your choice.

After the evening meal you can accompany the last true night watchman in Alsace on his evening rounds. This is really stepping back into history! For more than 50 years, from the 1st May to the 1st October, the chant of this watchman has echoed through the streets of the old town at the time of the 10 o'clock patrol.

### DAY 2 : THE MEDIEVAL CASTLE OF THE HOHLANDBOURG ON A CIRCULAR WALK FROM TURCKHEIM

**Turckheim > Hagueneck (400m) > Hohlandsbourg (645m) > Turckheim**

This is an excellent day's walk, beginning and ending at Turckheim. It takes you through a huge forest of sweet chestnuts and brings you, quite close to **Colmar**, to the impressive medieval fortress of **Hohlandsbourg** overlooking the plains of Alsace. You can go round this restored castle (except in October) and its medieval garden.

*Walking time 5h15; Uphill and downhill: 465m*



### DAY 3 : TURCKHEIM - RIQUEWIHR

Following tracks through the vineyards you come to **Niedermorschwihr** with its famous church and twisted steeple, then Katzenthal and Ammerschwih. You can explore the medieval villages of Ammerschwih and Kaysersberg (which contains the birthplace of the missionary doctor, Albert Schweitzer, and the Romanesque church of Ste-Croix). You go down through the vineyards to reach Riquewih: a beautiful little medieval fortified town, with excellently preserved double ramparts dating from the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 16th.

*Walking time 5h30. Uphill: 600m. Downhill: 565m*

### DAY 4 : RIQUEWIHR - THANNENKIRCH

The walk from **Riquewih** to **Thannenkirch** passes through **Hunawih** which has a fortified church and Ribeauvillé (a lovely medieval village). You then climb to the ruins of the **château de Saint-Ulrich** which overlooks the village of **Ribeauvillé** and the flatlands of **Alsace**. Night at **Thannenkirch**, a typical Alsace village situated straight below the famous castle of Haut-Kœnigsbourg.

*Walking time 4h00. Uphill: 520m. Downhill: 320m*

### DAY 5 : THANNENKIRCH - CHATENOIS

Climb up to the medieval château of **Haut-Kœnigsbourg** which was built in the 12th century. You are well advised to visit this impressive structure, which is steeped in history and commands a wonderful view over Alsace. Then you go down back on to the plain and spend a night at **Châtenois**. During this walk you will also have the opportunity to visit the montagne des singes ('mountain of monkeys') and also see a spectacle of birds of prey at the volerie des Aigles (prices not included in the holiday).

*Walking time: 4h. Uphill: 270m. Downhill: 550m*

### DAY 6 : CHATENOIS - ANDLAU

You start by climbing up to the castle of **Ortenbourg** (ruins dating from the 13th century). There are beautiful views of the plains. You go down through the vineyards and pass through the little medieval town of **Dambach**. You can enjoy some wine-tasting with a friendly 'vigneronne' (lady running a wine-storage 'cave') at Bernardvillé. Then you walk steadily downhill through the forest until you reach Andlau.

*Walking time: 6h. Uphill: 550m. Downhill: 520m*

### DAY 7 : ANDLAU - OBERNAI

Today you can see the fortified castles of the Haut-Andlau and of Landsberg. The Mur Païen is an interesting feature – a huge megalithic enclosure which, up to the present day, has conserve dits air of mystery. Then you come to the Monastère du Mont Ste-Odile. From the monastery you go down by the Sentier des Pèlerins (pilgrims' path) to the village of Ottrott. After this you walk across flat countryside until you come to the lovely medieval town of Obernai.

Your holiday ends in the afternoon at Obernai.

*Walking time: 6h30. Uphill: 745m. Downhill: 790m*

## DATES

From March 1st to November 30th.

Please indicate on your booking form any other dates which might suit you equally well (for example is you would be willing to move your holiday a few days forward or backwards). This would be helpful if one or more hotels are not available on the dates you first chose.

We also ask you to book as early as possible. We don't keep places reserved in the hotels and some of them can be fully booked up months in advance.



## THE PRICE INCLUDES

Half-board accommodation, except for the evening meal on day 1,  
Your holiday pack (all the documentation you need for the success of your holiday, such as maps and walk descriptions),  
The transportation of your bags,  
The holiday tax.

## THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Drinks,  
Midday meals,  
Your evening meal on day 1,  
All your personal expenses,  
Travel insurance,  
Unscheduled visits to tourist attractions,  
Anything which is not included under the heading 'The price includes'  
Booking fees  
The cost of sending information overseas

## ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

Arrival: The first day at 18h at the hotel at Turckheim (Haut-Rhin-68 – full details will be sent to you when you book).

Holiday ends: On the last day at the end of the afternoon at Obernai (Bas-Rhin-67).

## LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY to

There are no special technical difficulties. You should be used to walking on varied terrain and be in good physical condition. The tracks are clearly way-marked. Each day's walk varies in length from 15 to 20 km with uphill totals ranging from 300 to 700 m. On average you will walk for between 4 and 6 hours each day. A vehicle will transport your luggage from one hotel to the next.

You should, however, carry a small rucksack for each day's walk, containing spare/protective clothing, your packed lunch, water bottle, camera etc.

*Walking times are given for guidance only. They are calculated for average walkers and add one hour for each 300 metres climbed. They take no account of any halts or pauses, for meals, looking at views, taking photos etc. If you are leading a party you should adjust these estimated times to suit the walking speeds of your group.*

## ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Your accommodation will be half board (evening meal, staying the night and breakfast), in a double bedroom (or an individual bedroom if you pay a supplement) in hotels \*\* and \*\*\*, selected because of the quality and interest of their food, comfortable and pleasant, and with shower or bathrooms and WC in the bedrooms.

You will have a good opportunity to taste various different Alsace dishes, helped on their way, if you are so inclined, with various well known Alsatian wines or local beers. Evening meals and breakfasts will be provided by the hotel. For this particular holiday lunches (i.e. midday meals) and drinks will be chosen and paid for by yourself (i.e. not included in the price of the holiday).

You will be free to have your lunch when and where you want (we indicate various restaurants and inns which you will pass during your walks). Alternatively all the hotels will be able to supply you with packed lunches if you order them the night before and pay for them at the time.



## TRANSPORT OF LUGGAGE

Your bags will be transported for you from one hotel to the next by the hotels themselves or by taxi services.  
ATTENTION:

We ask you to leave your luggage in the entrance of each of your places of accommodation at 8 H and to make sure that you have **NO MORE THAN 1 BAG PER PERSON, WEIGHING NO MORE THAN 14KG**; if you have more than one bag, or if your bag weighs more than 14kg, the transporter may charge you extra at the end of your holiday, or simply refuse to carry your luggage altogether if it is too cumbersome.

We strongly suggest you carry a small rucksack to hold the things you will need for each day's walk.

**If you belong to a group, please show on your luggage labels the NAME of your group leader (i.e. the person who booked the holiday).**

## TRANSPORT TO AND FROM YOUR HOLIDAY

**By car:** Turckheim (Haut-Rhin - 68) is on the D10 'wine road' (Route des Vins d'Alsace) roughly 7km (15mn) west of Colmar.

You will be able to leave your vehicle in the hotel's free car park, at the city walls car park which is also free, or in the Turckheim railway station car park which is 2 minutes' walk away.

Road maps: Carte Michelin scale 1/ 150 000 N° 315 "Bas-Rhin - Haut-Rhin - Territoire de Belfort".  
Carte IGN "Tourisme et Découverte" TOP 100 au 1/ 100 000ème N° 122 "Colmar - Mulhouse - Bâle".

**By train:** from Colmar railway station (la gare *SNCF* de Colmar) to arrive at the Turckheim railway station (gare *SNCF* de Turckheim) (times available from the *SNCF* – French railways – or the *SNCF* website – English available).

*TGV (fast train)* from Paris > Strasbourg > Colmar and the *Ligne TER (local train)* Colmar > Turckheim (Ligne (service) Colmar > Metzeral).

The hotel is situated at 2 minutes' walk from the railway station at Turckheim.

### **By plane:**

Aéroport de Mulhouse-Bâle at 45 minutes' drive.

Aéroport de Strasbourg at 55 minutes.

**Getting back to your car:** To collect your car at the end of the holiday, take the local train: train *TER* Obernai > Sélestat > Colmar > Turckheim (times available from *SNCF*). To facilitate your journey back from Obernai to your first hotel at Turckheim, we are able to book you a taxi. This costs 115€ for the vehicle (max 7 places with your bags). It is only available if you have booked it and paid for it at the time of booking your holiday. The taxi will leave Obernai around 17h / 53km / 45mn.

**Leaving by train: Obernai railway station** (Gare *SNCF* d'Obernai) - *TGV* for Paris via Strasbourg (timetables available from *SNCF* – we advise you not to book a return train leaving Obernai before 16h30).

## YOUR WALKERS' PACK

A full walkers' pack (one for each booking or for each group of four walkers) will be sent to you in the month before your holiday starts, after payment for your booking. Your walking route will be shown on photocopies of the relevant IGN walkers' map: TOP 25 IGN Club Vosgien to a scale of 1:25000 and described stage by stage, with additional information about the district you are passing through, together with one unmarked walkers' map. This walkers' pack belongs to you, and you keep it at the end of your holiday.

## LIST OF THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU

- a small rucksack for picnic lunches and other things you need on each day's walk
- walking poles



- first aid kit (sparadrap [elastoplast], double peau [‘New skin’ or equivalent], alcool etc.)
- a pair of walking shoes suitable for hill-walking. Use them before coming on holiday, to check that they are comfortable enough for a week’s walking.
- sunglasses, sunscreen and sunhat
- waterproofs
- light footwear for the evenings
- a water bottle. You need to drink 1.5 to 2L water per day
- a small knife
- a small torch (if desired)
- binoculars (if desired)
- paper handkerchiefs/tissues
- needle, thread and one or two safety pins.

## EXAMPLES OF SUITABLE EQUIPMENT PRODUCED BY OUR PARTNERS:

### VERTICAL

#### RUCKSACK:

**Aventure 40L**, a very suitable volume for a walking holiday. It contains all you need, is made of light material and does not take up too much space.

OR

- **5L Polyvalent**: This small, all-purpose rucksack is very useful for one-day walks.

- **Compartment avant Trail (a chest-bag for wearing on your front)**: This fixes easily on to your chest at the level of your braces. It balances the weight carried in front and behind and gives you more comfort on a long walk.



#### CLOTHING MADE BY VERTICAL TREKLIGHT:

For walking, think of comfort but also breathability...

- **Shirt AUBRAC**, slightly shaped, with long sleeves in recycled Polyester which combine comfort and effectiveness for a weight of only 300g.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> layer ANTARA**: 295 grams! Warm, stretchy and very light. The inside has a ‘brushed’ surface; the outside is smooth. This gives good protection against the wind.

- **Rain cape**: Minimum weight and inconvenience for an excellent rain cape. It uses the membrane MP+ of Vertical, making it waterproof yet breathable. It has a practical design with a built-in zip which can be opened all the way in hot weather.

The + Vertical: This design feature, a section in the back which will open out, enables you to adapt your cape to the size of your rucksack up to 60-70L, thus keeping the rucksack dry as well as yourself. The cape comes with a stuff bag.

- **CoolTrek leggings**: These are very comfortable, stretchy and reinforced in the right places. This is one of the classics of the Vertical range. With its four pockets it is very practical to wear and use, yet it has a feather-weight of only 380g.

**Cap with flap**: An indispensable item for protecting your head. The + Vertical: The removable sun-flap allows you to adapt the cap to the weather conditions.

- **Alu Trek Light walking poles**: 280 grams (weight of one pole). A necessity for walkers. They have a screw-lock adjustment system which makes them highly effective.

### INSURANCE

Our insurances, Contrat Assistance Plus (Assistance étendue) and Contrat Sérénité (Premium) are individual and optional. If you sign up for them it must be AT THE LATEST, 14 WORKING DAYS after booking the



holiday, and the insurance cannot take effect until after you have paid the full cost of the holiday. Anybody can take out one of our insurances, whatever their country of residence.

The total cost of the Contrat Assistance Plus (insurance for Assistance/Rapatriation) is set at 1.70% of the cost of the holiday. It takes into account only the cost of the holiday.

The total cost of the Contrat Sérénité (insurance for Assistance/Repatriation, cancellation and interruption of the holiday) is set at 3.6 % of the price of the holiday. It takes into account the cost of the holiday and the extra charges (for individual bedrooms, for a single holidaymaker, extra nights and possible extra transportation etc).

If you cancel the holiday yourself, if you haven't taken out our insurance for cancellation, the cancellation fees will be retained by us.

The size of the cancellation fee depends on the date of cancellation:

- 1) more than 30 days before the planned departure: 50 € of administration fees per person.
- 2) between 30 days and 22 days before departure: 25% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 3) between 21 days and 15 days before departure: 50% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 4) between 14 days and 8 days before departure: 75% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 5) between 7 days and 2 days before departure: 90% of the total cost of the holiday.
- 6) less than two days before the departure date: 100% of the total cost of the holiday.

In all cases of cancellation, even if it is more than 30 days before the planned starting date of the holiday, a fee of 50 € per person will be retained by us to cover administration costs.

➤➤ If the person with whom you planned to share a bedroom cancels their holiday, you will be billed for the individual supplement for that bedroom.

If you have to cancel your holiday **before you set off**, contact La Pèlerine on +33 (0)4 71 74 47 40, and we will do whatever is necessary.

**During your holiday**, your first action in such a situation should be either to contact **ASSISTANCE MUTUAIDE** on +33 (0)1 45 16 43 47 (if you have taken out the insurance contrat assistance plus) or **SERVICE SINISTRE ASSURANCE** on +33 (0)5 32 09 21 81 (if you have taken out the insurance contrat sérénité).

If you have any questions about your insurance contract, please contact the Hot Line on **05 32 09 21 81**.

Not turning up at the beginning of the holiday, or abandoning the holiday after you have begun it with no explanation, will disqualify you from reimbursement.

An example of an insurance contract, detailing the guarantees it gives you and the procedures you have to follow to make a claim, will be sent to you either at the time you make your booking – or at any other time if you ask for it.

#### CHANGING YOUR BOOKING:

##### ATTENTION!

Administration fees (50 €) will be kept by us for **any change you make in a booking already made** (e.g. for type of bedroom, departure dates, number of people etc).

If you want to book **extra nights** at the beginning or the end of your holiday this **must** be done **at the time of booking** and be specified on the booking confirmation sheet. Once bookings have been confirmed, if you want to arrange extra nights this must be done directly with the establishments concerned, and paid for at the time.



**If we haven't answered all your questions, please call us on 04 71 74 47 40**  
(00 33 4 71 74 47 40 from outside France)

**LA PELERINE WISHES YOU AN ENJOYABLE WALKING HOLIDAY!**

