

ROMANTIC GERMANY with a taste of FRANCE



Mainau island, Lake Constance



Colmar – Alsac, France



Rhine River, Germany

PROGRAM:

Arrive at Frankfurt Airport - Würzburg - Romantic Road to Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Arrival at Frankfurt airport. Meet and greet by our tour manager who will show us the way to our tour bus.

Departing Frankfurt, head off through the beautiful Spessart Mountains to the city of Würzburg. Visit the UNESCO World heritage-listed Würzburg Residence before we continue our journey along the Romantic Road with high-gabled houses and cobbled-stone streets to Rothenburg ob der Tauber. This is the best known and loved of all the Romantic Road towns due to its authenticity, charm, and variety. Check in to our centrally located hotel. After an evening welcome dinner at our hotel, we meet the Night Watchman of Rothenburg for a walking tour of Rothenburg's medieval old town, where we will learn about the city's history that dates back more than 1,000 years. Overnight in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. (B, D)

Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Breakfast at the hotel. Spend the full day in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Rothenburg ob der Tauber, is referred to as Germany's well-preserved 'Jewel of the Middle Ages' with its ramparts, city gates, town hall and Jakobskirche (church) and altar by the famous wood-carver Tilman Riemenschneider. During a city walk you will see the Marketplace, Markus Tower, Weisserturm, St. Jacob's Church with the Holy Blood Altar by Tilman Riemenschneider and much more. The rest of the afternoon is free. Overnight and dinner at our hotel in Rothenburg. (B, D)

Rothenburg - Augsburg - Munich - Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Breakfast at hotel. Continue our drive along the Romantic Road passing the charming towns of Dinkelsbühl and Nördlingen, and make a short stop in the medieval city of Augsburg. Then we make our way to Munich, the capital of Bavaria, where we will enjoy lunch together at the world-famous Hofbräuhaus. Afterwards, we enjoy an introductory city walk to the famous Marienplatz. At the Marienplatz, crowds gather outside the soaring neo-gothic Town Hall to watch the colourful Glockenspiel. In the late afternoon we travel into the Bavarian Alps to the village of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, at the foot of the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain. Check in at our centrally located hotel. Dinner and overnight in Garmisch. (B, L, D)

Garmisch - Ettal, Oberammergau and Hohenschwangau

After breakfast at our hotel, we travel to the beautiful village of Ettal with its spectacular Benedictine abbey, and drive on to nearby Oberammergau - famous for its Passion Play - which is performed every 10 years and involves more than 2,000 local performers. Our next stop is Wies, where we will visit the impressive Rococo-era Pilgrimage Church of Wies, designed in the 1740s. By mid-time we then drive to the enchanting and stunning Neuschwanstein Castle in Hohenschwangau. Then, we will continue on to the fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein. This magnificent castle is probably the best known of King Ludwig's many monumental achievements and we will be hosted on a guided tour of the interior. From here we continue back via Ehrwald area to Garmisch. Enjoy another Bavarian dinner tonight at our hotel. Overnight in Garmisch. (B, D)

Garmisch - Lindau, Lake Constance

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Today continue our romantic journey and travel west to another famous and romantic landmark in Germany, Lake Constance - the largest lake in Germany. Together we enjoy a walking tour of the village of Lindau, located on the east side of the lake. After enjoy some free time at leisure for lunch or shopping in Lindau. In the early afternoon we travel on the north-west side of the lake to Ueberlingen. Check-in at our charming lake-side Hotel, for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

Constance and Mainau island (Flower Island)

After breakfast, we board our coach and drive to the beautiful city of Constance, a well-known university town and the birthplace of Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, the famous airship pioneer. Together we enjoy a city walking tour with a local expert. Next, we will cross the bridge to the Flower Island. We will have lunch together at the Schwedenschenke Restaurant, a cozy, country-style tavern. In the afternoon we hear about the island's flowers, which are worth seeing at any time of year. Discover the park with rare and exotic trees, palm house, castle church, and Italian rose garden at the heart of the island. Over 12,000 dahlias await you in the garden by the shore, while the perennial garden features a blaze of fall colors. In the late afternoon, we will take the ferry across Lake Constance to our hotel in Ueberlingen. Dinner at our hotel. (B, L, D)

Lake Constance - Black Forest - Titisee-Neustadt

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out. Today we drive to the spectacular region on the border of Germany and Switzerland called the Black Forest. We go deep into the legendary Black Forest. Our first stop today is Triberg, the focal heritage town of the Black Forest, with attractions including the many clock shops, world's largest Cuckoo Clock and Waterfalls. We will see the highest and most famous waterfall in Germany, the Triberg Waterfall. On the outskirts of the town Triberg, the small mountain brook Gutach falls in 7 steps 163m down to the bottom. Next, we will visit the Black Forest museum in Triberg. The museum brings the olden days of the Black Forest vividly to life, with displays of dresses, handicrafts, furnishings, bird music boxes, and of course, clocks and clock making. We then drive to our hotel located in Titisee-Neustadt. Tonight enjoy a delicious dinner at our hotel. (B, D)

Strasbourg and Colmar

Early breakfast this morning. Then we are off on a full-day tour to France! A leisurely drive brings us to Strasbourg, seat of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. Arrived in Strasbourg, we will meet our local guide for a walking tour of the old town and a visit of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. We also visit La Petite France, the most picturesque district of old Strasbourg, with magnificent half-timbered houses that date from the 16th and 17th centuries. By mid-time we will then continue our journey through the beautiful Alsace Wine Route to Colmar. On the way we stop in one of the pretty little wine towns for a lunch break incl. a wine-tasting session (Obernai or Ribeauville). We continue to Colmar in the heart of Alsace. Colmar's Germanic and French architectural heritage was spared by the frequent wars that ravaged this area. Enjoy a guided tour of the old town, which also includes a visit to the Bartholdi museum, housed in a vast residence which was the birthplace of the creator of New York's Statue of Liberty, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi. Another delicious dinner will be arranged this evening at our hotel. (B, L, D)

Black Forest - Freiburg - Heidelberg - Ruedesheim am Rhein

Early breakfast this morning and check out. Our first stop today is in Freiburg. Together with our tour escort we walk the main streets and squares, its small streams and lanes with the colorful mosaics made of Rhine pebbles, the Cathedral Square (Münsterplatz) with its merchant town houses and secular buildings. We will also visit the Gothic cathedral of Freiburg. Next, we continue on to the old university town of Heidelberg. Heidelberg lies on the river Neckar at the point where it leaves its narrow, steep valley in the Odenwald to flow into the Rhine valley. The name stands for the world-famous castle, a picturesque old town and lively university atmosphere. In the late afternoon we then drive to Ruedesheim am Rhein in the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, famous for its untouched nature and widespread vineyards. Upon arrival we check in to our hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Ruedesheim & Rhine cruise

After breakfast, we board a Rhine steamer and ride on the world famous Rhine from Ruedesheim to St. Goarshausen. Nowhere in the world are there as many medieval castles as on this unique stretch of the Rhine. See the legendary Loreley Rock - The myth lives on, high above the Rhine, at the top of the gigantic cliff. Our bus already awaits us in St. Goarshausen for our return to Ruedesheim. Once back in Ruedesheim, we will visit the Ruedesheimer Drosselgasse, a perfect example of the wine blessedness with her 144-m length and known as the most famous lane of the world. Also Ruedesheim belongs to the best known wine-growing municipalities. It is a special experience to squeeze itself through this filled lane with music and coloured life. Farewell dinner we will enjoy together at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Ruedesheim to Frankfurt Airport - Departure day

One final breakfast at our hotel and then transfer to Frankfurt Airport for our return flight home. (B)

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- Deluxe motor-coach throughout as per itinerary including all necessary fees for parking, road tolls etc.
- Service of a Professional Tour escort (English-speaking) for all tours as mentioned in program above
- All necessary costs for tour escort and bus driver
- A total of 10x nights' accommodation at 4* Hotels in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Ueberlingen, Titisee-Neustadt and Ruedesheim am Rhein
- Daily European breakfast buffet at hotel
- A total of 10x 3-course dinners at hotel restaurants or well selected restaurants
- 2-course lunch at the famous Hofbräuhaus am Platzl in Munich
- 2-course lunch at a local restaurant in Lindau
- 2-course lunch at restaurant Schwedenschenke, Mainau flower island
- 2-course lunch at a local winery in Obernai (Alsace, France) including wine tasting
- Guided city tours with English-speaking local guides in Rothenburg, Munich, Lindau, Strasbourg, Colmar and Heidelberg,
- Panoramic tour of Munich with your Tour guide
- Entrance fees and guided tours at: Neuschwanstein castle incl. the Shuttle bus to the castle
Mainau flower island incl the boat journey from Ueberlingen – Mainau island and back
Triberg waterfalls, Black forest museum in Triberg, Cathedrale of Notre Dame, Bartholdi
museum in Colmar, Heidelberg castle and Rhine cruise from Ruedesheim to St. Goarshausen
- All other visits according to the tour program above
- Porterage of luggage at Hotel Innsbruck in/out
- All Taxes and charges for ground services (VAT, local taxes etc.)