



Alpine Wanderer

Rothenburg • Munich • Salzburg • Reutte • Interlaken • Black Forest • Rhine Valley



Day 1 • Departure

Our journey begins as we board our trans-Atlantic flight to Frankfurt, Germany.

Day 2 • Rothenburg ob der Tauber/Romantic Road

Upon arrival in Frankfurt, we board a motor coach and drive to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the medieval, walled gem on the Romantic Road. On a walking tour we are transported back 500 years as we stroll past half-timbered buildings and through narrow, winding cobblestone streets. Later we have time at leisure, perhaps to visit the *Kriminalmuseum* or St. Jacob's Church, with its famous *Heilig-Blut Altar* carved by Riemenschneider. There is also time to shop, walk the well-preserved ramparts, or climb the town hall tower for a commanding view of the city. **B/D**

Day 3 • Munich

This morning we drive to another medieval city, **Nuremberg** (*Nürnberg*). It is the second largest city in Bavaria and the site of huge Nazi party rallies during the 1930's. Here we take a locally guided tour. There is also time to sample two foods for which Nuremberg is famous: *Lebkuchen* (gingerbread) and *Bratwurst*. We then continue on to Munich, the capital of Bavaria. En route we visit the **Dachau Memorial** to learn about a dark period in Germany's history. **B/D**

Day 4 • Munich

We get a unique view of Munich today, experiencing the off-beat humor which characterizes a bike tour. Our tour includes a stop in the **English Garden** for lunch. The afternoon is free to pursue individual interests. Possibilities include a stroll through the *Viktalienmarkt* (food market), a climb to the top of the steeple of St. Peter's Church for a splendid view of the city, shopping along Munich's lively pedestrian zone, visiting the *Alte* or *Neue Pinakothek* (Old or New Gallery), and the *Deutsches Museum*. We enjoy a buffet dinner and entertainment at the *Hofbräuhaus* this evening. **B/D**

Day 5 • Salzburg, Austria

Our destination today is the Austrian city of Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and setting of the film, "The Sound of Music." But first we don miner's clothing and take an unforgettable tour of a salt mine. Be prepared for the slide of your life! In Salzburg, a walking tour introduces us to the **Mirabel Garden**, the narrow, bustling *Getreidegasse*, and the magnificent *Dom*. This evening we hike up to the **Hohensalzburg Fortress** for a memorable view of this lovely city. **B/D**

Day 6 • Reutte

This morning we drive to **Oberammergau**, the world-renowned village which has staged a *Passion Play* every ten years since 1634. Here we tour the Passion Play Theater. Later we enter the world of the romantic, eccentric (or crazy?) King Ludwig II of Bavaria. A visit to the most ornate of his castles, and his personal favorite, *Linderhof*, is scheduled for later this afternoon. Our drive to Reutte takes us along the scenic shore of the *Plansee*. **B/D**

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Day 7 • Interlaken area, Switzerland

A full day begins as we tour of another of King Ludwig's castles, the spectacular *Neuschwanstein*, which became the model for Disney's Magic Kingdom. We take a short break in **Vaduz**, capital of the tiny principality (*Fürstentum*) of Liechtenstein before continuing on to William Tell country and the beautiful city of **Lucerne**. We learn the story of the *Löwendenkmal*, a powerful symbol of the tragedy that befell Swiss mercenary guards at the onset of the French Revolution in 1789, when their loyalty to the King of France cost them their lives. We also take time to stroll across the covered 13th century **Chapel Bridge**, marveling at the ancient paintings. After a scenic drive over the **Brünig Pass**, we arrive at our day's destination, Interlaken. **B/D**

Day 8 • Interlaken area

Today we enjoy an excursion into an alpine wonderland! Our drive takes us to the little village of **Lauterbrunnen**, where we board a cog wheel train and travel to the resort village of **Wengen**. We next take a gondola ride to the **Männlichen Mountain**, from where we hike to the *Kleine Scheidegg*, a high ridge with a fabulous panoramic view of the **Jungfrau Range**. After returning to Lauterbrunnen, we continue up the valley to the *Trümmelbachfälle*, where roaring, glacial rivers cascade through a hollowed out mountain. **B/D**

Day 9 • Black Forest area

We re-enter Germany today, but not before stopping at the magnificent, thundering **Rhine Falls** at **Schaffhausen**, where we are awed by the raw power of the crashing foam from a platform just a few feet above the river. This afternoon we drive into the *Schwarzwald*, a picturesque region of fir forests, lush meadows and scenic valleys. Here we visit the *Freilichtmuseum* near Gutach where we are introduced to rural life in the Black Forest of centuries past. **B/D**

Day 10 • Rhine Valley

We begin our day with a tour of the **Daimler-Benz** factory at **Rastatt** to view the assembly of Mercedes automobiles. Anyone care to return home with a very expensive souvenir? Continuing northward, we stop in **Mainz** where a guide introduces us to Johannes Gutenberg and the history of printing at the **Gutenberg Museum**. Our stay tonight is in a village along the Rhine. **B/D**

Day 11 • Rhine Valley

On our final full day we embark on a cruise down the most scenic portion of the Rhine. This narrow valley, which has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has it all: romantic castles, lovely villages, vineyards clinging to steep inclines, and a close up view of the legendary **Loreley**. We also tour the **Marksburg Castle**, which was never conquered and is one the best preserved medieval fortresses in Germany. **B/D**

Day 12 • Return

We transfer to the Frankfurt Airport this morning and board our homebound flight. *Auf Wiedersehen!* **B**

Abbreviations for Meals: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Cost of tour: \$1,399*

Land portion only

**Based on minimum of 30 paying participants*

<u>Included</u>	<u>Not included</u>
Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach Accommodations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth hostels and multi-bedded tourist class hotels Meals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As indicated in itinerary Sightseeing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admission to all activities as indicated in itinerary Tour Guides <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher serves as tour leader (Professional tour director can be added upon request)• Local guides for city tours and major attractions Taxes and Tips <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All taxes and tips for provided services except end of tour tip for driver Complimentary Tours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One per 8 paying participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roundtrip air transportation• Professional tour director• Meals not indicated in the itinerary• Beverages, except with breakfast• End of tour tip for driver• Items of a personal nature such as passport fees <p><i>Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel Insurance <p>This tour can be customized to your specifications.</p> <p>Tour Code: SPGA12</p>

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