



11 DAYS ALPINE EUROPE

Visiting

**HEIDELBERG * RHINE VALLEY * LUCERNE * INNSBRUCK * SALZBURG
ALTÖTTING * MARKTL AM INN * MUNICH * ROTHENBURG**

Including

THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU

Hosted by

MS. LORI STEWART

WASHINGTON, D.C./ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Depart from Washington, D.C. on your overnight transatlantic flight to Frankfurt, arriving the following day.

ARRIVE FRANKFURT/HEIDELBERG/RHINE VALLEY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Arrive Frankfurt. Drive to Heidelberg, the oldest University town in Germany and home of the "Student Prince." View the medieval Town Hall and the University, founded in 1386. Cross the Neckar River and see the ancient castle high above the city and river. Overnight in the Rhine Valley.

(D)

RHINE VALLEY/RHINE FALLS/LAKE LUCERNE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

View the magnificent Rhine Falls then drive to Lucerne. Its attractive waterfront, 14th and 15th century covered wood bridges and medieval walls make Lucerne one of Switzerland's prettiest cities. Walk along the quaint, winding streets of the Old Town and see the 14th century wooden Kapell Bridge and the Lion Monument. Free time to stroll along the bridges, relax on the lakeshore or visit the elegant shops. Overnight in the Lake Lucerne area.

(B,D)

LAKE LUCERNE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Tour Switzerland's breathtakingly beautiful Bernese Oberland. Follow the Bruenig Pass road to Interlaken, a popular summer resort dwarfed by the famous snow-covered Alpine peaks of the Eiger and the 13,642-ft. Jungfrau. Proceed to the picturesque villages of Lauterbrunnen and Grindelwald, then to your hotel for the night.

(B)

LAKE LUCERNE/INNSBRUCK

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Drive to Innsbruck, capital of the Austrian province of Tyrol, set in the heart of the Alps. The 800-year-old city was named for the bridge across the Inn River, first built in the 12th century. On your orientation tour of Innsbruck, view the Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof), a late Gothic oriel with 2,657 gold-plated tiles. It was built under the rule of Emperor Maximilian I as a royal box for spectacles held in the square below. Also see Wilten Basilica, Hofburg Palace and Maria Theresia Avenue.

(B,D)

INNSBRUCK/SALZBURG

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Admire the majestic mountain scenery as you travel east through the Kitzbuheler Alps to Salzburg, one of the world's most beautiful cities. Featured in the movie "The Sound of Music," Salzburg will always be remembered as Mozart's birthplace. On a city tour see the Mozarteum (house where Mozart lived) and visit the Church of the Franciscans and the Alter Markt in the heart of the Old City. (B)

SALZBURG/ALTÖTTING/MARKTL AM INN/MUNICH

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Return to Germany and drive to Altötting, home of the Black Madonna of Altötting, and a pilgrimage destination for over 500 years. Celebrate Mass and see the Shrine of Our Lady and the Basilica of St. Anna. Proceed to Marktl am Inn (Little market on the Inn River). The picturesque village is the birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI. View the church of St. Oswald before continuing to Munich, capital of Bavaria. Munich was ruled for over 650 years by the Wittelsbacher dukes and kings, who left their mark on the architecture. Enjoy a tour of the city. Overnight in the Munich area. (B)

MUNICH/NEUSCHWANSTEIN/OBERAMMERGAU

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Ascend the Bavarian Alps and view Mad King Ludwig's fairy-tale Neuschwanstein Castle, one of the most photographed palaces in the world and the model for the castles at the Walt Disney theme parks. Next visit the unusual, oval rococo Wies Church designed in the late 1740s and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, on to Oberammergau, site of the world-famous Passion Play. (B,D)

THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The highlight of your trip! In keeping with their 387-year old promise, the villagers of Oberammergau present their Passion Play depicting the last week of the life of Christ. The play's presentation can be traced to 1633 when the Black Plague swept Europe. The people of Oberammergau took a solemn oath: if God spared them, they would present a day-long play depicting the last week in the life of Christ. To this day they have kept their promise and every ten years the citizens of Oberammergau perform their passion play with the same love and devotion they have shown for over 380 years. Today the play takes place on an open-air stage with a covered auditorium seating 4,700, against a beautiful backdrop of towering Alpine mountains. (B,D)

OBERAMMERGAU/ROTHENBURG/FRANKFURT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Travel north on the Romantic Road through fairy-tale towns surrounded by moats, gates and towers. Admire the landscape dotted with lovely church spires standing since the Middle Ages. Arrive in Rothenburg, Germany's best preserved medieval town. Rothenburg's ramparts, cobbled roads, and high gabled houses invoke the romance of the Middle Ages. The battle-scarred walls that encircle the town still protect St. Jakobskirch, with its altar carving by Tilman Riemenschneider. After a visit, proceed to the Frankfurt area for the night. (B,D)

FRANKFURT/WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Bid farewell to Europe as you transfer to the airport for your flight to Washington, D.C., arriving the same day. (B)

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