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21 Day Discover Germany – Your Bucket List Is Full Of Surprises



**CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS DATES — 7-21
DAY ITINERARY**



21 Day Itinerary: Berlin – Munich – Salzburg – Baden-Baden – Frankfurt – Rhine River
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Guests can spend anywhere from three days to three weeks in Berlin! It is truly one of the most exciting cities in Europe. There are over 100 museums in the city and guests can visit those that spark their specific interest, from ancient history to European masters to stunning modern art.

Berlin also has an important place in Jewish history and guests will find a striking Jewish Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind, as well as the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe which opened in 2005.

For those with an interest in contemporary art, you simply can't go wrong here. From the state museums (Hamburger Bahnhof, Bröhan, Berggruen, Deutsche Guggenheim) to small private collections like the Hoffmann collection, this city offers days and days of exploration.

Berlin is also a great place to base oneself for a variety of day-trips outside the city. Just a short ride by local train or a 45-minute drive, guests find the enchanting royal town of Potsdam. This small town was the summer residence of the kings of Prussia, and the Sanssouci Palace is worth an afternoon's visit.

History buffs will want to visit Cecilienhof, the location of the signing the Treaty of Potsdam after World War II.

If there is an interest in evening cultural events, Berlin hosts three opera houses, as well as the renowned Deutsche Philharmonik. The historic Staatsoper is also the home of the Staatsballet, offering world-class ballet as well. Some guests also wish to partake in some of Berlin's jazz and supper clubs or perhaps a cabaret.

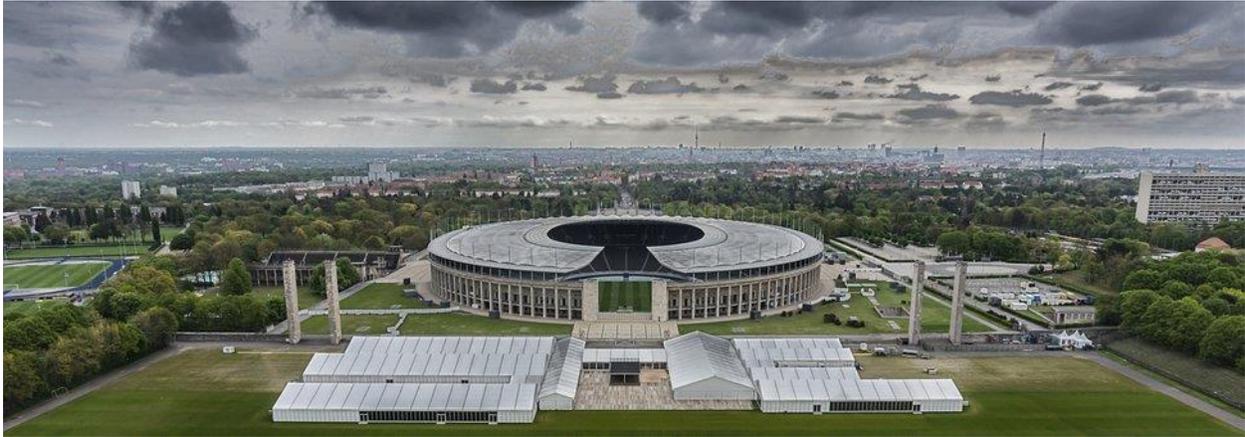


Suggested Itinerary Options: This sample itinerary can be reduced to accommodate your travel schedule. You may find inspiration in this itinerary to have us customize a trip with only one of the destinations for an immersion itinerary.

Perhaps you want to just do a highlights tour and see a little of everything. Anything is possible – **In your Creative Planning Session, we will uncover your Dreams for touring Germany** and craft the perfect itinerary for making those Dreams come true creating beautiful memories of your life's adventures.

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Day 1 Arrival Germany: US – Berlin

Upon arrival at the Berlin airport you will be met by your English-Speaking Client Liaison and assisted in a VIP process through the airport, customs, and baggage collection. You will be met in baggage claim by your private English-speaking driver who will transfer you to your hotel.

Upon arrival at your hotel, you will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation. Check-in immediately upon arrival at Hotel Palace Berlin. You can settle in and enjoy Breakfast in your hotel.

Lunch is on you own. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Berlin.

2:00PM: Meet your private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the Canal tour of the city.

After your tour you will be back at your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the evening.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Berlin.

Overnight in Berlin

Day 2 Germany: Berlin

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Breakfast in your hotel

9:00AM: Meet your private driver and English speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel to begin your Grand Berlin Private tour.



Highlights: This will be a combination of an informative panoramic city & walking tour. This day will be dedicated especially to Berlin's history, East & West, main historical monuments & the Pergamon museum. Berlin Cathedral, Kurfürstendamm, Charlottenburg Palace, Museum Island, The Berlin Wall Memorial and Documentation Centre, and Potsdamer Platz are other sites to visit on this custom tour as your preferences dictate. Duration: Approximately 8 hours

- ❖ **Lunch:** Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch and enjoy the city ambiance. (Lunch is on your own cost and will be collected at time of service.)

One of the most popular attractions in Berlin, the Pergamon Museum is world famous for its archaeological holdings. The Pergamon, located on Museum Island, is really three museums in one – the Collection of Classical Antiquities (also on display in the Old Museum), the Museum of the Ancient Near East, and the Museum of Islamic Art.

Ishtar Gate of Babylon

The Pergamon Museum's monumental highlights are truly breathtaking to behold. In the Collection of Classical Antiquities, the 2nd century BC Pergamon Altar, considered a Hellenistic masterpiece, has a frieze depicting a battle between the Gods and the Giants; the Market Gate of Miletus shows an important example of Roman architecture.



To get an **overview of Berlin**, take an elevator ride up to the top of the 60's style TV tower.

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The **TV Fernsehturm tower**, 1,198ft. high, has a speedy revolving restaurant on top (the Tele-Cafe has wonderful coffee & hot chocolate). Somebody keeps the windows spotlessly clean, so you have marvelous views when the weather is clear. From the tower, Berlin looks like the ultimate miniature city, constantly in motion.

The Berlin Television Tower, which is known to locals as the Fernsehturm, and is instantly recognizable from the distance, stand out of the skyline at 368m, making it the tallest building in Berlin. Built in the 1960s, visitors to the tower can enjoy a unique 360° panorama of the city.



Reichstag: When the decision was made to move the Federal Government to Berlin, it was time to reawaken the **Reichstag** building from its long years of slumber on the Mauerstreifen, the military zone between the two sides of the Wall. The building has since been completely modernised, and today's visitors to the Reichstag can look out from the building's glass dome to get a bird's eye view of the hustle and bustle in the city. There are also a number of government buildings in the vicinity of the

Reichstag, for example, the **Bundeskanzleramt (Federal Chancellery)** and the **Brandenburg Gate**.



Dome Reichstag building: In recent years, the German Bundestag has developed into a major visitor attraction. More than 34 million people have visited it since the transfer from Bonn to Berlin.

The roof terrace and dome of the Reichstag Building can be visited by members of the public, and it offers spectacular views of the parliamentary and government district and Berlin's sights.

Admission is free; **advance registration required.** * to register for a visit (no guarantee for availability we can try our luck-the earlier we register, the better are chances)

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The Museum Haus am Checkpoint Charlie, founded by human rights activist Dr. Rainer Hildebrandt, is a museum like no other; from its humble beginnings in October 1962 as a two-and-a-half room display about the newly erected Berlin Wall, the museum has evolved into a more than 2000m² exhibition that explores not only the history of the Berlin Wall and the stories of those affected by it, but also looks at the challenges facing us today as we struggle for worldwide recognition of human rights and freedom.

Here you can discover objects used to escape over, under, and through the Berlin Wall, and read the stories of those escapees who risked their lives to win their freedom. We also remember and thus keep alive the memory of others who died in the attempt – you can be part of this important work.

In the new exhibition you can trace the history of movements promoting human rights from 1800 onwards, and learn about areas of our world today where the struggle continues. As a museum we are unique, being not only a testament to the past, but also a living and evolving reminder of the present. We invite you to become part of that process by visiting us today and sharing with us the concerns you have for our world.



To see the largest standing section of the Berlin Wall, we will go to Muhlenstrasse along the Spree River (near the Oberbaumbrücke). Here the wall has been painted by over a hundred artists from 21 different countries, and is now called the East Side Gallery. When you look at the wall today, it doesn't seem all that tall, but it's not hard to imagine the guard dogs, electrical fences, trenches, watch towers, and machine guns that enforced the division of the city. The Berlin Wall Memorial and Documentation Centre:

The **Gedenkstätte zur Berliner Mauer (Berlin Wall Memorial)** is located between the districts of Wedding and Mitte on Bernauer Straße, consisting of the Memorial to the Victims of the Wall, a Documentation Centre and the Chapel of Reconciliation. The surviving section of the wall and watchtower enable visitors to get a real feel for the reality of the border facilities. The Memorial has been undergoing extension work in recent years, the full completion of which is intended for 2014.

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Brandenburg Gate: Without a doubt, the **Brandenburg Gate** is Berlin's signature attraction. Built in 1791, it was just one of many old city gates around the city of Berlin which, at that time, was still a manageable size. The decorative Pariser Platz was laid at the foot of the gate and is now home to many of the city's important buildings, for example, the Hotel Adlon with its wealth of history and the Akademie der Künste (Academy of the Arts).



The **Gendarmenmarkt** is one of the most stunning squares in the city, located close to **Friedrichstraße**, Berlin's exclusive shopping street in the central Mitte district. Three of the most impressive examples of architecture in the capital city are to be found here: the Concert House designed by Schinkel and the German and French Cathedrals (the **Deutscher Dom** and the **Französischer Dom**).



Berlin Cathedral: The **German Cathedral** (Berliner Dom) with its magnificent dome is a remarkable example of the late 19th century architecture. Near the Cathedral are also the **German Historical Museum** and the Museum's Island. On the side of Berlin's boulevard "Unter den Linden" stands the Catholic **St. Hedwigs-Cathedral**.

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch and enjoy the city ambiance. (Lunch is on your own cost and will be collected at time of service.)

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Kurfürstendamm: Extending all the way from the ruins of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church on Breitscheidplatz to Berlin's elegant Halensee neighbourhood, the affectionately termed Ku'damm is the most expensive address in the capital city and home to the most exclusive brands.

Europe's biggest department store KaDeWe is also situated on the extension of the Ku'damm, on the street known to locals as the

Taentzien (short for Taentzienstrasse). The little ones will just love the Zoological Garden, Germany's oldest zoo.

Charlottenburg Palace: The magnificent Charlottenburg Palace is located just out of the centre of the city. The beautiful palace hosts fine collections of china and paintings and is situated in the middle of a picturesque palace garden right next to the river Spree. If you don't fancy a walk in the park, you can feed your mind instead in the Charlottenburg museums located directly opposite.



Museum Island: Berlin's Museum Island is one of the UNESCO world heritage sites and home to the city's most important exhibition centres:

- the Altes Museum (Old Museum),
- the Neues Museum (New Museum)
- the Bode Museum, the Pergamon Museum
- the Alte Nationalgalerie (Old National Gallery).

The collections in these buildings encompass over 6,000 years of art and cultural history.

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Potsdamer Platz: Once the bustling heart of the city before the Second World War, then a no man's land from 1945 until the fall of the wall, the history of Potsdamer Platz has been eventful to say the least.

It changed completely after the fall of the wall in 1989 and is now dominated by the presence of the Sony Center, skyscrapers and endless shops. What's more, Potsdamer Platz is the main place to be for stars and celebrities, and not only during film festivals.



You will be returned to your hotel at the end of your tour, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day/evening.

Dinner is on your own See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Berlin.

Overnight in Berlin

Day 3 Germany: Berlin

Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast, you will be on your own to continue exploring the city. You can use your Berlin Welcome card for public transportation throughout the major zones of the city.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Berlin.

Overnight in Berlin

Day 4 Germany: Berlin – Potsdam

Breakfast in your hotel.

10:00AM: Meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your excursion to Potsdam.

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When Frederikc the Great wanted to escape the formalities of his life in Berlin, he retreated to his summer palace in Potsdam.

You should do the same: After a short private car ride from Berlin, you can enjoy the rococo style palace, which is surrounded by 700 acres of ornate royal gardens, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Then head into the Old Town of Potsdam and wander the

narrow cobble stone streets of the Dutch Quarter. The lovely townhouses are home to cafes, little shops, and tasty bakeries.



Guests find the enchanting royal town of Potsdam. This small town was the summer residence of the kings of Prussia, and the Sanssouci Palace is worth an afternoon's visit. History buffs will want to visit Cecelienhof, the location of the signing the Treaty of Potsdam after World War II.

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Sanssouci Palace today. Potsdam, one of the most beautiful cities in Germany, surrounds the Brandenburger Strasse pedestrian zone, with its numerous shops and stylish passages that are fashioned from old courtyards.



It is also close by the Dutch Quarter with its galleries and chic boutiques.

The most popular sight in the city is the Schloss Sanssouci Palace, located in the park. The giant building is 230 metres long, with more than 200 rooms on three stories; a palace of superlatives. For a guided visit in Sanssouci incl. one palace and the gardens please calculate 2 hours.

Afterwards, you will have time to stroll around in the Dutch Quarter. It is the largest preserved settlement in the Dutch style outside of the Netherlands. It was built by Dutch craftsmen at the behest of King Frederick William I.



Entrance to 1 Sanssouci Palace & its gardens is included.

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch and enjoy the city ambiance. (Lunch is on your own payment will be collected at time of service.)

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5:00PM: You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day, free to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Berlin.

Overnight in Berlin

Day 5 Germany: Berlin – Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp – Peacock Island

Breakfast in your hotel

9:00AM: Meet your private driver and English speaking guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Sachsenhausen Excursion.



About 30 minutes north of Berlin lies the memorial site Sachsenhausen, a former concentration camp in Oranienburg.

The camp was erected in 1936, and until 1945, more than 200,000 people were imprisoned here by the Nazis. Sachsenhausen was in many ways one of the most important concentration camps in the Third Reich:

It was the first camp established under Heinrich Himmler as Chief of the German Police, its architectural lay-out was used as a model for almost all concentration camps in Nazi Germany.



Visit of the Sachsenhausen memorial, its museums, station "Z" memorial & the open-air exhibition "Murder and massmurder in Sachsenhausen concentration camp). Sachsenhausen ("Saxon's Houses", was a Nazi concentration camp in Oranienburg, Germany, used primarily for political prisoners from 1936 to the end of the Third Reich in May 1945.

After World War II, when Oranienburg was in the Soviet Occupation Zone, the structure was used as

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an NKVD special camp until 1950 (See NKVD special camp Nr. 7). The remaining buildings and grounds are now open to the public as a museum.

Sachsenhausen may not immediately strike you as day trip material, but it is an important memorial to a harrowing chapter of German history. The Arbeit macht frei (Work sets you free) slogan is still on the entrance gate. The camp was liberated in 1945 but used by the Soviets to house political prisoners until 1950.

Most of the buildings remain, including the haunting gas chamber and prison cells.
(Approximately 2.5 hours.)

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch and enjoy a picnic on the island. (Lunch is provided in today's itinerary.)



Peacock Island (Pfaueninsel)

This destination is still within Berlin's city limits, but it feels worlds away from the hustle and bustle of the German capital; a ferryboat brings you to the Pfaueninsel (Peacock island), a nature reserve in the lake Wannsee. On the island, you'll find a dreamy castle, which was built in the 18th century for the Prussian king and its favorite mistress, various greenhouses, and fountains. But the best are the free roaming peacocks and the beautiful gardens and trees - it's the perfect getaway for

romantic strolls and pick-nicks.

1:00PM: After lunch, you will continue on Peacock Island for a relaxing afternoon exploring the castle and other delights on the island.

You will be transferred back to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day/evening to relax in the hotel, or explore on your own.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Berlin.

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Overnight in Berlin.

Day 6 Germany: Berlin – Dresden

Enjoy an Early Breakfast in your hotel.

7:00AM: Meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your full day private Dresden Tour.



Dresden carries visitors away with a synthesis of the arts: fascinating buildings and art treasures, impressive museums, as well as orchestras and choirs of worldwide reputation.

Dresden offers attractions in great variety and combines three aspects which complement one another: notable art treasure, architectural sights and a charming landscape. Magnificent promenades on the bank of the Elbe, interesting museums and institutions, industrial monuments, charming details.

A trip to Dresden is always a great experience. Learn about the many faces of the city and discover her secrets. Mostly walking tour of downtown Dresden, incl. an interior visit of the Frauenkirche (church), ascent to the dome and its viewing platform.

Visit of 1 or 2 of the most important museums of Dresden, the New Green Vault in the Residence Palace, and/or the Historical Green Vault in famous Zwinger building.

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Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch and enjoy the local cuisine. (Lunch is on your own and payable at the restaurant.)

You will be transferred back to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the afternoon/evening to relax at the hotel or explore on your own.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Berlin.

Overnight in Berlin

Day 7 Germany: Berlin – Jewish Focus

Breakfast in your hotel

10:00AM: Meet your private driver and English speaking guide in the lobby of your hotel for your half day private Jewish Berlin Tour.



Between 1933 and 1945, the central institutions of Nazi persecution and terror – the Secret State Police Office with its own “house prison,” the leadership of the SS and, during the Second World War, the Reich Security Main Office – were located on the present-day grounds of the “Topography of Terror” that are next to the Martin Gropius Building and close to Potsdamer Platz.

After the war the grounds were leveled and initially used for commercial purposes. Later, in 1987, as part of Berlin’s 750th anniversary celebration, the terrain was made accessible to the public under the name “Topography of Terror.” An exhibition hall and the exposed building remains on the former Prinz-Albrecht-Straße (today’s Niederkirchnerstraße) and Wilhelmstraße were used to document the history of the site.

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Two competitions addressing how to deal with the historic site failed. In 2006, the third competition for the construction of a documentation center and redesign of the grounds of the “Topography of Terror” was won by the Berlin architect Ursula Wilms (Heinle, Wischer and Partner) and the landscape architect Professor Heinz W. Hallmann (Aachen).

The new documentation center opened on May 7, 2010. As the “site of the perpetrators,” the “Topography of Terror” fulfills a special role among the many remembrance sites, monuments and museums in Berlin today that commemorate the era of National Socialism. Located in the center of the capital, it provides information at an authentic site about the headquarters of the National Socialist SS and police state and reveals the European dimensions of the Nazi reign of terror.

Berlin Wall memorial:



Open Air exhibition & memorial grounds
Visitor center
Ghost Stations exhibition
(open when the Nordbahnhof S-Bahn station is open during hours of operation)

The Berlin Wall Memorial is the central memorial site of German division, located in the middle of the capital. Situated at the historic site on Bernauer Strasse, it will eventually extend along 1.4

kilometers of the former border strip. The memorial contains the last piece of Berlin Wall with the preserved grounds behind it and is thus able to convey an impression of how the border fortifications developed until the end of the 1980s. The events that took place here together with the preserved historical remnants and traces of border obstacles on display help to make the history of Germany’s division comprehensible to visitors.

Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe & Information Center

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The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, also known as the Holocaust Memorial, is a memorial in Berlin to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, designed by architect Peter Eisenman and engineer Buro Happold. It consists of a 19,000 m² (4.7-acre) site covered with 2,711 concrete slabs or "stelae", arranged in a grid pattern on a sloping field. The stelae are 2.38 m (7 ft 10 in) long, 0.95 m (3 ft 1 in) wide and vary in height from 0.2 to 4.8 m (7.9 in to 15 ft 9.0 in).

According to Eisenman's project text, the stelae are designed to produce an uneasy, confusing atmosphere, and the whole sculpture aims to represent a supposedly ordered system that has lost touch with human reason.

A 2005 copy of the Foundation for the Memorial's official English tourist pamphlet, however, states that the design represents a radical approach to the traditional concept of a memorial, partly because Eisenman did not use any symbolism. However, observers have noted the memorial's resemblance to a cemetery.

An attached underground "Place of Information" holds the names of all known Jewish Holocaust victims, obtained from the Israeli museum Yad Vashem.

Building began on April 1, 2003 and was finished on December 15, 2004. It was inaugurated on May 10, 2005, sixty years after the end of World War II, and opened to the public two days later. It is located one block south of the Brandenburg Gate, in the Friedrichstadt neighborhood. The cost of construction was approximately €25 million.

The memorial has attracted some controversy, and was described by Ignatz Bubis, the then leader of the German Jewish community, as unnecessary.

The memorial consists of:

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“...303 steles of more than four meters high, 569 steles from three to four meters high, 491 steles from two to three meters high, 869 steles from one to two meters high, 367 steles from zero to one meter high—and there are 112 flat platforms without steles. None of these [individual] figures carries any symbolic meaning, nor does the total number—2,711 steles—have any special significance.” (Danto)

The steles are arranged in a grid-like pattern atop a slightly hilly terrain.



*Image by de: Benutzer: Schreibkraft 2005, courtesy
Wikimedia Commons*

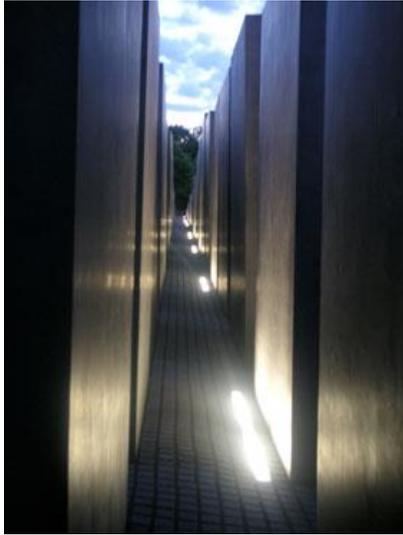
All the steles are alike with two exceptions: “they differ in height, and they differ in the degree to which the upper surface slants [ranging from zero to two degrees]” (Danto). The taller steles are located in the center of the design as the terrain dips down, allowing the steles to give the feeling of enclosure.

Between each of the steles is a path barely too narrow for two people, allowing the user to experience the memorial alone. The memorial is composed of 2,711 gray, concrete steles of varying heights.

Image by Stefan Wagner 2004, courtesy Wikimedia Commons

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Each of these paths cut all the way across the site, making the site easily navigable. The rectilinear grid pattern is continued in the ground plane with gray, square stones.

The only two features that stand out from the design are the few trees located on one side of the memorial and the information center located on the opposite side.

There is subtle use of symbolism, and although it may be viewed differently by each user, this is an interpretation that this author experienced.

Upon looking at the site from any angle, the memorial appears “crowded” with steles in the same way, Jews were often forced to put up with extremely crowded conditions during the Holocaust in deportation trucks, gas chambers, and death camps. In some cases, Jews were shoved into a space so tightly they could not lift their arms to their face or sit down. They were essentially propped up by everybody else for days on end, waiting to die.

Image by Torinberl 2005, courtesy Wikimedia Commons



Eisenman explains, “I was thinking about a field of corn that I was lost in in Iowa when I [designed] it” (Danto). Eisenman’s idea was that users of the site would be able to become lost within the design as if lost within a corn maze, even though the design offers a view out of the memorial at any location within the concrete steles. This could represent the lost feeling of the Jews when they were captured and shipped off to unknown locations.

Upon viewing the gridded design imposed on the undulating terrain, one can get a sense of hard, powerful forces being imposed on something soft and innocent. In sculpting the landscape, the grid does not give way to the landscape but simply smothers it with concrete and continues with its uniform order. This can be seen as symbolic as German forces not giving way to the Jews but instead slaughtering them and continuing to bring “order.”

Part of what makes this memorial work is that it is mostly nameless. There are no lists of victims on the sides of the steles that fill the site. Nobody escorts you to the name of your passed relative who suffered in the Holocaust. To do this would eliminate the sense of place. The

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names would be uplifted from where they fell and relocated to these steles, lessening the impact. To name the names would also imply a graveyard. This is not a graveyard but instead a place to grieve and remember. The experiences of the Jews do not belong to one victim but to many—they shared this burden together.

To facilitate grieving and the memory of harshness, hard materials were used to create this memorial. Like the coldness of the hard edged German military, cold, hard concrete was used to create the steles that fill the site. Muted colors were used to calm the mind as cool colors do. This imposes low energy, allowing one to be more likely to feel sadness and connect with the memorial. The unforgiving terrain of concrete pavers and concrete steles reiterates the unforgiving German forces and the cruelty they imposed on the Jews. The repetition of form throughout the site brings unity, almost excess unity, to the site, allowing the user to become temporarily lost within the steles.



As noted above, although one may try to become lost, it is always easy to find one's way back out of the memorial. Every path leads both in and out and can be accessed from every side of the site.

The central location of the memorial allows it to be used easily by both locals and tourists. Many locals use the site as a cut through, others see it only as a memorial, and others yet see it as art.

Some, such as children and teenagers, who may not fully understand what the Holocaust was and what the memorial represents, see the site a place to play. Teenagers can be seen bathing in the sun or hopping across the tops of steles while children can be found playing hide and seek.

Image by Mario Duhanic 2007, courtesy Wikimedia Commons

However, the strongest experience of the memorial is for a mature audience—one that understands, as the local German population in particular does, what the Holocaust was about and what it means to Germany as well as to opposing World War II forces.

Thus, there are no detailed signs on how to behave since a mature audience should already know what good behavior is. For visitors who do not understand these principles, the information center beneath the memorial provides a brief history of the WWII and the events of the Holocaust in the first room. Following this are several rooms that help to personalize the Jewish experience of the Holocaust.

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The memorial is always accessible to those who want to use it, in whichever way they prefer. It is open 24 hours and is lit at night. Security can be seen patrolling the grounds at all hours of the day or night, moving up and down the single-person-wide walkways and around the perimeters of the site. Image of the steles in the evening. *Image by JT Loh jotography 2006, courtesy Wikimedia Commons*

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews in Europe is an example of an effective design that subtly represents to its audience the brutality of the Jews' treatment during the Holocaust. By using a muted color scheme, hard materials, anonymity, and subtle symbolism to inspire emotion in its users, Eisenman has created a memorial that allows users of the site to have a very personal experience of the genocide of European Jews.

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch. (Lunch is on your own and payable to the restaurant).

You will be returned to your hotel, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day to explore on your own or relax in the hotel.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Berlin.

Overnight in Berlin

Day 8 Germany: Berlin – Nuremberg – Munich

Early Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Munich.

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The best way to explore Nuremberg's Old Town is to walk; highlights along the way include the original city walls, the Castle Quarter with its sand stone and timber framed houses, the Heilig-Geist-Spital, one of the largest hospitals from the Middle Ages, and of course the Imperial Castle (Kaiserburg), which was the residence of Germany's Kaiser and kings between 1050 to 1571.

The 950-year old city of Nuremberg (Nürnberg) is Bavaria's second largest city and alive with history. Here are the highlights of Nuremberg that no traveler should miss – from history buffs, and art lovers, to culinary travelers, and romantics.

One of Nuremberg's most famous residents was Albrecht Dürer, the greatest artist of the Northern Renaissance. His timber-framed house in Nuremberg's Old Town, set underneath the Imperial Castle, is now a museum dedicated to the artist's life and work. On display are Dürer's original etchings, woodcuts and paintings, and you can also tour the artist's painting and printing workshop, where Dürer's working techniques are demonstrated.

Every Saturday at 2 p.m., there is a guided tour in English.

After Adolf Hitler declared in 1933 that Nuremberg should be "City of the Nazi Party Rallies", the Nazi Party Rally Grounds with its monumental buildings, arenas, and roads for Nazi mass events and parades were constructed. Nowhere else in Germany can the remains of authentic Nazi architecture be seen as here. In one wing of the unfinished Congress Hall, which was designed to seat 50,000 spectators, you'll find the excellent permanent exhibition "Fascination and Terror", which explores the rise of the Nazi Party, the Führer myth, Nazi party rallies, racism and anti-Semitism, the German resistance and the Nuremberg trials.

Open since 2010, this museum in the east wing of Nuremberg's Palace of Justice offers an in-depth exhibition about the history of the [Nuremberg Trials](#). The museum is located in the very same building where the Allies tried Nazi officials for crimes against peace, war crimes, and

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crimes against humanity between 1945 and 1949. You can even tour the original courtroom 600, where the trials took place (please note that access might be limited as the court is still active and room 600 is still used for trials today).

Nuremberg is famous for its hearty "Nürnberger", roasted pork sausages, and there is no better place to feast on them than in the oldest Bratwurst restaurant in the world. Since 1419, Nuremberg's restaurant "Zum Goldenen Stern" dishes up its tasty sausages, handcrafted by local butchers according to traditional recipes and grilled over beech wood fire. Served six at a time, try them with sauerkraut and homemade potatoes salad and a side of horseradish cream. Everything you'll eat here comes from family-owned farms from the region.

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch and enjoy the city ambiance. (Lunch is on your own payment will be collected at time of service.)

Upon arrival in Munich, you will be transferred to your hotel. You will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

You are at leisure for the remainder of the day, free to relax in the hotel, enjoy a spa treatment, or do a little exploration on your own .

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

Overnight in Berlin

Day 9 Germany: Munich



Munich:

Most guests elect to spend at least three nights in Munich, exploring both the city and its surroundings. Munich is the home to excellent museums, including three branches of the Pinakothek, as well as a fascinating BMW Museum. Munich is also famous for its beer and

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private beer tasting at local breweries can easily be arranged. Families might enjoy a private bike tour of the city. The new Jewish Museum is also worth a visit.

Many guests spend some of their time with day-trips outside of Munich. The most popular day trip is certainly one to visit Neuschwanstein (Cinderella's castle).

Guests with a Jewish history interest also often add a visit to the concentration camp of Dachau. Should guests wish to take a longer day trip, Salzburg is just two hours away by high-speed train.

Another highly recommended day trip is to Rothenburg, one of our favorite cities along the romantic road.

Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely morning on your own, where you are at leisure and free to relax in the hotel, enjoy the spa, or explore a little on your own.

Enjoy lunch on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

1:00PM: Meet your private English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Overview of Munich walking Tour. 2-3 hour walking tour through downtown Munich.



Like many cities, Munich started out as a small town enclosed by a wall and then expanded beyond it. The 'inner city' occupies such a small area that everything is close and easy to visit, and you'll get a sense of the original wall, indeed, the gates still remain.

The river Isar flows through the city and it is generally a very green place. The enormous Englischer Garten, is a park with a boating lake and beer garden (of course) and is well worth a visit.

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Deutsches Museum: The largest Museum of technology and natural sciences in the world, with over 13 acres of exhibitions containing invaluable original machines and equipment, models and reconstructions, from classical mechanics to telecommunications, from a full-size reco.



Frauenkirche - Cathedral Church of Our Lady: This is the Metropolitan Church of the Archbishop of Munich-Freising and is a landmark for the city of Munich.

Marienplatz: Named after the column of the Virgin Mary at its center the Marienplatz is one of the most famous part of Munich. Stop by Marienplatz & hear the famous carillon ring.

Peterskirche - Church of St. Peter: This is the oldest parish church in Munich and has a very ornate interior decorated with old masters from six centuries.

Rathaus - the new Town Hall: Built from 1867 - 1909 in Flanders Gothic style this is one of the most famous buildings in Munich; its facade, over 300 feet in length, features strikingly elaborate stone ornamentation. Go up to the New Town Hall Tower for views.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

Overnight in Munich

Day 10 Germany: Munich – Neuschwanstein

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Breakfast in your hotel.

9:00AM: Meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel to begin your full day Private Neuschwanstein Tour.



Highlights: Hidden in the seclusion of the mountains Ludwig II. Built two of his dream castles: Neuschwanstein and Linderhof.

This excursion shows you two extraordinary castles, both testifying to the vision of Bavaria's fairytale King. Short shopping stop in Oberammergau.

Tour of the Neuschwanstein Castle (the inspiration for Cinderella's Castle at Disneyland). Explore the grounds and an in-depth tour of the interior rooms of this

iconic landmark. Interior visit of Neuschwanstein Castle included.

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Hidden in the seclusion of the Bavarian mountains, King Ludwig II built one of his dream castles, Neuschwanstein.



This trip from Munich shows you one of these extraordinary castles, the legacy of of Bavaria's fairytale King. Capture the grandeur of these castles and the picturesque mountain scenery of Bavaria in one magical day.

Neuschwanstein Castle is a nineteenth-century Romanesque Revival palace on a rugged hill above the village of Hohenschwangau near Füssen in southwest Bavaria, Germany. The palace was

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commissioned by Ludwig II of Bavaria as a retreat and as a homage to Richard Wagner. Ludwig paid for the palace out of his personal fortune and by means of extensive borrowing, rather than Bavarian public funds.

The palace was intended as a personal refuge for the reclusive king, but it was opened to the paying public immediately after his death in 1886. Since then more than 60 million people have visited Neuschwanstein Castle. More than 1.3 million people visit annually, with as many as 6,000 per day in the summer.

The palace has appeared prominently in several movies and was the inspiration for Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle and later, similar structures.



Palace rooms (late 19th century Photochrom prints)



Hall of the Singers

Throne Hall

Drawing room

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Study room

Dining room

Bedroom'

Neuschwanstein Castle is a nineteenth-century Romanesque Revival palace on a rugged hill above the village of Hohenschwangau near Füssen in southwest Bavaria, Germany. The palace was commissioned by Ludwig II of Bavaria as a retreat and as a homage to Richard Wagner. Ludwig paid for the palace out of his personal fortune and by means of extensive borrowing, rather than Bavarian public funds.

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of larger palaces.

Linderhof Palace and its surrounding park is one of the most artistic and stylistically complex ensembles of the 19th century.

The "Royal Villa" is the only palace King Ludwig II of Bavaria (1845–1886) was able to complete (1878).

It is influenced by French architecture and modelled on the small summer palaces, usually set in parkland, that were built in France in the 18th century and were also often to be found in Germany in the parks

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Dining room

Behind the Baroque façade is a Rococo world with motifs from the age of Louis XV of France. Ludwig's creation in the Second Rococo or Neo-Rococo style, however, shows a strong South German influence: Ludwig took over a great deal from the Rococo legacy of his own ancestors with which he was familiar from his childhood, such as the Amalienburg in Nymphenburg and the Ornate Rooms of the Munich Residence.

The rich and abundant ornamentation, with its many sculptural elements, is thus not merely an attempt at imitation. In Linderhof Palace Ludwig II created rooms of such sumptuousness that they far surpass everything that inspired them, as well as showing workmanship of an incomparable artistic quality

Schloss (Castle) Linderhof -- In 1869, King Ludwig II transformed a former royal hunting lodge into a small, dazzling-white château meant to resemble the Petit Trianon at Versailles. The ornate exterior is restrained when compared to the interior, which is a riot of Neo-Rococo flashiness, glittering with gold leaf, mirrors, crystal chandeliers, and contrivances like a dining table designed to rise from the kitchens at mealtimes so the king would not have to deal with servants and could carry on, undisturbed, conversations with his imaginary dinner companions Louis XV and Marie Antoinette.

Ludwig was nocturnal and spent his nights lounging and reading in the Hall of Mirrors, where the candlelight seemed to be reflected endlessly, clouding the lines between reality and unreality, not unlike the king's state of mind.

The park, with its formal French gardens, is more appealing than the overwrought interiors and fascinating for its fanciful playfulness.

Here, as in Neuschwanstein down the road, you're left to wonder if Ludwig was a dreamer or just plain mad. He would retreat to the Moorish Kiosk to indulge his Arabian Nights fantasies (also played out at Königshaus Am Schachen, above Garmisch-Patrenkirchen smoking a *chibouk* (a Turkish tobacco pipe) and having his retinue treat him as an Asian prince.

In the Grotte (Grotto), an artificial cave with stalagmites and stalactites designed to re-create stage sets for Wagner's opera "Tannhäuser," he would be rowed over a waterfall-fed lake in a swan-shaped boat; his pet swans glided beside him and special lighting effects simulated the illumination in the Blue Grotto on Capri.

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Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch and enjoy the Bavarian ambiance. (Lunch is on your own payment will be collected at time of service.)

You will enjoy many Bavarian sites along the path of your journey and will be transferred back to your hotel, where you will be at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own. Stop at the charming Pilgrimage Church of the Scourged Saviour (Wieskirche) on the way from/to Munich.



Prompted by pilgrims flocking to see a holy statue that performed miracles, the Norbertine Abbott of Steingaden commissioned a splendid pilgrimage church.

The magnificently decorated **Church of the Scourged Saviour** is located between Steingaden and Wildsteig in the **Pfaffenwinkel** ("land of monasteries") region of Bavaria.

Perched atop a small rise in a meadow at the foot of the Alps, it can be seen from far and wide. Between 1745 and 1754, the famous architect and stucco sculptor **Dominikus Zimmermann** enlisted the help of a number of the leading artists of his time to create the perfect and undisputed highlight of Bavarian rococo architecture. The chancel was consecrated in 1749 and the church itself in 1754.

Its exuberant interior décor is unparalleled in richness and refinement, with opulent stucco ornamentation and a ceiling fresco painted by Dominikus' brother Baptist Zimmermann, the court painter of the Bavarian Prince Elector.



The Pilgrimage Church of Wies was inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage** list as a masterpiece of human creativity and an exceptional reminder of a lost cultural tradition. The brightness of the church interior is particularly impressive. The layout of the building is circular, with an oblong chancel attached.

Eight pairs of pillars support the ceiling above the nave of the church. Visitor delight in the skillful interplay of frescos, carvings, stucco, light and colors. The holy image is located right in the center.

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Visitors come not only to enjoy the **magnificent rococo art** but also for religious contemplation and to venerate the Scourged Savior.

You will be transferred back to your hotel in the late afternoon, where you will be at leisure and free to relax in the hotel, rest or explore on your own.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

Overnight in Munich

Day 11 Germany: Munich

Breakfast in your hotel

Today you will be at leisure to explore on your own, or simply relax and enjoy the hotel. You can use your CTC (City Tour Card) to get around today.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

Overnight in Munich

Day 12 Germany: Munich – Dachu



Breakfast in your hotel.

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9:00AM: After Breakfast meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide for a private tour of Munich. (4 Hrs.)

Munich City Tour & Dachu

A half day tailor-made city tour through lovely Munich. This will be a combination of panoramic driving & walking tour of the city.

Your Munich guide will show you the most interesting sights and monuments of Munich. First, we will drive through the old town district and see attractions like the Old and New Art Gallery (Alte Pinakothek and Neue Pinakothek), the National Theatre and the Royal Residence, the Marienplatz Square with the Old and New town Hall and the "Mariensäule" Column, the church of Saint Peter and the famous Viktualienmarkt Square with its fine food stands. We will visit the The National Theatre.



Bayerische Staatsoper

The Bavarian State Opera is one of the world's five leading opera houses and can proudly claim a history of over 350 years.



The Royal Residence

The Residenz, where the Bavarian kings lived, shows as many as five different epochs in its architecture.



Marienplatz

Marienplatz has always been Munich's central square. The Marienplatz Square with the Old and New town Hall and the "Mariensäule" Column



The church of Saint Peter

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Viktualienmarkt

Originally a farmers' market, the Viktualienmarkt is now a popular place for gourmets to shop the famous Viktualienmarkt Square with its fine food stands.



Nymphenburg Castle

Once the summer residence of the royal family of Wittelsbach, the Nymphenburg Castle is now one of Munich's must-see sights.

Afterwards, you will continue to Nymphenburg castle (summer residence of the kings of Bavaria) and have a walk through its gardens.



Hofbraeuhaus

Built in 1589, the Hofbräuhaus originally served as a brewery for the royal family of Wittelsbach, and has become one of the most famous landmark attractions of Munich



English Garden

The English Garden has been an oasis of peacefulness and quiet for Munich for over 200 years

Finally, having arrived at the Olympiapark, we will ascend to the panoramic platform of the Olympia Tower and enjoy a splendid panoramic view over the city of Munich.

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch. (Lunch is on your own cost and will be collected at time of service.)

Afternoon excursion to memorial Dachau. Dachau was the most infamous of WWII concentration camps and represents a time in modern history that should never be forgotten. Driving through the village of Dachau, you will reach the site of the former concentration camp. Built in 1933, Dachau was the first Nazi concentration camp and it is believed to have "processed" over 200,000 prisoners of World War II.

The main hall houses photographs and models of the camps, and gives you an insight into the horrendous acts against humanity that were often performed at the camp. **Private guided tour in Dachau.**

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Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Tour

Highlights: fully guided experience of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial by an officially trained and authorised guide. Duration: approximately 5 hours
Departures: daily year round



Dachau Tour:

Some of what this Dachau tour deals with; the rise of National Socialism (Nazism) in Germany, The beginning and development of the Concentration camp system, The political, social, ethnic and religious victims of that system, Daily prisoner life in the Dachau Concentration, Camp Work and conditions as instruments of murder Death and survival Outside knowledge and response, The use of the site after 1945, The relevance of this history today And more...

Memory - Learning - Understanding



On the morning of April 29th, 1945 a Nazi Concentration Camp named Dachau was liberated by the U.S. army just 15 kilometers from Munich. In the course of its' 12 year history, over 200,000 people from over 30 different nations were imprisoned there Over 40,000 people were murdered there. Why? On this officially authorized Dachau tour we will attempt to answer this vital question. Not in an attempt to close this chapter of history, but rather to strive to lay bare how important it is to explore this history and, crucially, learn from it.

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The Dachau Concentration Camp was in operation from 1933 to 1945, thus becoming the only Concentration Camp to encompass the 12 years of the Third Reich. It became a vital tool of Nazi oppression, acting as the model camp and the so-called school of terror.

This Dachau tour will focus on the 12 years of the concentration camps existence using personal accounts from survivors, taking advantage of museum displays and of course the buildings and grounds themselves. We discuss what may have led to Hitler coming to power and the legacy left today in order to gain a fuller understanding of this painful history.

After the tour, you will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore on your own for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

Overnight in Munich



Day 13 Germany: Munich – Salzburg – Lake District

Breakfast in your hotel.

9:00AM: After Breakfast meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide for a private tour of Salzburg, The Lake District and Traces of the Sound of Music. (10 Hrs.)

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Salzburg City Tour with Lake District Tour & Sound of Music Accents

Walking tour with local guide through downtown Salzburg, incl. interior visit of Mozart's birth place.

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Tour through the beautiful adjoining Lakes Area, on traces of Sound of Music (celebrating its 50th anniversary). Possible stop in Bad Ischl for a coffee & cake.



Let us show you that the 'hills are still very much alive' with our most unique Sound of Music Tour. Relive with us the true story of the von Trapp family which was filmed as the "Sound of Music" in and around Salzburg.



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The tour which has been Salzburg's most popular tour for over 35 years, is a combination of both this historical city and the breathtaking Salzkammergut -Lakes and Mountains area - also a famous musical and cultural centre:



Mirabell Gardens : Shown in many scenes where Maria and the children were seen dancing around the statue of Pegasus, the winged horse and throughout the gardens singing “Do-Re-Mi”.



The Gazebo/Hellbrunn Palace: Where Rolf and Liesl sang “Sixteen Going on Seventeen” and Maria and the Baron sang “Something Good”. It is now situated within the gardens of this hunting palace, built in the first half of the 17th century.



Palace of Leopoldskron: This historical 18th Century palace and its grounds provided many locations for the movie including the lake where the boating scene took place, the terrace was also where the family drank ‘Pink Lemonade’ with the Baroness Schröder plus many other scenes.



Nonnberg Abbey: This historical abbey founded in the year 714 was used both in the movie and the true story. In the movie the Abbey was seen many times including when the children came to the gate to ask Maria to return to their home and from where the family tried to escape at the end of the movie. Maria and the Baron were married here in 1927.

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St. Gilgen/Lake Wolfgang: This picturesque area was featured in the opening sequence of the movie. The village of St Gilgen (Mozart's mother was born here) on the northwest side of the Lake Wolfgang is situated directly across from the famous Schafberg mountain - also seen in the movie!



Church of Mondsee: The Sound of Music Wedding Church. This historical church of Mondsee was the location of the movie wedding between Maria and the Baron. Inside this wonderful church Maria walked down the aisle to meet the Baron at the altar.

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch. (Lunch is on your own payment will be collected at time of service.)



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You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the evening.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

Overnight in Munich

Day 14 Germany: Munich – Garmisch – Oberammergau

Breakfast in your hotel.

9:00AM: After Breakfast meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for a private tour of Garmisch & Oberammergau. (8 Hrs.)



Full day excursion to Garmisch-Partenkirchen & Oberammergau in private car with English speaking driver-guide. Possible visit of Linderhof Palace (the 2nd dream castle of Ludwig II.) or Ettal Abbey. Ride on one of the local funiculars, take the Alpspitzbahn, ride up to the Zugspitze. Enjoy the mountain views. Visit Ludwig's Linderhof Palace.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen & Oberammergau are beautifully set within the Bavarian Alps. Great natural wonders.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Introduction: Discover your true nature“: This motto is the central philosophy encompassing the year-round tourist attractions offered at the renowned holiday destination of **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**, located one hour south of Munich. In the midst of beautiful mountain views, the most famous town of the Bavarian Alps offers a wide variety of unique experiences.

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At the foot of **Mount Zugspitze**, nature is splendid and mighty and the memories made here between the mountains, valleys, water and sky are simply unparalleled.

Impressive **historic facades, lovingly painted houses and charming inhabitants** give the town an open atmosphere and a sense of joie de vivre, which is touching, moving and unforgettable. Garmisch-Partenkirchen makes your spirit soar as you re-connect with simplicity, beauty and pristine nature.

Culture & Tradition - For more than half a century, the "Heimatwochen" (local weeks) in July and August have been one of the highlights of the year. You can look forward to processions, national costume groups, "Schuhplattler" (the Bavarian traditional folk dance), "Goaßlschnalzer" (whipcrackers) and stone lifters. And, of course, all of this done to celebrations and dancing. Feel the great atmosphere and absorb the good mood! In the beautifully decorated beer halls, you will experience authentic tradition: the locals' traditional costumes, songs and dances. Here, a traditional beer and traditional hearty snacks are served.

The famous composer **Richard Strauss** was born in Munich, but lived in his beloved Garmisch for more than 40 years.



Garmisch-Partenkirchen is where you'll find the stunning Partnach Gorge (Partnachklamm). Declared a natural monument in 1912, the gorge will cast its spell on you with its wild waterfalls, water rapids and tranquil water basins.

Once upon a time, visitors trying to walk through the gorge risked their lives, but nowadays there are two safe paths available.

The Partnach River, a lusty mountain stream, has cut a 262 ft deep crevasse into pure rock, creating one of the most beautiful gorges in the alpine region. In 2012, the Gorge has celebrated its 100th anniversary.

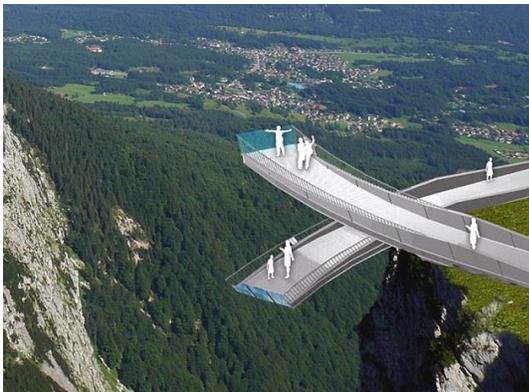
Just above the summit station of the Alpspitzbahn cable car, two steel beams form a floating X over a vertical drop of almost 1,000 metres. No later than when the glazed end of the 25 metre long bridge is reached, incredulous "Wow's" are elicited from the lips of even hardened mountaineers and climbers as they take in the unrestricted wide and deep views of the snow covered Zugspitze, Waxensteine, gigantic Alpspitze north face and down to the untamed Höllental valley.

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Breathtaking views - At the base of Alpspitze peak, visitors will find the AlpspiX Viewing Platform hovering 13 meters (42 feet) over an empty void in the shape of an 'X' with two protruding platforms. The exceptional architecture opens unmatched views towards Zugspitze peak and the Höllental gorge and lets visitors experience a spectacular alpine high. AlpspiX is easy to reach, just 50 meters (164 feet) above the Alpspitze mountain station and next to the mountain station of the Osterfelderkopf lift.



Here, the two steel beams with a length of 24 meters (79 feet) of the AlpspiX Viewing Platform jut out 13 meters (42 feet) over an empty void with the other eleven meters (66 feet) anchored in the rock. Just the ramps of the two Viewing Platforms along with a width of three meters (ten feet) each are enough to get your adrenalin pumping: Viewers stand on a grid. This design permits the snow to fall through in the winter.

At the end of the structure, visitors reach a glass wall and have a sensational view of the nearby cliffs, the breathtaking alpine panorama and almost 1000 meters (3281 feet) down into the depths.

Scaling the heights: Garmisch-Partenkirchen



With all that's on offer in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, it's no surprise that the town is actually two. Garmisch and Partenkirchen were once two separate market towns and both offer charming historical centres, a wealth of culture and plenty of good old-fashioned Bavarian hospitality amid scenic surroundings. Together they form the number one winter sports venue in Germany.

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When people in Germany think of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the first thing that springs to mind is winter sports: seven months of snow, 60 kilometres of pistes, pristine slopes and Germany's only glacial ski area – the resort offers the very best conditions for winter sports enthusiasts.

There are slopes suitable for skiers of all abilities, and the region has become a hot spot for international snowboarders and freeriders.

Olympic venues, the famous Kandahar run for Super G and downhill events, and New Year ski jumping at the world's most modern ski jump: Garmisch-Partenkirchen is quite simply a mecca for winter sports.

But don't forget that this picturesque town is also a first-class climatic health resort throughout the year, the perfect place to unwind, pamper yourself and enjoy life's little pleasures. Also an experience at any time of year is the **Partnachklamm gorge**, a geological wonder that turns any walk into an adventure.



On top of the world: Mount Zugspitze At 2,962 metres, the Zugspitze is Germany's highest peak and a fabulous destination for nature lovers, sun worshippers, walkers and skiers.

You don't even need to be an expert mountaineer to reach the summit: starting at Lake Eibsee, the Zugspitzbahn cog railway chugs its way through the mountains for twelve kilometres, negotiating a staggering 25 per cent gradient in places.

When you reach the top, a breathtaking vista across the Alps unfolds before you. Mount Zugspitze even has something for art lovers.

Since 1995 there has been a spacious, light-flooded gallery covering 450 square metres of the mountain and offering magnificent panoramic views – a fantastic stage for works by important modern artists. Great art at an altitude of almost 3,000 metres: the world has never seen anything like it.

Strolling, shopping and sampling the nightlife: Once back in the town, a walk along historical Ludwigstrasse at the heart of Partenkirchen makes for a pleasant interlude. This chic,

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elegant boulevard is ideal for shopping, strolling or just sauntering along. Exclusive stores for an exclusive clientele rub shoulders with traditional Alpine inns and first-class restaurants.

After a day's shopping, why not sample Garmisch-Partenkirchen's vibrant nightlife? The friendly bars, clubs and discos are often buzzing until the early hours, or in the casino you could try your luck at roulette, blackjack and poker.



The Alpstiz funicular railway is one of the most popular funicular railways in the Werdenfelser region.

In 9 minutes you reach the Alpstiz massif. After few minutes you leave the tree line and dive into the Alpine landscape of the Osterfelderkopf.

From the mountain station, there are various hikes on offer. Over the Alpstiz-Ferrata, surmounting 600 meters difference in altitude you arrive at the peak of the Alpstiz, from where you have one of the

best summit views of the region. Directly at the Osterfeldkopf you'll find entertainment on the summit experience path or the Alpsix.



Alpine Coaster Oberammergau- the adventurous alpine coaster in a picturesque mountain setting. The world-wide longest weatherproof toboggan run with a magnet system.

Fun and action for the whole family at the new Alpine Aoaster on the Kolbensattel in Oberammergau. Things go downhill from the Kolbensattel Lodge on a 8,530 ft (2,600 m) long slide. With breath-taking views and adventurous curves, it'll take you all the way down into the valley at speeds up to 25mph (40 kmh) and with an altitude difference of 1,300ft (400m).

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The system is rendered especially safe through:

- A modern magnetic break system
- Break levers on both sides of the cart
- modernstes Magnetbremssystem
- User-regulated speed up to 25mph
- Optimized seats with backrest and seat belt



Linderhof: Of the three palaces that Ludwig II actually had built, Linderhof Palace is the most inspired. A triumph of splendour and extravagance, it lies in the secluded Graswang valley.

King Ludwig II of Bavaria's fairytale palace at Linderhof is the only one he lived to see completed and the one in which he stayed more than anywhere else. Set in the Graswang valley, this world of fantasy and flamboyance includes an illuminated artificial grotto surrounding a small lake. In 1874, Ludwig had a vestibule and staircase added to the royal villa, followed by a hall of mirrors and two tapestry chambers.

Like all other state rooms in the palace, it is decorated in the style of the second rococo era. The original wooden exterior was clad with solid stone, which enabled the building to take on the representative character of French palaces and become the focal point of the estate. Linderhof Palace Park is a stunning example of historicist-era landscape gardening. Immediately outside the palace are baroque partitions such as garden and water parterres as well as terraces and cascades arranged in the Italianate Renaissance style.

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Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch. (Lunch is on your own payment will be collected at time of service.)



Oberammergau



Introduction: No one could ever accuse the residents of this pretty town set in a wide mountain valley of sitting around doing nothing.

They put on a world-famous passion play every 10 years and in the meantime make intricate wood carvings and paint the fronts of their houses with utterly charming frescoes.

You can stroll through this beehive of activity in about an hour, but you'll want to spend most of your time here just outside of town at Schloss Linderhof, the most aesthetically pleasing of King Ludwig's castles.

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The citizens of Oberammergau have a long tradition of painting frescoes on their houses, an ages-old approach to curb appeal known as *Lüftmalerei*. Some are based on scenes from “Hansel and Gretel,” “Little Red Riding Hood” (at Ettaler Strasse 48 and 41, respectively) and other fairy tales, while others depict beer hall joviality and other typical snippets from Bavarian life. The most famous, though, is a reverential rendering of Jesus coming before Pilate in the frescoes on Pilatushaus, at Ludwig-Thoma-Strasse 10 (the headquarters of a carvers’ and artisans’ workshop).

For alpine experiences and great views, whisk up Berg Laber, the mountain that rises to the east of the town, and Berg Kolben, to the west. 10-minute ascent up Berg Laber via an enclosed cable-gondola.

If you’re outdoorsy, you might prefer the open-air ride up Berg Kolben via chairlift.



Shopping for Woodcarvings:

Oberammergau is world famous for its woodcarving, but know before you buy you should keep in mind that even some of the most expensive “handmade” pieces may have been roughed in by machine prior to being finished off by hand.

If you’re a serious shopper, make your first stop the village woodcarver’s school, the **Pilatushaus** to learn the hallmarks of quality you should be

looking for. You can watch local carvers, painters, and sculptors as they work from June to October.

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Kloster Ettal -- Located in a high, narrow, alpine valley, the vast Benedictine monastery of Ettal was founded in 1330 by Emperor Ludwig IV of Bavaria.

The most noticeable features of its Lady Chapel are the elaborate facade and dome, part of an exuberant 18th-century makeover by Enrico Zucalli, an 18th-century Swiss architect with a passion for the Italian Baroque.



The church's Italian connections go back to its origins, to a statue of the Virgin by the sculptor Giovanni Pisano (1250 – c. 1315), whose works grace so many churches throughout Tuscany.

That such a grandiose church should be standing in such a relatively isolated spot harks back to its popularity as a place of pilgrimage, a magnet for the faithful who hiked through the valley to honor the Virgin Mary, the patroness of heavily Catholic Bavaria. Early visitors were shown hospitality with the cloister's much-loved liqueur and beer, both named Ettaler for a nearby peak, and you may have some, too, in the adjoining Braustuberl. 3km (2 miles) south of Oberammergau (along the road to Garmisch-Partenkirchen).

Passiontheater (Passion Theater) -- Oberammergau put on its first *Passionsspiele* (Passion Play) in 1634 to give thanks for being spared from the plague and has been staging the 16-act drama depicting Christ's journey to the Cross almost ever since.

The whole town participates, with a cast of 2,000 (actors must be natives or have lived in the town for at least 20 years) and non-actors working behind the scenes to build sets and sew costumes—one thing they don't do is make wigs or beards, since appearance-altering props are not allowed in this realistic portrayal. In extreme adherence of the age-old theatrical ploy to always leave the audience wanting more, they stage the 5 1/2-hour epic only once every decade (in years that end in 0) in a much-anticipated season that runs from mid-May to early October.

The theater does not remain dark in the years between performances; it's a much-attended venue for other drama, film, and music, and behind-the-scenes tours show off stage mechanics and the costumes and sets used for the big show.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

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Overnight in Munich

Day 15 Germany: Munich – Rothenburg – Romantic Road



Breakfast in your hotel.

9:00AM: After Breakfast meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for a private tour of Rothenburg and the Romantic Road.



Jump into a time warp with this full day tour to the most beautifully preserved mediaeval town in Germany. Travel to Rothenburg ob der Tauber by way of the perfectly named Romantic Road.

Perched high above the Tauber River Valley, this picturesque town is surrounded by the original city walls.

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As you meander around the cobbled streets you can admire the traditional half-timber houses that characterise this quaint town.

Rothenburg offers many fascinating sights. The town hub is the Market Square, with its renowned St George's fountain and endless shops and cafes. Also, here sits the majestic Town hall. Climb the 241 steps to the top of its tower for the best vantage point of the village.

The braver hearted can visit the mediaeval Crime Museum, with its gory array of torture instruments. If that isn't your cup of tea, visit the Toy and Doll Museum, filled with toys from days long gone.

Don't miss the chance to snap the most photographed place in Germany as you stand on Plonteen, a triangular square formed by two roads guarded by two 12th century towers – Siebers Tower and Kobolzell Gate.

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch. (Lunch is on your own payment will be collected at time of service.)



The magnificent Castle gardens are a must see, and so is St Jakobs church, where you can admire the fabulous altar carving by Riemenschneider, known as the Holy Blood Altar because it is said to contain a drop of Christ's blood.



Rothenburg is a shoppers delight, with many shops offering souvenirs such as beer steins, cuckoo clocks and beautifully hand-crafted Christmas ornaments. So go on a spree and enjoy!

Rothenburg is a popular destination along Germany's Romantic Road and is a beautiful little medieval gem of a city.

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There are a couple of interesting museums in town, including the Medieval Crime Museum (sounds macabre, but is very interesting!), the Doll and Toy Museum and the German Christmas Museum.

Other than the sightseeing in town, you will find a nearby open-air museum so you can see the Franconian way of life in buildings typical of the region.



The Romantic Road itself starts in the historic **Wurzburg**, highlights of which include the beautiful imperial Residenz and a charming Old Town with a medieval bridge.

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Munich.

Overnight in Munich

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Day 16 Germany: Munich – Baden-Baden

Breakfast in your hotel.

8:00AM: At the appropriate time, meet your private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the train station where you will meet your train for Baden-Baden.
Train to Baden-Baden: TBD (approximately 4hrs.)

Upon arrival in Baden-Baden, you will be met at the train station by your private English-speaking driver who will transfer you to your hotel.

Upon arrival at your hotel, you will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a VIP immediate check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation and you can get settled into your room.

Lunch is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Baden-Baden.

1:00PM: Meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Baden-Baden Thermal Spa experience.



Today you are in for a treat as we head off for an afternoon full of elegance and rejuvenation and you enjoy the exquisite Baden-Baden spa.

Baden-Baden is so nice, that you have to name it twice. See just how true this rhyme is as you enjoy one of Europe's most stylish and exclusive spas.

The hot springs of Baden-Baden have been known for 2000 years, and the city has an international reputation for health and well being.

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Head on to one of the elegant famed spas and enjoy a spa treatment while you relax and rejuvenate.

The only disappointment today, is that it eventually will have to draw to a close. Rest assured, Baden-Baden will deliver on its promise to leave you rejuvenated and refreshed.

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure to do a little exploring on your own this afternoon, walking through the town and enjoying some self-exploration. Perhaps do some shopping.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Baden-Baden.

Overnight in Baden-Baden

Day 17 Germany: Baden-Baden – Black Forest – Triberg

Breakfast in your hotel.

9:00AM: After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your full day excursion to the Black forest and Triberg.



Tour through the wild romantic Black Forest from Baden-Baden over the highway to Offenburg. Continuing on the interstate 33 through the Kinzig valley with a stop in Gengenbach. Rural idyll and beautiful half-timbered houses.

In a TV documentary, Gengenbach with its lovely half-timbered houses, was once called a “pearl among the Black Forest towns” and visitors speak of a romantic gem, of Nice of Baden.

Travelers approaching Gengenbach are greeted from afar by the church- and watchtowers that invite them into the historical town centre, where narrow alleys lead them to picturesque corners.

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On the market square, the stone knight on top of the fountain bids us welcome. He is a sign of the pride and the self-confidence of the former free imperial town, just as the over 200 year-old town-hall. The impressive building and the uncountable romantic half-timbered houses dominate the image of the town.

Continuing to Wolfach to the famous "Dorotheenhütte/hut". You will find the last glassworks in the Black Forest that still manufactures mouth blown glass. You can watch the glassblowers and glass grinders at work, have a look in our engraving studio and take a stroll through the large glass country presenting a great selection of decorative articles and gift ideas for a perfectly laid table.



Next stop will be Gutach, at the Black Forest outdoor museum Vogtsbauernhof (a Black Forest village, reconstructed in the original style). Tour through the museum.

Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop for lunch. (Lunch is on your own cost and will be

collected at time of service.)



Continuing to Triberg and visit of the house of the 1.000 cuckoo clocks. Visit of the Triberg waterfalls. Triberg in the Black Forest welcomes you with its many multifarious opportunities! Surrounded by wild and romantic landscape you will find the vibrant city of Triberg with its districts Nußbach and Gremmelsbach.

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The Black Forest Museum offers a unique eye and an ear candy over 1600 square meters.

The “Barocke Wallfahrtskirche” with the attractive “Mesnerhäuschen” and the beautiful magnificent wood-carved city hall are masterpieces of architecture and craftsmanship.

Return to Baden-Baden over Schiltach, Freudenstadt, where Germany's highest waterfalls roar - where culture is an experience.



You must have seen Germany's highest waterfalls in Triberg! Foaming and roaring the water plunges 163 meters into the river called “Gutach”.

On the paths along the seven stages, you experience a magnificent spectacle of nature. The falls are accessible during the whole year and offer an impressive coulisse even in winter.

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In addition, the falls are illuminated every day from the morning until the night. Enjoy the nature park in Germany's highest waterfalls. There you can discover: A tree house, a cultplace, a rocky beach...



Discover also the “Schwarzwaldbahn” - one of the most beautiful mountain tracks in Europe with around 35 tunnels in the area of Triberg.

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure to relax in your room or do a little exploring on your own this evening.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options

in Baden-Baden.

Overnight in Baden-Baden

Day 18 Germany: Baden-Baden – Frankfurt

8:00AM: After Breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the train station for your journey to Frankfurt. Take the train to Frankfurt: Times to be determined at booking.

Upon arrival in Frankfurt, you will be met at the train station by your private English-speaking driver who will transfer you to your hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be met by the concierge who will welcome you with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation. You are at leisure to relax and get settled into your room.

Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Frankfurt.

1:00pm: Meet your English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for a walking tour of Frankfurt.

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This city walk offers exciting comparisons of old and new Frankfurt. Here, Emperor's Cathedral, St Paul's Church and Römer City Hall stand in stark contrast to the pulsating metropolis and its impressive skyline.

This excellent tour will serve to share with you many interesting stories and anecdotes of historical and modern Frankfurt.

Moreover, it will also more closely acquaint you with the birthplace of Germany's most famous author and poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.



The tour's absolute highlight in every sense of the term is the visit of the Main Tower's rooftop observation platform, which offers magnificent panoramic views some 200 meters above Frankfurt's city streets.

After your city tour, you will transfer to the pier for your river cruise through Frankfurt, which offers you a distinctly different prospective on the city.

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3:00PM: Panorama Cruise along Frankfurt



Admire the most beautiful skyline in Germany from the privileged vantage point of a cruise on the river Main.

This tour invites you to discover this must-see German city from a different perspective. Contemplate the modern edifices shimmer against the sun, the gentle flow of the river, the joy of the locals having a break on the riverbed...

See all of this while on our luxurious excursion vessel. Don't think about it twice and hop aboard!

This cruise allows you to see the best landmarks on both sides of the Main River. Once you are on board our modern MS Palladium, sit back and watch the city go by.

This elegant ship was built in 2006 and it counts with all of the highest quality features to ensure your cruise will be one to remember. From air conditioning and top quality furnishings, to a grandiose sun deck and a plentiful bar, you are indeed going to enjoy bit of pampering. (Approximately 1 hr.)

After your cruise, you will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore on your own until time for your evening experiences.

7:30PM: Meet your private driver in the lobby of your hotel who will take you on a private city tour by night, followed by a traditional German dinner. Frankfurt city dinner tour in limousine

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We invite you to enjoy a two hour private tour of Frankfurt City in comfort and style.

Experience the diversity of this German metropolis combining a unique history with the modern life that characterizes it today.

Whether you find yourself in Frankfurt on business or pleasure, climb into a private limo and take in the sights in style.

The former Coronation city of the German Emperors and the modern European banking center, Frankfurt is a city that mixes past and

present. Come and see one of the largest rail stations on the continent then head to the Museum Embankment.

View the towering skyscrapers of the banking district. Housing the European Central Bank, they are the tallest office buildings in all of Europe.

Walk across the historic heart of the city called ömer, and gaze at the famous, colourful old city hall. Remark at the simplicity of Paul`s Church and the Cathedral. See the picturesque Hauptwache, the former headquarters of the city`s Stadtwehr militia.

Watch the people walking down Zeil, the main shopping street in the city, then visit the stately and impressive Old Opera, with its facade full of arches.

Tour past the large towers of the former city wall and the expansive international fairgrounds. Finally, make your way to a charming restaurant where you can sit and relax while enjoying a traditional German dinner and a pint of beer.

Dinner is on your own and payment is collected at the time of service at the restaurant. (Approximately 4 hrs.)

After dinner, You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the rest of the evening.

Overnight in Frankfurt

Day 19 Germany: Frankfurt – Heidelberg

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Breakfast in your hotel.

9:00AM: Meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Heidelberg & the Rhine Valley Full day Tour.



Explore Heidelberg; a full day excursion either to medieval Heidelberg with a walking tour through its ancient streets. Interior visit of Heidelberg Castle included. The beauty of Heidelberg's historical old town and castle inspired painters and poets of the Romantic age to greater achievement some 200 years ago.

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Lunch: Your guide will select the perfect place to stop in Heidelberg for lunch. (Lunch is on your own cost and will be collected at time of service.)



Experience the old-world charm of Germany's romantic Heidelberg and the Rhine river, as you spend a day touring this delightful combination of rich history and natural beauty.

Head out early and make your way to Heidelberg. Rising from the banks of the River Neckar, with its rusty stone buildings and lush green landscape, Heidelberg truly lives up to its reputation of being one of the most beautiful German cities. Explore the majestic, hilltop castle with its stately presence and captivating ruins.



Take in the expansive courtyard and terrace while admiring one of the largest wine barrels in the world, the `Heidelberg Tun`. Walk through the medieval town centre and marvel at the Old Bridge, and its fantastic reflection in the river's waters.

Appreciate the splendour of the Karlstor and the Church of the Holy Spirit, and the impressive Renaissance facade of the House of the Knights.

Meander through the city's small lanes lined with half-timbered houses, before leaving Heidelberg behind, as you continue to the pristine nature of the Rhine River Valley.



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A wondrous day filled with medieval allure and brimming with bountiful nature, this trip to Heidelberg and the Rhine is certain to delight.

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the rest of the evening.

Dinner is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommended dining options in Frankfurt.

Overnight in Frankfurt

Day 20 Germany: Frankfurt – Rhine Valley & Rhine River Cruise



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Breakfast in your hotel.

9:00AM: Meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Rhine Valley and River Cruise Full day Tour.



The Rheingau has gained worldwide renown as one of Germany's most beautiful winegrowing regions.

Motorised tour through its districts of Kiedrich, Rudesheim, Assmannshausen and St. Goarshausen, including the legendary Loreley Cliffs.

Visits of the Niederwald Memorial and the medieval Eberbach Monastery, which

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gained fame as the shooting location for the film "Name of the Rose", can be included upon in your Celebration Escapes' handcrafted itinerary.



Immerse yourself in the serenity of your surroundings with quaint vineyards and villages and mighty medieval castles. Hop aboard a Rhine steamer and travel along the famous river panorama up to Kaub, where you'll swirl and sip some local wine.

Enjoy a 2hr. cruise along the Rhine and see the beautiful towns as you float down the river. Complimentary beverages and snacks on board.

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Enjoy a delicious dinner in a lovely riverfront restaurant, where you can continue to bask in the beauty around you, before making your return. (Dinner is at your own cost and payable at the restaurant.) See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in the Rhine Valley.

A wondrous day brimming with bountiful nature, this trip to the Rhine is certain to delight. You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the rest of the evening. Overnight in Frankfurt

Day 21 Germany: Frankfurt – US & Home

Breakfast in your hotel.

At the appropriate time, meet your private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport where you will connect with your International flight to the US and onward to home. Flight Departure (TBD).

End of Services.

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Itinerary Notes:

INCLUDED IN PACKAGE

- Hotel accommodations including tax and breakfast daily. Exact Hotels TBD.
- Itinerary planning and design of the tour according to the exact needs of the traveler.
- Logistical recommendations and help with decisions on every aspect of the timing of the trip, including routing, museum openings, national holidays, etc.
- All touring, transfers, a private vehicle where required, an English-speaking guide, entrance fees to all museums in the program.
- Meet & Greet Arrival with Escort
- Private Transfer to Hotels
- Private tours with private driver guides
- English speaking Guides (who must guide for all inside sites)
- Meals (where indicated)
- Private transfers to Evening Entertainment and dinners
- Dinners (where indicated)
- Train transportation
- Private Transportation (where indicated)
- Recommended restaurant list for each destination (reservations are complimentary); full listing of theater events for each destination; recommended reading list.
- Choice of paper or electronic travel documents.
- 24-hour local emergency contact in each destination, staffed by our local English-speaking manager.

NOT INCLUDED IN PACKAGE

- International Air travel
- Meals not indicated as included in itinerary
- Gratuities
- Some Entrance Fees (required at the site)
- Food, Beverage and Snacks throughout the trip (unless indicated as included)
- Any personal expenses at the hotels or elsewhere.
- Optional trip cancellation insurance.
- Upgraded rooms or suites at all hotels.
- Any items not listed as included.
- No Visas required for US Citizens. However, you must have at least 3 months left on your valid passport following your scheduled departure from Germany.

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