

OPHORUS

FRANCE TRAVEL SAVOIR-FAIRE



Ophorus
France Travel Savoir Faire
Ophorus

+33 556 152 609
info@ophorus.com
<https://www.ophorus.com>



Private Alsace Group Package

Trip Summary

May 13 - Saturday

Airport transfer from Strasbourg to Colmar

May 14 - Sunday

9:30 Walking tour of Colmar

11:45 Private Boat tour in Colmar

12:30 Lunch booked at a local Winstub

May 15 - Monday

Full day around Alsace wines

May 16 - Tuesday

Alsace wine & food tour

May 17 - Wednesday

Alsace villages & wines

May 18 - Thursday

9:00 Freiburg & the Black Forest day trip from Colmar

May 19 - Friday

Alsace Villages

May 20 - Saturday

Airport transfer from Colmar to Strasbourg

May 13 - Saturday



Airport transfer from Strasbourg to Colmar

Exact meeting point with the driver at the airport to be informed.

Pick up at Strasbourg airport (*flight number to be informed*) and transfer to Hotel Le Marechal in Colmar.



May 14 - Sunday



9:30 - 2 hr

Walking tour of Colmar **Enchanting Colmar Awaits You**

Described by Frommer's as 'one of the most attractive towns in Alsace', Colmar is situated in east-central France, in a border region that was once disputed between France and Germany. The city is renowned for its well preserved old town, its numerous architectural landmarks and its museums, among which is the Unterlinden Museum with the Isenheim Altarpiece. Colmar is also one of the gateways to the Alsace Wine Route.

Follow a 2 hour guided walking tour with an Expert English speaking licensed guide to discover all the main highlights this beautiful city has to offer. Departing from your hotel, your tour will certainly lead you to the "Maison des Tetes", an outstanding German Renaissance building and to the Little Venice neighborhood where gorgeous half timbered houses are lined along the Lauch River. Other significant landmarks include the Koifhus, the Pfister house, Saint Martin church, the covered market and so much more...



11:45 DEPARTURE - 30 min

Private Boat tour in Colmar

"Little Venice" is a picturesque area in the heart of the old city through which flows a quiet river called the Lauch.

Come and discover its lovely, authentic landscape on a flat-bottomed boat.

You will be charmed by this original view of Colmar.

We privatized 2 boats for your group.



12:30

Lunch booked at a local Winstub

Today, enjoy a fabulous regional lunch in one of the most traditional restaurants of Strasbourg – known as a Winstub: The Winstub, literally “wine lounge”, recreates the Alsatian way of life.

Originally, it was a room open to the public where wine growers could sell off the surplus of their production. Nowadays, the Winstub is a typical Alsatian restaurant, where the wine is served in carafe accompanied by traditional dishes such as Choucroute (or Sauerkraut), Baeckaoffa - a hotpot of potatoes garnished with a selection of meats marinated in white wine, cooked in a terrine dish – and many more.

Don't be surprised to eat shoulder to shoulder on wooden tables, often covered with tablecloths with red checks where the usual customers often “try to solve the world's problems”.

Lunch booked - to be paid on site directly - not included in the total price.



May 15 - Monday



Full day around Alsace wines

9h00 - Your private guide meets you at your hotel. Walk to the coach and departure for the full day around the wines of Alsace.

First, stop at the **Domaine Bachert in Barr (arranged by yourself)** for a special wine tasting. Then, have some free time or enjoy a walking tour of the village with your guide. Visit the authentic old town centre with its timber-framed houses, carved stone porches and lively squares.

Then, go explore some of the most beautiful villages of France.

Mittelbergheim

Located in the heart of the vineyard, on a hillside, Mittelbergheim is one of those villages on the Alsace Wine Route that deserves your full attention. There is no half-timbering here, but Renaissance buildings with a naturally pink color. Each stone, each house tells the story of this village which has retained its character over the centuries. This remarkable architectural heritage has earned it official status as one of the "Most Beautiful Villages in France".

Ottrot/Mont Sainte Odile

Overlooking the plain of Alsace, the Sanctuary of Mont Sainte-Odile welcomes pilgrims and tourists to the heart of an exceptional natural environment!

This religious place dedicated to Saint Odile, patroness of Alsace, is frequented by many pilgrims. At the same time, it welcomes a large number of visitors, eager to visit the site or enjoy the panorama and the natural and wooded environment.

Obernai

Roman crossroads, then Merovingian royal villa, "Ehenheim" was mentioned for the first time in 778, and named Oberehnheim in 1242 to distinguish itself from Niederehnheim (Niedernai).

It is assumed that the city was the property of the Dukes of Alsace and then of the monasteries of Hohenbourg (now Mont Sainte-Odile) and Niedermunster, the two convents founded by Sainte Odile and her father.

We will organize two tastings in the afternoon in the villages.

Drop off at your hotel at 6pm.





Alsace wine & food tour

9h00 - Your private guide meets you at your hotel. Walk to the coach and departure for the full day.

10h30 - Go for a wonderful gourmet wine & food day tour in Strasbourg, starting with:

Strasbourg Hospice Winery

All the bottles have the same packaging, with the same label. The Cross of the Hospitallers, emblem of the Cellar, is of course present there. The labels differ only by the name of the cuvée, the vintage and the name of their producer, located in the yellow band at the bottom of the label. You will therefore be able to find various wines of the same grape variety each year, but from different producers, from localities or specific grand crus, late harvests... Marked both by their particular geographical origin and by the know-how of their producer, each of our wines is unique.

The Hospices de Strasbourg offer you a whole range of flavors, brought together in a single place.

Each partner producer offers, on his estate, his own wines matured in the cellar of the Hospices de Strasbourg, while the historic cellar brings together a variety of cuvées that have been matured there.

11h30 - Then, sample the Flavors of Alsace in Strasbourg

Discover the city of Strasbourg in a fun & informative way as you taste some of the best gastronomic produce of Alsace. Cuisine and gourmet food are passions for most French people and the region has many specialities combining its unique French and Germanic cultural heritage — a very special flavour!

From lovely fresh white asparagus, local foie gras, juniper-flavoured sauerkraut, pies made from local berries, smoked mountain hams, colourful Quetsche plums, breads of all shapes, to delicious cakes and pastries, our local produce are known all over France.

Stroll through the pedestrian narrow lanes of the historical city center, admire the famous Cathedral of Notre-Dame, the gorgeous “Petite France” district and beautiful squares such as “Place Gutenberg. On Wednesday and Friday it is also market day in Strasbourg. Follow your guide as you are introduced to some of the local food as well as traditional Arts & Crafts. Along the way, we will sample local food such as cured meat & cheese paired with local wines. Other stops will include tasting some traditional Alsatian brioche “kouglof”, and delicious ‘pains d’épices’, (litterally ‘bread of spices’), the local version of gingerbread.

This gourmet tour would not be complete without several tastings of delicious wines that might even include Crémant d’Alsace, a delicious local sparkling wine! Let one of our local gourmet guides take you through the streets of Strasbourg, share local recipes and cooking tips, as you taste some of the best gastronomic produce of Alsace.

13h00 - And enjoy a Unique Culinary Experience

Give Making Flammekueche a Go

Learn the secrets of making traditional Alsatian “tarte flambée” during a 45-minute baking workshop with an expert chef. This is a hands-on cookery lesson in a local “winstub”. Finish the class by eating your own freshly baked *flammekueche* and wash it down with a glass of wine! It makes for the perfect self-made, local lunch.

After arriving at the local activity provider’s location, enjoy your *flammekueche* cooking lesson just before lunch. The price includes the cooking class; then you get to eat 1/2 a traditional *flammekueche* and 1/4 of a traditional sweet *flammekueche*. A drink is also included: 25cl beer (must be 18+), 1 soft drink or a small bottle of mineral water, or 1 glass of Alsace white wine.

At the end of the activity, lunch is at leisure in the same restaurant or in another one according to your preferences.

14h30 - After this activity, enjoy a guided walking tour of Strasbourg, including the Cathedral.

the Old Town & La Petite France District

Historically, this was the poor section of the city occupied by mills and tanneries, both of which depended on the river and its downward flowing branches to support their work. Today, the neighbourhood is one of the most charming and photogenic in Strasbourg with its colourful 16th and 17th-century half-timbered houses such as the ‘Maison des Tanneurs’.

There is also a stunning series of fortified bridges and their three towers. This succession of three bridges linking arms with the Ill River is dominated by three 14th century towers and the remains of the ancient mediaeval ramparts, which totalled 90 towers.

End of the services after dropping you off at your hotel at 5pm.



shutterstock.com - 216305635



Alsace villages & wines

10h00 - Your private guide meets you at your hotel. Walk to the coach and departure for the full day.

Start your day tour with the visit and tastings at Domain Kirmann, followed by a delicious tasting lunch - (booked by yourself)

Epfig

From whatever direction you come, the village can be seen from afar, perched on its promontory from which stands out the familiar silhouette of the steeple of the church of St Georges, surrounded by its setting of vines which gives the place a charm so particular.

The Romans in their time, had already detected the strategic side of this hill by building a fort there which allowed them to observe and control any movement on the road to Argentoratum, the current Strasbourg

These same Romans introduced the vine to Alsace, which over the centuries has shaped our landscapes so characteristic of Central Alsace. This omnipresent vine which in Epfig, covers more than a quarter of the ban, and makes it, with its 580 Ha, the largest wine estate in Alsace.

In the afternoon, enjoy a second wine tasting around the vineyards of Dambach la Ville.

Finally, end the day with a visit of the ***Haut Koenigsbourg castle***

Built in the 12th century, Haut-Koenigsbourg castle has witnessed for centuries conflicts and rivalries between lords, kings and emperors.

Successive illustrious owners have marked its history, and many events that have changed its appearance...

Going through the high gate of Haut-Koenigsbourg means plunging into the world of the Middle Ages.

At the end of the services, drop off at your hotel around 6.00pm



**9:00****Freiburg & the Black Forest day trip from Colmar**

Meet your guide at your hotel at 9am.

A Picture Perfect Day in Southern Germany***A Full Day Exploring the Best of Freiburg and the Black Forest.******We will include one winery during the day along with a lunch at a local restaurant (fixed menu - 3 course meal, 2 glasses of wine, water and coffee).***

On this private full day guided tour departing from Colmar, cross the nearby border between France and Germany to discover the small city of Freiburg im Breisgau. The town is known for its ancient university, medieval minster (Cathedral), high standard of living and advanced environmental practices. The city, a famous university town, is situated in the heart of a major wine-growing region and is the primary entry point to the scenic beauty of the Black Forest.

Depart from your centrally located hotel in Colmar and head towards the town of Freiburg Germany. Follow your guide on a private tour through the cobblestone streets and reach the historic city center where the town hall is located. Dating back from the middle ages, the town Hall Square is where the statue of Berthold Schwarz is located – a Franciscan Monk who is said to have invented gunpowder circa 1350. This is also one of the squares where the annual Christmas Market takes place. The town is also home to a number of beer gardens and famous breweries such as the feierling brewery. Another attraction to visit is the remaining city gates the only testimony left from the Middle Ages. Close to the tourist office is the Augustiner Museum that dates back to the 13th century.

After some free time for personal discovery and lunch, head towards the scenic route of the Black Forest region. The most popular destination of Germany, drive through surprising landscapes with spruce forest in the North, Vines in the central area and lakes and mountain peaks in the south. Along the road, you will admire small quaint villages and breathtaking scenery. This is also the birthplace of the world renowned cuckoo clocks. During the day your guide will make different stops so that you can make the best out of this attractive destination.

Drop off at your hotel at 6pm.





Alsace Villages

Meet your guide at your hotel at 9am.

Today, explore some of the gems of Alsace. *We will include one wine tasting during the day*

Eguisheim

Located at the southern exit of Colmar, Eguisheim has been ranked among "One of the Most Beautiful Villages in France" since 2003 and won the title of "Favorite Village of the French" in 2013.

This medieval village appeals for its modest size, its unique architecture, its profusion of flowers in summer, but also for its authentic charm during Christmas time when many activities are offered around the Christmas market.

Eguisheim draws its claim to fame from its architectural ensemble, preserved from the ravages of history and intelligently preserved.

Built around its castle, this medieval city unfolds in concentric circles. You will discover in this original village, fountains, colonial courtyards and a church housing a "Opening Virgin" from the 13th century.

It will be good to stroll along the alleys and thus admire the colorful palette of the houses whose very old inscriptions on the door lintels you will be able to decipher.

For lunch, we included a lunch at a local restaurant (fixed menu - 3 course meal, 2 glasses of wine, water and coffee)

Kaysesberg

The Kaysersberg valley, where the rich heritage is numerous; the military buildings still testify to the heavy and bloody past of Alsace while the colorful half-timbered houses mingle with the old Romanesque churches.

Many museums will enrich your holidays with local culture and traditions, through museums of wood, vineyards or brandies! The birthplace of the famous doctor Albert Schweitzer also opens its doors to you and invites you to discover the theories of this Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Riquewihr

At the heart of Alsace's wine growing region, Riquewihr is an essential halt on the wine route. Surrounded by ramparts, the village has been very fortunate to survive war and destruction. Its tiny streets, fortified walls and old timbered houses have preserved their 16th century and 17th century splendours virtually intact, making for remarkable architectural harmony.

The small town of Riquewihr is home to a number of very interesting buildings and monuments to visit. As you stroll the narrow streets your visit should include the Dolder. Built in 1291, the Dolder defensive gateway was strengthened in the 15 and 16C. A bell at the top, refounded in the 19C, used to warn the inhabitants of possible threats. The Dolder museum charts the history of this fortified country town.

Some of the most astonishing Houses include the Preiss-Zimmer House, the Kiener House, the Dissler House or the Liebrich House.

Ribeauvillé

Situated on the 'Route des Vins', between vineyards and mountains, Ribeauvillé is a charming town which has successfully capitalized on its heritage.

In the Middle Ages, the town was the seat of the Seigneurs de Ribeaupierre - the Lords of Ribeaupierre (whence the town's name of Ribeauvillé).

The Ribeaupierres built 3 fortified castles, the ruins of which still majestically dominate the town and surrounding hills to this day.

At the end of the services, around 5.00pm, drop off at your hotel.



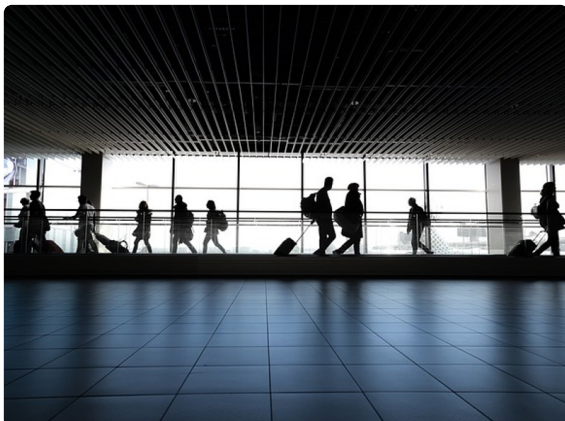
May 20 - Saturday



Airport transfer from Colmar to Strasbourg

Pick up at Hotel Le Marechal in Colmar and transfer to Strasbourg airport (*flight number to be informed*).

End of the services.



Information & Documents



PRICING

-
-
-
-

*30% is required at the time of booking to secure the services.
The balance is due 30 days prior to arrival.*



INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

INCLUSIONS

- Arrival and departure transfers (extra assistance in English available in option - not included in the total price)
- Transportation and English speaking guide as mentioned
- Boat cruise in Colmar (30 min in two privatized barges)
- One lunch booked in Colmar (to be paid on site)
- Two lunches with prefixed menus, including drinks
- 5 wine tastings at local domains
- Gourmet tour in Strasbourg
- Flammekueche workshop in Strasbourg
- Mandatory headseats for the visit of the Cathedral in Strasbourg
- Visit of villages
- Skip-the-line entrances to the Haut Koenigsbourg castle

EXCLUSIONS

- Accommodation
- Other meals, other visits, other tastings, other entrances
- Personal expenses
- Insurance
- Tips



CANCELLATION POLICY FOR GROUPS

Operator strictly adheres to its cancellation policy and will make no exceptions to the policy. If Guest chooses to cancel his or her reservation, Operator must receive written notice of said cancellation in writing via certified mail, fax or e-mail sent to info@ophorus.com (with confirmation of receipt from Operator), and Guest shall be subject to the following cancellation fee schedule:

PAYMENT CONDITIONS AND CANCELLATION FEES FOR GROUPS (LARGER THAN 8 PEOPLE)

Ophorus requires a deposit of 30% on booking confirmation with balance to be made at least 30 days prior to arrival (in case of last minute registration payment is expected immediately). We accept payment by credit cards (Visa, Master card, American Express) or bank transfer (Wire transfer fees at the charge of the Guest). There is no charge or service fee for processing credit card payments except with American Express +3%.

A group is composed of more than 8 people and the rate is calculated according to a precise number of participants. The below cancellation policies apply to all the group.

In case one or several persons in the group have to cancel their tour, the price of the tour will be recalculated with the definite number of participants. The below cancellation policies also apply for the person(s) cancelling its/their participation.

- 60+ days: €20 fee per person
- 59 to 30 days prior to arrival: 30% of the overall price (deposit)
- 29 to 15 days prior to arrival: 75% of the overall price
- 14 days or less prior to arrival: no refund

No insurance for cancellation or assistance is included in the prices mentioned for all packages. Each customer has to check that he or she has the appropriate documents for their journey: a passport (with visa if necessary) or a valid ID card. No refund will be granted in case of lack or loss of ID documents. Eating, drinking and smoking on board the minivans are strictly forbidden (law of September 17th, 1977). All passengers are insured during the excursions while in the vans. The responsibility of Ophorus is limited to our insurance contract clauses.