

CICERONE

PILGRIM ROUTE

WALKING THE

VIA FRANCIGENA –

PART 2

Lausanne and the Great St Bernard Pass
to Lucca



VIA
FRANCIGENA

road to Rome

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



Sandy Brown

ROUTE SUMMARY TABLE

Stage number	Start/finish	Distance	Total ascent	Total descent	Duration	Page
1	Lausanne to Vevey	21.2km	363m	366m	6hr	39
2	Vevey to Aigle	24.8km	253m	200m	6½hr	47
3	Aigle to Saint-Maurice	17.2km	417m	414m	5hr	53
4	Saint-Maurice to Martigny	16.7km	261m	205m	4½hr	58
5	Martigny to Orsières	18.3km	987m	572m	6hr	63
6	Orsières to Bourg-Saint-Pierre	14.0km	989m	239m	5hr	67
7	Bourg-Saint-Pierre to Col du Grand-Saint-Bernard	12.5km	1062m	224m	5hr	71
8	Col du Grand-Saint-Bernard to Aosta (intermediate stop possible at Echevennoz 15.1km)	28.7km	455m	2347m	7hr	77
9	Aosta to Châtillon	27.8km	1088m	1149m	8¼hr	86
10	Châtillon to Verrès	18.3km	803m	955m	5¾hr	92
11	Verrès to Pont-Saint-Martin	16.0km	289m	338m	4½hr	97
12	Pont-Saint-Martin to Ivrea	23.1km	570m	655m	6½hr	105
13	Ivrea to Viverone	20.3km	401m	355m	5½hr	112
14	Viverone to Santhià	16.4km	150m	268m	4½hr	116
15	Santhià to Vercelli	27.5km	85m	137m	7hr	120
16	Vercelli to Robbio	18.6km	195m	208m	5hr	132
17	Robbio to Mortara	14.5km	49m	59m	3¾hr	136
18	Mortara to Garlasco	20.1km	46m	63m	5hr	140

Stage number	Start/finish	Distance	Total ascent	Total descent	Duration	Page
19	Garlasco to Pavia	24.3km	234m	242m	6½hr	144
20	Pavia to Santa Cristina e Bissone	28.1km	305m	317m	7½hr	150
21	Santa Cristina e Bissone to Orio Litta (4.1km to Corte S. Andrea boat)	16.3km	155m	168m	4¼hr	155
22	Orio Litta to Piacenza	25.9km (19.0km boat option)	235m (174m boat option)	233m (172m boat option)	6½hr (5½hr boat option)	159
23	Piacenza to Fiorenzuola d'Arda	32.1km	347m	325m	8½hr	169
24	Fiorenzuola d'Arda to Fidenza	21.9km	268m	271m	5¾hr	175
25	Fidenza to Fornovo di Taro	33.8km	789m	720m	9½hr	180
26	Fornovo di Taro to Berceto (intermediate overnight option at Cassio 21.0km)	31.5km	1658m	1000m	10hr	187
27	Berceto to Pontremoli (intermediate overnight option at Ostello della Cisa 7.0km)	28.2km	1270m	1833m	8½hr	194
28	Pontremoli to Aulla	32.1km	725m	912m	9hr	203
29	Aulla to Sarzana	17.1km	892m	923m	5½hr	210
30	Sarzana to Massa	29.0km	635m	600m	8hr	215
31	Massa to Camaiore	25.7km	651m	681m	7¼hr	222
32	Camaiore to Lucca	24.6km	673m	684m	7hr	228
Total		726.4	17,300m	17,663m	205hr	

Staging in this book varies slightly from that of the European Association of Via Francigena ways. Please consult www.viefrancigene.org for additional staging information and Appendix A for a useful stage planning table.

WALKING THE VIA FRANCIGENA

PART 2

LAUSANNE AND THE GREAT ST BERNARD PASS TO LUCCA

by Sandy Brown

CICERONE

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Updates to this guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. This guidebook was researched and written before the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are not aware of any significant changes to routes or facilities at the time of printing, it is likely that the current situation will give rise to more changes than would usually be expected. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website (www.cicerone.co.uk/1086/updates), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time.

We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to updates@cicerone.co.uk.

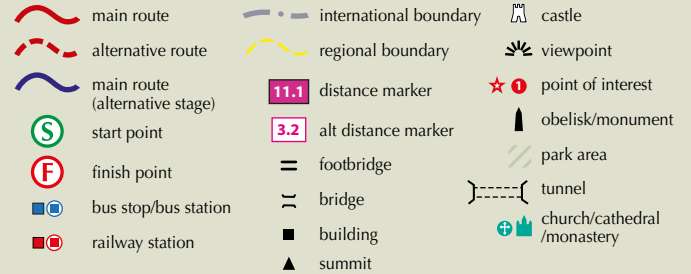
Register your book: To sign up to receive free updates, special offers and GPX files where available, register your book at www.cicerone.co.uk.

Note on mapping

The route maps in this guide are derived from publicly available data, databases and crowd-sourced data. As such they have not been through the detailed checking procedures that would generally be applied to a published map from an official mapping agency. However, we have reviewed them closely in the light of local knowledge as part of the preparation of this guide.

Front cover: *The path descends to the valley below the Col du Grand-Saint-Bernard (Stage 8)*

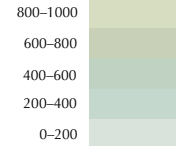
Symbols used on maps



Facilities



Relief in meters



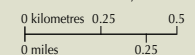
MAP SCALES

Route maps at 1:100,000
Town maps at 1:25,000 unless otherwise stated (see scale bar)

SCALE: 1:100,000



SCALE: 1:25,000



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Dedication

When I welcomed him into the world some thirty-four years ago, I had no idea Luke Brown would turn into a soulful, creative, beautiful friend. With admiration, respect, and deep love, this book is dedicated to him.

Acknowledgments

A village of supporters helped move this volume toward publication. Erinn Zavaglia followed up with dozens of pilgrim accommodations to get their details just right. Luca Bruschi and Sami Tawfik cheered the project on and offered key support, and European Association of Via Francigena ways (EAVF) Vice-president Gaëtan Tornay reached out at a key moment with much-needed input. Even while COVID-19 had brought the travel world to a halt Jonathan and Joe Williams of Cicerone Press invested in the project, and then Andrea Grimshaw applied her keen eye for detail as editor, while the talented John Bingley oversaw design and layout. The late Alison Raju’s preceding guidebooks helped open the door to the Francigena, and her historical research set a high bar that this volume can only hope to meet. The pilgrim world is poorer with her passing. No matter the scenery, friendships are always the best part of pilgrim trekking, and dear friends made along the way include Charles Collin of Canada, Greg Stewart and Julia Black of England, Corrado Morelli, Damino Menegolo, Franco Martinetti, Fabio Graziani, Paolo Ciumino, and Beatrice Moricci of Italy, and many, many others. Fresh eyes bring a lot to a text, and when Hank and Joyce Landau reviewed the layout proof they made very helpful suggestions. I treasure memories of walking the paths of the Via Francigena with my best friend and beloved, Theresa Elliott, who is without doubt the most carefree and fun pilgrim who ever walked a trail.

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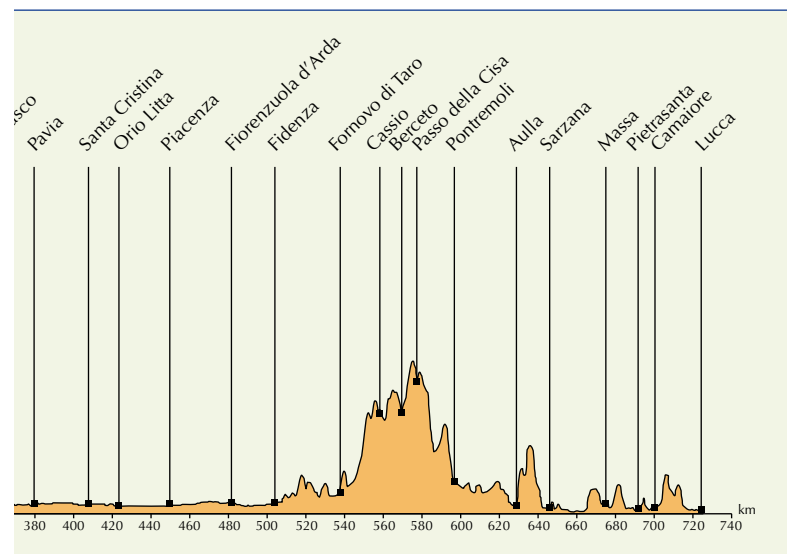
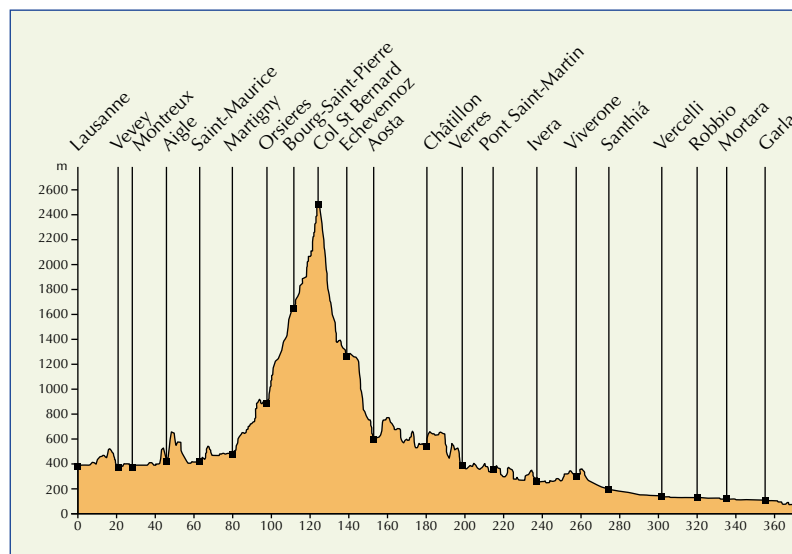
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St Christophe's Romanesque church tower (Stage 9)







FOREWORD

The Via Francigena – Road to Rome – was designated a Cultural Route by the Council of Europe in 1994. The European Association of Via Francigena ways (EAVF) is a voluntary association of regions and local authorities in England, France, Switzerland and Italy, which currently has more than 190 members. It was established on 7 April 2001 in Fidenza (Italy) to promote the Via Francigena – 3200km (2000 miles) from Canterbury to Rome and, in the Via Francigena del Sud (certified since 2019), to Santa Maria di Leuca.

The route travels from Canterbury in the UK through France and Switzerland to Rome, and continues to the south of Italy, heading toward Jerusalem. It passes through 16 European regions (Kent; Hauts-de-France; Grand Est; Bourgogne-Franche-Comté; Vaud; Valais; Valle d'Aosta; Piedmont; Lombardy; Emilia-Romagna; Liguria; Tuscany; Lazio; Campania, Basilicata, Apulia) in four countries (UK; France; Switzerland; Italy). The association carries out activities to enhance and promote the route at all institutional levels: local, regional, national and European. In 2007 the Council of Europe declared the EAVF the Lead Agency of the Via Francigena, assigning it the role of official reference point for safeguarding, protecting, promoting and developing the Via Francigena in Europe.

This guide to the Via Francigena from Lausanne and the Great Saint Bernard Pass to Lucca is the result of collaboration between the EAVF, Cicerone Press and local associations. It is aimed at walkers and pilgrims who want to discover the beauty of the Swiss and Italian sections of this historic European route. The itinerary includes superb Swiss landscapes, the iconic passage of the Great St Bernard Pass (highest point on the Via Francigena), wonderful passages through Northern Italy, a transit over the forested Apennines, and finally the entrance to Lucca, one of Tuscany's most beloved cities. This is a journey to the heart of Europe, a fascinating way to encounter its traditions, cultural heritage, art treasures, and people.

The Via Francigena was defined as a 'bridge of cultures between Anglo-Saxon Europe and Latin Europe' by the famous medievalist Jacques Le Goff. The Via Francigena of the third millennium is a path of peace, tolerance and dialogue between cultures, religions and countries.

We wish you all a good journey! *Buon viaggio!*



**VIA
FRANCIGENA**
road to Rome

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Ministère culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



European Association of Via Francigena ways (EAVF)

For information, visit www.viefrancigene.org, or follow us on social media:

Facebook: @ViaFrancigenaCulturalRoute

Instagram: [viafrancigena_aevf](https://www.instagram.com/viafrancigena_aevf)

The Roman bridge at Pont-Saint-Martin gracefully spans the Lys River with the Castello Vecchio high on the hill above (Stage 11)



INTRODUCTION: THE VIA FRANCIGENA FROM LAUSANNE TO LUCCA



*A trail marker points toward
Lunigiana near Pontremoli (Stage 27)*

It may be true that all roads lead to Rome – but few roads lead to Rome with as many marvels as the Lausanne to Lucca stretch of the Via Francigena. This glorious route begins along the shaded promenades of Lake Geneva (Lac Léman), turns upward on breathtaking mountain trails to cross the Alps, descends to flat farmland roads in the Po Valley, climbs into mountains again at Cisa Pass, and hugs the hillsides near its end in Lunigiana to enjoy sweeping vistas of the sea. Sprinkled along the way are the stone cloisters of ancient convents, the crumbling towers of tall castles, the cobblestone streets of quaint villages, and the contrasting cultures of two Swiss cantons and six Italian regions.

The literal high point of the walk is the tall wall of the mighty Alps in Switzerland and Italy, the two countries connected at the Great Saint Bernard Pass. In summer this mountain crossing

is a wonderland of narrow trails among moss-covered boulders set to the music of burbling streams before the backdrop of jagged granite peaks. At its summit stands the pilgrim hospice that has steadfastly safeguarded pilgrims and travelers for nearly 1000 years. A full third of the distance from Lausanne to Lucca is spent climbing up, through, and down these mighty Alpine peaks, with each day offering another unforgettable view.

This beauty is echoed later in the route while crossing the Apennines at Cisa Pass. Though lower than the Alps and covered in an emerald carpet of oak and pine, the Cisa Pass offers some of the most thrilling scenery in all of Italy. From the summit of windswept Monte Valoria or nearby Il Cucchero peak you stand not on a mountain pass, but a mountain-top, with spectacular 360° views of the surrounding peaks in clear weather.

STAGE 1

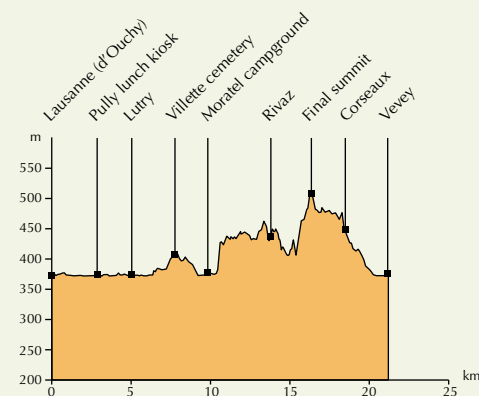
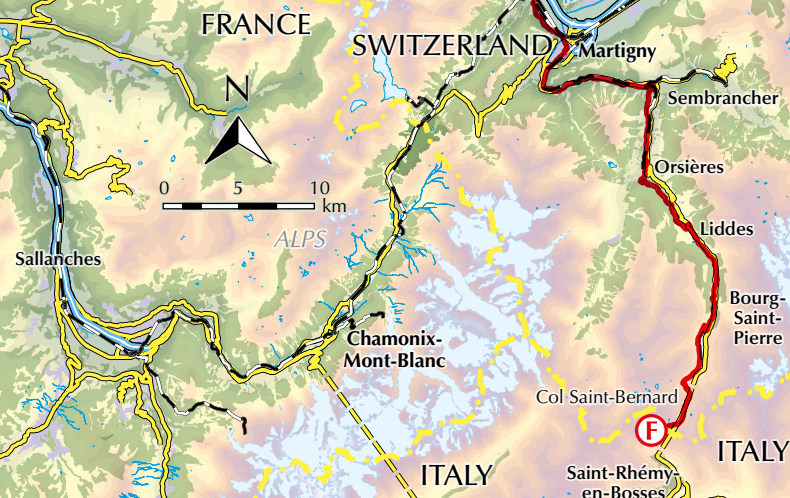
Lausanne to Vevey

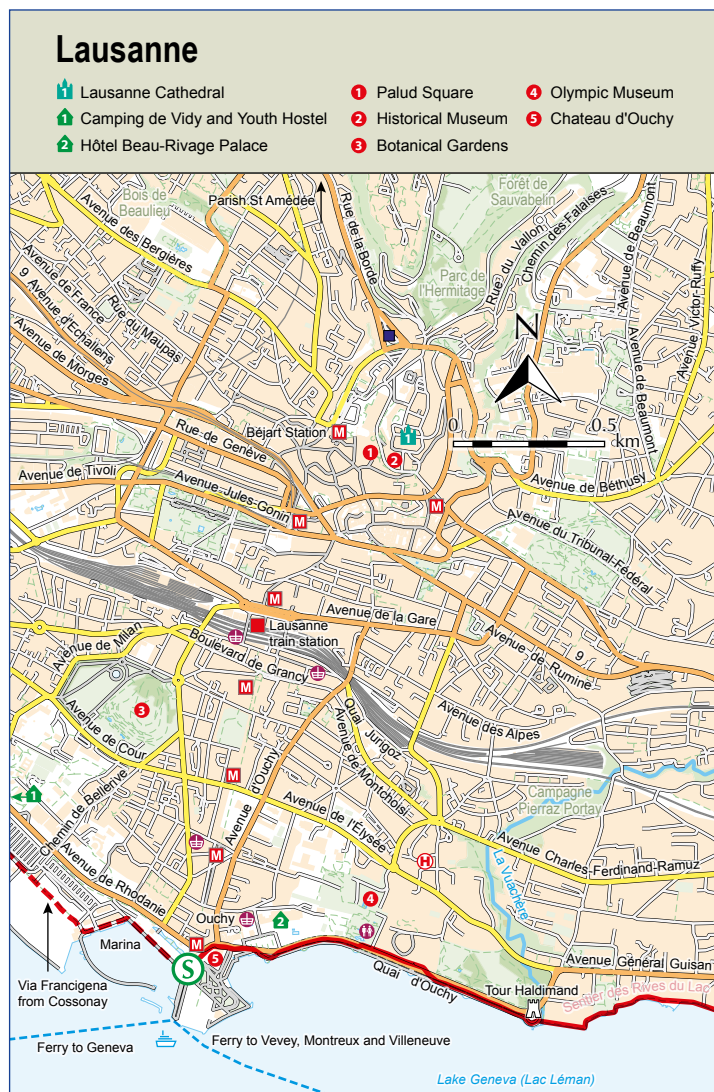
Start	Lausanne, Place de Jeux, Ouchy
Finish	Vevey, ferry landing
Distance	21.2km
Total ascent	363m
Total descent	366m
Difficulty	Moderate
Duration	6hr
Percentage paved	99%
Hostels	Cully 9.0km (camping only), Vevey 21.2km

The walk has two distinct highlights – the scenic lakeside pathway and the undulating vineyard terraces on the mountainsides above. On a sunny day the steep and shadeless climb among terraces can make this feel like a very hot and dry stage, but frequent stations at the many towns along the path offer respite and the opportunity to skip ahead by train (www.sbb.ch). Another enjoyable alternative to walking the stage is to take the scenic passenger ferry, which has stops at Lausanne, Pully, Lutry, Cully and Vevey and on the next stage at La Tour, Clarens, Montreux, Territet, Château de Chillon and Villeneuve (www.cgn.ch).

Section 1 overview

This mountainous route leads through the French-speaking Vaud and Valais cantons along the Rhône River from Lac Léman up its Alpine tributaries in the Dranse and Dranse d'Entremont valleys, reaching the Via Francigena's highest point at the dramatic 2478m Col du Grand-Saint-Bernard. Signage: yellow diamonds, yellow arrows, and '70 Via Francigena' waymarks.





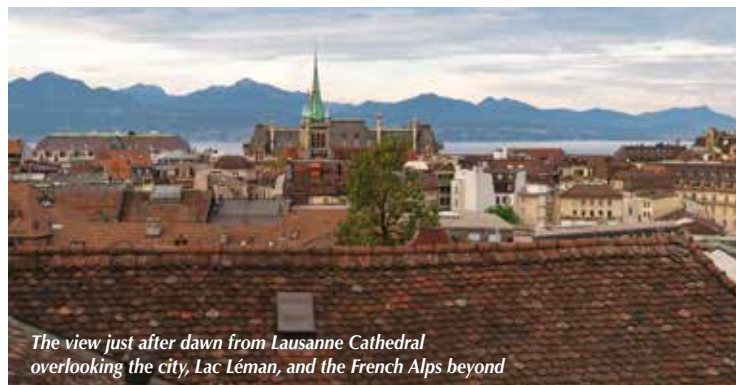
0.0KM LAUSANNE (ELEV 526M, POP 139,056) (1136.9KM)

This prosperous and scenic city is capital of the canton of Vaud in the French-speaking region of Romandy and is the fourth-largest city in Switzerland. Home to the International Olympic Committee and other international sports organizations, it is also center of the Swiss wine-growing region. In the 1st c. AD the Romans built a military camp and then a city called Lousanna along the lakeside where ruins can be viewed today. After the fall of Rome the town was moved to a more defensible location on the hill high above, where central Lausanne now sits, and this is likely where Archbishop Sigeric stayed at the end of his Stage LIV. Colleagues of Geneva's John Calvin brought the Protestant Reformation to the Vaud, and the beautiful 13th c. **Cathedral of Notre Dame of Lausanne** (CHF5, open 09:00–19:00 Apr–Sep) atop the city belongs to the Evangelical Reformed Church. The cathedral tower's seven bells chime the hour until 22:00 – after that a town crier shouts the hours 365 nights a year, as he has done since 1405. A trip to the cathedral provides a view of the church interior (pilgrim stamp) and a majestic viewpoint toward Lac Léman (Lake Geneva) and the French Alps across the lake.

Below the cathedral is **Palud Square**, medieval center of town, home to many quaint eateries and shops and on Wednesday and Saturday mornings a farmers' market. Also here is the 17th c. Town Hall adjacent to the 16th c. Fountain of Justice crowned by the colorful Statue of Justice. Lausanne's belle époque **Ouchy neighborhood** is stretched along the lakeshore and sprinkled with cafés and shops among its parks and pathways. The VF route passes the **Olympic Museum** which showcases torches and medals from all modern Olympic games (Quai d'Ouchy 1, www.olympic.org/museum). The monuments, restaurants and shopping of Lausanne are set high above the lakeshore, but can be accessed through a convenient subway system with stops between the lakeshore and the Cathedral of Lausanne (CHF8.80 for an all-day pass). (Train to Vevey, Aigle, Saint-Maurice, Martigny and Orsières: www.sbb.ch.)

🏠 **Auberge de Jeunesse de Lausanne** 117/320, CHF48/57/115/171, Chemin du Bois-de-Vaux 36, www.youthhostel.ch/en/hostels/Lausanne-jeunotel, lausanne@youthhostel.ch, tel (0)626 02 22. Located 100m from Lac Léman.

🏕️ **Camping de Vidy** 9/30, CHF20/-/-, Chemin du Camping 3, www.clv.ch, info@clv.ch, tel (0)622 50 00. Bungalows with bunk beds plus camping. Lakeside with restaurant onsite.



The Sentier des Rives du Lac is the lakeside trail that will lead you much of the way around lovely **Lac Léman**. With the lake at your right hand, follow this pedestrian walkway past the Château d'Ouchy, amid the upscale cafés and crêperies that line the main roadway, the Quai d'Ouchy, of this Lausanne suburb. Pass the faux-ruin **Haldimand Tower (1.2km)** and walk along a sandy beach to **Pully marina (1.6km, restaurants)**, after which you walk along the road with a large park and swimming pool complex on the lakefront to the right. Just afterward comes the town of **Paudex** whose commercial center is a few blocks above this now-familiar maze of marinas and beachfront parks. Continue along the lakeshore to return to the roadside at the Port du Vieux-Stand marina (1.6km, restaurants). After the concrete walks of the Vieux-Port marina of **Lutry**, the lakeshore path varies between narrow concrete walkways, flagstones and sometimes the small stones of the beach itself.

After the large concrete **STEP sewage treatment plant** appears on the left, follow the signs leading to a stairway that takes you to the Route de Lavaux highway (2.0km) above. Turn right to walk alongside the highway, pass the **Villetta** train station above



and cross the road through the pedestrian tunnel (0.7km) that leads to Villette church on the opposite side of the tracks. Turn right just before the church wall and follow it to the cemetery beyond. Go through the metal gate of the cemetery and arrive at the narrow **Chemin de Villette** among terraced vineyards. This is a just a taste of the mountainside vineyard walk, as just after **Cully train station** you cross under the tracks and head back down to the lakeside, with a lovely collection of restaurants and shops and a carousel in the summer (2.0km).

9.0KM CULLY (ELEV 374, POP 1752) 🏠 🚶 🚲 🚗 🚚 🚛 🚝 🚞 (1127.9KM)

The closely clustered homes on narrow streets betray Cully's medieval past, though recent archaeology shows the village has roots in Neolithic times. Its first documentary mention is from 967 under the name 'Cusliacum.' The town served as capital of the Lavaux district until it was subsumed into the district of Lavaux-Oron. Many buildings in the village, particularly on its main road, the Route de Vevey, hail from the 16th–19th c. The graceful park along the lake is shaded by trees and has many cafés and wine shops nearby. (Train: www.sbb.ch.)

▲ **Camping de Moratel** 🏠 🚶 🚲 🚗 🚚 🚛 🚝 🚞 1/3, CHF15 tent site, Route de Moratel 2, camping.moratel@bluewin.ch, tel (0)799 19 14. Open Mar–Oct. Tent sites only. On lakeshore.

The beachside promenade continues through the village of **Moratel** (0.5km, WC), where it is interrupted by a campground then a small marina. At **Epesses** (0.8km) come again to a concrete stairway, aiming up through a tunnel under the train tracks and then under the highway, continuing up on the other side as it climbs the mountain with a rivulet bubbling alongside. Turn right at the top onto the paved Chemin du Calamin among the terraces, heading higher and higher on the mountainside with sweeping views of Montreux, the lake, and the Alps themselves. Pass **Clos des Moines Winery** (1.8km) where the road becomes the Chemin du Dézelay. Come to a summit, and not long afterward to the tiny settlement of **Rivaz** (1.7km, WC).



The Temple de Cully stands amid the narrow streets of this ancient lakeside village



Small boats gently bob in the water at one of the many marinas along the lakeside walk

While the Romans first grew wine here, it was in the 12th c. that Cistercian monks brought **Chasselas vines** to the Dézelay hillsides to take advantage of what are called the 'three suns' – the sun itself, the heat emitted by the walled terraces, and the light reflected from the lake. The area produces some of the finest Swiss wines and is protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



For centuries this terraced hillside of Dézelay has been home to vineyards of Chasselas grapes

Though it is tempting to head down toward the lake here, instead head back uphill once more among the terraces. After another summit come to **Saint-Saphorin** (1.6km, restaurants). Keep the lovely church on your right, passing in a colonnade to a steep stairway just after the church where you begin the longest climb of the day, up to another series of vineyard-covered terraces along the mountainside. Pass a **drinking fountain and rest area** and the red-roofed **Domaine du Burignon B&B** (0.5km, www.burignon.ch) then a tunnel beneath the railroad tracks. Continue along the mountainside terraces to a **final summit and rest area** (0.5km) with sweeping views. Continue on the **Chemin des Combes** and, as houses gather to the

right, turn right onto the **Chemin des Rochettes (1.9km)** and descend very steeply to the Vevey suburb of **Corseaux**. Pass over the funicular tracks (**0.5km**). An optional ride downhill takes you into Vevey (CHF2.4, www.sbb.ch).

Cross **Highway 12** toward a gas station with a small market, keeping the station on your right. After crossing a small creek into the town of **Corsier (0.5km)**, turn right on a narrow and quiet road leading steeply to the bottom of the hill. Pass the lower funicular station, cross under the rail tracks, pass the Volkswagen car dealership and then cross Avenue Nestlé. Keep the **Nestlé corporate headquarters** on your right as you head downhill to the lake on Avenue de Savoie. Turn left onto the lakeside pedestrian path which you follow to the Vevey ferry landing, finding the center of **Vevey** just two blocks to your left (**2.0km**).

12.2KM VEVEY (ELEV 374M, POP 17,676) 🇮🇪 🇨🇭 🇩🇪 🇬🇧 🇪🇺 🇨🇦 🇺🇸 🇯🇵 🇰🇷 🇮🇳 🇦🇺 🇳🇪 🇮🇹 🇸🇪 🇸🇰 🇸🇮 🇸🇯 🇸🇦 🇸🇪 🇸🇰 🇸🇮 🇸🇯 🇸🇦 (1115.8KM)

Here in 1867 Henri Nestlé began his milk-based baby food factory and today it is the largest food company in the world. Its modern steel and glass headquarters stands in stark contrast to the historic homes and civic buildings of central Vevey, known as Vivaec when Sigeric visited here as his Stage LIII. In medieval times the town was a crossroads for pilgrims from France to the west or Germany to the east, a fact remembered in the name of Mont Pélerin (tr: 'Mount Pilgrim'), a peak northwest of town. The many-turreted, neo-Gothic 19th c. **Château de l'Aile** replaces a 16th c. castle on the same site and is just a block from the prosperous charming and historic center. Vevey was the home in exile for British-American actor Charlie Chaplin, who lived here from 1952 until his death in 1977. Sets of his films are recreated at **Chaplin's World museum** (from CHF19, www.chaplinworld.com). Look for a sculpture of Chaplin at the lakefront, along with the 'World's Largest Fork' that has stood in the lake opposite the **Alimentarium Food Museum** (CHF13, www.alimentarium.org) since 2009. Every 20 years a temporary 20,000-seat amphitheater is built in the center city to house the live shows of the Fête des Vignerons that showcases regional wines. The next festival is set for 2039. (Trains to Villeneuve, Aigle and beyond: www.sbb.ch.)

▲ **Camping de la Pichette** 🇩🇪 🇨🇭 🇩🇪 🇬🇧 🇪🇺 🇨🇦 🇺🇸 🇯🇵 🇰🇷 🇮🇳 🇦🇺 🇳🇪 🇮🇹 🇸🇪 🇸🇰 🇸🇮 🇸🇯 🇸🇦 🇸🇪 🇸🇰 🇸🇮 🇸🇯 🇸🇦 (1/3, CHF8 per person, CHF6 per tent, Chemin de la Paix 37, camping.pichette@vevey.ch, tel (0)925 35 07. Tent camping only, no indoor beds. Lake swimming. Small pizzeria.

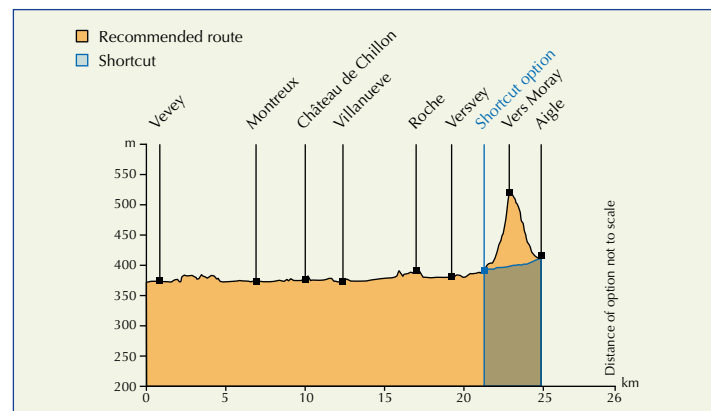
🏠 **Vevey House** 🇩🇪 🇨🇭 🇩🇪 🇬🇧 🇪🇺 🇨🇦 🇺🇸 🇯🇵 🇰🇷 🇮🇳 🇦🇺 🇳🇪 🇮🇹 🇸🇪 🇸🇰 🇸🇮 🇸🇯 🇸🇦 🇸🇪 🇸🇰 🇸🇮 🇸🇯 🇸🇦 (22/44, CHF-/90/90, Grande Place 5, www.veveyhouse.com, reservation@veveyhouse.com, tel (0)922 35 32.

STAGE 2

Vevey to Aigle

Start	Vevey, ferry dock
Finish	Aigle, Tourist information office
Distance	24.8km
Total ascent	253m
Total descent	200m
Difficulty	Easy
Duration	6½hr
Percentage paved	96%
Hostels	Montreux 6.9km, Villeneuve (tourist lodgings) 12.3km, Aigle 24.9km

A delightful stroll along the cultivated and elegant lakeside path with cosmopolitan Montreux and medieval Chillon as highlights. Afterward lies a somewhat tedious slog along canals and tracks, and then a punishing though skippable climb to Vers Moray before arriving in Aigle. On sunny days take sunscreen and extra water. The promenade between Vevey and Villeneuve is gorgeous, but it's possible to opt instead for the charming passenger ferry, which lands at Vevey, La Tour, Clarens, Montreux, Territet, Château de Chillon and Villeneuve (www.cgn.ch).





- **Via Francigena pilgrim route through Switzerland and Italy**
 - **Martigny, Pavia, Piacenza and Lucca**
 - **Lake Geneva, Great Saint Bernard Pass and Apennines**

The 2000km Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome is one of the great pilgrim paths of the world, and between Lausanne and Lucca it encounters some of its most dramatic scenery. From terraced vineyards above Switzerland's Lake Geneva the route crosses the mighty Alps at the famous 2469m Great Saint Bernard Pass and heads along Italy's stunning Aosta Valley.

The fertile Po River Valley offers flatter walking and the charming cities of Vercelli, Pavia and Piacenza. Then the route climbs into the mountains once more to cross the Apennines via densely forested Cisa Pass before a descent with sweeping vistas into Tuscany. The medieval city of Lucca provides a fitting conclusion to an amazing journey, or a staging point for those continuing on to the Via Francigena's climax at the Eternal City of Rome.

- suitable for walkers of average fitness
- can be walked in spring, summer and autumn (Great Saint Bernard Pass fully open to hikers in August and September)
- packed with useful information about pilgrim accommodation and facilities



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