

BLACK FOREST, BAVARIA AND THE TYROL

14 RELAXING DAYS – FRANKFURT TO MUNICH

IMAGINE... A fourteen day leisurely tour through the heartlands of southern Germany and the Austrian Tyrol. Commencing with a three night stay in the wonderful Black Forest we enjoy included excursions to Strasbourg, Triberg, Freiburg, Colmar and the Alsace Wine Road. In Bavaria we spend another three nights touring the mountains and fabulous castles of Mad King Ludwig! The last delightful five night stay is in the glorious Austrian Tyrol with visits to Salzburg, Innsbruck and Hitler's infamous Eagles Nest. Highlights include the spectacular Krimml Waterfalls, Neuschwanstein 'fairytale' Castle, Heidelberg Castle, a boat ride on beautiful Lake Konigsee and the scenic Zillertalbahn steam train ride.



DAY 1 FRANKFURT

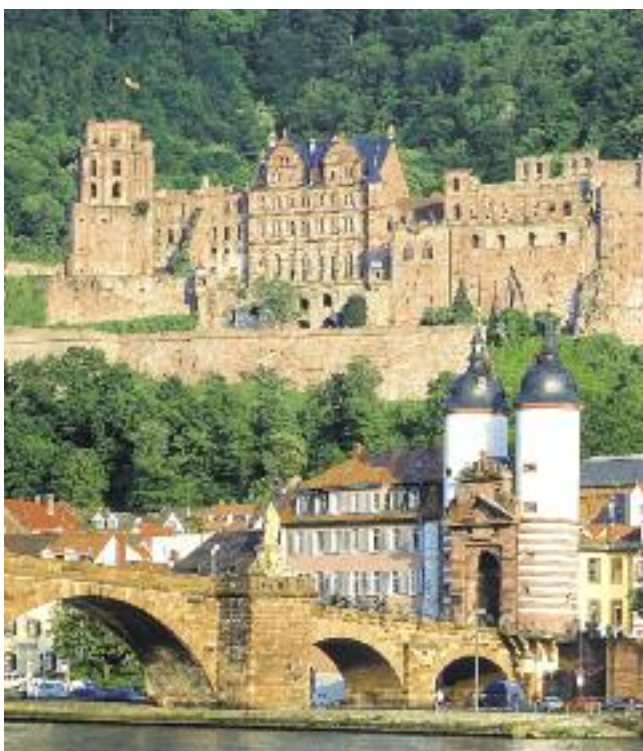
Your tour commences this afternoon from your hotel with a panoramic city tour. Dinner is included, but first enjoy a welcome drink in the hotel bar. (D)

Your Frankfurt Hotel - Holiday Inn Frankfurt Airport North

DAY 2 HORNBERG IN THE BLACK FOREST

We spend the morning in the nearby ancient university town of Heidelberg. Set in the wooded Neckar Valley, it is noted for its twin-towered bridge and red sandstone castle. We have included a funicular ride up to the castle with entrance to the castle courtyard and terrace to enjoy the magnificent views down onto the city and Neckar River below, and to see the world's largest wine barrel and the German Apothecary Museum. Later, we drive deep into the Black Forest to the village of Hornberg, near Triberg, where we spend the next three nights. (B, D)

Your Black Forest Hotel – Hotel Schloss Hornberg. Enjoy the 900 years of history surrounding your little 'schloss' (stately home) which boasts Black Forest traditions and culinary delights. (Technically 'schloss' can mean palace or castle however, the Schloss Hornberg is better described as a stately home or mansion). Situated above the valley in the heart of the Black Forest, this location makes an excellent base for all of our included excursions to the surrounding



Heidelberg

areas. This traditional hotel has a 3 star classification and all guestrooms are fitted with bath/showers, radio, telephones and satellite television. Please note the Hornberg Hotel has no lift however, our rooms will be located on floors 1 and 2. The hotel web site is written in German but you still may wish to have a look. Go to www.schloss-hornberg.de

DAY 3 HORNBERG IN THE BLACK FOREST

Crossing the Rhine in France, we spend the morning in postcard perfect Colmar. Brightly painted, half-timbered houses on narrow, twisting lanes make a perfect backdrop. The River Lauch winds its way through the centre, known as the Little Venice district. Your afternoon will be spent in the capital of the Black Forest – the gothic city of Freiburg. Sensitively restored, Freiburg is one of the most charming of German cities, located where the Black Forest meets the Rhine Plain. Arcaded shopping streets and little streams lead through the old town to its great gothic cathedral. The Black forest is famous for its cake and wood carved cuckoo clocks so we will make a stop en route home for a cuckoo clock demonstration along with coffee and some Black Forest cake. Later we follow the Black Forest High Road back to our hotel. (B, D)

DAY 4 HORNBERG IN THE BLACK FOREST

Our morning will be spent in Strasbourg, the seat of the European Parliament. Retaining its old world charm there are three bridges spanning the River Ill, massive fortified towers and the pedestrian streets around the Place de la Cathédrale and Place Broglie are a delight. Take time to enjoy one of the numerous cosy bistros and cafes. Later we visit Marlenheim, one of the oldest wine villages in the Alsace, to enjoy a wine tasting of various different local wines. On our way home we follow the Route Alsace du Vin (Alsace wine route) to the Rhine then head back into the Black Forest and home. (B, D)





Wildler Kaiser Mountains, Tyrol

DAY 5 HOHENSCHWANGAU IN BAVARIA

Heading south-east we soon arrive on the western shore of Lake Constance. Crossing a short causeway we visit the Flower Island of Mainau where a local guide leads us through the 111 acres of beautiful gardens and landscaped grounds. Originally created nearly 200 years ago by Prince Nikolaus these magnificent botanical gardens also boast an arboretum and an Italian rose garden complete with pergolas, sculptures, fountains and 500 varieties of roses. In summer it is splendid with its Rhododendrons along with huge displays of over 350,000 flowers.

Lunchtime will be enjoyed nearby in the town of Konstanz and in the afternoon we drive along the Swiss lake shore to Bregenz and later the mountains of Bavaria. Here, in the tiny village of Hohenschwangau, you will stay the next three nights in a wonderful setting. On one hill overlooking the village you have the neo-gothic castle of Hohenschwangau and on the other side above the village is a wooded mountain spur and Neuschwanstein - the fairytale castle of 'mad' King Ludwig. The remainder of the afternoon is free to settle into your hotel, enjoy a drink on the sun terrace or take a walk around the beautiful 'Swan Lake' nearby. (B, D)

Your feature Hotel in Bavaria - Hotel Muller. Your first class hotel is in the most enchanting of settings. Old style wooden panelling, Coachman's Room, cocktail lounge, octagonal restaurant with full views of one castle and the verandah with views of the other. Sensational for the evening illuminations! The highlight of your stay? The staff! Family run, professional and so welcoming.

DAY 6 HOHENSCHWANGAU IN BAVARIA

A very relaxing day as we visit perhaps the most famous castle in the world – the fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle. A horse and buggy will pick you up outside your hotel and take you up the wooded road to enjoy a guided tour through the state rooms, king's apartments, halls and throne room; all reminiscent of a Wagner operatic saga. Lunchtime will be spent in nearby Fussen and later in the afternoon we will take a cable car ride up to Tegelberg

to take in the excellent views down onto the fairytale castles far below. (B, D)

Please note: The guided tour through Neuschwanstein Castle incorporates climbing up and down a number of staircases and, as there are no elevators, the inside visit to the castle this morning may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties or limitations.

DAY 7 HOHENSCHWANGAU IN BAVARIA

There's nothing quite like a day in the mountains! Our first stop is at the village of Oberammergau with its ornately painted buildings where the famous Passion Play is performed every ten years. Next we visit Kloster Ettal. This monastery, set in a lovely shaded valley, dates back over 700 years and is one of the finest examples of Rococo architecture in existence. Highlight of our day will be our afternoon visit to nearby Linderhof, an extravagant French Rococo Palace - yet another of King Ludwig's amazing creations. The Venus Grotto reproduces a set from Wagner's Tannhäuser, and the Moorish Pavilion shelters the Peacock Throne. (B, D)

DAY 8 KIRCHBERG IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL

Crossing the Garmisch mountain pass we descend into the Inn Valley to the nearby winter resort city of Innsbruck to explore the Altstadt (old town) and enjoy the sights such as the Hofburg Imperial Palace, cobbled stoned streets and the renowned Golden Roof. In the afternoon we go to the nearby town of Wattens to visit the Swarovski 'Kristallwelten' (Crystal World), a weird and wonderful crystal experience. Built into a small hill, the entrance is through the mouth of a Goblin with huge crystal eyes. Later we follow the dramatic Inn Valley through the rolling Tyrolean hills and villages to reach Kirchberg where we stay the next five wonderful nights. (B, D)

Your feature Tyrolean Hotel – Sunny Hotel Sonne. Located a short walk above Kirchberg village in a picturesque setting, this is an excellent, chalet style 4 star hotel. The atmosphere is charming with that traditional Austrian wooden décor, the views from the bar across to the mountains are amazing, rooms are spacious and the dining is excellent! We have also included free access to their excellent indoor pool, steam room and sauna.



Salzburg, Austria

DAY 9 KIRCHBERG IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL

We have included a full day excursion today to Salzburg – the Baroque city of Mozart. A local guide will take us on a walking tour of this enchanting city, including several locations used in the film 'Sound of Music'. Your afternoon will be at leisure to explore the myriad of narrow, cobbled stone streets, ornate squares and churches, fascinating shops and traditional coffee houses. The views from the enormous Festung (Fortress), sitting high above the city, are magnificent. (B, D)

DAY 10 KIRCHBERG IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL

A fascinating day ahead as we visit Berchtesgaden. A local guide joins us as we take a breathtaking bus journey up the winding Kehlstein road and then, in Hitler's personal luxurious brass elevator, we ascend inside the mountain for a guided tour of the Kehlsteinhaus. This alpine retreat is better known as Hitler's Eagles Nest and the mountain views are spectacular. We also visit the Dokumentation Centre of Obersalzberg (Hitler's former Nazi Southern Headquarters) and descend into the elaborate system of bunkers connecting with the Berghof.

As a finale we enjoy an afternoon coffee stop in the charming village beside perhaps the most beautiful lake of all - Konigsee - famous the world over for its steep cliffs and fjord like lake. As a fitting end to the day we have included a relaxing cruise along the lake to see the romantic pilgrimage church on St Bartholomew Island. (B, D)

DAY 11 KIRCHBERG IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL

Your day is entirely free to explore the old town of Kirchberg and maybe the nearby town of Kitzbuhel. Why not take a cable car up one of the surrounding peaks and enjoy lunch in one of the mountain top restaurants. Alternatively relax on a sun terrace and soak up the glorious surroundings. (B, D)

DAY 12 KIRCHBERG IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL

An exciting day in the mountains. Driving to Jenbach we board the old wooden carriages of the historical Zillertalbahn steam train and relax as it puffs its way up the full length of the Ziller Valley through conifer forest and

rich green meadows to reach the chic ski resort of Mayrhofen. This is a perfect place to enjoy lunchtime amongst the numerous shops, cafes and restaurants surrounded by the soaring Alps. Meeting up with our coach we enter the Hohe Tauern National Park and drive over the spectacular 1,630 metre high, 12 km long Gerlos Pass. Stopping at Krimml we visit the Krimmler Wasserfälle (Waterfalls) - the highest in Austria – where we enjoy a walk along the valley pathway to a number of spectacular viewpoints. (B, D)

DAY 13 MUNICH

Bidding Austria farewell, we drive to Munich. On arrival we have included a panoramic city tour, which will orientate you with the main sights, such as the neo-gothic town hall, and the wonderful church known as the Frauenkirche, whose twin onion-topped towers are the symbol of the city. Your afternoon is at leisure to explore this cosmopolitan city. This evening we have included a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

Your Munich Hotel – Maritim Hotel. This first class hotel is in a superb location in the city centre just a few minutes walk from the main railway station, Deutsches Theatre and the main pedestrian shopping mall.

DAY 14 MUNICH

Sadly your tour has come to an end after breakfast. (B)

Compare the Albatross Difference

 <p style="font-size: small;">Less time on coaches, average 134 kms travelled each day</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">Maximum 30 passengers</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">Over \$1,400 value of extras included - no hidden costs</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">Book by 22 December and save \$300 pp</p>
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Albatross gives you more...

Highlights

- Take the funicular up to Heidelberg Castle
- Stay 3 nights in the heart of the Black Forest
- Visit medieval Triberg, postcard perfect Colmar, gothic Freiburg and charming Strasbourg
- Alsace wine tasting and enjoy the 'route du vin'
- Enjoy coffee and cake in the Black Forest
- Enjoy Lake Constance and 350,000 flowers on the Island of Mainau
- Spend 3 nights in the mountains of Bavaria
- Enjoy a cable car ride and visit Fussen and Oberammergau
- Visit Linderhof Palace and Ludwig's fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle
- Explore Innsbruck and visit Swarovski Crystal World
- Relax over 5 nights in the beautiful Austrian Tyrol
- Drive over the magnificent Garmisch and Gerlos Alpine Passes
- Savour Salzburg, the baroque city of Mozart
- Experience Hitler's Eagles Nest and Dokumentation Centre
- Cruise along the world famous lake - Konigsee
- Admire the highest waterfalls in Austria – Krimmler Wasserfälle
- Visit the chic ski resort of Mayrhofen
- Ride a steam train through the Ziller Valley

Inclusions

- All the sightseeing, scenic drives and excursions (as per the itinerary)
- Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
- First class air-conditioned touring coach
- End of tour tips to Tour Manager, driver and local guides
- 13 nights selected accommodation as described
- Hotel portorage (1 bag per person)
- Welcome drink in Frankfurt
- Buffet breakfasts daily and all (13) dinners
- Local guides - Salzburg, Neuschwanstein Castle, Hitler's Eagles Nest, Mainau Botanical Gardens
- Entrances: Heidelberg Castle, Mainau Botanical Gardens, Neuschwanstein Castle, Linderhof Palace, Swarovski Crystal World, Hitler's Eagles Nest, Obersalzburg Dokumentation Centre, Krimml Waterfalls
- Horse and buggy ride Neuschwanstein, Funicular ride Heidelberg Castle, Black Forest cake, coffee and cuckoo clock demonstration, Tegelberg cable car ride, steam train ride Ziller Valley, Alsace comprehensive wine tasting, cruise on Lake Konigsee
- Quietvox personal audio system whilst on tour

Tour Price

14 days only **\$3,969** pp twin share
Single supplement \$489 (land only prices)

Special 2011 Departures

16 May; 4 July; 29 August; 24 September

...come share our love of Europe

Neuschwanstein Castle, Bavaria

