



Alsace & Lorraine

HIGHLIGHTS

- Coming to grips with the drama of the **Verdun battlefields** (p148)
- Experiencing the sensory explosion of a Riesling decanted in an **Alsatian Wine Route** cellar (p138)
- Watching storks glide majestically above their rooftop nests in **Hunawihr** (p145) and other Alsatian towns
- Gawking at the unrivalled view from the top of the **Grand Ballon** (p145)

TERRAIN

Gently rolling in Alsace, although the Parc Naturel Régional des Ballons des Vosges is hilly; the Verdun battlefields are mainly rolling knolls and plains.

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www.tourisme-lorraine.fr

www.tourisme-alsace.com

Though often spoken of as if they were one, **Alsace and Lorraine**, neighbouring *régions* in France's northeastern corner, are linked by little more than a border through the Massif des Vosges (Vosges Mountains) and the imperialism of 19th-century Germany.

Charming and beautiful **Alsace**, long a meeting place of Europe's Latin and Germanic cultures, is nestled between the Vosges and the River Rhine – along which the long-disputed Franco-German border has at last found a final resting place. Popularly known as a land of storks' nests and colourful half-timbered houses sprouting geraniums, **Alsace** offers charming touring in and around its vineyards and gentle, forested mountains.

Lorraine, a land of prairies and forests popularly associated with quiche and de Gaulle's double-barred cross (*croix de Lorraine*), has little of the picturesque quaintness of **Alsace**. However, it is home to the battlefields of Verdun, an easy ride physically if not emotionally, which bear silent testimony to the destruction and insanity of WWI.

