

1. HOSTELLERIE DU PUR SANG*

Former private mansion and also reception centre for prestigious clients and friends of the Bugatti family.

2. THE BUGATTI RAIL BOGIE

Undercarriage of railway vehicles on which the axles are mounted. It is a symbol of its inventor's genius in every field of transport. In 1935, this was how Ettore Bugatti was able to go by train from Strasbourg to Paris in barely 3½ hours.

3. THE FACTORY*

The place where Bugatti cars were made and assembled from 1909 to 1956. Now Messier Bugatti and Messier Services, it specialises in the manufacture and maintenance of landing and braking systems in aeronautics.

4. THE VILLA*

Dwelling place of the Bugatti family and now the training and trade union centre of Messier Bugatti and Messier Services.

5. THE HARDTMÜHLE*

These buildings were the foundation of the current factory and its extensions.

6. SAINT JEAN CHÂTEAU*

A prestigious mansion where purchasers of Bugatti cars are invited as guests.

7. BUGATTI SAS*

Assembly site of the famous Veyron, the fastest car sold in the world, exceeding 400 kmh.

8. THE JEAN BUGATTI MEMORIAL

A monument erected in memory of Ettore's son, who died in a road accident when testing a racing car.

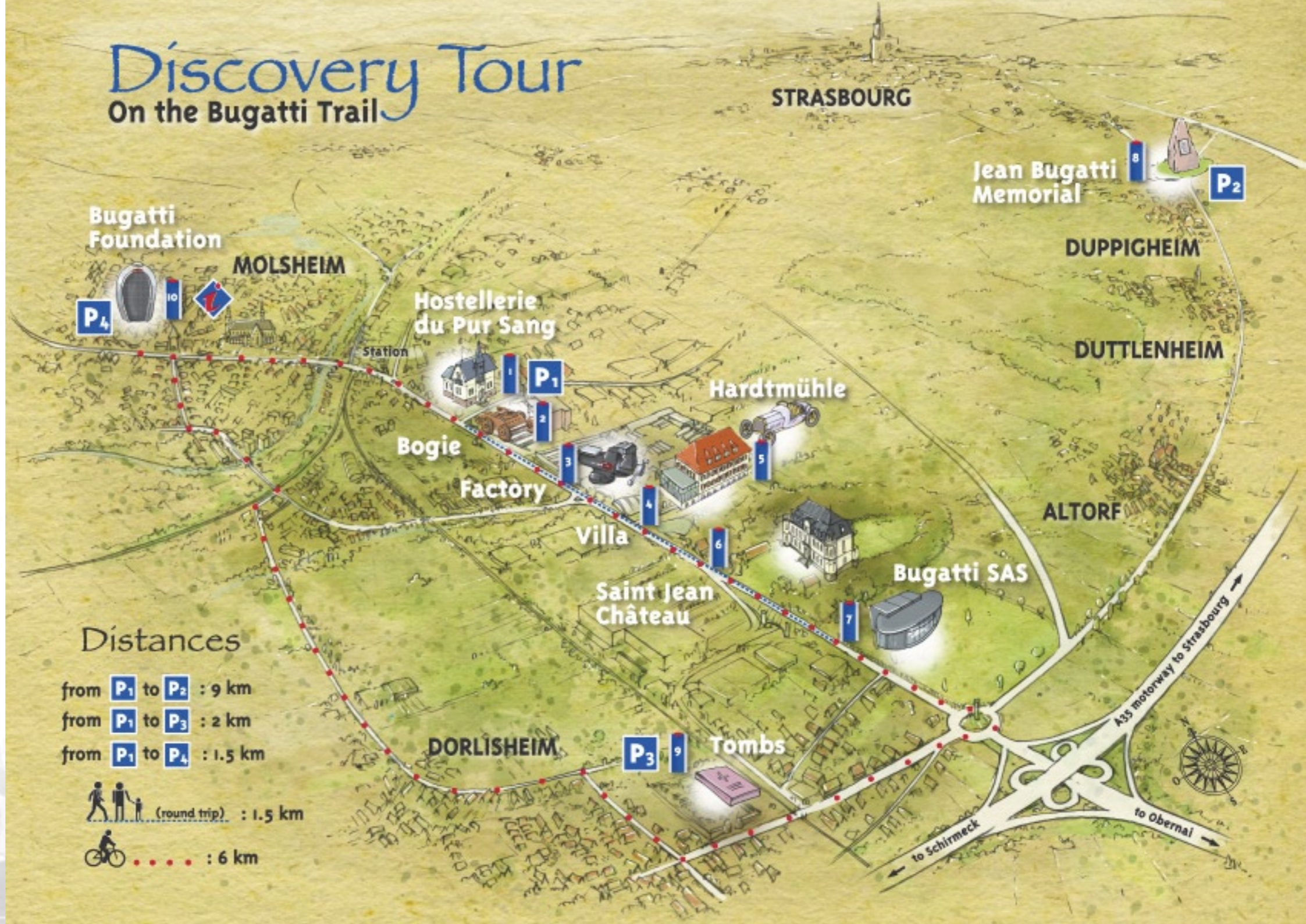
9. THE TOMBS OF THE BUGATTI FAMILY

Eight members of the Bugatti family lie in peace here, including Ettore and his son Jean and Ettore's brother, Rembrandt, an animal sculptor.

10. THE BUGATTI FOUNDATION

A centre set up by the «Enthusiastes Bugatti» association within the Charterhouse museum. Here, the life of Ettore Bugatti is traced through a display of unusual artefacts.

** As these sites are privately owned, they are not open to the general public.*



Ettore BUGATTI (1881-1947)

The inventor of a thousand patents

Originally from Milan, Ettore Bugatti settled in Molsheim in 1909. He bought the Hardtmühle and, backed by a team of highly skilled workers, started up his own «Bugatti» factory. He produced over 7,800 cars under the trade name, including the mythical Bugatti Type 35 and other versions, which scored over a thousand victories between 1924 and 1939 during Grand Prix car races such as Le Mans.

These achievements assured the international reputation of Bugatti and helped put the town of Molsheim on the map. In 1926, another emblematic Bugatti car was produced: the Royale. Only six of them were built and, in 1930, they cost three times more than a Rolls Royce.

Bugatti, a family saga and avant-garde business

From 1926, a system of family allowances and assistance with home ownership was set up by Ettore Bugatti for the factory's personnel (nearly 1000 staff members).

Very early on, Ettore's eldest son, Jean, worked in the family business, specialising in the field of racing-car mechanics and bodywork design. At 27, he became the Director of the Molsheim factory. He was a test driver for racing cars and met his death in a road accident at the age of 30 during a test drive near Duppigheim, just 9 km from Molsheim.

We owe the «standing playing elephant» to Ettore's younger brother, Rembrandt, and his talent as an animal sculptor. Used as the radiator cap, this sculpture became the famous mascot of the Royale.

Throughout his life, Ettore Bugatti was an ingenious and prolific inventor, interested in different means of locomotion. Car-making certainly benefited from his many talents, but he also designed a railcar, commissioned by the French national railway network, driven by the same engines as the Royale. In 1935, he achieved a rail speed record at nearly 200 kmh.

Other fields also caught his imagination, such as air and maritime navigation. Today, the buildings of the Molsheim factory are still standing. They form the site of the factories of Messier Bugatti and Messier Services, specialising in the manufacture and maintenance of landing and braking systems in aeronautics.

Bugatti's genius is still a reference worldwide

The Volkswagen group, which currently owns the trade name, has remained faithful to the spirit of the original designer by developing a top-of-the-range business activity and selecting Molsheim as the site for the assembly of the famous Veyron, the fastest and most expensive car sold in the world.

And the Bugatti myth lives on with several regional, national and international associations devoted to the memory of this exceptional family. Three of them have their headquarters in Molsheim : Enthousiastes Bugatti Alsace, Bugatti – Molsheim and the Bugatti Foundation. A discovery centre is open to the public in the town's historical museum: the Charterhouse Museum. Every year in September, a Bugatti festival is organised. For a weekend, Molsheim and the surrounding villages relive the illustrious story of the Bugattis.

You are on the land where the Bugatti myth came to life.

The famous «Bugatti» trade name was created by Ettore Bugatti (1881–1947), the Alsatian carmaker of Italian origin most renowned for his racing cars, the *legendary blue rockets with an arch-shaped radiator* whose track record was unrivalled, and sports and luxury cars such as *the Royale*.

This trail with 10 landmarks, symbolised in the form of panels giving tourist information, invites you on a journey to discover the story and fascinating life of the Bugatti family in Molsheim, Dorlisheim and Duppigheim.

Through anecdotes recounted by the Witness, you will discover the key sites where the Bugatti car-making era began and how that tradition is continued today in other ways.



Hardtmühle around 1930

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Discovery Tour in 10 stages



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