



GERMANY & AUSTRIA

April 20 – May 8, 2019

Highlights

- *Stay 2 nights in the quaint villages of Bacharach, Baden Baden, and Fussen and 3 nights in the grand cities of Salzburg, Vienna, and Munich
- *Spend 1 night in the medieval town of Rothenburg and the cosmopolitan city of Frankfurt
- *Sleep well in your single, private room at hotels specially chosen for their location, amenities, character, and comfort with breakfast included each morning
- *Cruise one day on the Rhine River in Germany and one on the Danube River in Vienna
- *Enjoy special musical events ~ Mozart classical concert in Salzburg, Elton John Farewell Tour in Vienna, and a Bavarian Beer Hall band in Munich
- *Dine at a historical restaurant in Bacharach, a castle on a hill overlooking Salzburg, a wine garden in Vienna Wood, a famous Beer Hall in Munich, and an Old Town restaurant in Frankfurt
- *Remember and reflect on Germany's past at Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial near Munich
- *Take a nostalgic *Sound of Music* tour in Salzburg and medieval Night Watchman tour in Rothenburg
- *Visit the fairy tale castles of Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein near Fussen
- *Relax in the soothing thermal waters of the luxurious spas in Baden Baden
- *Pack a picnic lunch to take with you on long walks through lush forest and peaceful parks
- *Travel independently in your own mid-size SUV ~ share the driving and enjoy the ride!

Friday, April 19

Stay overnight at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel

Day 1 Saturday, April 20

Depart San Francisco on an American Airlines business class flight to Frankfurt

Day 2 Sunday, April 21 EASTER SUNDAY

Arrive in Frankfurt, pick up the SUV rental and drive 1 hour to Bacharach, a picturesque village on the Rhine River. Check in to your hotel in a historic building on the banks of the river, run by the same family for six generations. After a brief rest in your private room, explore the village, walking along the Old Town Walls and the Riverfront Park. In the evening, celebrate Easter Sunday dining with locals and visitors alike at Stuber Restaurant, the town's highly acclaimed restaurant.

Rhein Hotel, Bacharach (2 nights) www.rhein-hotel-bacharach.de

Day 3 Monday, April 22

After breakfast, take a taxi to nearby Bingen and board your boat for a Rhine River cruise. The Rhine flows north from Switzerland to Holland, but the most scenic stretch is from Bingen to St. Goar. Take the leisurely 1 ½-hour cruise to St. Goar. Along the way, view castles and villages dotting the landscape. Get off the boat in St. Goar to have lunch, shop for souvenirs, and visit the Rheinfels Castle. Later in the afternoon, board the boat for the return 1-hour cruise to Bacharach.

Day 4 Tuesday, April 23

Depart Bacharach in the morning for a 2-hour drive to Baden Baden, an ancient resort town in the Black Forest. Make a scenic stop along the way, arriving in Baden Baden in time for lunch. Check in to your private room at the hotel and then go for a stroll on elegant Lichtentaler Allee, a pleasant 1 ½-mile picnic-perfect lane. Stroll through a park along a babbling river, past old mansions and heavy oaks. Stop to visit the City Museum that covers Baden-Baden's history since the Romans.

Heliopark Bad Hotel zum Hirsch, Baden-Baden (2 nights) www.helio-park-hirsch.de/en/home

Day 5 Wednesday, April 24

This morning, pack a picnic lunch for your hike in the Black Forest on a 5 km path beginning near town and winding through lush forest and waterfalls. Ancient Romans found this thick forest so mysterious, they called it "black". The Romans chose Baden-Baden for its location on the edge of the Black Forest and for its hot thermal waters. This afternoon, soak in the curative thermal waters at the Caracalla Baths. This luxurious modern spa facility includes large pools and smaller whirlpool baths all with different temperatures. You can also schedule a personal massage or facial.

Day 6 Thursday, April 25

Leave Baden-Baden to drive 3 ½ hours to Fussen, a small town in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. After settling in to your private room at the hotel, walk to Reichstrasse, the main street in town known as Fussen's heartbeat where everyone takes a seat in an outdoor café. Walk to the banks of the Lech River, follow the well-marked trail that leads to a waterfall, and cross the pedestrian footbridge that spans the falls. Or, hike up the hill to explore the town's High Castle.

Altstadt Hotel zum Hechten, Fussen (2 nights) www.hotel-hechten.com/en-index.html

Day 7 Friday, April 26

This morning, visit the nearby fairytale castles of Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein, traveling between the two by horse and carriage. Hohenschwangau, a 12th century castle, was restored by Maximilian II in 1832 in Medieval style. Nearby Neuschwanstein was built later by Maximilian's son, Ludwig II, as homage to Germanic mythology. This magical castle, atop a rugged hilltop, appears to float in the clouds above small villages and mountain lakes.

Day 8 Saturday, April 27

Depart Fussen for the 3-hour drive to Salzburg, with a scenic stop along the way. The ancient city of Salzburg remained an independent city-state for centuries. Its wealth and power was funded by salt – the "white gold" of the day. Renowned as the birthplace of Mozart and the home of the Von Trapp family, Salzburg is a Baroque showpiece of cobbled streets and elegant buildings. After checking in to your hotel, leisurely stroll the nearby historical and beautifully preserved Old Town.

Altstadthotel Wolf-Dietrich, Salzburg (3 nights) www.salzburg-hotel.at

Day 9 Sunday, April 28

Today you will follow in the footsteps of Maria Von Trapp of *Sound of Music* fame on a guided tour through Salzburg. Sing along with your group as you visit locations where the movie was shot and places associated with the real Von Trapp family. Continue the tour southwest through the Lake District, arriving in the enchanting village of Hallstatt, tucked between spectacular mountains and a beautiful glass-like lake. Wander the quaint cobblestone streets and sample local food in the Market Square. On the return to Salzburg, visit the *Sound of Music* Wedding Church in Mondsee.

Day 10 Monday, April 29

On your last full day in Salzburg, take a self-guided walking tour through Old Town, visiting the highlights of the city ~ the glorious Salzburg Cathedral; the picturesque shopping lane Getreidegasse; the informative Salzburg Museum; Mozart's famed birthplace and residence; and the lavish Hellbrunn Palace featuring lovely gardens and trick fountains. In the late afternoon, ride the funicular up to the Hohensalzburg Fortress, an imposing mountaintop castle, with its small museums and commanding views. Stay for the 3-course dinner and the evening Mozart concert.

Day 11 Tuesday, April 30

Depart Salzburg for a 3-hour drive to sophisticated Vienna, the capital of Austria and the cradle of classical music. After checking in, explore your neighborhood and board Tram #1 to take a ride on the Ringstrasse, the route of the old medieval wall that was torn down and replaced with a grand boulevard that encircles the city. On the ride, view Vienna's elegant buildings and pleasant parks. This evening, savor local food and wine at a *heuriger*, a rustic wine garden in the Vienna Wood.

Hotel Kaiserhof Vien, Vienna (3 nights) www.wien.hotel-kaiserhof.at

Day 12 Wednesday, May 1

After breakfast at the hotel, take a self-guided walking tour of the highlights of Vienna's Old Town ~ St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Opera House, the Hofburg Imperial Palace, and Neuer Markt with its Four Rivers Fountain. Take a coffee and pastry break at Café Sacher, home of the world's classiest chocolate cake, the Sacher torte. This evening, attend the Elton John Farewell Yellow Brick Road Tour at Vienna's modern concert hall, the Wiener Stadthalle.

Day 13 Thursday, May 2

Today you will take a luxury cruise down the famed Danube River through the most scenic section, the Danube Valley from Krems to Melk. Take a taxi to the boat dock, board the boat, and then spend the next 3 hours relaxing, dining, and sipping as you view the rustic beauty of ruined castles, charming towns, and leafy vineyards. Disembark at Melk for a guided tour of the Abbey, a glorious medieval Monastery and Library in the Danube Valley. Return to the hotel in Vienna with your private driver.

Day 14 Friday, May 3

Leave Vienna for the 4 ½-hour drive to Munich, known as Germany's most historic, artistic, and entertaining city. Have lunch at a scenic stop on the way. Upon arrival, check in to the friendly, family-run hotel in the outskirts of the city. In the afternoon, walk to the nearby Nymphenburg Palace and Gardens to tour one of the most sophisticated and beautiful palaces in Europe. Then share a table and join the locals for suds and song at a characteristic neighborhood *biergarten*.

Hotel Laimer Hof, Munich (3 nights) www.laimerhof.de

Day 15 Saturday, May 4

This morning, take a short tram ride to the city center. On a self-guided walking tour, spend the day exploring Munich's highlights ~ Marienplatz, the main square; Viktualienmarkt, the open air market; Residenz, the elegant palace; Nazi Documentation Center, a study of Munich's role in the rise of Nazism; and Munich City Museum. This evening, join the party at the city's world famous beer hall, Hofbrauhaus and enjoy Bavarian food, beer, pretzels, and live music at its best.

Day 16 Sunday, May 5

Today you will experience Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial, the solemn and powerful memorial to the 206,000 persons imprisoned here. This first concentration camp was set up in 1933 on the grounds of a former ammunition factory in the small town of Dachau, 10 miles from the city of Munich. Dachau is an emotionally difficult place to visit, but it is a vitally important place to visit. Take a guided tour to best understand the camp and how it worked. Then spend additional time on your own visiting the grounds and bookstore and reflecting on the reality of what happened here.

Day 17 Monday, May 6

Depart Munich for the 2 ½-hour drive along the Romantic Road to Rothenburg, one of Europe's best preserved medieval towns with its picturesque timbered houses and towers that lean over cobbled lanes. Explore the town walking along the ancient city wall, visiting the historic Town Hall, and shopping at the elaborate Christmas Workshop that is open year round. In the evening, join the entertaining Night Watchman as he lights his lamps and tells gritty tales of medieval Rothenburg.

Burg Hotel, Rothenburg (1 night) www.burghotel.eu

Day 18 Tuesday, May 7

Leave Rothenburg for the 2-hour drive to Frankfurt, a cosmopolitan metropolis and the financial center of Germany and the European Union. After returning the SUV and checking in to the hotel at the airport, take a taxi to Frankfurt's Altstadt (Old Town). Explore the charming, medieval Altstadt before dining at one of the oldest restaurants in the city, Zum Storch am Dom. Enjoy local specialties, distinguished service, and true hospitality as you say, "Auf wiedersehen to Germany".

Sheraton Hotel, Frankfurt Airport (1 night)

Day 19 Wednesday, May 8

Depart Frankfurt on American Airlines business class flight to Sacramento

\$5,550 per person includes:

- * All accommodations with private rooms
- * Fees for all events listed in the itinerary
- * Cost of the SUV rental and fuel charges
- * Daily breakfast and five special dinners
- * Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- * Round trip airfare U.S.A. / Germany
- * Funny, friendly traveling companions!



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