

*Tour Information*



*The specialists in designing individualised European travel experiences.*

### Luxury Tour for Independent Travellers

Choose from a smorgasbord of unique travel experience options and we will design your very own tailor-made holiday of a lifetime.

Add extra days, sightseeing, experiences or excursions. As an independent traveller you can even undertake the tour in either direction, take a detour or a break in the tour to do 'your own thing' for a while, like hiring a car in the Bavarian Alps to explore the mountains, lakes and villages to create a truly individualised and unique itinerary.

## Germany Tour





## Germany Tour

## Highlights

22 DAYS | BERLIN | DRESDEN | NUERNBERG | MUNICH | ROTHENBURG | BAVARIAN ALPS  
CASTLE NEUSCHWANSTEIN | LAKE CONSTANCE | BLACK FOREST | HEIDELBERG | RHINE RIVER

### Berlin

Experience the vibrancy of Germany's capital and visit the historic sites: the Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie.

### Dresden

The abundance and splendor of Dresden's cultural treasures will take your breath away. Visit the historic places that Dresden is famous for: the Semper Opera, the Zwinger and the Church of our Lady. Stroll along the enchanting Elbe River and enjoy the stunning river landscape that is the setting for this most beautiful city.

### Nuernberg

While this city is one of the most significant historic cities in Germany with its medieval fortifications, it is also a city of scholars, skilled craftspeople and artisans.



### Munich

Enjoy the historic inner city with one of the finest squares in Europe, the Marienplatz, its world class galleries and visits to the BMW museum and famous beer hall, the Hofbraeuhaus. A highlight of your Germany Tour will be the guided walking tour of the historic sites of Munich.



### Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Strolling through the quaint and narrow little streets of Rothenburg will make you feel that you have been transported back in time into the medieval era.

### Castle Neuschwanstein and Oberammergau

See mad King Ludwig's fairy-tale castle Neuschwanstein and admire the beautifully painted houses in Oberammergau.

## Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Bavarian Alps)

This small township has one of the most charming landscapes in the Bavarian Alps and is at the foot of Germany's highest mountain, the glacier-covered Zugspitze. Enjoy the breathtaking views from the summit, gentle strolls through alpine meadows overlooking deep blue lakes, or more challenging hikes in the mountains along crystal clear streams and waterfalls.



## Lindau (Lake Constance)

Take a leisurely cruise on Lake Constance, Europe's third largest lake, which is bordered by 3 countries: Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Walk along the lake foreshore in Bregenz and explore the quaint island town of Lindau with its picturesque harbour.



## Gutach (Black Forest)

Stay in a historic farm house in the center of the Black Forest, traverse the forest in one of the most scenic train rides in Europe and taste the best Black Forest cakes and other locally produced specialties.



## Strasbourg (France)

Visit one of the most delightful cities in Europe, just across the border from Germany and admire the city's beautiful architecture from the comfort of a canal boat.

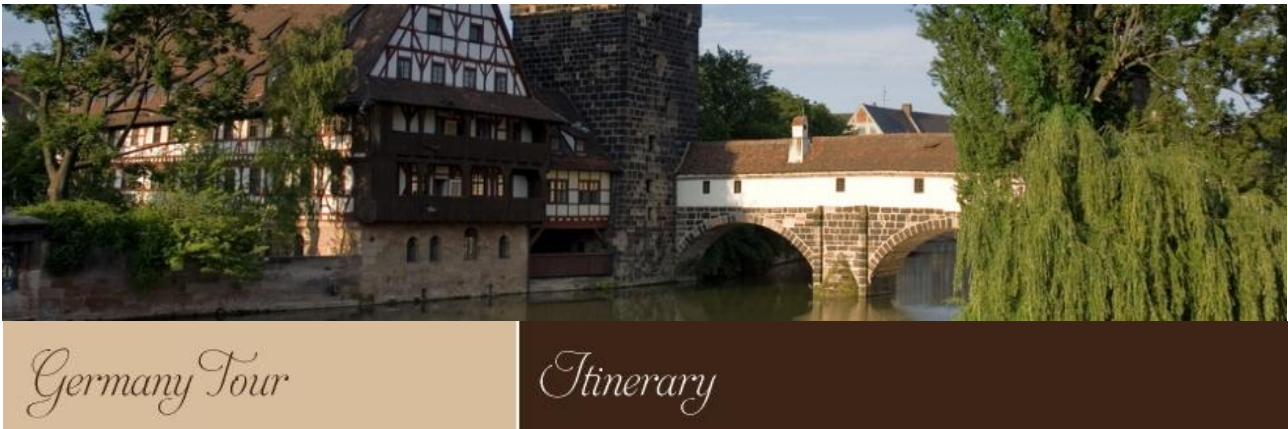


## Heidelberg

Enjoy a stroll along banks of the Neckar River, through this 12th Century small town with its quaint alleyways, plazas and world famous castle.

## Koblenz (Rhine River)

Experience the Rhine River on a leisurely cruise and cross it by cable car. 2000 year old Koblenz has much to offer and another highlight of your Germany tour will be the visit to castle Ehrenbreitstein.



This independent tour of Germany can start at any time, can be shortened, extended or combined with any of our other tours to create a unique itinerary.

*Inclusions in italics*

### Day 1 & 2 - Berlin

Get to know Berlin's famous sites *by bus or on a guided walking or bike tour or from the comfort of a canal boat*. See the city's main attractions: the Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, the parliament building and lesser-known hidden gems.

### Day 3 - Berlin

During your *excursion* to nearby UNESCO world heritage listed Potsdam visit the imperial palace Sanssouci and Babelberg Palace nestled in a stunning landscape park.



Potsdam, once home to Prussian royalty, frequently flies under the radar of visiting international tourists. Apart from its stately homes, gardens, parks and elegant palaces it has a Dutch Quarter, comprised of 134 Dutch-style redbrick homes, a Russian Quarter, Roman Baths and a historical windmill.

### Day 4 - Dresden

*Explore the splendour of Dresden by bus at your own pace and take time to visit this city's famous landmarks:* Germany's most famous opera house the Semper Opera house, the Zwinger with its baroque complex of pavilions and galleries and the cathedral (Frauenkirche), the majestic dome of which dominates the cityscape.

## Day 5 - Dresden

Take a *guided walking tour* and discover Dresden's fascinating history and architecture, see one of the world's longest murals in the Royal Mews courtyard and admire the collections in the stunning Royal Palace, which dates back to the 14th Century. If you are on a family vacation and travelling with children you could choose to discover Dresden with a thrilling *scavenger hunt* instead.



## Day 6 - Nuernberg

Spend the afternoon of your arrival day to explore the historic inner city with its lovely half-timbered houses, medieval fortifications, cobble-stoned streets and alleyways.

## Day 7 - Nuernberg

*During a guided 4-hour walking tour* you will understand the important historic role that Nuernberg has played as the centre of the Roman Empire to the more recent days of Hitler's Third Reich.

Your guide will take you from the bustling central square around the medieval city walls to the castle's imperial courtyards. You will visit Nuernberg's Nazi Party rally grounds and hear about the famous Nuernberg trials while visiting the documentation center.

## Day 8 - Munich

Take the afternoon and see Van Gogh's famous paintings in the New Pinakothek gallery, visit the BMW museum or the Dachau concentration camp on the outskirts of Munich.



As Munich is the beer capital of the world you might like to kick off your visit to this city by sampling some of their finely crafted beers at the world famous Hofbraeuhaus, together with some hearty Bavarian fare while listening to an oompah band.

## Day 9 - Munich

Your day starts with a *guided walking tour* that takes you to the places of Munich's dark past, where the Third Reich had its origins, where Adolf Hitler's voice could first be heard and which was the stage for some of the Nazi's worst crimes. Or you can choose a *city tour and visit to the Allianz arena*, home to soccer club Bayern Munich, one of the world's most spectacular stadiums.

## Day 10 - Excursion to medieval Rothenburg from Munich

On your *full day guided coach excursion* to Rothenburg you can immerse yourself in castles and medieval villages as you travel along the Romantic Road to Rothenburg.

Harburg, one of the oldest and best preserved castles in southern Germany, which was a strategically important stronghold in the 11th Century, will be your first stop.

In Rothenburg, the most perfectly preserved medieval town in Europe, you will have 3 hours to stroll around the quaint inner town and to visit the impressive St Jacob's Church, a light-filled gothic building with soaring ceilings.

## Day 11 & 12 - Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Bavarian Alps)

Stroll along streets and alleyways, across little bridges and past beautifully painted houses, their balconies adorned with masses of flowers, and you will understand why the people who live in this charmed corner of the world are envied. The historic sites, breathtaking panorama of the Bavarian Alps, dramatic gorges, flowering alpine meadows and a country town steeped in tradition will make you feel that you have arrived in a little paradise on earth.



*Take the charming cogwheel train* to the top of the Zugspitze glacier-covered mountain. At the 9000 feet summit you have breathtaking views of more than 400 peaks in Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Germany.

And for a thrill of a lifetime *take the Alpenspitze cable car* to the summit, where you will find two steel platforms cantilevered over the abyss, at the end of which you will be standing 1,000 meters above the 'Hell valley'.



## Day 13 - Excursion to Castle Neuschwanstein and Oberammergau

*Your all-day private excursion* will take you first of all to the iconic Neuschwanstein Castle, the most visited in castle in Germany. And it is not just the castle itself, but the location of the castle on a hill in a magnificent landscape overlooking the Hohenschwangau valley, that will make you feel you have arrived in the middle of a fairy-tale.

You then travel on to Oberammergau, which is not just world-famous for its woodcarvers, richly painted houses and Passion Play, but also for their traditional craftsmanship. Watch the craftsmen and women in their studios in the Pilate house demonstrating traditional handcraft skills in woodcarving, pottery, drum making and stained glass making, crafts that have been used for hundreds of years.

## Day 14 & 15 - Lindau (Lake Constance)

Explore the historic town of Lindau, which is actually an island in Lake Constance, full of medieval and half-timbered buildings and an absolute charming place. *Take a boat tour* from the small harbour and just sit back and enjoy *coffee and cake* while admiring the view of the Austrian and Swiss Alps across the lake.

Take the ferry to nearby Bregenz in Austria (movie location for the James Bond movie 'Quantum of Solace') for a lovely walk along the lake shore. Then hop on the cable car up to the Pfänder Mountain from where you have the most magnificent views across the lake and the mountains. High above the lake is Bregenz' old town, Oberstadt. This tiny town with its winding streets, colourful houses and gardens is enclosed by defensive walls and is just asking to be explored.



## Day 16 & 17 - Gutach (Black Forest)

Your visit to the Vogtsbauernhof open air museum will make the culture and history of this region come alive. Six restored and equipped farmhouses, dating back to the late 16th Century, will provide you with an inside how people have lived and worked in the Black Forest over the last 400 year. Add to this display visits to the adjoining buildings: a water mill, store houses, distillery, bakery, chapel, saw mill, hemp press, oil mill and forge and you can look forward to spending several enchanting and interesting hours walking from one building to the next.



Take a *scenic ride on the Black Forest Panorama train*, one of the oldest mountain lines in the world, passing directly across the Black Forest, viaducts, tunnels and through spectacular scenery. En-route visit the town of Triberg and see Germany's highest waterfall in a wild and romantic landscape, the baroque pilgrimage church and cuckoo clocks shops and workshops. And last not least sample a slice or two of the finest Black Forest Cake.

## Day 18 - Excursion to Strasbourg (France)

Take the *Black Forest train* and this time head west towards Strasbourg, one of Europe's most attractive cities. The entire town centre has been listed as a UNESCO

world heritage site with its cathedral of Notre Dame and the 'Petite France Quarter', Strasbourg's most picturesque district, which onetime was home to fishermen, millers and tanners.

Take a cruise through the waterways of France's 'little Venice' and see the magnificent 13th Century towers, roofed wooden footbridges and half-timbered houses built level with the waterways.

Visit or perhaps even have lunch in the restaurant of the Kammerzell house, the architectural 'jewel in the crown' of this town, where since the 15th Century merchants have been selling their goods under the ornately carved stone arches.



## Day 19 - Heidelberg

This 12th Century small city with its world famous castle, picturesque setting and Mediterranean climate has been the center of Germany's 'Romantic Movement' and inspiration to numerous literary figures, not to mention Elvis Presley.

*The cog-wheel train will take you right from the center of town to the fortress where you can enjoy the splendid view across the Neckar valley. Take some time to stroll around the terraces, gardens and fortifications of this iconic 14th Century castle.*

Take a walk on the 'Philosopher's path', across the Neckar River from the castle and enjoy the beautiful gardens, mansions and views of the old city and the castle.



## Day 20 & 21 - Koblenz (Rhine and Mosel River)

Explore Koblenz, one of the most beautiful and oldest cities in Germany with over 2000 years of history, where the Rhine and Mosel Rivers flow together.



*Take the cable car for a spectacular ride across the Rhine River and arrive at fortress Ehrenbreitstein, whose origins go back to the 1st century and is Germany's second largest preserved fortress.*

Enjoy a leisurely cruise on the Rhine or Moselle, floating past medieval castles and hill-top fortification, vineyards and villages. This section of the Rhine provides one of the most magnificent cultural landscapes in Europe. The richness and beauty of this middle Rhine region has been recognized with a UNESCO world heritage listing.

## Germany Tour

## Prices and Inclusions

### Accommodation

- \* 21 nights in first class hotels, self-contained apartment or farm house

### Travel

- \* Transfer from arrival airport into the city by Airport Express Train or Bus
- \* 1st class train tickets between destinations. Seat reservations where required and available
- \* 3 day travel card for all public transport in Berlin
- \* 2 day public transport card in Dresden
- \* Transfer by train from Heidelberg to Frankfurt airport on departure

### Meals

- \* 17 breakfasts

### Sightseeing and Excursions

- \* Sightseeing in Berlin by bus, bike, cruise boat or guided historic walking tour
- \* Admission to Checkpoint Charlie Museum in Berlin
- \* Admission to Anne Frank Centre in Berlin
- \* Self-guided excursion by train to Potsdam and the former imperial residence Palace Sanssouci
- \* Admission to the Berlin Cathedral
- \* Admission to the Zwinger and Pillnitz Castle in Dresden
- \* Guided walking tour or scavenger hunt in Dresden
- \* Guided walking tour of the old town of Nuernberg and the Nazi Party Rally Grounds
- \* Guided historic walking tour in Munich or city tour and Bayern Munich soccer stadium visit
- \* Full day guided coach excursion along the Romantic Road to Rothenburg
- \* Private excursion to Castle Neuschwanstein and Oberammergau
- \* Admission tickets to Castle Neuschwanstein
- \* Cogwheel train / cable car ticket for the Zugspitze Glacier mountain in Garmisch-Partenkirchen
- \* Cable car ticket for the Alpsee mountain in Garmisch-Partenkirchen
- \* 1.5 hour cruise on Lake Constance with coffee and cake
- \* Journey on the Black Forest Railway
- \* Independent excursion to Strasbourg by train
- \* Cable car ride across the Rhine River in Koblenz
- \* Admission to fortress Ehrenbreitstein
- \* All day cruise on the Rhine River
- \* Funicular ride and admission to Heidelberg Castle

### Tour prices

All tour prices are published on our [website](#)

We also cater for families and groups. Prices by application. Surcharges apply if travelling during Easter and Christmas holidays, New Year's Eve and Venice Carnival and other local events. The prices and tour information are correct at the time of the website going live, however are subject to confirmation at the time of booking.

*Travel in Style*

*Comfort & Luxury*

## Travelling

Travel in style in Europe's luxurious superfast trains and arrive relaxed and in next to no time at your holiday destinations. Comfortable, fast and stress free. Enjoy the spacious seats, plenty of leg room, ability to move around and the magnificent views from the comfort of your reserved first class seat or the dining car. No early morning starts and no late afternoon arrivals at the next destination.



## Accommodation

Your luxurious hotels will not just be a comfortable place to stay at but will be a feature in itself and enhance your European experience – the hotel with views to the Alps, a riverside hotel, a renovated 15<sup>th</sup> Century farmhouse in the Black Forest, all close to all the historic sites and within 'strolling' distance of restaurants and cafes. Step out of the front door of your hotel and be surrounded by the sounds, sights, music and ambience of the town. Your hotel will also be a place to retreat to - be that in a peaceful inner courtyard, a lakeside terrace, a garden, or rooftop terrace.

## Food

Taste the regional specialties. We will provide you with information prior to your departure on local markets, restaurants, wine taverns or little 'hole in the wall' eateries that you might like to check out.

## Atmosphere and sights

You will have ample time to explore and become familiar with each place as you are not spending a lot of travelling time getting from one destination to the next and staying 2 nights minimum everywhere. All of us have our own preferred way of how and what to see in a city and how much time to spend where. We have therefore given you sightseeing options to choose from that will fit your personal preferences.

## Hassle free travelling

We take care to plan and organize your holiday in every detail and to your personal liking. Just pack your bags, get on the plane and enjoy a stress-free and well-paced holiday. Our programs are a well-balanced mix of magnificent architecture but also markets, river or lake cruises, walks in the countryside, themed excursions or strolls along rivers and little cobble-stoned alleyways.

*Tailor Made*

*Independent Travelling*

## Independent travelling

You are travelling as independent travellers, with your own tickets, reservations, detailed itinerary, directions, timetables, admission tickets, maps etc. Every day will be quite clearly laid out in your itinerary, with train departure and arrival times, seat reservation details, destination information, directions and maps where sightseeing tours will leave from or how to get to or from the train station to your hotel, usually in easy walking distance. The various sightseeing tours at your destinations will be pre-booked and we will provide you with detailed information regarding the time and content of the tour, and departure points.

## Communication

Travelling in Europe, in particular Western Europe, you will find that you won't have any communication problems as good English is widely spoken. Sharing of local knowledge and insights into the culture and history of the country you are visiting, usually provided by a tour leader, will be available during your sightseeing tours by local expert guides.

## Increased flexibility and choices

Having your own tickets gives you more flexibility. For example in Munich, if you want to visit the BMW museum and your travelling partner prefers to undertake a guided historical tour. The usual departure time for the train is around 10 am, giving you plenty of time for a leisurely breakfast.

## The choice is yours

We ensure that our tours are planned and organized with attention to every detail and we feel confident that you will find that everything works smoothly. You will have the advantage of the substantial savings of the 'self-guided' tour price and you can choose to use these savings to splash out on some exciting optional travel experiences, like extra excursions, pamper treatments or indulging in some regional delicacies.



*Tailor Made*

*About Us*

Many years of travelling, living in various countries in Europe and intensive research of travel destinations have inspired us to create the tours in our program. Our personal experience has taught us that rushing from one place to the next is not the best way to experience a different culture. To enjoy every moment and have a truly memorable holiday one needs to travel at a leisurely pace.

We know that a holiday has to be well structured and balanced – not just a string of major European cities with their magnificent architecture. And we also know that tastes and preferences in regards to travel experiences vary greatly – while one traveller might want to spend an entire day in Paris at the Louvre another traveller would rather spend the day at EuroDisney. Our concept of self-guided, individualised tours can accommodate both with ease.

**And this is what makes our tours unique.**

We realize that not everyone wants to experience Europe with 40 other travellers in a bus on the exact same itinerary. Or – at the other end of the spectrum – not everyone wants to hire a car and make their own way, driving on the highways and into the cities of Europe.

That's why we have chosen the comfort and flexibility of train travel for you.

Travelling in Europe's super-fast trains nevertheless gives you the feeling of 'slow travel', as you have more time at each destination and never rush from place to place. We have designed the itineraries so that most mornings you will leave at about 10am and on average your travel time between destinations ranges from 2 ½ hours to 4 hours and 20 minutes, depending on your tour.

We are continually researching and visiting the destinations on the tours to ensure that all the services you receive are of the absolute highest standard.

As a registered travel agency and member of the Australian Travel Compensation Fund you can have the peace of mind that your money is secure and you will not find yourself stranded and without tickets or valid reservations. The Travel Compensation Fund has an ongoing financial monitoring system in place that helps prevent the failure of a participating travel agency. In the case of a financial collapse of the participating travel agency however, eligible travellers are provided with compensation through the TCF if the traveller has suffered a financial loss.

**Our Travel Compensation Fund Number is: 10067**

<http://www.tcf.org.au/index.as>

**Our Travel Agent Number is: 3402878**

<http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/travel-agent-licence-check.htm>

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*Terms & Conditions*

**See our website for full details regarding our Terms and Conditions.**