

Oxmog Strasbourg Trip – Agenda (draft) 12th to 17th August 2020

Wednesday

Leave Oxford after the morning rush hour. M40, M25, M26, M20 to Dover. Fill up at Dover and catch early afternoon ferry.

From Calais, head to Dunkerque, then Lille. We will try to fit in a visit to Mons, in Belgium. This is not far from the Auberge du XIXeme, where we arrive early evening. Dinner.

Thursday

Continue through Belgium down to Luxembourg. Fill up with cheap petrol, then continue through Germany and France. Once in the Alsace region, we will stop at Soufflenheim, one of two villages full of Alsace potteries. Visit and demonstration at a pottery. It is then a short run to Strasbourg and Chateau de Pourtales. Dinner in the restaurant at the gates to the Chateau. The Alsace dish Tarte Flambée is a regional speciality.

Friday

Head west out of Strasbourg to join the Route des Vins. Drive through various picturesque villages as we go southwards along the 'Route'. Stops yet to be decided, but will include at least one vineyard/winery/tastings. Back to the Chateau for dinner.

Saturday

Car-free day to visit Strasbourg. Take the tram from near the Chateau into central Strasbourg. First, a boat trip around Strasbourg. This gives a unique view of the city and European parliament. Suggest we then split up and explore the city independently, though anyone wishing to tag along with us will be welcome. Plenty to see: the Cathedral (the fit may climb up to the ramparts), Petit France, copious museums, shops. A pass can be purchased to include entry almost everywhere. Meet up early evening for aperitif and meal in the famous cheese restaurant, La Cloche a Fromage. Tram back to the Chateau when done.

Sunday

Return trip France, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium to the Auberge du XIXeme. Possible stop/visit on the way. Dinner at the hotel.

Monday

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Short road to Calais and ferry to Dover. M20, M26, M25, M40 to Oxford.

Costs

Still very provisional at this stage. We are aiming for £900 per couple in a car. This would include hotels, breakfasts, entry to visits, and planned meals. Excluded are petrol, ferry (some may use Tesco vouchers), tolls (<£20) and ad hoc refreshments.

Petrol

We have mentioned filling up a couple of times above. These are places we have found the best prices at appropriate locations, as petrol is relatively expensive in France.

Options

- 1) Travel independently. Join us at the Strasbourg Hotel Thursday evening, and leave Sunday morning. Possible to use French motorways and avoid overnight stops in Belgium.
- 2) If dates prove difficult, we can move to 19th to 24th August.