Alsace Hike
September 8 to 16, 2017

“The entire trip was exceptional...and executed flawlessly.”

—Nancy Strecker, Burgundy and Alsace Walk, 2015
ENJOY SEVEN DAYS AMONGST THE MOUNTAINS, PLAINS AND VINEYARDS OF ALSACE, one of France’s most picturesque and tranquil regions. From Frankfurt, Germany, cross the border into France to stop in Obernai before hiking to the lovely village of Itterswiller. Continue south along the edge of the Vosges Mountains past medieval castles, including the castle of Haut Koenigsburg. Travel through the forests of Saint-Hippolyte, the wine villages of the Ribeauvillé-Riquewihr region and along the Route des Crêtes, taking in the spectacular terrain and scenery of the Rhine River Valley.
Faculty Leader

David M. Kennedy, ’63, is the Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History, emeritus, and founding director of the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford. Professor Kennedy has long taught both undergraduate and graduate courses ranging from the 20th-century history of the United States to the comparative development of democracy in Europe and America. Professor Kennedy’s research is notable for its integration of economic and cultural analysis with social and political history. He fondly recalls spending an unforgettable summer in an intensive German-language course at the Goethe Institute in Staufen, in the High Black Forest just across the Rhine from our route. He has hiked much of the region and has also visited many of its WWI-related sites while conducting research for his book, Over Here: The First World War and American Society (Oxford University Press, 25th Anniversary Edition, 2004; 1980) for which he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1981.

- Member of the Stanford faculty since 1967
- Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, 1988; Hoagland Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2005; Richard W. Lyman Award for faculty service, 1988; Organization of American Historian’s Distinguished Service Award, 2007; Wilbur Cross Medal, Yale University, 2008
- BA, 1963, history, Stanford University
- MA, 1964, and PhD, 1968, American studies, Yale University

Itinerary

Friday & Saturday, September 8 & 9
Depart U.S. / Frankfurt, Germany / Obernai, France
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Frankfurt. Upon arrival on Saturday, drive south to the little town of Obernai in Alsace. This evening, join fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner in our hotel. HOTEL DU PARC (9/9: D)

Sunday, September 10
Obernai / Itterswiller
Drive this morning to the Mont Sainte-Odile Abbey, located high above the surrounding lands in the Vosges Mountains and now the spiritual home of Alsace. We visit the sanctuary before starting our hike that leads through forests and high pastures and down to the famous Alsace vineyards, enjoying classic Alsace countryside views of mountain and vines along the way. Spend the next two nights in a delightful village inn in Itterswiller. HOTEL ARNOLD (B,L,D) Morning: 6 miles; afternoon: 8 miles.

Monday, September 11
Chatenois / Itterswiller
We leave our hotel on foot today to make our way southwards along the base of the Vosges Mountains. Today’s hike leads us through vineyards and low hills with views of the château studded mountains to our right and the great plain of the Rhine valley to the left. After our picnic lunch, we climb past medieval castles perched on a ridge before descending to the village of Chatenois to return by coach to our hotel. HOTEL ARNOLD (B,L,D) Morning: 6 miles; afternoon: 6 miles.
Tuesday, September 12
**Chatenois / Saint-Hippolyte**
We return to Chatenois this morning to start our hike to the hilltop castle of Haut Koenigsburg. This magnificent edifice, restored by the German Kaiser in the first years of the 20th century, is now a fine example of the decoration of the period. After lunch we descend through the forests of Saint-Hippolyte before arriving at our hotel in the small town of the same name. Saint-Hippolyte is well situated near some of the most famous wineries in Alsace. **HOTEL LE PARC (B,L,D)** *Morning: 6.5 miles; afternoon: 6 miles.*

Wednesday, September 13
**Ribeauvillé / Riquewihr / Kaysersberg / Saint-Hippolyte**
Today we hike along the foothills of the Vosges Mountains, passing through exceptionally charming wine villages along our route, which leads us first to Ribeauvillé then on to the impossibly pretty Riquewihr and finally to picturesque Kaysersberg. These communes are located in the Ballons des Vosges Regional Natural Park, one of the largest and most populated of France’s 51 regional parks. Return to our hotel in Saint-Hippolyte for the evening. **HOTEL LE PARC (B,L,D)** *Morning: 5.5 miles; afternoon: 5 miles.*

Thursday, September 14
**Col du Linge / Colmar**
Our hike this morning begins from the Col du Calvaire and travels along the Vosges’ ridgeline high above the plain of the Rhine River to the east. We climb past mountain lakes and cross moorland before hiking down to the banks of a lake for lunch. From here we continue our descent down a side ridge to reach the Col du Linge, site of an important encounter in World War I. Later continue by coach to the delightful town of Colmar, where we check in to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure. **HOTEL LE MARÉCHAL (B,L)** *Morning: 6 miles; afternoon: 7 miles.*

Friday, September 15
**Route des Crêtes / Colmar**
Our final hike leads from the end of yesterday’s hike along the Route des Crêtes, built during the First World War as a military road. Today it provides superb access to some of the finest scenery in France where, if the weather is clear, we can view both the Alps in the distance and the nearby Vosges Mountains. Our hike takes us along the ridge to a remote farmhouse for lunch, after which we continue to the pass at Herrenberg. We return by coach to our hotel where we gather for a farewell reception and dinner. **HOTEL LE MARÉCHAL (B,L,D)** *Morning: 6 miles; afternoon: 7 miles.*

Saturday, September 16
**Colmar / Frankfurt, Germany / U.S.**
After breakfast at our hotel, transfer from Colmar to Frankfurt Airport for flights back to the U.S. (B)
What to Expect

This program is a hike rather than a walk, which means that the days are substantially longer and more difficult than on our typical walking trips. We consider this to be a very strenuous and physically demanding program. All participants must be physically fit, in good health and in good hiking condition. You need to be active, agile and capable of walking 8 to 15 miles a day, or six to seven hours, for six consecutive days over rough and varied terrain in order to participate. You should be prepared for long ascents and descents that may last two or three hours on some days, with no more than 3,700 feet of elevation gain/loss in one day. The Vosges Mountains do not reach a significant altitude but there are constant changes in elevation along our route. All participants must be able to navigate rocky paths without the assistance of tour staff.

Participants should be prepared to do all of the hiking each day since there is no “sag wagon” and it’s not usually possible to skip a morning or afternoon hike and hitch a ride on the support vehicle to meet up with the group. Sturdy, well-fitting and broken-in hiking boots with ankle support are essential. You will need to carry a light daypack with raingear, camera, sunscreen, water bottle and extra layers. On some days it may be necessary to carry your own brown bag lunch. The primary focus of this trip is hiking, and although cultural or historic visits are sometimes included, this trip should be avoided by people for whom hiking in this wonderful scenery is not the main goal. All distances listed in the itinerary are approximate and subject to change. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Information

Dates
September 8 to 16 (9 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 26 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

Cost*
$6,695 per person, double occupancy
$7,595 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
• 7 nights of luxury hotel accommodations
• 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 6 dinners
• Welcome and farewell receptions
• Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and hotel staff for all group activities
• All tours as described in the itinerary
• Group transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
• Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
• Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
• Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
Not Included

- International and domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Lufthansa from San Francisco to Frankfurt is approximately $1,475 as of October 2016 and is subject to change without notice.

Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment

A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?alsace2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds

Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility

We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service
of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in November 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Contact Information

Visit us online to reserve space:

Questions? Call us at (650) 725-1093 or email us at travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

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