From medieval towns to fairytale hamlets, here are our picks for the best small villages in France. Go World Travel is reader-supported and may earn a commission from purchases made through links in this piece. France is a wonderful country, full of life and unique places. But, the majority of tourists head to Paris to explore famous museums and climb to the top of the Eiffel Tower. Afterward, they head home, thinking they have seen everything there is to see in France. (Tip: Plan your next tour in France here.) However, that couldn’t be further from the truth. There are so many other incredible places you can visit in this country. Instead of the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, let your next visit to France be dedicated to the picturesque villages and prettiest medieval towns. You will be amazed by the medieval castles and the surrounding countryside featuring breathtaking natural scenery. There are numerous enchanting villages, but only around 150 are considered the most beautiful ones. France has established an independent association, “Les Plus Beaux Villages de France,” that promotes the cultural heritage of French villages. Strict conditions must be met for villages to be considered the most beautiful ones, including having less than 2,000 inhabitants, as well as national heritage sites. We have picked 17 of the most beautiful fairy-tale villages of France that are worth visiting. Enjoy this beautiful journey. Villefranche-sur-Mer is a true Mediterranean pearl, located in the extreme southeast of France. This village is situated on the French Riviera, between Nice and Monaco. Villefranche-sur-Mer with many colorful houses along the coast is known for the deep sea where you can often see large ships. In addition, you can also find great places for diving and sailing. There are also two important cultural monuments in the village: St. Peter’s chapel from the 16th century and St. Michael’s church from the 18th century. The village of Pigna is located in the region of Balagne, in the north of Corsica. It was named after the tower of the same name, built in that place in the 9th century. Today, only about 100 people live in the village, and it is best known in the world of music. The community of musicians that gathers in the village organizes a music festival, Estivoce, every July. In the village of Pigna, there is an open-air auditorium where concerts are held. Eguisheim is a medieval village located in the Haut-Rhin department, in the northeast of France, near Germany. It has less than 2,000 inhabitants but is known for its vineyards and top-quality wines. The village of Eguisheim is part of the Alsatian wine route, so it is one of the main reasons why tourists visit it. The village is dominated by St.-Leon castle, narrow streets, and charming houses with flower terraces. Because of the numerous trails, cyclists and hikers also love visiting, and every August it hosts an interesting stork festival.