

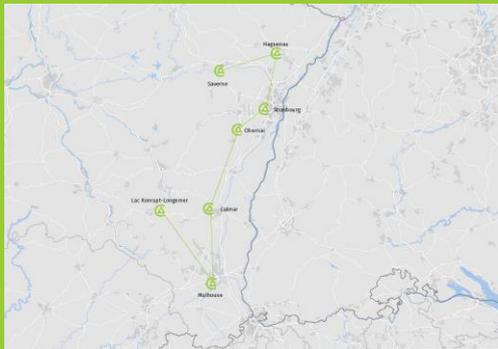


Alluring Alsace

The Tour

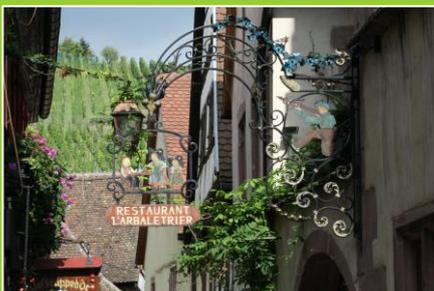
The Alsace region in France is right on the border with Germany and having been contested by France and its neighbour for centuries, this region has been left with a character that combines the two, and it proudly guards its own distinct identity, language, cuisine, history and architecture. Here quaint towns and villages with timber-framed houses, canals and colourful flower arrangements look as though they've popped up from a children's bedtime story, the gently rolling countryside, striped with vines, is nothing short of idyllic, and everywhere locals swear by centuries-old traditions. The towns and cities of Alsace are also worth a visit. Strasbourg is an architectural masterpiece; Colmar is a delight to anyone who enjoys heritage and good-living, and Mulhouse is renowned for its ingenuity and invites you to discover its numerous museums. Alsace boasts the highest concentration of fortified castles in Europe and many fabulous historical memorial sites, including UNESCO heritage sites. Alsace wine is famous worldwide, and wine production is one of the region's main activities. The Alsace vineyards are located along the eastern slopes at the foot of the ball-shaped Vosges mountains that have a dry microclimate allowing Riesling grapes to flourish.

For Tour dates and prices visit our website



Highlights:

- Wine tasting and visit of a wine cellar
- Scenic drives through wine villages and the Alsace mountains
- Visits to the main cities: Strasbourg, Colmar and Mulhouse
- WWII Ligne Maginot fortification and WWI Memorial Hartmannswillerkopf



Tour information

Start: Saverne
End: Lac de Longemer
Tour days: 14
Non-Driving days: 7
Max. daily mileage: 66 miles
Total mileage: 212 miles
Calais- Saverne: 377 miles
Pets allowed

Travel services

- Welcome Dinner
- Wine tasting and visit of a wine cellar
- All campsites / motorhome parks with electricity (where available)
- Assistance of multi-lingual motorhome guides during the whole tour
- Travel pack containing maps, a detailed road book with directions to the campsites, suggestions for sightseeing and general advice on motorhoming in Europe
- Secured Payment Certificate

Pick-up service

- Flexible return ferry crossing from Dover
- Pick-up by motorhome guide in Calais
- One additional nights at campsites in Luxemburg



Day 1 & Day 2: Saverne

We start our tour in Saverne and on the first evening we will have a group dinner so everyone can get to know each other. On day 2 discover the city of Saverne with the 18th-century Rohan castle. The building contains today a museum dedicated to archaeology, art, and history. Meander along the Grand'Rue (high street) which is lined with beautiful old half-timbered houses, the most famous being the Katz house with carved beams. Alternatively go for an excursion to the Plan Incliné of Saint-Louis Arzviller, a unique boat lift replacing 17 traditional locks.

Day 3: Saverne – Haguenau

On your way to Haguenau visit the glass and crystal works and museum, or if you are more into pottery the pottery museum. Do not forget to stop at the cave dwellings of Graufthal and admire the houses built into the rock.

Day 4: Haguenau – Strasbourg

Leaving Haguenau set 2 hours aside for a visit of Fort Schoenenbourg, part of the Maginot Line fortification built in the 1930s. With the short journey to Strasbourg, you will have the afternoon and evening to get a first feel for the main city of the Vosges.

Day 5: Strasbourg

Today you can spend the day visiting the city with its mesmerising Gothic Cathedral and twisting alleys lined with crooked half-timbered houses. Enjoy a meal in a cosy "winstub" (Alsatian tavern) by the canal in Petite France; and marvel at how such a historic city can also be home to the glittering EU Quarter and France's second-largest student population.

Day 6: Strasbourg – Obernai

As the Alsace and the Rhine region were torn between two countries you will not only find French fortifications, but also German ones like the Fort de Mutzig - Feste Kaiser Wilhelm II., the largest and most powerful fortification built before WWI. The chapel of tears in Mont Saint-Odile is also worth a visit and another more peaceful opportunity to enjoy the view down to the plain of Alsace and Rhine.

Day 7: Obernai

The picture postcard town of Obernai has lots of delightful medieval houses lining the narrow streets and small open plazas, all set within the original ramparts of the town. In this wine town we will also have a visit to a wine cellar and a wine tasting of the great Alsatian wines. In the old town you can savour again the typical Sauerkraut with different meats and sausages, or if you prefer, some snails.

Day 8: Obernai – Colmar

On your route to Colmar discover a host of Renaissance treasures in the Bibliothèque Humaniste in Selestat. A treasure which features on the UNESCO Memory of the World register containing medieval manuscripts and rare printed 15th and 16th century works. Drive up to the Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg, a 12th-century mountain fortress with an artillery platform, medieval garden & royal rooms. Then drive along the Alsace Wine Route through the picturesque wine villages like Ribeauvillé or Riquewihr.

Day 9: Colmar

Colmar, according to some the most Alsatian city of Alsace, is nestled among vineyards, and its traditional houses, canals, floral displays, amazing cuisine, famous wines will give you plenty to do and taste during the day and evening. The town is wonderfully preserved from the ravages of time, its homogenous historical centre is classed as a 'protected area' and offers visitors an exciting glimpse of 1000 years of European history. If you prefer to relax, watch the storks walking along the campsite.

Day 10: Colmar – Mulhouse

Travelling from Colmar to Mulhouse you could stop at an Open-Air Museum with reconstructed and typically furnished, traditional 19th and 20th century Alsatian buildings.

Day 11: Mulhouse

In Mulhouse you can discover an interesting historic centre, which is quite compact and can easily be explored on foot. The city is also home to some highly renowned museums including the Cité de l'automobile. The National Car Museum of France contains several hundred exceptional cars from across the last century, and various exhibits that help bring the history of cars and motor racing to life. The collection of Bugatti's alone makes the museum worth a visit. It is generally considered to be the best car museum in the world. Another museum to visit is the Cité du Train: every trainspotter's dream. This extensive museum has a very large collection of trains covering the entire period from when they were first introduced in France around 150 years ago.

Day 12: Mulhouse – Lac de Longemer

Today we drive up to the highest summit in the Vosges mountains: the Grand Ballon, with its highest peak at 1424 metres in altitude. On the route we will pass the Memorial and museum Hartmannswillerkopf one of four French national monuments commemorating the Great War. It once was a WWI battlefield known as the "Man-Eating Mountain". We then follow the route des crêtes to the campsite at the lake.

Day 13: Lac de Longemer

Relax at the lake or the swimming pool before your journey home.

Day 14: Departure and end of tour