

Affordable Germany, Switzerland & Austria

10 days

Nov 3 - Nov 12, 2017

\$2066 per person dbl occ



Escorted Package Includes

Flights St.Louis-Frankfurt, Vienna-St.Louis
Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
8 nights First Class accommodations
Hotel portorage
 2 nights Mainz
 1 night Black Forest
 2 nights Lucerne
 1 night Innsbruck
 2 nights Vienna
All transfers
12 meals: 8 breakfasts, 4 dinners
Entrance fees per itinerary

Special Features

Cruise the Rhine in Mainz with stunning vistas of hilltop castles and villages
Wine tasting at a local winery in the Rheinhessen Valley
In Heidelberg, view the ruins of 12th century Heidelberg Castle
Drive through the Black Forest, dense with hills of dark forests of thick pine trees
Travel to the Alsatian city of Strasbourg, home of the European Parliament
In sparkling Lucerne, in the heart of the Swiss Alps, visit the inspiring Lion Monument
Tour magical Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and setting for the Sound of Music
Tour Vienna, the Imperial city on the Danube; walk along the Ringstrasse

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Itinerary

DAY 1, Friday - Depart for Germany

DAY 2, Saturday - Arrive in Frankfurt, Transfer to Mainz

Arrive in Frankfurt; transfer to your hotel in nearby Mainz with a history of almost 2000 years, situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Main Rivers. The rest of the day is yours to get acquainted with this lively city on your own dominated by the majestic Mainz Cathedral and the Gutenberg Museum that houses the very first printed Bible. Tonight, a briefing by your Tour Manager on the scenic journey that lies ahead, followed by a Welcome Drink and Dinner with your fellow travelers

Overnight: Mainz

DAY 3, Sunday - Rhine River Cruise, Wine Tasting

The day begins with a cruise on the Rhine River. Enjoy the stunning vistas of hilltop castles, terraced vineyards and villages of timber-framed houses as the ship sails along the course of the river. Pass the mighty Lorelei rock rising vertically from the waters, named for the siren Lorelei who bewitched sailors as they passed by. In the afternoon, drive through the vineyards of the Rheinhessen Region and stop at a local winery for a wine tasting before returning to Mainz. Tonight, enjoy time at leisure in this delightful city **Overnight:** Mainz

DAY 4, Monday - Heidelberg City Tour, Black Forest

Today, head to Heidelberg, often described as Germany's most beautiful city, home to the oldest and most famous university in Germany. As you arrive, view the ruins of 12th century Heidelberg Castle towering over the city; its turbulent history inspired the German Romantic movement two centuries ago. Discover the winding alleyways of the Old City with its small gardens, bustling shops, and enchanting architecture. **Overnight:** Black Forest

DAY 5, Tuesday - Alsatian Strasbourg Cross the German-French border and travel to the picturesque City of Strasbourg, home of the European Parliament. Upon arrival, stop at the stunning Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame, an exquisite example of late Gothic architecture housing one of the finest astronomical clocks in existence. The walking tour takes you to the magical La Petite France district, home to quaint shops and charming bistros and to Place Kleber, a large historic square. This afternoon, drive to sparkling Lucerne nestled between pristine lakes and gorgeous mountainous panoramas in the heart of the Swiss Alps **Overnight:** Lucerne

DAY 6, Wednesday - Lakeside Lucerne

The exploration of the city begins at the inspiring Lion Monument, created in remembrance of the heroic death of Swiss guards killed in 1792. Walk to the 14th century medieval Chapel Bridge, one of the oldest covered wooden bridges in Europe, forming the centerpiece of Lucerne's townscape. Don't miss the exciting *optional* visit to Mount Pilatus, including a cable car ride to the summit at nearly 7,000 feet; a perfect opportunity to admire the spectacular views of the Bernese Oberland and snowcapped Swiss Peaks. It's a great adventure! **Optional:** Mount Pilatus Tour

DAY 7, Thursday - Tiny Liechtenstein, Afternoon in Innsbruck

The day begins in the tiny storybook Principality of Liechtenstein, the sixth smallest country in the world that lies in the heart of the Alps, sandwiched between Switzerland and Austria. Its capital city of Vaduz is a proud remnant of feudal Europe, still governed by one of the oldest noble families. **Overnight:** Innsbruck

DAY 8, Friday - Magical Salzburg, Austrian Capital of Vienna

Morning drive to magical Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart. The guided walking tour takes you to view the house where Mozart was born, as well as to the squares and gardens of this beautiful city, crowned by the 11th century Hohensalzburg Fortress. The city is also known as the home of the singing Von Trapp family and as the setting for the film, *The Sound of Music*. Time to walk the lovely lanes filled with delightful shops and cafes before heading east to the grand Austrian capital of Vienna. Tonight, experience a not to be missed *optional* classical Viennese Concert performance of the masterpieces of Mozart and Strauss, two of Vienna's most famous citizens **Optional:** Mozart & Strauss concert **Overnight:** Vienna

DAY 9, Saturday - Tour Imperial Vienna

This sparkling city on the Danube has captivated travelers for years with its elegant shops, world-class museums, beautiful parks and gardens. Begin today's tour with a drive along the famous Ringstrasse, Vienna's main boulevard. View the Empress Maria Theresia Monument, Votive Church, City Hall and Parliament. Next, walk through the Hofburg courtyards to the State Opera House. The rest of the day is at leisure, or join the *optional* tour to Schonbrunn Palace, once summer residence of the Hapsburgs. Visit the gorgeous baroque apartments and stroll through the world-famous manicured gardens. Be sure to stop at a café to sample the famous Viennese Sacher Torte before returning to the hotel. Tonight, attend the *optional* and share dinner with your travel companions at a unique Viennese Tavern **Optional:** Schonbrunn Palace Tour

Optional: Dinner in an Austrian Wine Tavern **Overnight:** Vienna

DAY 10, Sunday - Depart Austria

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight