



## Day 1: Fly to Germany

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Munich.

## Day 2: Munich

**Arrive in Munich:** Welcome to Munich, capital city of the German state of Bavaria. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore on your own.

**Explore Munich:** Stroll through the heart of Munich, the intersection of medieval trade routes. In Marienplatz, see the neo-Gothic Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall) with its famous Glockenspiel. Continue past the cathedral known as Frauenkirche and the famous Hofbräuhaus, once the royal brewery of the Kingdom of Bavaria.

**Bavarian dinner:** This evening, get an authentic taste of Germany when you enjoy a traditional dinner at a Bavarian bräuhaus.

## Day 3: Munich

**Sightseeing tour of Munich:** Your sightseeing tour will take you past the Olympic Stadium, Marienplatz, the fashionable Schwabing district, and the Residenz, former home of the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria.

**Dachau:** Take time to reflect at Dachau, a WWII Nazi concentration camp built in 1935. In 1945, the Allies liberated the camp. Today, Dachau serves as a memorial museum.

## Day 4: Munich

**Free time in Munich:** In Munich, enjoy free time to explore on your own or simply relax.

📍 **Neuschwanstein Castle:** Join a trip to this Bavarian wonder. The castle may look familiar—it's the inspiration for Disneyland's iconic Sleeping Beauty Castle. Commissioned by "Mad" King Ludwig, the original plans were drawn up by a theater set designer. Those who do not join this excursion will enjoy additional free time in Munich.

## Day 5: Munich | Innsbruck | Venice

**Travel to Venice:** On your way to the Floating City, travel through Innsbruck, the capital of the beautiful Austrian province of Tyrol and the intersection of several Alpine passes.

**Dinner:** When you arrive in Venice, enjoy an Italian pasta dinner before turning in for the night.

## Day 6: Venice

**Sightseeing tour of Venice:** Today, see gondolas glide down the Grand Canal before stopping in St. Mark's Square. Look for the golden weathervane, which resembles archangel Gabriel, atop the 323-foot Campanile (Bell Tower). Attend a glass-blowing demonstration and watch expert craftsmen spin molten-hot wares.

**Doge's Palace:** At the pink-and-white Doge's Palace, see where mighty Venetian dukes once ruled. Stroll over the Bridge of Sighs, which links the palace to a prison. As they crossed the bridge, prisoners supposedly sighed with perfect sadness as they regarded their beautiful city for the last time.

📍 **Venetian Gondola ride:** Enjoy the ultimate Venetian experience—a gondola ride through the city's famed canals, passing by enchanting waterfront homes and under historic pedestrian bridges.

## Day 7: Venice | Lake Como | Lucerne region

**Travel to Lucerne:** Travel through Lake Como, vacation destination for the rich and famous. Later, arrive in the Lucerne region.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner with your group at your hotel.

## Day 8: Lucerne region

**Sightseeing tour of Lucerne:** The majestic Alps rise behind the shores of Lake Lucerne and provide the stunning backdrop to one of Switzerland's most picturesque cities. You'll see the poignant Lion Monument known as Löwendenkmal, a sandstone statue commemorating the Swiss Guards slain in the 1792 Paris storming of the Tuileries. Follow Lucerne's winding cobbled streets past fairy-tale houses to the Kapellbrücke. Stroll along this covered bridge and admire the detailed murals overhead.

📍 **Swiss Alps:** Take a ride up one of the Swiss Alps. There, you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the city below. Those who do not join the excursion will have free time in Lucerne.

📍 **Swiss Folklore event:** Enjoy a traditional show, complete with folk dancing, yodeling, and Alpine horns.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner with your group at your hotel.

## Day 9: Lucerne region | Freiburg | Heidelberg

**Travel to Heidelberg via Freiburg:** Stop in Freiburg, and enjoy some free time in this vibrant, picturesque city.

**Sightseeing tour of Heidelberg:** Set in the foothills of the Neckar Valley, Heidelberg boasts beautiful medieval streets lined with peaked red roofs. See the majestic Old Bridge, which crosses into the center of town. Many philosophers studied here, making Heidelberg Germany's premier university city.

**Heidelberg Castle wine barrel:** Ride a funicular up to Heidelberg Castle, and see the stunning views that inspired the poet Goethe. Stand beside the enormous wine barrel—it's so large that a dance floor was once built on top of it for visitors' amusement.

**Dinner:** Have dinner with your group and reflect on the day's events.

## Day 10: Depart for home



### 📍 3-DAY PROGRAM EXTENSION

#### **Day 10: Heidelberg | Strasbourg | Paris**

**Sightseeing tour of Strasbourg:** Travel to Strasbourg, capital of the disputed Alsace region and home to colorful waterfront façades and stately squares. See the Gothic cathedral, whose spire stands as a proud symbol of Alsatian independence. Learn about Strasbourg's role as host to the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the European Commission for the Rights of Man. Then, travel by train to the City of Light.

#### **Days 11-12: Paris**

**Sightseeing tour of Paris:** Ride down the Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. Pass the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe. Your guide shares insight into French military history when you continue past Les Invalides.

**Dinner:** On day 11, enjoy dinner with your group.

**Versailles:** At this lavish estate, explore the State Apartments, the magnificent Hall of Mirrors, the landscaped gardens and ornate fountains. Louis XIV hosted his royal court here to rein in their power and prevent their political rise.

**Louvre:** Enter by I. M. Pei's glass pyramid, and discover the antiquities that await inside. Here you can get an up-close look at da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and her beguiling smile.

**Seine River cruise:** Enjoy a scenic view of Paris as you sail along the iconic Seine River.

**Explore Paris:** Take a walking tour of the Latin Quarter, so named because the language was once commonly spoken by the Sorbonne students that populated the area.

**Notre-Dame Cathedral:** Admire Notre-Dame's sculptured facade, stained-glass rose windows, and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings. On your last evening in Paris, enjoy dinner in the Latin Quarter.

#### **Day 13: Depart for home**