

## **Alsace and Black Forest**

### **20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The Alsace trip is proving very popular and we have already had to reserve more rooms. Our French members are joining us in Alsace 4 nights for what promises to be a great trip. We have three good hotels booked for the trip spending 5 nights in Alsace and then stopover for one night each way to break the journey making 7 nights 8 days in all. The itinerary is below and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Departure this morning for Dover and a ferry crossing to Calais. Heading for the Hotel Le Tulipier in this scenic rural eastern corner of the Champagne Region

#### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

We head towards Triaucourt en Argonne entering the countryside of the Lorraine region to continue through picturesque Bar le Du in the direction of Toul, Nancy and Luneville driving onto the landscape of the foothills of the Vosges Mountains, passing St Dié, before climbing over the Vosges Mountains at the Col de Bonhomme. We will have an open lunch stop and sightseeing in the beautiful little medieval half-timbered town of Kaysersberg, famous for its defensive walls, wines. Time permitting we will journey on after our first Alsatian wine village visit, to one of the local hidden gems, Turckheim. This sleeping and beautifully preserved village is completely surrounded by its walls as it was over 500 years ago and is known for producing some of the best wines in Alsace. We have the opportunity to make a stop and the 'Cave de Turckheim'. This co-operative wine cellar houses some of the village's finest wines. We then make the short drive to Munster, a town renowned for its pungent soft cheese and arrive at The Verte Vallée, our hotel for the next 5 nights.

#### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Early morning start today recommended by 8.30am latest to take the 'Route des Cretes' ridge top scenic road on top of the Vosges Mountains in a loop down to Colmar heading for 'Cité de l'Automobile', also known as the Schlumpf Car Collection this is the largest collection of vintage cars in the world. The afternoon is left free. Notable local attractions include the Alsace

Ecomuseum, a historical open air museum covering Alsatian lifestyle and nature. The Maison du Fromage 'House of Cheese' is a producer of Munster cheese in the village of Gunsbach less than a mile from our hotel and is open for visits 9am to 7pm daily.

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

A day touring into the Black Forest.

Passing Neuf Breisach Freiburg then up the Hollental Gorge into the hilly rural woodland landscapes of the Black Forest, steeped in Folklore and Legend stopping at the Hofgut Sternen Hotel to visit their Cuckoo Clock Maker and Glass Blowing Workshop for a demonstration before continuing to Titisee. This little resort town and scenic lake provides a relaxing lunchtime stop at leisure. On return to hotel we make a scenic circuit past Breitenau in the direction of Furtwangen, St Maergen and then shortly later (before St Maergen) Neuhausle and onto Hexenlochmuehle 'Witches Water Mill' for a scenic stop. Descending out of the Black Forest along the Obertal valley to Gutach, towards Freiburg and then recrossing the Rhine and retracing our steps to Munster.

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

We depart for Strasbourg by trunk road or motorway.

Strasbourg is recognised as one of the most scenic cities in Western Europe, with its many half-timbered houses and waterways. The afternoon takes us to Colmar this picture postcard little city is absolutely delightful and a fine place to relax and end the afternoon.

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

We cover some of the leading sights of Alsace's 'Route du Vin'. This heritage route covers the unique medieval wine villages fortified by their own ring walls and regarded as some of the most scenic large villages to visit in Europe. Taking in Riquewihr, Ribeauvillé, Bergheim, Thannenkirch, Haute Konigsberg Castle, Kintzheim before returning south on the D1Bis 'Route du Vin' past Ste Hippolyte and Ribeauvillé back to our hotel.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Depart Alsace climbing over the Vosges Mountains at the Col de La Schlucht and heading past Gerardmer down to Remiremont towards Nancy, where we continue onto Toul, St Dizier pass Vitry le Francois to Chalons en Champagne, to Epernay, known as the home town of Champagne making. Time free for a late

lunch and the opportunity to make a local champagne cellar visit. Leave Eperney on the D366 passing through Hautvillers, , and head through the countryside to Fismes towards Laon, arriving at or lake front accommodation for the night the Hotel du Golf overlooking the Lac de l'Ailette.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

We depart north, towards Calais. Afternoon channel crossing by ferry to Dover before our onwards journey home.

The cost of the trip including ferry crossings 7 nights' accommodation on a Bed Breakfast & Dinner basis ( to include Aperitif, wine, water, extra cheese course and coffee) is £619pppn for those travelling from the UK. For our French members the 4 nights they are joining us for will be Euro 389pppn in a double or twin room both costs carry a single supplement If you are considering joining us on this trip please let me know a.s.a.p so we can secure more rooms. This is a very popular and beautiful part of France so rooms are in demand..

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