

To Whom,

I just wanted to express my appreciation for an exceptional travel experience. I recently returned from "King Ludwig II Castles and Christmas Markets" tour with Ms. Astrid Baur. Southern Bavaria is a beautiful region of Germany, and Ms. Baur provided an outstanding itinerary that captured a fulfilling coverage of the local history, lore, and charm of her native area.

While the castles may be the initial draw to such a tour, you'll find yourself enchanted by the "Tyrolean" atmosphere of the local towns of Hopfen am See and Füssen. The scenery is nothing short of breathtaking. Public transportation is readily available if you wish to further explore the towns or local castles on your own time. The "Landhaus Kössel" is a very neat, clean, and welcoming establishment. Marlies (the owner) is happy to welcome you and accommodate any reasonable needs you may have. The Landhaus rooms have adequate space to spend intimate leisure time with your travel partner, as well as a Common Area where you can socialize with members of your tour group. Though it may not be a consideration in your travel plans, it was particularly nice to "stage" out of one hotel during the entire tour. Un-packing/re-packing bags to meet a bus schedule can be a tiresome distraction over a week's time on "vacation".

Ms. Baur coordinates all events (Castle tours, Transportation, Meals) with a leisurely pace, yet you'll rarely wait more than a couple of minutes for any event to commence. Ms. Baur conducts all aspects of the tour with seamless efficiency, never harried or fazed by a change in traffic or weather. You'll never feel "rushed" or spend valuable vacation time "idle" waiting for an event. Astrid makes use of the In-Transit time aboard your transportation to include an explanation of what you are about to experience or see, as well as samplings of "local color" along the route. Her choices of local restaurants will give you a wonderful sampling of the Bavarian fare. Restaurant visits are well organized with the establishment prepared for a group of your size, and Menus or Staff available that are "English Friendly". Meals are according to the Menu and not any sort of cut-rate affair due to a sizable group (i.e.: No "Hard Rolls", unless you want them). The "all inclusive" nature of meals and beverages on the tour averts any haggling over checks, tips, or charges.

While all the above has been a Material or Technical description of the tour and how it's conducted, what's more difficult to express is the general feeling of ease in unfamiliar surroundings. Our tour became more like a "loose knit" group of friends enjoying a foreign place, than a herd of Sheep being led about. I attribute much of that to how proud Astrid is of her Bavarian heritage and traditions, and how she will welcome you to her corner of the world.

Treat yourself, enjoy Bavaria and the Castles

Please feel free to contact me at : RESOatC@gmail.com if you have any questions about my tour experience with Astrid Baur and Castles of the World .

Regards,
Will Entriken - "Strebender Engel"