

# Heart of Europe - 10 Day Affordable Germany, France, Switzerland & Austria

October 2023 to March 2024

From \$3099\* pp double Air and Land

\*Call for dates and rates from your departure city



## **DAY 1, Wednesday - Depart for Germany**

Depart for Frankfurt, Germany



## **DAY 2, Thursday - 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 at approximately 6 PM, an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager on the scenic journey that lies ahead, followed by a Welcome Drink and Dinner with your fellow travelers. We recommend that you select flights which arrive in your destination no later than 4 PM on Day 2 of the itinerary, or earlier if possible

**Overnight:** Mainz

**Meals:** Dinner

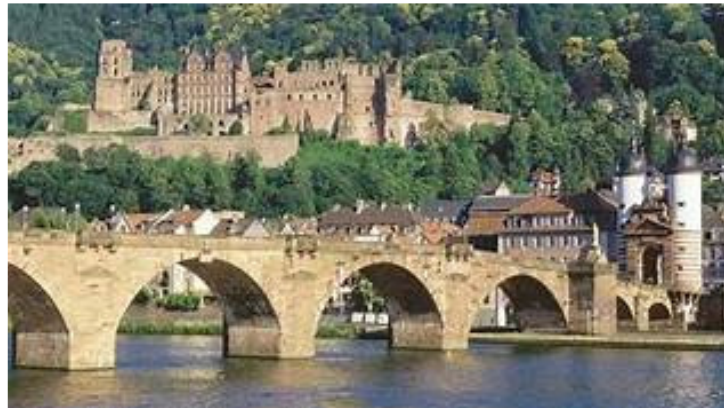


### **DAY 3, Friday - Rhine River Cruise, Wine Tasting**

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, spend time at leisure in this delightful city

**Overnight:** Mainz

**Meals:** Breakfast



### **DAY 4, Saturday - Heidelberg City Tour, Travel to Strasbourg**

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. Then, cross the border into France to overnight in the Alsatian city of Strasbourg

**Overnight:** Strasbourg

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### **DAY 5, Sunday - Alsatian Strasbourg, Travel to Lucerne**

Start the day with a walking tour of this picturesque city. Wander through the magical La Petite France district, home to quaint shops and charming bistros and to Place Kleber, a large historic square. Then, marvel at the stunning Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame, an exquisite example of late Gothic architecture housing one of the finest astronomical clocks in existence. This afternoon, drive to sparkling Lucerne nestled between pristine lakes and gorgeous mountainous panoramas in the heart of the Swiss Alps

**Overnight:** Lucerne

**Meals:** Breakfast



### **DAY 6, Monday - 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! Later, time to shop for chocolate, watches and the world-famous Swiss and German cuckoo clocks

**Optional:** Mount Pilatus Tour (PM)

**Overnight:** Lucerne

**Meals:** Breakfast





### **DAY 7, Tuesday - 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. Enjoy the breathtaking Alpine scenery as you cross into Austria and journey to Innsbruck, the Tyrolean capital of the Austrian Alps, arriving this afternoon for leisure time

**Overnight:** Innsbruck

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### **DAY 8, Wednesday - 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

**Overnight:** Vienna

**Meals:** Breakfast



### **DAY 9, Thursday - 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, share a Farewell Dinner with your travel companions at a unique Viennese Tavern

**Optional:** Schonbrunn Palace Tour (PM)

**Overnight:** Vienna

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### **DAY 10, Friday - Depart Austria**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast

## Escorted Package Includes

- Flights New York-Frankfurt, Vienna-New York  
Other departure cities available. Click on date of departure for selection and prices
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- 8 nights First Class accommodations
  - 2 nights Mainz
  - 1 night Strasbourg
  - 2 nights Lucerne
  - 1 night Innsbruck
  - 2 nights Vienna
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel portorage
- All transfers included only with airfare purchase on package arrival & departure dates†
- 12 meals: 8 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of local guides per itinerary
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

## 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
- Explore the Alsatian city of Strasbourg, home of the European Parliament
- In sparkling Lucerne, the heart of the Swiss Alps, visit the inspiring Lion Monument
- Experience magical Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and setting for the Sound of Music
- Tour Vienna, the Imperial city on the Danube; walk along the Ringstrasse

†Transfers are available for purchase for land only or on alternative flight dates

## Is This Trip Right for You?

This moderately active trip covers a fair amount of ground each day. Expect from three to four hours walking every touring day. The pace is moderate, however you will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. This is an Off Season program.

### Hilton Mainz, Mainz



This first class hotel is close to the Rhine River and the city center of Mainz.

### Hilton Strasbourg, Strasbourg



This first class hotel is a short walk from the Palais de la Musique congress center

### Grand Europe Hotel, Lucerne



This first class hotel is situated in a prestigious location just a 5 minute drive from the city center.



### Grauer Baer Hotel, Innsbruck



This first class hotel is a short walk from Innsbruck's historic Old Town.

### Hotel Savoyen Vienna, Vienna



This first class hotel is located in the Diplomatic Quarter next to the Belvedere Palace Park.

**Book your Optional Tours before you travel. See more, save time, save money.**

- Tours purchased while travelling may cost an extra 10% or more
- Tours often sell out. Avoid disappointment
- Save your cash. Credit card processing may not be possible locally
- Travel insurance only covers services purchased prior to departure
- Book Online or call to book these tours up to 1 week before your departure
- The day the optionals operate varies by the day of the week



### Mount Pilatus Tour

Ascend the world's steepest cogwheel railway which winds up through lush meadows carpeted with Alpine flowers, past sparkling mountain streams and fascinating rock faces to Mt. Pilatus. After admiring splendid views of the Bernese Oberland and the snowcapped Swiss peaks from the summit at nearly 7000 feet, descend by aerial cableway and return to Lucerne.

Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

\*From November to May and in the event of adverse weather, the cogwheel will be replaced by the aerial cable car.

Day #6

01 May 2021 - 30 Apr 2022

\$99.00



### Schonbrunn Palace Tour

Enjoy an afternoon guided tour of the magnificent Schonbrunn Palace, once the summer residence of the Hapsburg emperors. Visit the gorgeous baroque apartments and stroll through the world-famous manicured and aromatic gardens.

Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

\*Tours operating from Nov 23 – Jan 5th will include Schonbrunn Christmas Market

Day #9

07 Apr 2021 - 30 Apr 2022

\$52.00



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For More Information and Reservations Call:

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