

Best of Germany and Austria Tour



Rhine and Danube, Castles and Mountains

This tour is for travelers who want to see the highlights of both Germany and Austria but have limited time. This tour combines the best of three of our other tours – the River Castles, Bavarian Castles, and Imperial Castles Tours.

Go for a cruise on the legendary Rhine and tour the Burg Eltz and Heidelberg castles. Visit the medieval towns of Rothenburg and Dinkelsbühl. Tour King Ludwig II's Neuschwanstein and Herrenchiemsee castles. See the highlights in Munich, including a stop at Nymphenburg Palace. See Innsbruck's famous Golden Roof, and enjoy a traditional Tyrolean folklore show. Tour Salzburg's Hellbrunn Palace. Finish your Best Of tour in elegant Vienna, touring Schönbrunn Palace.

Map

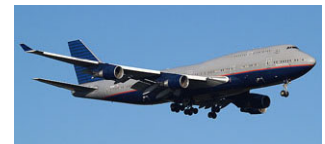


Itinerary

Day 1 – DEPARTURE

Board your flight from your home destination to Frankfurt, Germany. This itinerary assumes this to be an overnight flight.

Air fare independently arranged.



Day 2 – WELCOME TO THE RHINE

Arrival in Frankfurt, Germany. **Your flight should arrive at the Frankfurt Airport by 11:15 a.m. at the latest for the complimentary transfer at noon.**

When the group is complete we drive directly to the Rhine for lunch in Rudesheim.

Afterwards board a Rhinesteamer and cruise on the most beautiful stretch of the river, the part added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2002. Relax as we go downstream past the Loreley Rock and lots of medieval castles on both sides of the river, and on to most charming Boppard – our home for the next two nights.

Tonight we meet for a welcome drink followed by dinner at the hotel.



> *Your tour includes: Transfer from airport to hotel, welcome drink, Rhine cruise, three-course dinner, hotel in Boppard*

Day 3 – BURG ELTZ, COCHEM, MOSELLE DRIVE

Today we drive upstream along the MOSELLE River, which in scenery, castles and vineyards does not stand in the shadow compared to its big brother, the Rhine.

Our first stop is the twelfth century BURG ELTZ, rising majestically above the rear end of the wild Eltz Valley, one of Germany's most beautiful castles, surrounded by the river on three sides. Inside visit.

We continue to COCHEM located on an idyllic bend on the river, where you have time for lunch on the Moselle Promenade.



Day 3 - continued

Back to Boppard for free time in the afternoon.

Dinner tonight in a wine cellar with wine tasting.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Burg Eltz entrance and tour, three-course dinner with wine tasting, hotel in Boppard*

Day 4 – HEIDELBERG, ROTHENBURG

Today we say goodbye to the Rhine and head south to HEIDELBERG, on the banks of the Neckar river. In medieval times the Electoral Palatinate with Heidelberg as the political centre was one of the most advanced European States. See the beautiful red-walled castle including the great vat with a guided tour. Then we take a cogwheel train down into the city where you have more time for sightseeing, shopping and postcards.



We continue to medieval ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER in Frankonia where you feel like you just jumped back into the 16th century. Completely surrounded by its medieval ramparts with countless towers, Rothenburg is famous for its ancient houses, fountains, cobbled lanes, hidden corners, and ornate street signs. Also famous for the Meistertrunk, in which – according to legend – the burgomeister saved the town by emptying a 6-pint tankard in one single draught.



> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Heidelberg Castle entrance and guided tour, three-course dinner, hotel in Rothenburg*

Day 5 – ROMANTIC ROAD, DINKELSBÜHL, MUNICH

We leave Rothenburg this morning and drive along the ROMANTIC ROAD to DINKELSBÜHL. Go for a walk in this beautiful town also completely surrounded by its medieval walls.

We continue on the Romantic Road via Nördlingen and Augsburg and on to MUNICH for early afternoon arrival.

Take your pictures of Nymphenburg Palace, the summer residence of the Wittelsbacher family, the place where Ludwig II was born, and do an Orientation Tour of Germany's secret capital featuring the Olympic Stadium, Olympic Tower, Leopoldstrasse, Schwabing, Ludwigstrasse, Odeonsplatz, Koenigsplatz, and Karlsplatz.

Day 5 - continued

Our Munich Orientation tour ends by the Residenz and the Opera, where we get off and continue the last few metres on foot to Marienplatz, the very heart of Munich, known for the Glockenspiel carillon in the Town Hall.



Tonight why not have a beer at the famous Hofbräuhaus, Munich’s most famous beer hall, or have a traditional Bavarian dinner in one Munich’s fine restaurants? Dinner is on your own tonight.

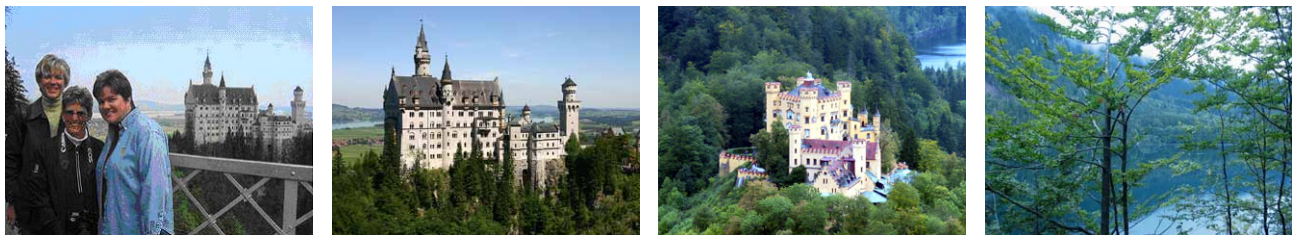
> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Munich orientation tour, hotel in Munich*

Day 6 – NEUSCHWANSTEIN, INNSBRUCK

We leave Munich this morning and drive south to the Bavarian Alps. When we arrive in the village of Hohenschwangau we go up to Marienbrücke (Mary’s Bridge), sitting high above the Poellat Gorge, where you can take the best pictures of Neuschwanstein Castle. (If Mary's Bridge is closed because of ice or snow on the path, you will be taken to another lookout where you can take wonderful pictures of Neuschwanstein.)

Afterwards we walk down for our inside tour of NEUSCHWANSTEIN – Germany's most famous castle – with a castle guide.

Back down in the village of Hohenschwangau, you have time to have a bite to eat, and to go for a stroll on Lake Alpsee, one of the most beautiful Lakes in the region, where young Ludwig learned to swim.



After lunch we drive through the mountains to INNSBRUCK on the Inn River, the capital of the Tyrol. Enjoy a nice stroll to see the famous little Golden Roof below the impressive Austrian Alps, the fine baroque church, the Hofburg, built by Empress Maria Theresia, and maybe shop for Svarowski Crystal, which is made in Innsbruck.



Day 6 - continued

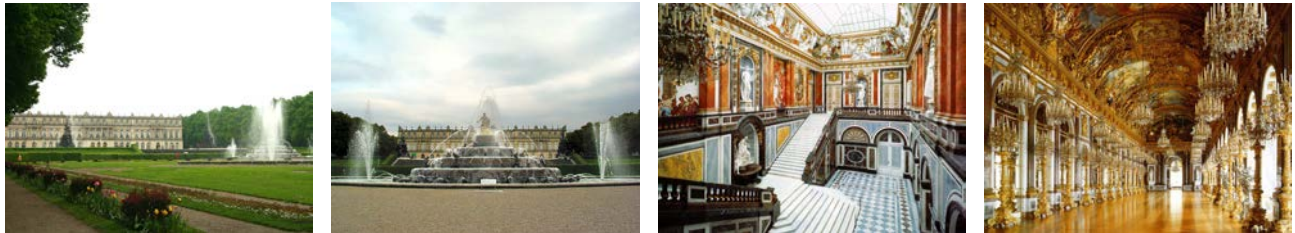
In the evening, we have a nice Tyrolean dinner and a traditional folklore show with yodelling, alphorn blowing, Schuhplattling and dancing.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Neuschwanstein entrance and tour, entrance to Tyrolean dinner show, including three-course dinner, hotel in Innsbruck*

Day 7 – HERRENCHIEMSEE, SALZBURG, HELLBRUNN

We drive back into Germany today to see Ludwig II's largest castle, HERRENCHIEMSEE, on an island in Lake Chiemsee. Ludwig built this castle after a visit to Versailles, but only ever stayed in it for one week.

To get to the island we take a boat and then we take a horse carriage to the Palace. Inside visit with a Castle Guide. Time for lunch on the island.



We continue east to SALZBURG, this world famous city where upon arrival you go on a walking tour. See the Mirabell Gardens, Getreidegasse with Mozart's Birthplace, the Cathedral. Later, if you wish, you can take the funicular up to Fortress Hohensalzburg for breathtaking views or spend the afternoon shopping in the beautiful streets.



In the evening a surprise: dinner in Castle Hellbrunn, one of the settings for the Sound of Music. Enjoy a fantastic Castle Dinner and see the Trick Fountains in the famous Garden of Hellbrunn.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Herrenchiemsee entrance and tour, entrances to Hohensalzburg, funicular, and Hellbrunn Gardens, service of local guide, three-course dinner in Hellbrunn, hotel in Salzburg*

Day 8 – WACHAU VALLEY, VIENNA

We say goodbye to Salzburg this morning and go east the scenic way – along the Danube's famous WACHAU VALLEY, known for vineyards, castles and the picturesque villages that placed it on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Enjoy a morning break in one of the pretty towns and try a glass of Wachau wine.

Day 8 - continued

We arrive in VIENNA in the early afternoon and drive along the Ring Road which offers Vienna's most famous sights: Opera, Hofburg, National Museum, Town hall, Burgtheater, University, Parliament and much more. Afterwards a walking tour of the heart of Vienna, including an inside visit at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Enjoy free time for shopping on Kaertnerstrasse or Graben or more sightseeing.

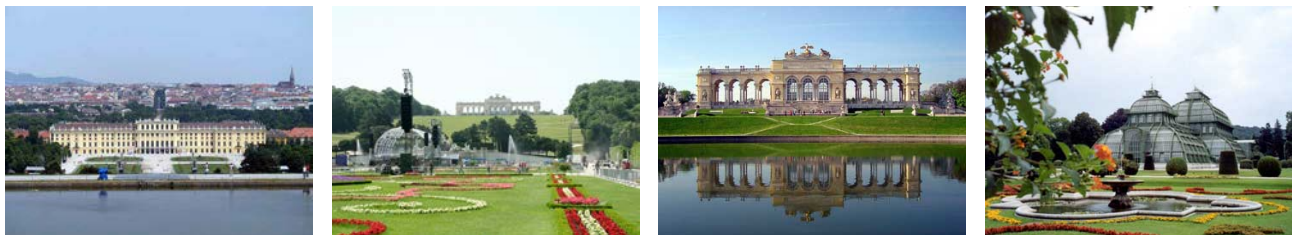


Dinner on your own tonight.

> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, sightseeing tour of Vienna, entrance to St. Stephen's Cathedral, three-course dinner, hotel in Vienna

Day 9 – VIENNA, SCHÖNBRUNN

This morning see SCHÖNBRUNN, Austria's answer to Louis XIV's Versailles. See Maria Theresa's summer palace and enjoy free time in the splendid baroque garden. Inside guided tour. Afterwards you are shown how apple strudel is made in the Imperial Kitchen, and you may try it together with a cup of coffee.



Your afternoon is at leisure. The to-do list is endless. Maybe ride the Giant Ferris Wheel in the Prater, known from the movie "The Third Man", visit the Opera or the Hofburg from the inside, relax in one of the beautiful parks, spend time in a typical "Kaffehaus", or get your final shopping done.

Great farewell dinner in a typical Heurigen tonight.

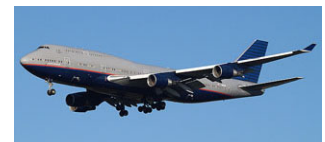
> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, guided tour of Schönbrunn Palace, apple strudel and coffee, Heurigen Dinner, hotel in Vienna

Day 10 - RETURN

Time to say "Auf wiedersehen".

Transfer to Vienna Airport for your homeward flight which arrives the same day.

> Buffet breakfast, transfer to airport



Cost and Date Information

- Tour includes:
- all features as per itinerary, departure guaranteed,
 - 8 breakfast buffets,
 - 6 three-course dinners, each including one drink and coffee or tea,
 - accommodation in 4-star hotels for 8 nights,
 - door-to-door transportation (bus, boat, horse carriage, etc.),
 - reservation fees, entrance fees, and local guide fees, and
 - the services of the Tour Director and Driver throughout the tour.

All castle visits include inside tours with experienced guides and plenty of time on your own.

There are no hidden extras. Maximum group size is 30 persons.

The **Best of Germany and Austria Tour** is offered on the following basis:

Tour prices are for the **land segment** only. Air fare is not included.

Prices are per person, in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy.

Single Occupancy is available for a Single Supplement charge of US \$ 300.

Children who are at least 8 years old are welcome on this tour, and children between 8 and 16 years of age receive a 30 % discount if sharing a room with 2 adults.

Guaranteed Departure: The Best of Germany and Austria Tour is guaranteed to operate as scheduled and will not be cancelled due to a low level of participation.

A deposit of US \$ 300 per person is required to secure a reservation.

Personal expenses, lunches and gratuities for the driver and local guides are not included.

Best of Germany and Austria Tour – 2012

Your overnight flight leaves ...	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Child 8 - 16 with 2 Adults
April 20, 2012	US \$ 2,799	3,099	1,959

Private Tour Option

Do our dates not work for you? We can arrange the tour for you or your party as a private tour. Same itinerary as above in a private limousine or van, with bilingual, professional private guide / chauffeur. Prices per individual are the same as for the regular group tour, plus a US \$ 200 per day private tour premium for the group. Please contact us directly to confirm availability.

Detailed **Reservation Request** instructions and your choice of an online or paper form are provided on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Cost and Date Information, continued

Final payment is due 45 days before departure.

Five weeks before departure you will receive a detailed information package with lots of travel tips and information about places we will visit.

Participation in Astrid Baur Travel tours is conditional on acceptance of the Astrid Baur Travel **Terms and Conditions** posted on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Cancellation Policy

If notice of cancellation is received more than 45 days prior to tour start, the deposit will be retained.

Otherwise:	31 to 45 days prior to tour start:	20 % of total price
	15 to 30 days prior to tour start:	35 % of total price
	8 to 14 days prior to tour start:	50 % of total price
	1 to 7 days prior to tour start:	75 % of total price
	Departure day and later:	100 % of total price

The deposit will be applied to any cancellation charges.

Contact Information

Would you like to talk to passengers from previous tours? Let me know. I will be pleased to answer questions you may have, and very pleased to take your reservation.

Astrid Baur, Tour Director

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