



Day 8: Freiburg

Highlights: Freiburg

Freiburg is without doubt one of Germany's most beautiful cities. That's not only because of its splendid colorful houses, or the impressive cathedral, but because it is also a gorgeous city for shopping. And of course everywhere you will find the old "Bächle" an unusual system of gutters that run throughout its center. These Bächle, were once used to provide water to fight fires and feed livestock. They have a constant flow of water diverted from the Dreisam River and were never intended to remove sewage, and even in the Middle Ages such use would lead to harsh penalties. During the summer, the running water provides a natural form of air conditioning, and offers a pleasant gurgling sound. It is said that if one accidentally falls or steps into a Bächle, they will marry a Freiburger, or 'Bobbele'. Daily Mileage: Distance: 58 km (36 miles).

This evening's hotel:

Hotel Oberkirch
Münsterplatz 22
79098 Freiburg

Tel: +49 (0)761 202 68 68

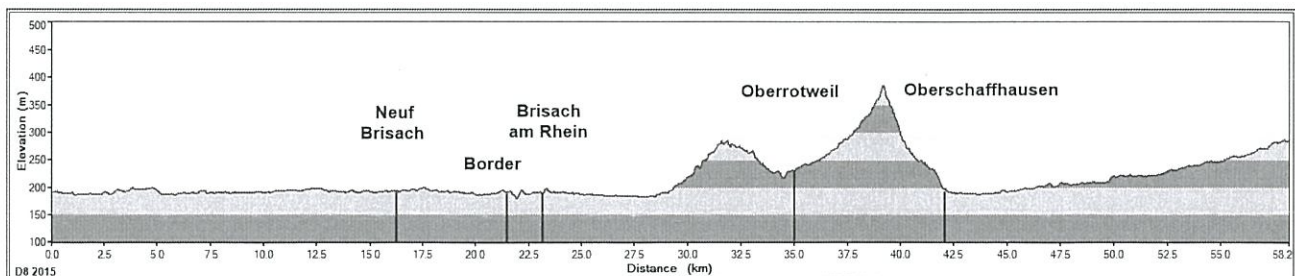
Tour leader phone numbers:

Philipp: +33 7 86 57 37 82
Jessica: +33 7 86 07 20 29

Loïc: +33 7 81 63 38 36

In an emergency call 112

Today's Ride: You head east through the interesting fortified town of Neuf Brisach and then across the Rhine River into Germany. The ride is mostly flat and our route has lots of bike path/route sections. Please note, you will have a few short sections of busier road crossing the Rhine into Germany. Then we'll head into the Kaiserstuhl, ride through vineyards and ride out of the hills into Freiburg.



Lunch and Dinner: You can buy some picnic supplies on your way out of Neuf Brisach and have a picnic somewhere along the Rhine or on the way. There'll be few options restaurants in Achkarren or in Oberrotweil. Dinner tonight is on your own.



You Might Like to Know: Our last town in France will be Neuf Brisach, a fortified town and a little out of the ordinary. Work on the city begun in 1698, to plans drawn by Vauban, a military engineer at the service of Louis XIV. The city's layout was that of an 'ideal city', with a regular square grid street pattern inside an octagonal fortification. Generous space was given to a central square across the four blocks at the middle, flanked by an impressive church. Individual blocks were offered for private development, either as affluent houses in private gardens, or as properties for commercial rent. Simpler housing was provided in long tenement blocks, built inside each curtain wall, which also had the effect of shielding the better houses from the risk of cannon fire. We will enter and exit Neuf Brisach through two of its large gateways in its principal curtain walls.

After exiting Neuf Brisach, enjoy pedaling across the Rhine River. The Rhine is Germany's longest river and, with the Danube, one of Europe's most important commercial rivers. Along with the Danube, the Rhine also formed the northernmost boundary of the Roman Empire. The Rhine rises in Switzerland and flows 820 miles to empty into the North Sea in The Netherlands where it merges with other rivers to form the largest delta and wetland area in northwest Europe.

We'll be riding into the hills of the Kaiserstuhl, one of the very famous wine regions around Freiburg and we'll see vineyards for the last time on our trip. Shortly after leaving the Kaiserstuhl we'll reach Freiburg. According to rumors, every second German would like to live in Freiburg. Even if this claim has never been seriously proven, there seems to be something to it. Anyone who visits Freiburg always comes back again. Perhaps it is due to the cobblestones or the Münster (cathedral) maybe it is because of the relaxing tranquility that makes everyone forget their troubles, or perhaps it is the beer gardens where you can fritter away whole summer days! It could also be because of the mild climate or the good wine, which thrives even right in the center of town.

Bike Safety Tip:

Shift your weight as you descend switchbacks on a mountain road: As you descend a curvy road you should constantly shift your weight so your outside pedal is down and your inside pedal is up. Lean your bike in the direction of your turn but shift your weight to the outside pedal so that almost all of your body weight is there. And keep your body low so the center of gravity is on your pedals. You should also slide your seat back, maybe even lift it off the saddle so most of your weight is on your pedals.

German Language Lesson of the Day:

I don't speak German: *Ich spreche kein Deutsch*

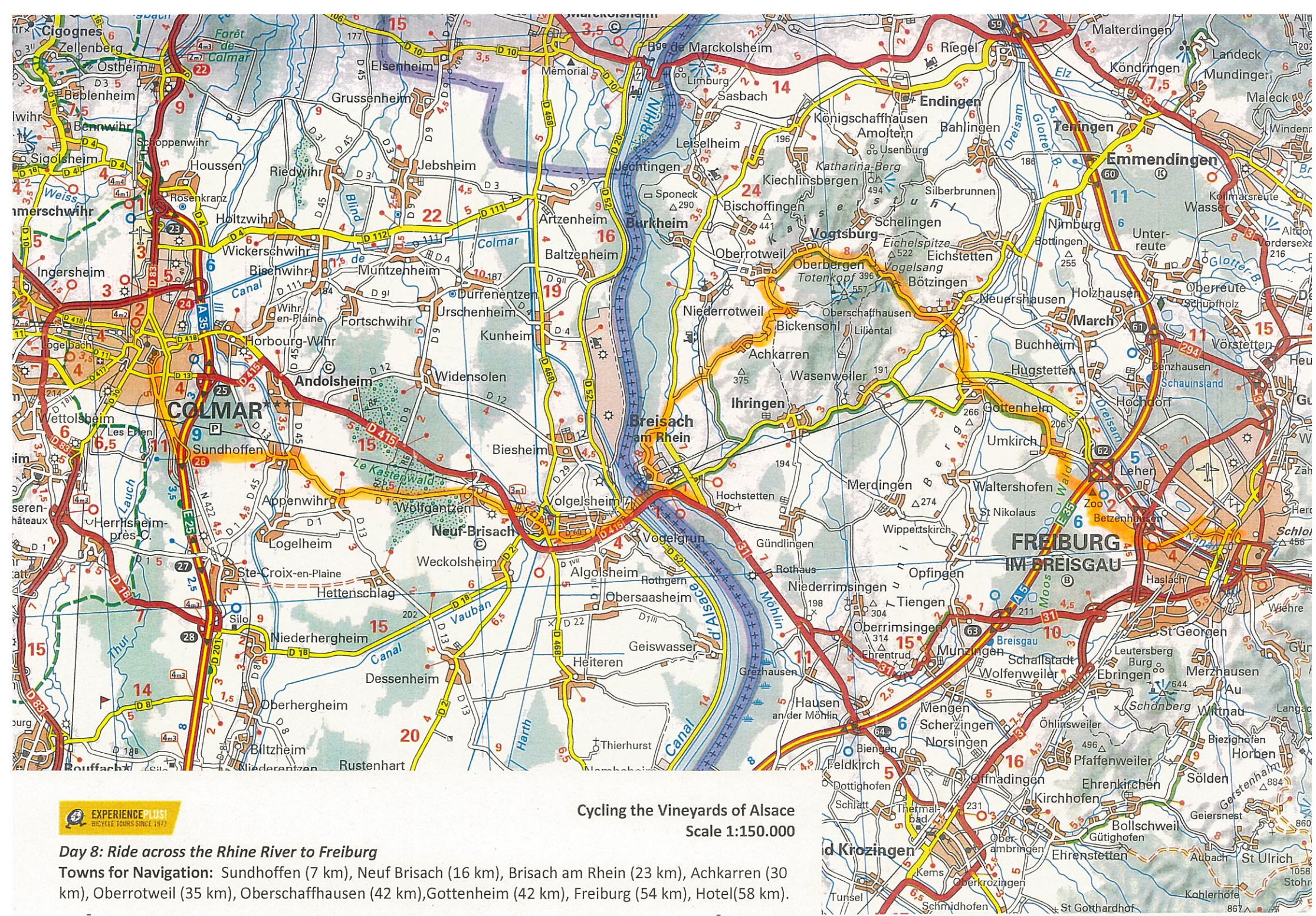
Hello: *Guten Tag* (literally, "good day")

Do you speak English?: *Sprechen Sie Englisch?*

Thank you : *Danke*

Thank you very much: *Danke schön*

Can you show me the road to...?: *Wo geht es nach ...?*



Cycling the Vineyards of Alsace
Scale 1:150.000

Day 8: Ride across the Rhine River to Freiburg

Towns for Navigation: Sundhoffen (7 km), Neuf Brisach (16 km), Breisach am Rhein (23 km), Achkarren (30 km), Oberrotweil (35 km), Oberschaffhausen (42 km), Gottenheim (42 km), Freiburg (54 km), Hotel (58 km).



Day 9: Freiburg

Highlights: Explore town by bike

We'll explore Freiburg by bike together on a guided city tour. You will explore the green city Freiburg with an alternative concept of mobility and lots of renewable energy, and leave you plenty of time to explore on your own. Or for those who really want to pedal and climb we have the perfect ride for you to tackle on your own. Distance: 0-45 km (0-28 miles).

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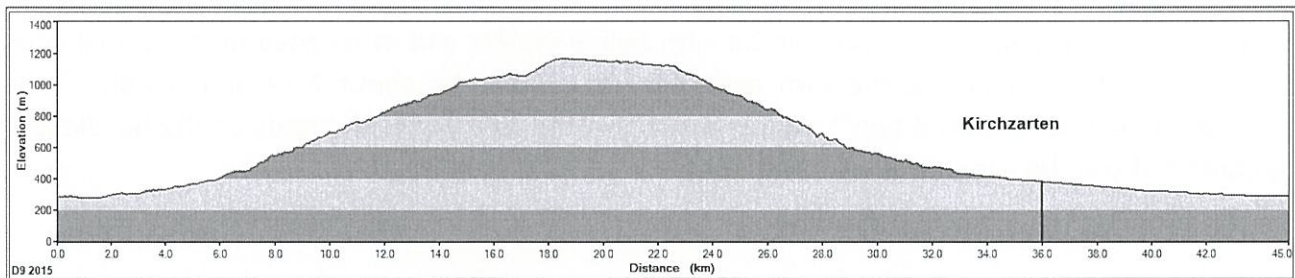
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Today's Ride: The "Tour" of Freiburg is a straight forward climb on top of the "Schauinsland" (*look into the country* would be the translation). This nearby mountain is still on the city limits of Freiburg and it is a great 20 km climb (900m elevation up to a restaurant with stunning and rewarding views and a gorgeous downhill back into Freiburg.



Lunch and Dinner: If you plan on exploring Freiburg – it offers a wide variety of great food from a Michelin star restaurant to the "Markthalle" (the old market hall) with 15 food stands from all over the world. For those who opt for the loop ride. Grab some picnic supplies or have something to eat at the top. We'll have dinner together tonight. We'll have dinner together tonight

You Might Like to Know: A word on the word "Munster" or "Münster" – how come, we come across a Munster that is a cheese and a Münster that is the cathedral of Freiburg as the one of Ulm, Regensburg and some others, or the city of Münster in northern Germany? In fact the word is a rendering of the Latin *monasterium* (monastery), which comes from the Greek word *μοναστήριον* – *monastērion*.

Other than for parish churches the word was used for churches that were part of a monastery and later often also used for the church of a bishop's see, the cathedral, because the life in a cathedral's chapter was organized like in a monastery. Eventually a Münster came to refer more generally to any large or important church, not long and villages and towns that grew around a monastery, an abbey or a cathedral were named Münster, too.



Actually the English word minster, like in Westminster Abbey, has the same etymology.

So in our case the Irish monks that came to the Alsace and founded a monastery and then produced the cheese gave name to the cheese and in Freiburg the fact that its church was a cathedral gave name to its Münster.

Tuniberg is a small wine growing area in the west of Freiburg. In the course of the municipal reforms, four villages bordering on the Tuniberg were incorporated into Freiburg. So from one day to the next the vine-growing area within the Freiburg town limits multiplied to 1.600 acres. Since then Freiburg is entitled to call itself 'Germany's largest wine town'. After all, three of the altogether eight cultivable districts of Baden meet within Freiburg's town limits: the Dreisam, which is next to Tuniberg in the west, and at Schlossberg, Breisgau's last vineyard ridge comes to an end just outside of the center of town. The vineyards of Schlierberg in the south belong to the Markgräfler district.

These three districts also represent the completely differing character of their products. The regions of Tuniberg and Breisgau can above all take pride in their vigorous Burgundies: the red 'Spätburgunder' that no longer has to take second place to French Burgundy which is twice as expensive, as well as the white 'Grauburgunder' and 'Weissburgunder' wines. Primarily the traditional 'Gutedel' vine is looked after in the Markgräflerland.

Bike Safety Tip:

Signaling: be as predictable as you can be with fellow cyclists and other road users. Signal your turns about 100 feet before the turn and hold your signal for about 2 seconds (count, "one thousand one, one thousand two"). When actually in the turn put both hands on the handlebars as control of your bike is critical when turning.

German Language Lesson of the Day:

Can I have a beer?: *Ich hätte gerne ein Beer*

Apple juice-spritzer: *Apfelsaft-Schorle*

Wine-spritzer: *Wein schorle?*

Black Forest Cake : *Schwarzwälderkirschtorte (what a beautiful long German word....)*

Coffee (black/ with milk): *Kaffee (schwarz/ Milchkaffee)*



Cycling the Vineyards of Alsace Plus! the Black Forest

Scale 1:150.000

Day 9: Loop ride from Freiburg

Towns for Navigation: Gunterstal (4 km), Oberried (32 km), Kirchzarten (36 km), Freiburg (45 km).

