



# Equus Journeys

HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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## Mountains & Vineyards of Alsace

### ALSACE - CHAMPAGNE COUNTRY

Experience a **trail riding holiday in Alsace**, riding the Vosges Massif and through Alsatian vineyards. On this **horseback holiday in France**, discover the stunning mountainous Vosges countryside and explore the region's chateaus and their beautiful wooded estates. **From the saddle**, you will ride through well-known villages along the 'route des vins', such as Ribeauvillé and Dambach, making sure to stop for a visit to the cellars! Enjoy a varied programme with ascents, gallops, comfortable accommodation and local Alsatian cuisine.

Trail Riding	 7 days (5 days riding) -	 From £0	
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Trotting through the vineyards



Enjoying wine, gastronomy and horse riding



Explore the eastern region of Alsace on horseback

### ITINERARY

## Highlights

- Ride through the vineyard roads and enjoy a wine tasting... or two!
- Visit medieval cities, château ruins and fortified châteaux of Alsace, rich in history and cultural significance.
- Enjoy varied riding with mountain ascents, forest tracks, panoramic viewpoints and long canters through the vineyards.
- Discover Natura 2000 landscapes at Champ du Feu and the scenic Hohwald waterfall hidden in the forest.

## Day 1 — 1: Arrival

 Gîte du Champ du Feu

Fly to Strasbourg airport. Flights are not included but can be arranged upon request.  
Please note you can arrive at the equestrian centre between 4pm and 7pm.

Depending on your arrival time, you may settle in into your room and have a look around the property.  
In the evening, you will be met with a traditional Alsatian meal and you'll have the chance to meet the other riders in your group, as well as your guide.

Overnight in a gîte at the equestrian centre.

## Day 2 — 2: Belmont - Champ du Feu - Val de Villé - 4h riding

After breakfast, you will be assigned with your horse for the week.

Once everyone has been matched, you will set off to explore the grounds of Champ du Feu.

The surrounding area is classed as a Natura 2000 site, known for its peat bogs and mountain grasslands.

The mountain paths wind through forests and high-altitude pastures, and from the Chaume des Veaux a magnificent viewpoint opens over the entire valley. You will also pass through the charming small village of Breitenbach.

In the afternoon, you descend towards the Val de Villé, a valley renowned in Alsace for its fruit brandy.

Dinner and overnight in a gîte in the Val de Villé.

## Day 3 — 3: Val de Villé - Thannenkirch - 5-6h riding

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After breakfast, you leave the valley and gradually gain altitude in the direction of Thannenkirch, a small mountain village. Forest paths alternate with more open passages, offering superb views over the Alsace plain as you ride through the Vosges.

You stop for your picnic lunch in the ruins of Frankembourg Castle, an emblematic site perched on a rocky promontory and built on an ancient Gallo-Roman site, where the atmosphere is peaceful and steeped in history.

In the afternoon, you visit the renowned fortified Alsatian château of Haut-Koenigsbourg, a true medieval fortress dominating the region. You then continue on to Thannenkirch, where you will have dinner.

Overnight in a gîte in Thannenkirch.

## Day 4 — 4 : Thannenkirch - Ribeauvillé - 5-6h riding

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After breakfast, you ride out and leave the mountain countryside behind you as you make your way toward Alsatian vineyard country. Forests give way to vine-covered hillsides and colourful wine villages as you descend towards the plains.

Eventually, you will arrive at Ribeauvillé, an ancient medieval city still encircled by its ramparts and dominated by its castles high on the mountainside, renowned for its rich cultural heritage.

Your afternoon will be spent discovering the village of Ribeauvillé and visiting one of the village's wine cellars.

Dinner is not included today.

Overnight in a guesthouse in Ribeauvillé.

## Day 5 — 5 : Ribeauvillé - Saint Pierre - 5-6h riding

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In the morning, you ride through the vineyards along the famous Alsace Wine Route, passing through small, typical Alsatian villages such as Bergheim, Kintzheim, Dambach-la-Ville and Mittelbergheim. These flower-decked villages, surrounded by vines and orchards, offer a complete immersion in the region's heritage.

You will have the opportunity to visit a wine cellar, where you can discover local wines and perhaps enjoy a tasting.

After lunch, you get back in the saddle and follow trails leading towards the village of Saint-Pierre, on paths that are ideal for long canters.

Dinner and overnight in a gîte in Saint Pierre.

## Day 6 — 6 : Saint Pierre - Belmont - 5-6 hours riding

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 Gîte du Champ du Feu

After breakfast, you leave the Alsace plains and head back into the mountains, following forest paths that gradually bring back the cool, wooded atmosphere of the Vosges. You will stop for your picnic lunch in the ruins of Spesbourg Castle before continuing your ascent.

The route then leads you to the Hohwald waterfall, one of the most beautiful in Alsace, nestled in the heart of a fresh, shaded forest. You continue climbing towards Champ du Feu, returning to the vast, open spaces of the high Vosges plateaus.

Overnight in a gîte at the equestrian centre.

## Day 7 — 7 : Departure

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After a hearty breakfast, it will be time to say goodbye to the horses and your guides.

Transfer back to the airport (please check "Dates&Prices").

## DATES & PRICES

We are currently updating our dates and prices they will be online soon. If you want details of this holiday, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Price details

No departure for this destination. Please contact our travel advisers for more information.

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) are not included but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin/double room during the ride.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 5 riders and a maximum of 10 international riders, plus guide.

- If you sign up to the ride as a solo rider and end up in a single room, you will be charged a single room supplement of approx. £300/€350/\$365 (paid locally).

- Transfers to/from the equestrian centre are not included but can be arranged for an additional cost - shared between the number of riders (rates are per car, each way, paid locally):

Strasbourg or Colmar airport/train station - €110

Sélestat train station - €60

Fouday train station - €20

Transfers are generally organised around 6:00pm. The transfer on the way back is for trains/flights after 12:00 noon.

- Children aged 13 or older may join on this trail, provided they match the riding requirements and are accompanied by an adult.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

## Price includes

### SUPPORT TEAM

1 English-speaking guide

### LOGISTICS

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

### INLAND TRANSPORT

Support vehicle

### ACCOMMODATION

4 nights in different gîtes/guethouses + 2 nights in the gîte at the equestrian centre

### MEALS

Full board from dinner on arrival to breakfast on departure

Drinks at the equestrian centre and picnics

## Price doesn't include

### MEALS

Dinner on day 4

Drinks at restaurants and personal extras

TRANSPORT

Transfers to and from the airport or train station  
International flights

EXTRAS

Tips to local team  
Entry fees to parks, museums and other sites

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The stables are home to a wide range of breeds.  
Gentle Icelandics and steady Fjords offer calm, sure-footed rides, ideal for riders who prefer a comfortable, confidence-building ride. Irish Cobs bring their trademark reliability to the trails, while more athletic Thoroughbreds suit experienced riders who enjoy forward, energetic days in the saddle. Arabians, renowned for their stamina, and Spanish horses are also available for more experienced riders.

Each rider will be paired with the horse that is best suited to their riding level.

Guide & local team

Throughout your trip, you will be guided by either Marco, Jessica, Luc or Lucie - all qualified horse-riding tourism guides. They speak French, English and German and know the area and its trails like the back of their hand!

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

For this ride, you need to have mastered all 3 paces (walking, rising trot and cantering in a forward seat) across uneven terrain.

Rider weight limit: 90kg/ 14st/ 198 lbs.

PACE

The base pace of the ride is a walking pace interspersed with trots and canters. This region's terrain is well suited to long canters.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to participate in the tacking, untacking and feeding of the horses. You will also be responsible for signalling any injuries or issues with your horse to your guide and then aiding in any necessary treatment.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

This trip is suited to intermediate and experienced level riders who ride regularly. You need to be in good physical condition and be able to ride for several days in a row without tiring.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

English saddles are provided.

Helmets are mandatory and the team has a few available locally. We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

## TRAVEL INFO

### COMFORT

Throughout the trip, you will spend 2 nights in a gîte located in the equestrian centre and 4 nights in double or twin rooms in gîtes or guest houses.

### MEALS

Throughout the ride, your lunches will either be picnics made from local products (and transported by the support vehicle) or had in restaurants, depending on the weather. Your dinners will be had in restaurants specialising in Alsatian dishes or you will have your evening meals around your host's table.

**Dietary requests can usually be accommodated if mentioned in advance - please inform your travel advisor upon booking.**

### CLIMATE

Alsace has a continental climate with cold and dry winters and hot, often stormy, summers. The months in-between - from April to May and September to October - are usually warm and agreeable.

Spring in Alsace gives you the opportunity to make the most of the lengthening days and discover a beautiful countryside coming out of hibernation. In the autumn, the region is coloured by the vibrant hues of the growing vineyards. Summers in the region can be very hot and are the best season to take refreshing dips in the tranquil lakes and the ride through Vosges.

From the beginning of November, the cooler temperature and fogs that roll out across the countryside create an enjoyable atmosphere to ride through. Mid and late winter can be harsh with frequent frosts.

### TIPS

In France, it is customary to tip - usually this is by rounding up the price. You may wish to leave a tip with the guide who can split it amongst all members of the team - this is not obligatory and is entirely at your discretion.

### PACKING LIST

**Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring.**

#### Head

- Riding helmet
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses with a cord attached
- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the elements
- Warm hat for cold evenings/days

#### Upper body

- Thermals in case of cold weather
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun or extra warmth
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Waterproof jacket and/or a waterproof vest that covers your thighs. No ponchos!!

#### Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Waterproof over trousers
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)
- A swimming costume may be useful for impromptu dips in the lake
- Non-irritant cotton underwear

#### Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps.
- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Several pairs of warm socks

- Gloves

#### Other useful items

- Water bottle
- Toiletries
- Ear plugs (may be useful)

#### Medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Painkillers
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhea medication
- Vitamin C tablets
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Eye drops
- Hydrating/ soothing cream
- Plasters
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc..
- 10cm wide bandage
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

#### Our Recommendations

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bum bag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day.
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- Carry a copy of your passport and insurance documentation with you.

## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please [see this page](#) .