



TAILORMADE CLASSIC ROUTES

type : Self-Guided Hiking Tours Caminos
 level : 
 duration : 9 days
 period: Jun Jul Aug Sep
 code: ITSM300

Via Francigena: Stage 1, Great St. Bernard Pass to Ivrea - Italy

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9 days, PRICE FROM € 1032



The first steps into Italy along the **Via Francigena Great St. Bernard Pass** are nothing less than spectacular: **snowy peaks all around**, a **glistening Alpine lake**, the ancient hostel that has welcomed pilgrims for centuries, and the crisp mountain air tickling your nose as you look around and realise your journey has truly begun.

This first section leads you through the **Roman city of Aosta**, peaceful mountain villages, wineries producing **renowned local white wines**, evocative castles and ancient Gallic roads all the way down to Ivrea, where the first typewriter was built by the visionary Olivetti.



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This itinerary is carried out with funding from Routes4U, a joint programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Sloways and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Routes4U joint programme.

Route

Day 1 Arrival in Grand St Bernard

Reaching the Gran San Bernardo Pass, you will find the "Hotel Italia", an ancient place where pilgrims found relief from their journey.

Day 2 From Grand St. Bernard to Etroubles, 13.5 km

From the San Bernardo Pass you arrive in Italy and continue on to the nice village of Etroubles, walking along the Via Francigena official route. The itinerary is on secondary trails rich in evocative landscapes with its small villages and the ancient avalanche shelter system. Some points could be a bit steep, but there are a couple of possible alternatives to do.

Distance: 13,5 km

Ascent/descent +217/-1446 m

Day 3 From Etroubles to Aosta, 15,5 km

Today you depart Etroubles to reach Aosta, where the pilgrims could worship Saint'Orso and Saint Grato's relics (nowadays they are patron of the whole Val d'Aosta). The walk promises a deep experience along the mountains, crossing meadows and pinewoods. Meet old refuges, the chapel used by the pilgrims, and follow the ancient stream "Ru Neuf". As the last part is on a descent path, it is possible to take a bus from Verrailles to Aosta.

Distance: 15,5 km

Ascent/descent +398/-1060 m

Day 4 From Aosta to Nus, 16 km

The route winds among castles and vineyards. You will flank the fine Quart castle, with its chapel dedicated to the local saint, Emerico. Along the approaching road you will be able to touch the semi-spherical engravings made in the rock by prehistoric men, the Coppelle, trying to imagine what they were used for, still surrounded by mystery.

Distance: 16 km

Ascent/descent: +544/-560 m

Day 5 From Nus to Saint Vincent, 17 km

You will walk for a long way alongside the Rus, ancient artificial canals which still water the crops on the mountainsides of the Valle d'Aosta. Between one vineyard and another, we recommend a stop at the Crotta de Vegneron at Chambave, a temple consecrated to the wines of the Valle d'Aosta. Once you arrive in Saint Vincent, you will be able to stop for a reinvigorating rest at the spa.

Distance: 17 km

Ascent/descent: +884/-832 m

Day 6 From Saint Vincent to Verres, 16.5 km

From Saint Vincent you will continue along the left side of the Valley, meeting along your way the very fine Saint Germain castle: you can admire its Mezzogiorno tower from under the impressive medieval walls, once a formidable defence tower belonging to the De Mongiovetto family which dominated the valley. From here you will travel along a short section of the ancient strada delle Gallie, before being enchanted by the splendid itineraries offered by the route as far as Verrès, which climbs up the side of the mountain. If you like castles, we recommend a visit of Issogne.

Distance: 16,5 km

Ascent/descent: +669/-927 m

Day 7 From Verres to Pont Saint Martin, 13 km

Today a brief journey in a time machine awaits you: at Arnad you will be able to emerge yourselves in the part of medieval pilgrims walking through the naves of the parish church of San Martino, before crossing the ancient Enchallod bridge. Or you can have fun looking for the tracks of Roman carriages in the stones of the ancient road of the Gauls, which will surprise you with a still perfectly preserved section leading to the gates of Donnas. If you like more recent history, visit Bard fort with its Museum of the Alps.

Distance: 13 km

Ascent/descent: +434/-446 m

Day 8 From Pont Saint Martin to Ivrea, 21 km

The alpine scenery gives way to the gentle Piedmont hills, among characteristic villages and sections surrounded by nature. Today's destination point is Ivrea: the old town centre will delight you with its fine castle and tall tower of Santo Stefano, but do not miss a walk through an open-air museum of modern architecture. For the gourmands, we recommend a break to taste the Novecento cake, a chocolate cake whose recipe is jealously guarded by the town's pastry-makers.

Distance: 21 km

Ascent/descent: +514/-636 m

Day 9 Arrivederci Ivrea!

Last day included, our services end after breakfast

Practical info



On arrival:

The closest International Airports to Aosta are Torino and Milano. These airports are served by both major and low cost international carriers and can be easily reached by local transport, which is affordable and offers a frequent service.

From any airports take the train or bus to reach the train station to take the train to Aosta.

On departure:

From Ivrea reach the airports by train and bus.



If you arrive by car, you can leave your car in one of the several pay and display unguarded parking areas in town.



Thanks to our special APP, you will be able to follow the track of the whole trip on your mobile phone, with no need for internet. GPS tracks are available on request.

Included

What is included

- 8 Nights in double room in **/** hotels , B&B and agriturismo with breakfast
- 2 dinners (Grand St. Bernard, Pont St Martin)
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- official guide of the route, App
- Pilgrim Passport
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated.
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- Cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.