

Here is a SUGGESTED possible site-seeing route. Drive times and distances are from Google Maps. Assuming point-to-point - though of course we will want to stop and see things along the way!). This is just a FIRST cut, we can obviously change things. I will correlate this with some of the suggestions made by my neighbors for castels along the way etc. What fo you think? OR... We can go the other way!!! I interleave some comments from Bill Kraemer

**Jul 23.** Dusseldorf to Koblenz. 147 km, 1h 27m most direct route - though we probably want to take the routee along the river for siteseeing! Overnight in Koblenz.

**July 24.** Koblenz to Mainz. 106km, 1h 07m - though we probably want to take the routee along the river for siteseeing! Overnight in Mainz.

Bill: Steep cliffs along the river with lots of castles looking down. A neat town is Boppard near a bend in the river. Roman ruins, Celtic sites, and so forth are an easy walk. There are a lot of castles along the river with the better ones to visit being near Koblenz. Many are in ruins and some are being restored. A few are still in private hands and you can photograph them but not go inside.

**July 25.** Mainz to Heidelberg. 96 km, 59 min. Overnight in Heidelberg.

Bill: An old city near the confluence of the Neckar and Rhein Rivers. A very large castle ruin includes the largest wine vat (tun) I've ever seen. About the size of a house it was where the tax wine was stored. Also the university is worth a visit with the old town. A lot of famous scientists went there. Plus the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy is in Heidelberg. (Joel, I have some collaborators there -- but not sure if I am up for a visit!)

**July 26.** Heidelberg to Strassburg (france). 139 km, 12h 26 min. Overnight in Strassburg.

We HAVE to see Strassburg! <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strasbourg>

**July 27.** Strassburg to Idar-Oberstein. 233 km. 2h 22m. Overnight in Idar-Oberstein.

Bill: the Saarland area this town is kind of the center of the "gem" region. Very nice castle and church carved into the side of a cliff.

**July 28.** Idar-Oberstein to Trier . 87km, 1h 6m. Overnight in Triere.

Bill: Roman baths and ruins near the center of town. The combination of ruins and modern construction is kind of interesting to see. Nice museum of Roman stuff near the center of town.

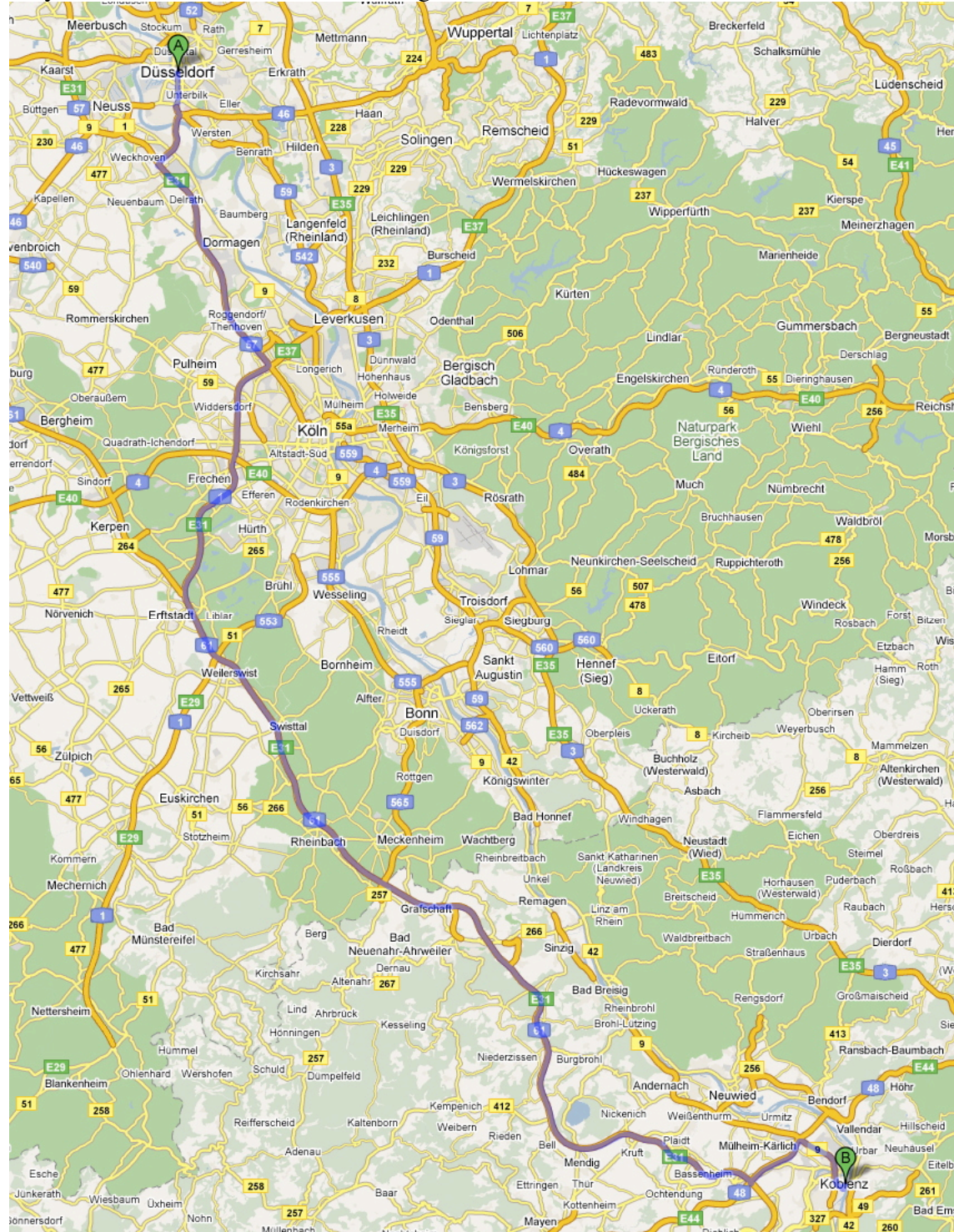
**July 29.** Trier to Bruges, Belgium, 373 km, 3h 27m. Via Luxemborge & Brussels. Overnight in Bruge.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruges>

**July 30.** Bruges to Dusseldorf. 305km, 2h 53m, by way of Antwerp (and S/W Holland). First night back in Dusseldorf

**Jul 23.** Dusseldorf to Koblenz. 147 km, 1h 27m

May want, instead to take route 9 along river south of Bonn, Need to review SS notes.

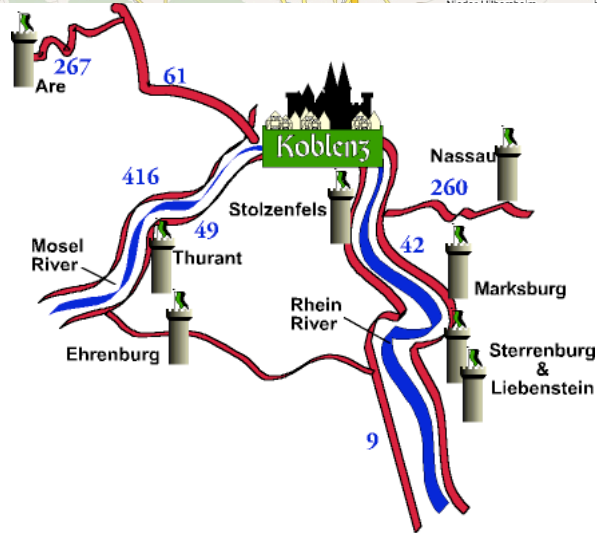
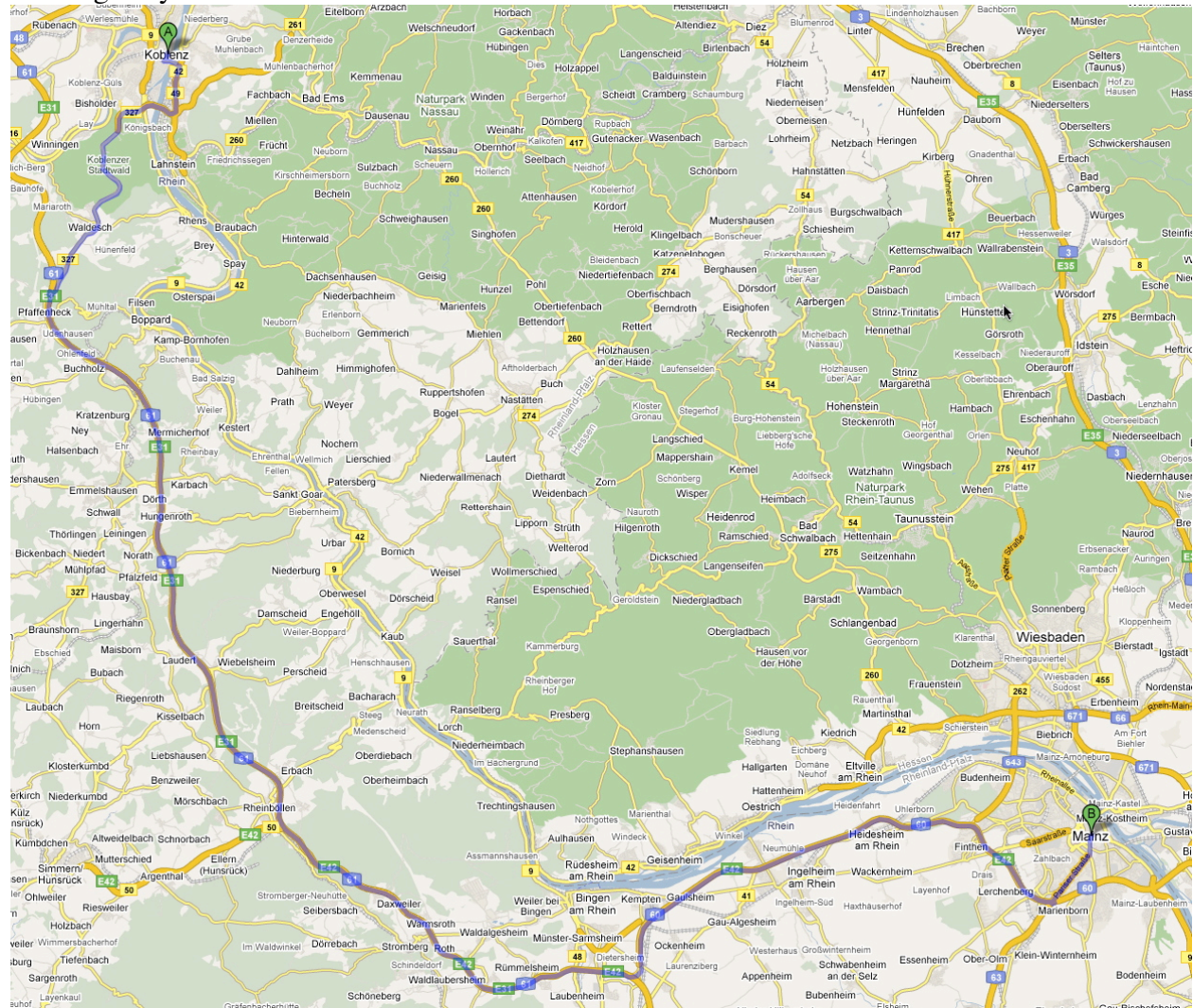


Located at the meeting of the Mosel and the Rhein rivers, Koblenz occupies a key point for anyone interested in castles. THE castle that **MUST NOT BE MISSED** is Marksburg at Braubach on the Rhein - one of the finest, best preserved castles in the country. See castle map below.



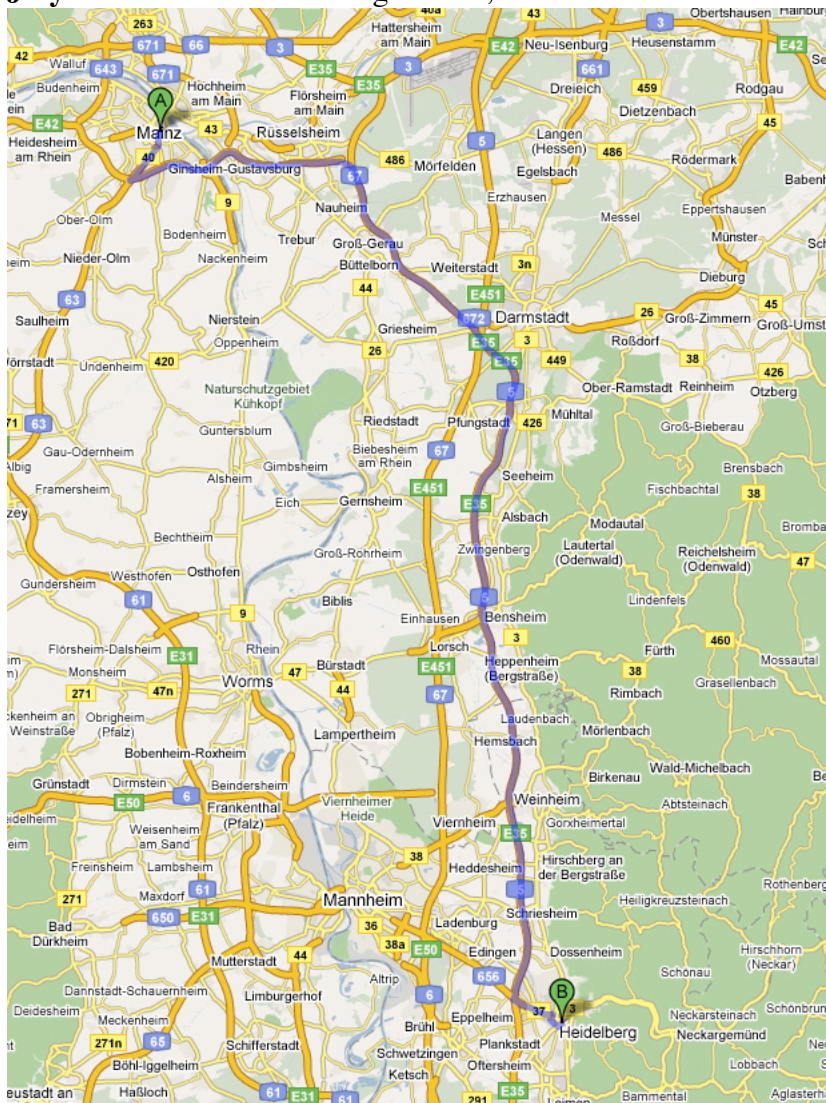
**July 24. Koblenz to Mainz. 106km, 1h 07m**

Here I DEFINATLEY think we will want to take route 9 along river south of Koblenz rather than highway E1. Need to review SS notes.





July 25. Mainz to Heidelberg. 96 km, 59 min.



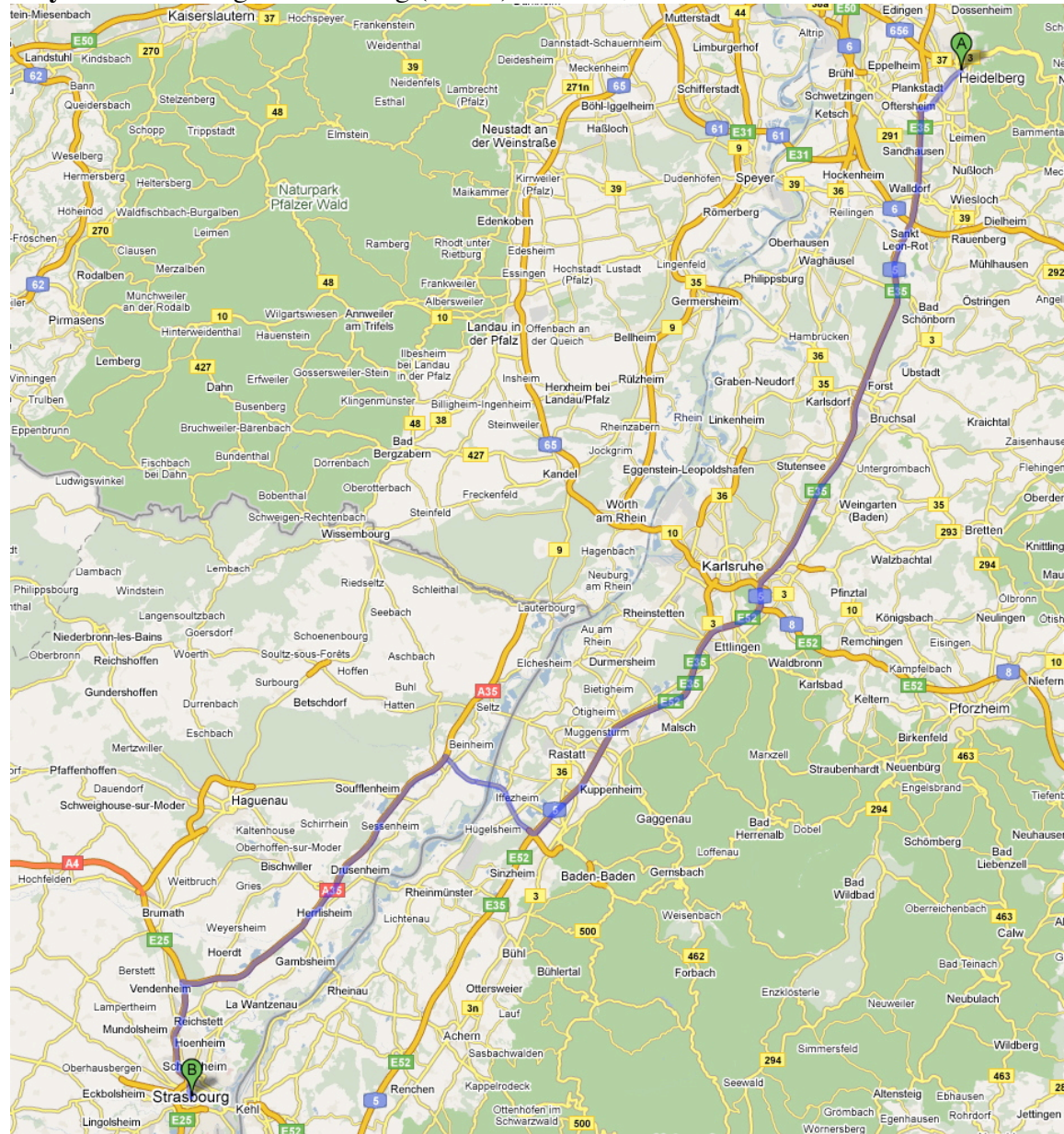
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Heidelberg Castle behind old bridge.



**July 26. Heidelberg to Strassburg (france). 139 km, 12h 26 min.**



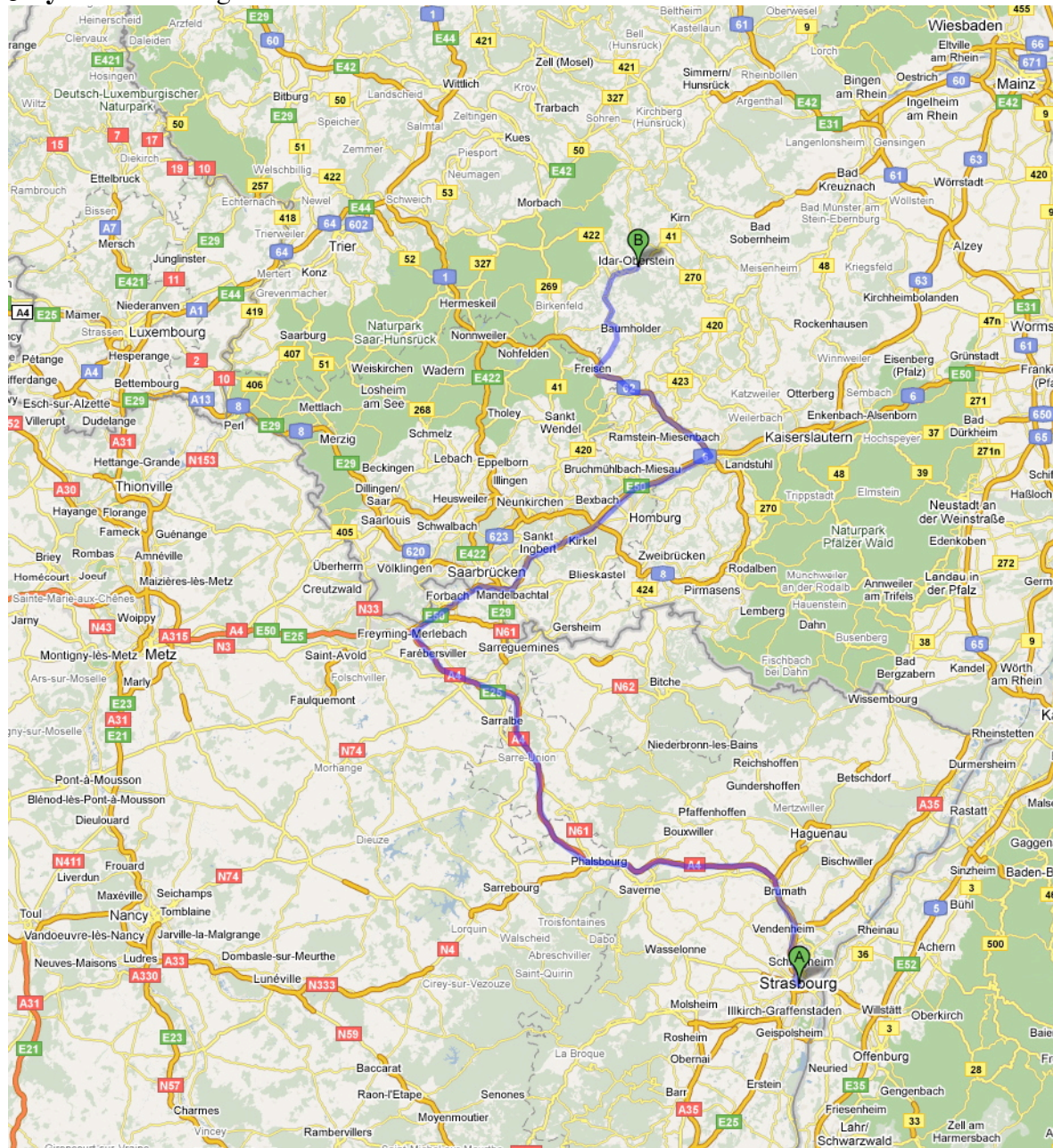
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Panorama from the *Barrage Vauban* with the medieval bridge *Ponts Couverts* in the foreground and the *cathedral* in the distance.



July 27. Strassburg to Idar-Oberstein. 233 km. 2h 22m.

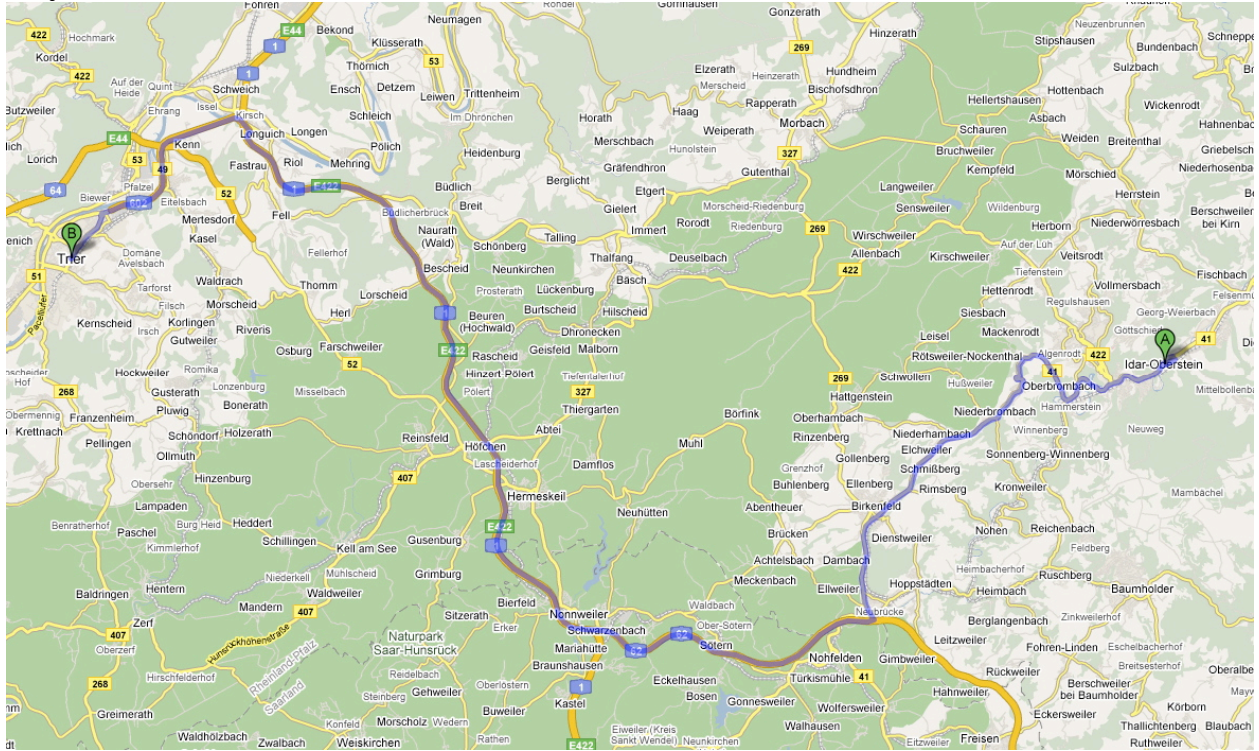


Idar-Oberstein is currently best known as a [gemstone](#) center: until recently, the area was a source for [agate](#) and [jasper](#) (both semi-precious stones), and the gem and jewelry trade continues to flourish in Idar-Oberstein today. The Felsenkirche, aka the Church of the Rock, and two [ruined medieval castles](#) are perched on the hills above the town, chief tourist attractions in the city.





**July 28. Idar-Oberstein to Trier . 87km, 1h 6m.**



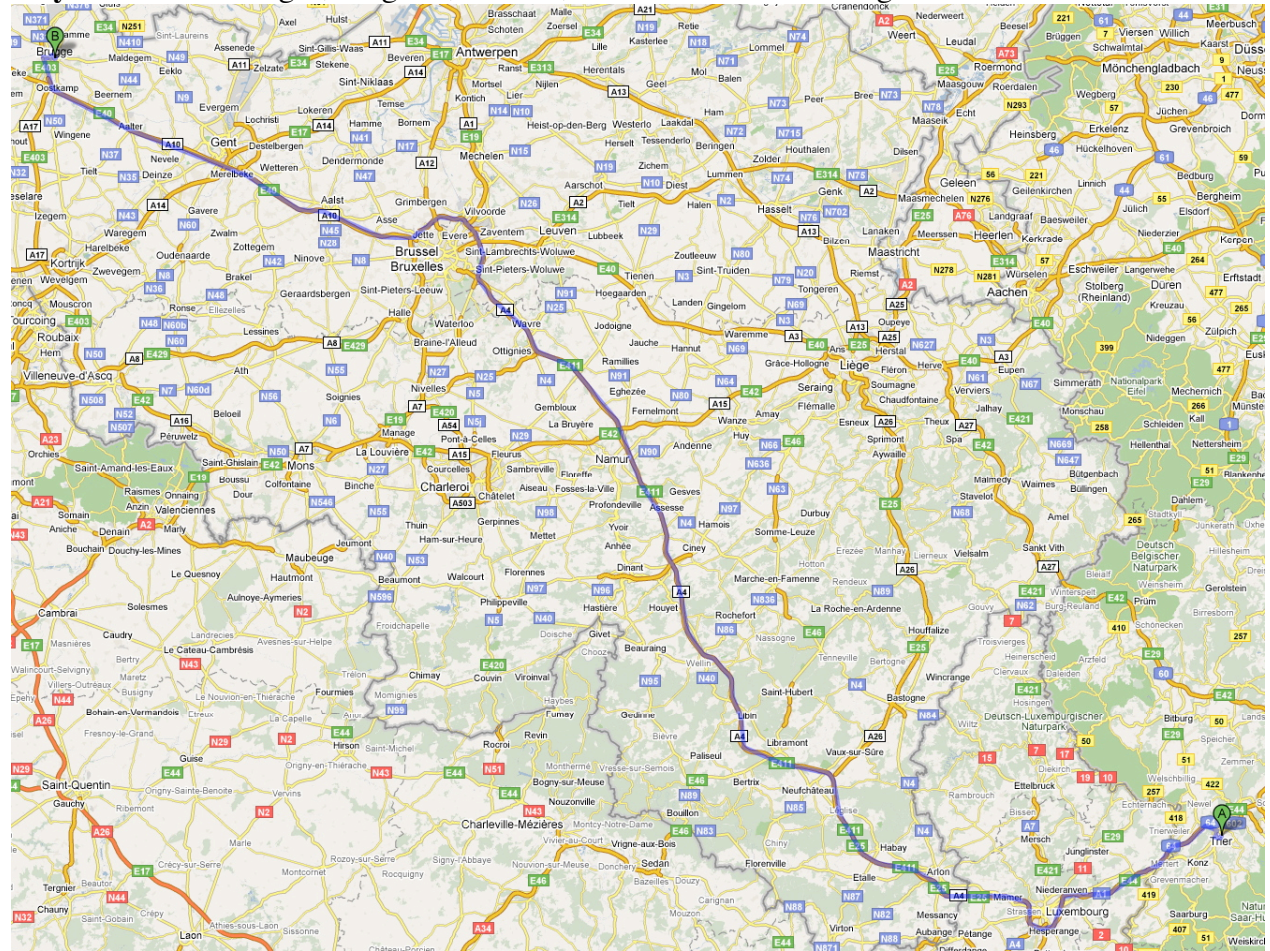
Trier sits in a hollow midway along the [Moselle](#) valley, with the most significant portion of the city on the east bank of the river. Wooded and [vineyard](#)-covered slopes stretch up to the [Hunsrück](#) plateaux in the South and the [Eifel](#) in the North. The border with the [Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg](#) is some 15 km distant.



Palace (left), Cathedral (center), Porta Nigra (right) - best preserved Roman [city gate](#) north of the [Alps](#)



# July 29. Trier to Bruges, Belgium, 373 km, 3h 27m. Via Luxemborge & Brussels.

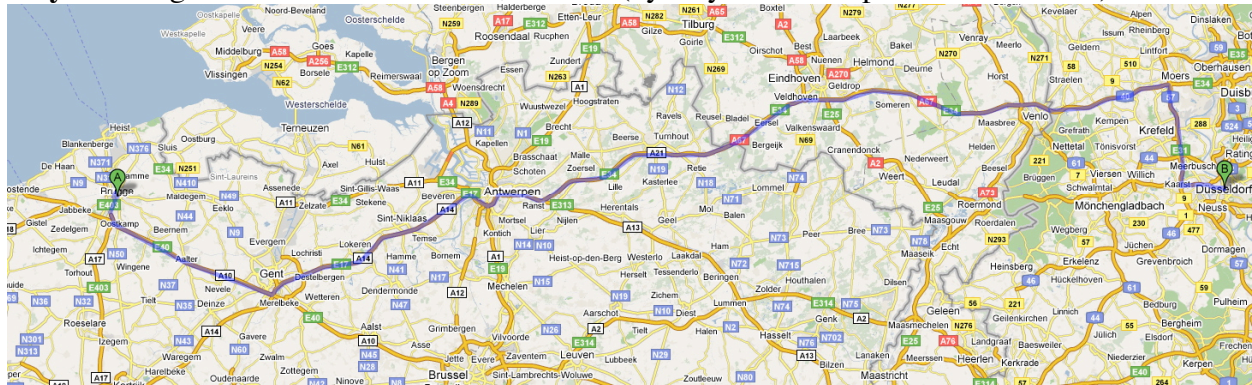


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**July 30. Bruges to Dusseldorf. 305km, 2h 53m (by way of Antwerp and SW Holland)**



**Grote Markt, Antwerp**

