

Europe 2023 Itinerary

July 9 – Aug 19: Europe. Prague, Krakow, Budapest, Croatia (Zagreb, Rovinj, Baska Voda, Bol)

Aug 19 – Oct 4: France Encore. Collioure, Marseille, Verdon NP, Barolo, Geneva, Colmar, Dijon, Lyon. New+faves

Aug 19 – Aug 20: Lyon 1N (Sat – Sun). Early ferry, direct flight SPU 12:20 - 14:30 LYS. Bouchon dinner, pickup car.

Aug 20 – Sept 17: Collioure 28N (Sun – Sun). Pont Du Guard/Chauvet/Nimes enroute. La vie en France!

Sept 17 – Sept 20: Marseille 3N (Sun – Wed). Vieux Port Marseille

Sept 20 – Sept 21: Verdon Regional Nature Park 1N (Wed – Thurs). Hike and Observatory

Sept 21 – Sept 24: Barolo Wine Region in Piedmont 3N (Thurs – Sun). Known for wine, truffles, and hazelnuts

Sept 24 – Sept 26: Geneva 2N (Sun – Tues). Old Geneva and the Lake!

Sept 26 – Oct 01: Colmar in Alsace 5N (Tues – Sun). Bike and wine in Alsace

Oct 01 – Oct 04: Dijon in Burgundy 3N (Sun – Wed). Mustard, Pinot Noir, and final French sun before Asia.

Oct 04 – Oct 05: Flight to Tokyo 1N (Wed – Thurs). Drive to Lyon, drop car, and fly east!

Oct 05 – Oct 20: Japan. Tokyo (Dohmens), Hakone, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miajima, Osaka. See Detlef and Dagmar, fall color.

Oct 20 – Nov 13: SE Asia. Taipei, Road Scholar "Best of Southeast Asia: Thailand, Laos, Cambodia & Vietnam" (Bangkok and Chiang Mai in Thailand, Luang Prabang in Laos, Siem Reap in Cambodia, and Saigon, Halong Bay and Hanoi in Viet Nam), Singapore see Eisner and city

ETIAS – Not required. The European Travel Information and Authorization System or ETIAS visa waiver will be required for U.S. citizens visiting Europe starting in 2024. Check details at [ETIAS.US](https://etias.us), [InterExchange](https://interexchange.com) and [EU Site](https://europa.eu).

VPN/Phone – Surfshark VPN for access to U.S. financials, streaming sites, etc. Surfroam for Mark's phone data

COVID Travel Requirements – [None](#). Confirmed no entry restrictions: Czechia, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, France, Italy, Switzerland. Slovenia may require the [EU-PLF form](#).

Prescriptions – must have a prescription, in original bottle, up to 90-day supply.

Driving – International Driver's License required (France, Italy, Slovenia)

Overall Route – from [Lyon-Lyon](#) for the "French Part Deux" trip

Weather – Temp H/L in F, Rain mm//days. [Site here](#)

Collioure (42.5268° N, 3.0846° E): July 81/68, 20//03; Aug 79/70, 30//03; Sept 75/63, 30//05

Marseille (43.2965° N, 5.3698° E): July 84/66, 10//03; Aug 84/64, 10//05; Sept 79/61, 30//07

Barolo (44.6088° N, 7.9403° E): July 81/68, 20//03; Aug 79/70, 30//03; Sept 75/63, 30//05

Geneva (46.2044° N, 6.1432° E): July 79/55, 100//13; Aug 77/55, 70//12; Sept 72/52, 100//13

Colmar (48.0794° N, 7.3585° E): July 81/55, 60//08; Aug 77/55, 50//08; Sept 70/50, 50//08

Dijon (47.3220° N, 5.0415° E): July 77/57, 60//13; Aug 77/57, 60//13; Sept 72/52, 70//13

Europe 2023 Itinerary

			Schengen	Croatia	France	Czech	Hungary	Car	checksum		
			89	23	41	4	5	60	73	Total includes +1 for final Schengen day flying out	
	Months		2.9	0.8	1.3	0.1	0.2	2.0	2.4	Car: Max 30 days on CC else get insurance, or swi	
							79.5	0			Aug
Start	From	To	Nights	City	Country	Car?	Hrs	Km	Notes	High	Low
Sunday	9-Jul	12-Jul	4	Prague	Czechia	0			Explore city, stay longer if can?		
Thursday	13-Jul	13-Jul	1	Train	Poland	0	7		Sleeper car Prague to Krakow, depart 10pm, arrive 5am.		
Friday	14-Jul	16-Jul	3	Krakow	Poland	0	7		Explore the city, churches, jewish quarter		
Monday	17-Jul	17-Jul	1	Train	Hungary	0	8		Sleeper train Krakow to Budapest, depart 10:45pm arrive 8:30am		
Tuesday	18-Jul	21-Jul	4	Budapest	Hungary	0	8		Nightlife and architecture in Buda and Pest		
Saturday	22-Jul	22-Jul	1	Zagreb	Croatia	0	7		6 hr direct train during day, stay 1 N and pickup car in am		
Sunday	23-Jul	25-Jul	3	Bled	Slovenia	3	2		City, Lake Bled		
Wednesday	26-Jul	27-Jul	2	Ljubljana	Slovenia	2	2		City, Lake Bled		
Friday	28-Jul	30-Jul	3	Rovinj	Croatia	3	1.5		Enjoy swimming and old town		
Monday	31-Jul	6-Aug	7	Baska Voda	Croatia	7	6.5		Drive around Split and then along coast thru Omis to BV		
Monday	7-Aug	18-Aug	12	Bol	Croatia	0	1+2		Drop car in Split, ferry to Bol, relax		
Saturday	19-Aug	19-Aug	1	Lyon	France	0	2+1+Fly		Eat at a bouchon, sleep, get car and drive		
Sunday	20-Aug	16-Sep	28	Collioure	France	28	5		Enroute Chauvet or Pont du Gard. Swim, run, cook, relax, explore by car		
Sunday	17-Sep	19-Sep	3	Marseille	France	3	4		Old town harbor and food		
Wednesday	20-Sep	20-Sep	1	Verdon NP	France	1	2		Hike! And observatory		
Thursday	21-Sep	23-Sep	3	Barolo	Italy	3	5.5		Wine!		
Sunday	24-Sep	25-Sep	2	Geneva	Switzerland	2	4.5		See city, lake boat?		
Tuesday	26-Sep	30-Sep	5	Colmar	France	5	4		Bike Wineries, visit Strasbourg		
Sunday	1-Oct	3-Oct	3	Dijon	France	3	3				
Wednesday	4-Oct	3-Oct	0	Lyon	France	0	2.5				
Wednesday	4-Oct	5-Oct	1	Fly to Tokyo	Japan	0					

Aug 19 – Aug 20: Lyon 1N (Sat – Sun). Early ferry, direct flight SPU 12:20 - 14:30 LYS. Bouchon dinner, pickup car.

Lyon: pronounced “Lee-onne” with even syllables. known as the Gastronomic capital of France, with great wine from nearby Burgundy and Beaujolais regions. Near the Alps and Cote d’Azure.

We will stay in the UNESCO-listed **Presque’île**. **Presque’île** is the land surrounded by the two rivers of Saône and Rhône. It has the opera house, cafes, beautiful architecture, and shopping at Rue de la République.

Traditional Cuisine at what are called *bouchons*, the best are awarded the label *Authentique Bouchon Lyonnais*, especially around Presqu’île. Try all the local specialties, like Cervelle de Canut (French cheese with herbs, shallots, oil and salt) or Gateau de Volaille (chicken liver cake).

Ideas: [Kim-Kim](#), [Rick Steves](#), [offthetouristtreadmill](#). See also “The French Trip” itinerary and post.

Ferry: [Buy online ahead – Bol-Split \(6:30am\)](#). See the [schedule here](#) for options and tix.

To SPU: [taxi is about 45-60 min](#)

Flight: [Croatia Airlines](#) OU4474 SPU-LYS Depart Saturday Aug 19 12:20pm | Arrive Saturday Aug 9 14:25

Transit: [Taxi is ~45min](#)

Stay: Aparthotel Adagio Lyon Patio Confluence, [booking](#)

Evening: walk the old town, bouchon dinner (Fiston or Le Musee... see also [Google Maps](#)). Reserve ahead! Find a few *Péniche* bars (bars on boats used to transport goods).

Runs: Run-see 6m - <https://greatruns.com/lyon-france-lyon-tour-and-fourviere/>

Rhone - <https://greatruns.com/lyon-france-rhone-river-run/> (combine with Parc... D’or)

D’Or Parc - <https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/fullscreen/1825658864/> (combine Rhone)

Saone - <https://greatruns.com/lyon-france-saone-river-run/>

Next: Collioure

Europe 2023 Itinerary

Aug 20 – Sept 17: Collioure 28N (Sun – Sun). Pont Du Guard/Chauvet/Nimes enroute. La vie en France!

Collioure: There's no important sight here except what lies on the beach and the views over Collioure.

For more than 2,500 years, people have battled to control its enviable position on the Mediterranean at the foot of the Pyrenees. The mountains rising behind Collioure provide a natural defense, and its port gives it a commercial edge, making Collioure an irresistible target.

The area around Collioure was first settled by early Celtic tribes, and later was used as a port by Phoenicians, Greek and Roman traders. Throughout the Pax Roma the village was a backwater port. In the 10th century the area grew in strength and power, and was the home to the counts of Roussillon and the Kings of Majorca; and a fortress was built to be used by the Majorca as a summer residence in the 13th and 14th centuries. Here many crusading knights visited the port on the way to the Holy Lands. It was because of this that the region has been closely associated with the Knights Templar, and when the rumors of the treasures of the Templars began.

A string of forts defended Collioure's landlocked side. Panning from left to right, you'll see the low-slung remains of a 17th-century fort, the still-standing Fort St. Elme (built by powerful Spanish king and Holy Roman Emperor Charles V) at the top of a hill, and then the 2,100-foot-high observation tower of Madeloc, capping the mountain peak. Topping the village to the far right is the 18th-century citadelle, Fort Mirador, now home to a French Marine base and commando training center. Scattered ruins crown other hilltops.

The town was batted back and forth between the French and Spanish for centuries. Locals just wanted to be left alone—as Catalans. Most still do today; notice the yellow-and-red Catalan flag flying above the château.

After years of obscurity, Collioure was rediscovered by artists drawn to its pastel houses and lovely setting. Henri Matisse, André Derain, Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Raoul Dufy, and Marc Chagall were all inspired to paint here at one time or another. You may recognize Collioure in paintings in museums across Europe.

Ideas: see RS France (including excerpts above, also from TripAdvisor)

Transit: [Taxi is ~45min](#)

Car: AutoEurope Citroen C3 Aircross Diesel manual with GPS

Enroute: [about 5hrs](#), late picnic at Pont du Gard enroute! (~½-way point) ~~Chauvet adds 1½ hrs~~

Stay: Private apartment contract, Collioure, France

Day -----

- La Vie en France!

Runs: My own route from [Collioure to Port Vendres](#) – 4-5mi along the coast
Other routes TBD. Options found at: [Wikiloc](#), [ahotu](#), [Komoot](#), [AllTrails](#), [Pacer](#).

Next: Marseille

Europe 2023 Itinerary

Sept 17 – Sept 20: Marseille 3N (Sun – Wed). Vieux Port Marseille, fish market, cuisine

Marseille: Marseille (mar-say) is both the Naples and the Barcelona of France. Big and gritty, it has all the color and pitfalls that come with being a seaport. It's a place with a distinct culture, a proud spirit, and a populace determined to clean up its act. Historic buildings have been renovated, cultural centers opened, daringly modern buildings erected, a sleek new tram rolled out, and the once rough-and-tumble harbor has blossomed into an inviting and fun-loving pedestrian zone. It was the European Capital of Culture in 2013.

Marseille is France's oldest (600 B.C.) and second biggest city with a history that goes back to ancient Greece. It is a melting pot of immigrants, particularly from North Africa, and it shows in cuisine and culture.

Focus on the area immediately around the Old Port (Vieux Port) and a main boulevard (La Canebière). The Panier district is the old town, blanketing a hill that tumbles down to the port. The harborside is a lively, broad promenade lined with inviting eateries, amusements, and a morning fish market.

Cuisine: Moroccan food in the North African market or Panier areas. [Iconic local foods](#) include *bouillabaisse* of course, *aioli* with veg and fish, *pastis* (anise liqueur), *la soupe au pistou* (similar to minestrone but with basil), *fougasse* bread (laced with olives, anchovies, herbs, tomatoes, etc), *anchoiade* (paste) and olive tapenade (for the bread or crudité), *chichi frégi* (orange blossom street-food donuts), and *ratatouille*.

[Additionally](#), *Taureau de Camargue* (lean, often served tartare), *navettes* (orange flavored cookies), *Riz de Camargue* (local brown rice), *pieds paquets* (feet and tripe, no thanks), *soupe de poisson à la rouille* (similar to bouillabaisse), *vermouth*, *pican* (orange liqueur), *Ricard* (anise liqueur),

Ideas: [Road Affair](#), [KimKim](#). See RS "Marseille City Walk" in RS [Provence & French Riviera](#) (Kindle)

Enroute: [Route is about 4hrs](#), perhaps stop at Nimes or Arles enroute for lunch?

Stay: Sous le Clocher via [booking](#)

Day -----

- Arrive, dinner in old port

Day -----

- Run, get fish (market closes by 1pm), then RS City Walk (4 hours, probably 6 for us!).

Day -----

- Petite Train - The better Notre-Dame de la Garde route (#1) saves you the 30-minute climb to the basilica's fantastic view and runs along a nice section of Marseille's coastline. €8; allow 80 minutes for round-trip, including 20-30 minutes at the Cathedral
- Boat to Iles du Frioule?

Runs: [Kennedy Corniche](#) – 6mi. A gorgeous coastal run to the Plage du Prado.

[Parc Borély](#) – 8mi. Add to end of corniche; a major national garden with some lovely trails.

Next: Verdon NP

Europe 2023 Itinerary

Sept 20 – Sept 21: Verdon Regional Nature Park 1N (Wed – Thurs). Hike and Observatory

Verdon Regional Nature Park: Hike the Lower Gorge, drive La Route des Crêtes of Verdon, SUP, boat?

The Gorges du Verdon is one of the largest canyons in Europe. The canyon was created over hundreds of thousands of years when the Verdon River carved a pathway through limestone cliffs over the course of 15.5 miles. Some of the cliffs reach a staggering 700 metres high. The unique colour of the water is the result of algae and fluoride reacting in the water. The river Verdon then empties out into the Lake of Sainte-Croix, a man-made lake that was created in the 1970s.

Ideas: [Solo Sophie](#), [Salt in our Hair](#)

Hike: Hike [Lower Verdon Gorge](#), 6 miles and 1000' elevation, swim in the gorge! About 90min [enroute](#)
Note: if it's not a good day to hike, we can drive La Route des Crêtes of Verdon, see [Smooth](#)

Drive: 60min [scenic drive](#) around the lake to Moustiers Sainte-Marie before our stay, or 30min [direct drive](#)
If we want, we could rent an [electric no-license boat](#) near the hike and enjoy the river a bit more

Stay: Appt T1 "Capella" de l'observatoire via [booking](#)

Day -----

- Hike then SUP/Boat/drive, dinner at stay
- Visit the observatory for free at night! Host only in French (no English), but very cool!

Next: Barolo

Europe 2023 Itinerary

Sept 21 – Sept 24: Barolo Wine Region in Piedmont 3N (Thurs – Sun). Known for wine, truffles, and hazelnuts

Piedmont: The region (Pee-ah-MON-tay) is known for producing some of the most exceptional wines in the world, including Barolo, Barbaresco, and Dolcetto. These wines are famous for their complexity and flavor.

- **Langhe** - The Langhe region is located just south of Alba and is known for producing some of the best Barolo and Barbaresco wines in the world. The region is characterized by its rolling hills, vineyards, and small, picturesque villages. *Barolo* (wine), *La Morra* (vineyard walks), *Neive* (beauty), *Cherasco* (snails).
- **Roero** - The Roero region is located north of Alba and is known for its elegant, fruity wines made from Nebbiolo, and also for its white wines made from the Arneis grape, which have a crisp, refreshing flavor.
- **Monferrato** - The Monferrato region is located east of Alba and is known for its Barbera wines. The region is also famous for its truffles and has a rich culinary tradition.
- **Asti** - The Asti region is located southeast of Alba and is known for its sparkling wines made from the Moscato grape (Asti Spumante). The region is characterized by rolling hills, vineyards, and historic towns.

Barolo DOCG: *La Morra* and *Barolo*, with limestone-based soils, are lighter in style. The communes of *Serralunga d'Alba*, *Monforte d'Alba*, and *Castiglione Falletto* are usually bolder with sandstone soils.

Barbaresco DOCG: The soils in the *Barbaresco* AOC are mostly limestone-based, which means less tannin (like *La Morra* and *Barolo* above). The climate has less of a diurnal shift, which produces grapes that ripen sooner and have thinner skins. As a result, Barbaresco tends to have less tannin, color, and phenolics (a.k.a. aroma compounds), and are usually lighter tasting and less tannic than Barolo.

Aside from wine, the UNESCO World Heritage city of Alba also boasts stunning architecture and rich history.

The Slow Food Movement started here; it emphasizes the importance of using local, sustainable ingredients in cooking. Alba is home to several Michelin-starred restaurants, serving traditional Piedmontese cuisine with a modern twist. You can also enjoy truffle hunting, cheese tasting, and the famous white truffle festival, which takes place every autumn. Also, Alba is where Nutella was created!

Local foods include *plin* and *tajarin* (filled fresh egg pastas), *bagna chauda* (dip for veg), and truffles!

Ideas: [Wine Folly](#), [Wine Folly Piedmont](#), [Tour](#) (for ideas), [Gotta](#), [Honeymoon](#), [NYT](#), [Winalist](#), [StradadelBarolo](#) ("Barolo Wine Trail", an excellent local resource I found in [Forbes](#)). [Amanda](#) for tasting locations

Drive: ~5hrs [mountain route or Cote d'Azur](#). Enroute possibly Cannes, Nice, Monaco, or drive cliffs above

Stay: Abbazia delle Sorrell via [booking](#)

Day -----

- Wine tasting on our own. We probably need to call ahead, and plan only two per day. Good options:
 - o Tasting at [Ceretto Winery](#) – vertical or shades of Nebbiolo (see GM green flag)
 - o Tasting at [Boroli Winery](#) – also excellent options (see GM green flag)
 - o Tasting at [GD Vajra Family Winery](#) – see GM Green Flag, right outside Barolo
- Visit Alba for a walk through town to see the Alba Cathedral, Piazza Duomo, and the Wine Museum.

Day -----

- Hikes in the area of [La Morra](#) (check [AllTrails](#) also)
- Visit the Giant Benches for views (see Google Maps "want to go" green flags)
- Visit [Castle of Grinzane Cavour](#) (GM Green flag) for wine tasting, products, castle, and truffle, great restaurant for lunch/dinner?
- Visit Enoteca Regionale del Barolo (GM green flag) in Barolo village for wine tasting

Run: My own [Novello-Barolo](#) – 6mi, about 600' gentle. Or [Novello Loop](#) on komoot – 4mi (need app) [From Novello](#) (stay) on Wikiloc - 4mi hilly -or- [Barolo loop](#) on Wikiloc – 5mi with a hilly 750'

Next: Geneva

Europe 2023 Itinerary

Sept 24 – Sept 26: Geneva 2N (Sun – Tues). Old Geneva and the Lake!

Geneva: The city is the world's center of international diplomacy. The original League of Nations was based here, and it is currently home to the Red Cross, WHO, UNICEF, WTO, CERN, Doctors without Borders, UNHCR, and nearly 30 other organizations, many part of the United Nations located at *Palais des Nations*.

Geneva was an independent republic from at least the 16th century until it became a Swiss Canton in 1813.

In 1536, a young man named John Calvin, fleeing the persecution of Protestants in France, spent a night in Geneva. After being expelled from Geneva for nearly three years, Calvin returned triumphantly in 1541 to help elevate the city to the rank of a Protestant Rome. The intellectual influence of the Reformation extends to all realms of local life: politics, economy, and administration.

Despite its interior location Geneva has an oceanic climate with some moderation coming from Lake Geneva. Winters in Geneva are mild for Swiss standards but damp and rainy, and prone to ice storms. The city has the lowest quantity and frequency of snow of all Swiss major cities with an average 32cm falling and 8 days with snowfall each year. Summers are pleasantly warm with around 25°C (75°F) temperatures during the day and 15°C (60°F) during the night. It is infrequently very hot.

Due to the strength of the Swiss Franc and demand from international visitors, it is a very expensive city. French is the official language, though English, German, and Italian are common.

Cuisine: Unique Geneva cuisine includes *cardons* (a thistle-like vegetable related to artichoke), *Pain Genevois*, *Longeole* sausage (fennel seasoned served with potatoes and lentils or gratin de cardons), *rissoles aux poires* (pear tart), *tarte aux pruneaux* (prunes) which is [served on Jeûne Genevois \(Geneva Fast\)](#), a day of prayer, remembrance, and atonement (Sept 7 in 2023). Historically, pies were a frugal meal prepared a day ahead; it was the only food of the day. Now the pies are often the dessert. Why plums? The season!

Ideas: [Road Affair](#)

Drive: ~4hrs [drive under Mont Blanc](#), with hiking enroute at Gran Paradiso (Italy) or near Chamonix. *Stop at Bizes Café in Chamonix for lunch?*

Stay: Hotel Suisse via [booking](#)

Day -----

- An old-town walk including: Place du Bourg-de-Four, Frankenstein Monument, Park Anglais, Flower Clock, Outdoor Baths, “Les Schtroumpfs” (“the smurfs”, buildings with Gaudi-like architecture), St. Pierre cathedral, Parc des Bastions and its Reformation Wall, Jet d’Eau, Brunswick Monument, Palais des Nations, Halle de Rive, and high-end window shopping along Rue du Rhone.
- Possibly visit CERN, but need to book ahead. See [Visit Cern](#) and [Trip Memos](#). They fill quickly, no on-line reservation, last 90 min. [Exhibitions](#) are more readily available and free.
- Visit the neighborhood of Carouge, which was shaped by Italian influences with cafes, bookshops, and antique stores that line its traditional streets. It is the bohemian quarter of Geneva, with its differences from the rest of the city lending it even more character.

Run: My own “[Runseeing Tour](#)” on GM – 7-8mi to and from Hotel Suisse with all the highlights [GR Options](#) are here, including North and South shore, and the [Arve River](#) at ~7mi (with to/from)

Next: Colmar

Europe 2023 Itinerary

Sept 26 – Oct 01: Colmar in Alsace 5N (Tues – Sun). Bike and wine in Alsace

Alsace: Alsace has changed hands between Germany and France many times since the time of Charlemagne because of its location, natural wealth, naked vulnerability. Germany, of course, considered the mountains the natural border, while the French saw the Rhine as the dividing line. We will hear German spoken in Colmar, from numerous tourists Germany and Switzerland, but also natives speaking their German Alsatian dialect. They curse in both languages.

Cuisine: Food and wine are the primary industry, topic of conversation, and perfect excuse for countless festivals. Notable are *flammkuchen*, sauerkraut and *sausage, poulet a riesling, baeckeoffe* (the original crock-pot casserole, see RS), *rösti* (oven-baked potato-and-cheese), *spätzle, quenelles, foie gras*, and trout.

Wine: Colmar is known as “The capital of Alsatian Wine”. The area produces notable dry Rieslings and highly aromatic Gewürztraminer wines. AOCs include Alsace AOC, Alsace Grand Cru AOC, and Crémant d'Alsace AOC for sparkling wines. The vineyards are concentrated in a narrow strip, running in a roughly north–south direction, on the lower eastern slopes of the Vosges west of the Rhine. As a result of it's location on a geological fault, the soils are quite varied. The Vosges mountains tend to shelter Alsace from rain and maritime influence, so the region has one of the driest climates in France (~24” of precipitation annually, compared to 38” at home and 43” Charlotte).

Ideas: See White Wine/Black Forrest plan for stuff we missed, plus RS

Drive: ~4 hrs [thru Switzerland](#). Stop at [Habsburg Castle](#) or Frog Museum, or revisit Bern, Basel or Freiburg?

Stay: Petite Venise Gite St. Pierre via [booking](#)

Day -----

- **Enjoy Colmar and Petite Venice!** The market, wine shops, and canals. See RS Old Town Walk,
- **Bike part of the Alsace Wine Trail.** Two rental/self-guided tours with [Alsacyclotours](#) and [LeVeloLibre](#).
 - o A bike path runs south from Colmar to Eguisheim following the river for a stretch, and connects to a beautiful wine-service lanes south from Eguisheim through Husseren to Guebenschwihr.
- **Drive more of the Alsace Wine Trail.** RS has a good guide to local grapes, wine tasting, and each of the small towns pinned on GM. Specific wineries are also recommended.
- **Visit the *Unterlinden Museum*,** situated in a medieval convent. Entry fee includes an excellent audio guide for many of the paintings. Exhibits include. furniture, armor, paintings, knitted carpets, and silverware, but the highlight is definitely the *Isenheim Altarpiece* by revolutionary Alsatian Renaissance painter Gruenewald, who was shockingly modern and inventive this painter was.

Run: [Colmar Canal Cycle Route](#) on AT – up to 18mi out/back, [plus 1mi to and from](#) on GM

Next: Dijon

Europe 2023 Itinerary

Oct 01 – Oct 04: Dijon in Burgundy 3N (Sun – Wed). Mustard, Pinot Noir, and final French sun before Asia.

Dijon: In the 14th and 15th centuries, this UNESCO city was once the seat for the Dukes of Burgundy, who controlled much of what is now northeastern France, western Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. The dukes were great patrons of the arts, so Dijon was a major centre of Gothic and early Renaissance music, painting, and sculpture, attracting some of the greatest and most famous artists and musicians.

The owl (la chouette) is the icon of Dijon, sculpted on the side of the Notre-Dame church, perhaps as early as the 16th century. According to local legend, the owl can grant you a wish when you touch it with your left hand when passing it from the left. However, there is a dragon hiding in the church window to the left of the owl, which supposedly eats your wish if you touch the owl passing from the wrong direction.

Key sights are along the Owl Trail, and include the *Palace of the Dukes* (with *Musee de Beaux-Arts* inside), the *International Cité of Gastronomy and Wine*, *Les Halles Market* (Tues/Fri/Sat), *Notre Dame* and *St. Michael's* churches, *Champ du Mars* and *Jardin Darcy*.

Cuisine: The city is also famous, of course, for burgundy wine (Pinot Noir and Chardonnay). The most renowned food specialties are coq au vin, beef bourguignon, fondue bourguignonne, escargots de Bourgogne, la matelote d'anguille à la bourguignonne (eels stewed in wine sauce), gougères (cheese puffs) and mustard! Sweet specialties include dragées d'anis de Flavigny (anise-flavored candies), spice bread from Dijon, and "Belle Dijonnaise" pear (poached in wine).

Wine: Burgundy wine has been renowned for centuries. Reds are invariably Pinot Noir, and whites Chardonnay. Only terroir gives the distinct flavors; Cote du Rhone and Bordeaux have varietal blends also.

Ideas: [Favorite Escapes](#), [France Voyager](#)

Drive: ~3hrs [drive plus stop](#) to see Bartholdi's Lions sculpture

Stay: La Suite Indivio – Apt standing vue cathédrale via [booking](#)

Day -----

- Finish the [Owl Trail](#), see *Palace of the Dukes*, *Musee des Beaux-Arts*, and of course [Fallot](#) for mustard!
- Culinary – *International Cité of Gastronomy and Wine*, *Cave du Palais*, *Pain d'Epices* at Mulot et Petitjean
- Revisit *Les Halle* market designed by Dijon-born Gustave Eiffel (Tues/Fri/Sat, indoor stalls only Thurs)
- Pack for Japan!

Run: [Lac Kir and Botanical Garden](#) on GR – 5-6mi, [plus to and from](#) on GM
[Runseeing Tour](#) on GR – 6mi, very close to stay
[Bourgogne a Velo](#) bike paths on GR – miles and miles

Next: Fly to Tokyo!

Oct 04 – Oct 05: Flight to Tokyo 1N (Wed – Thurs). Drive to Lyon, drop car, and fly east!

Morning – run, breakfast and final pack for Japan. Depart by 10:30am for ~3hr early check-in for flight

Drive – ~2hrs [drive to car drop](#). Drop Jean and bags prior to rental return?

Car – noon drop-off. Ppd. [AutoEurope](#)

Transit – airport shuttle

Fly Info Qatar Airways Lyon-Doha, Doha-Tokyo (LSY-DOH, DOH-NRT)