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# Be surrounded by medieval villages & enchanting castles

Explore the Black Forest, Bavaria's castles, and the authentic essence of Austria where the hills truly do come alive

Wander down cobblestoned streets in stunning medieval villages. Explore Ludwig's fairytale castles and taste wine on the 'route Alsace du Vin'. Follow the scenic Lakes District road and relax over lunchtime in picturesque, lakeside Wolfgangsee. Tour the palatial Gardens of Mainau, take in the spectacular mountain views from Hitler's Eagles Nest and soak up the atmosphere of beautiful, baroque Salzburg... ahhh!

- Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach
- Welcome drink on Day 1
  22 meals including breakfast daily (B), lunch on the shores of Lake Titisee (L) and 8 dinners (D)
  A complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners
- Hotel porterage of 1 bag per person (where available)
  13 nights specially selected hotel accommodation
  Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)
- Personal audio system whilst on tour (where available)
  Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
  ALL tips for your Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides
  Local guides as described in the itinerary
- Hand Selected Albatross Experiences including a Strasbourg river cruise, Lake Titisee lunch and cruise, cable car ride to Tegelberg and the Berchtesgaden Salt Mines visit

  ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described



### Frankfurt welcome

Day 1

Maritim Hotel Frankfurt, Germany



Your tour commences this evening in wonderful Frankfurt: a city of contrasts - from modern skyscrapers to beautifully maintained old buildings. Join us tonight for a welcome drink before dinner in your hotel. This is an ideal chance to meet, and get to know, your Tour Manager and fellow travellers.

## Heidelberg, Gengenbach and the Black Forest

Day 2



Hotel Zum Ochsen, Germany



We spend the morning in the nearby ancient university town of Heidelberg. Set in the wooded Neckar Valley, it is noted for its twin-towered bridge and red sandstone castle. We have included a funicular ride up to the castle and entrance to the castle courtyard and terrace. From here you can enjoy the magnificent views of the city and Neckar River below. Entrance is also included to see the world's largest wine barrel and the German Apothecary Museum. Later, we drive deep into the Black Forest to enjoy an afternoon stop in Gengenbach. With its watchtowers and market square surrounded by lovely halftimbered houses, it is easy to see why it has been called a "pearl among the Black Forest towns". We continue to nearby Schönwald, where we spend the next four nights.

## Strasbourg cruise and Triberg

Day 3



Hotel Zum Ochsen, Germany



Our morning will be spent in Strasbourg, the seat of the European Parliament. On arrival, we board a glass topped boat to enjoy a river cruise around the heart of this beautiful city. Retaining its old world charm, there are three bridges spanning the River III, massive fortified towers and the pedestrian streets around the Place de la Cathédrale and Place Broglie are a delight. Take time to enjoy one of the numerous cosy bistros and cafés. Late afternoon and evening is at leisure in Triberg, in the very centre of the Black Forest, famous for its cake, and home to the world's largest cuckoo clock and Germany's highest waterfall -Triberger Wasserfälle.

### **Colmar and the Alsace Wine Road**

Day 4



Hotel Zum Ochsen, Germany



Crossing the Rhine in France, we spend the morning in postcard perfect Colmar. On arrival we will enjoy an orientation tour through the heart of town on the 'Petit Train'. Brightly painted, half-timbered houses on narrow, twisting lanes make a perfect backdrop. The River Lauch winds its way through the centre, known as the Little Venice district. Your afternoon will be spent driving along the Route Alsace du Vin (Alsace Wine Road). Stretching from Strasbourg to Colmar, we pass the pretty villages of Ribeauvillé, Riquewihr and Kaysersberg on this famous wine road. At one of the local wineries we will stop to enjoy a wine tasting of various classic local wines.

## **Gothic Freiburg and Lake Titisee**

Day 5



Hotel Zum Ochsen, Germany



This morning we visit the capital of the Black Forest – the gothic city of Freiburg. Sensitively restored, Freiburg is one of the most charming of German cities, located where the Black Forest meets the Rhine Plain. Arcaded shopping streets and little streams lead through the old town to its great gothic cathedral. Lunch today is included on the terrace of a restaurant on the shores of Lake Titisee, offering the most splendid panoramic views across the lake to the forest. Afterwards, enjoy a cruise on the crystal clear waters of this famous lake and time to explore in the lake resort town of Titisee. Your evening is at leisure in Schönwald.

### Flower Island of Mainau to Bavaria

Day 6

Hotel Hirsch Füssen, Germany

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Heading south-east we soon arrive on the western shore of Lake Constance. Crossing a short causeway we visit the Flower Island of Mainau where a local guide leads us through the 111 acres of beautiful gardens and landscaped grounds. Originally created nearly 200 years ago by Prince Nikolaus, these magnificent botanical gardens also boast an arboretum and an Italian rose garden complete with pergolas, sculptures, fountains and 500 varieties of roses. In summer it is splendid with its rhododendrons along with huge displays of over 350,000 flowers. After catching a ferry across Lake Constance to Meersburg, we follow the northern lakeshore to enjoy an afternoon break in the old harbour town of Lindau. Later we continue to Füssen, in the mountains of Bavaria.

# **Neuschwanstein Castle and Tegelberg**

Day 7

Hotel Hirsch Füssen, Germany



We start the day in Hohenschwangau. On one hill overlooking the little village you have the neo-gothic castle of Hohenschwangau and on the other side above the village is a wooded mountain spur and Neuschwanstein – the fairytale castle of 'mad' King Ludwig. We take a leisurely stroll up the wooded road to enjoy a guided tour through Neuschwanstein Castle's state rooms, king's apartments, halls and throne room; all reminiscent of a Wagner operatic saga. Later this afternoon we will take a cable car ride up to Tegelberg to take in the excellent views down onto the fairytale castles far below. Your evening is at leisure in Füssen.

**Please note:** The guided tour through Neuschwanstein Castle incorporates climbing up and down a number of staircases and, as there are no elevators, the inside visit to the castle this morning may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties or limitations.

### **Linderhof Palace, Oberammergau and Wieskirche**

Day 8





There is nothing quite like a day in the mountains! Our first stop will be a visit to Linderhof, an extravagant French Rococo Palace – yet another of King Ludwig's amazing creations. Lunchtime will be in the nearby village of Oberammergau with its ornately painted buildings where the famous Passion Play is performed every ten years. To complete your visit we have included entrance and a guided tour through the fascinating Passion Play Theatre and Museum. In the afternoon we drive through Bavarian farmlands and forests to make a stop in arguably the most beautiful church in Europe – Wieskirche (the 'Church in the Meadows'). Surrounded by green fields, the interior of this World Heritage Listed church is an astounding Rococo creation.

### **Innsbruck and Rattenberg**

Day 9



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Taking the beautiful Fern Pass across the Bavarian Alps, we descend into the Inn Valley to visit the nearby winter resort city of Innsbruck. There will be time at leisure to explore the sights of the Alstadt (old town) such as the Hofburg Imperial Palace, cobblestoned streets and the renowned Golden Roof. Later, we follow the dramatic Inn Valley through the rolling Tyrolean hills and villages, to enjoy a short afternoon stop in the pretty village of Rattenberg. We then continue to the Salzburg – the baroque city of Mozart, where we stay four nights.

# Salzburg and 'My Time'

Day 10

Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg

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We have allowed a full day to explore Salzburg. A local guide will take us on a walking tour of this enchanting city, including several locations used in the film 'The Sound of Music'. Your afternoon will be at leisure to explore the myriad of narrow, cobblestoned streets, ornate squares and churches, fascinating shops and traditional coffee houses. The views from the enormous Festung (Fortress), sitting high above the city, are magnificent.

## Berchtesgaden, Eagle's Nest and Salt Mines

**Day 11** 

Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg

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A fascinating day ahead as we visit Berchtesgaden and Hitler's Eagles Nest. We take a breathtaking bus journey up the winding Kehlstein road and then, joined by a local guide, and in Hitler's personal luxurious brass elevator, we ascend inside the mountain for a guided tour of the Kehlsteinhaus. This alpine retreat is better known as Hitler's Eagles Nest and the mountain views are spectacular. Lunchtime will be spent in the picturesque and historic town of Berchtesgaden, before we visit the old Salt Mines. After dressing up in a salt miner's uniform, we enjoy a fun filled ride on a small train deep underground, take wooden slides (or steps) and then float on a barge across a crystal clear underground lake, beautifully illuminated by a light show.

## **Hallstatt and Lake Wolfgangsee**

Day 12

Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg



Our day is spent exploring the Austrian Lakes District! After a leisurely start we explore the picturesque town of Hallstatt. Set on a rocky terrace jutting into the quiet dark water of the lake and surrounded by towering peaks, this is considered the oldest inhabited village in Europe and perhaps the most beautiful in Austria. Lunchtime is at leisure in St. Wolfgang, on the extraordinarily picturesque Lake Wolfgangsee. Our return journey takes us alongside Wolfgangsee (lake) and around Lake Fuschl. Your evening is free in Salzburg.

#### **Extravagant Herrenchiemsee Palace and Munich**

**Day 13** 

Maritim Hotel Munich, Germany



Entering Germany, we stop in the town of Prien on Lake Chiemsee. Here we board a boat to cross over to the island of Herreninsel where we enjoy a guided tour through 'Mad' King Ludwig's Royal Palace of Herrenchiemsee. Utterly extravagant, the State Rooms were modelled on the Palace of Versailles. Later, we continue to Munich for our final evening together and celebrate with a farewell dinner.

### Munich

Day 14

Maritim Hotel Munich, Germany

Your tour ends today after breakfast.

## **Hand Selected Experiences**

These are just a few of the very special hand selected experiences that will really make your touring experience exceptional and unique, and don't forget, with Albatross they are always included.



**Alsace Wine Road** Wine Tasting



**Strasbourg** River Cruise



Lake Titisee
Lunch and Lake
Cruise



Mainau Guided tour of 'The Flower Island'



**Oberammergau** Traditional Bavarian Village



**Salt Mines**Berchtesgaden



**St Wolfgangsee** In the Salzkammergut



Herrenchiemsee Palace Guided Visit



**Tegelberg**Cable Car Ride

## **Dates and Prices**

Correct as of 06:47 on 17th April 2025

Start Date	End Date	Twin Price	Solo Price	Guaranteed to Depart	
20 May 2025	02 Jun 2025	AUD\$10,487	AUD\$12,987	~	<b>S</b> old Out
02 Sep 2025	15 Sep 2025	AUD\$10,487	AUD\$12,987	✓	<b>©</b> pace Available
19 May 2026	01 Jun 2026	ТВС	ТВС		<b>P</b> re-Register
09 Jun 2026	22 Jun 2026	ТВС	ТВС		<b>⇔</b> re-Register
28 Jul 2026	10 Aug 2026	ТВС	ТВС		<b>⇔</b> re-Register
01 Sep 2026	14 Sep 2026	ТВС	TBC		<b>₽</b> re-Register

\* Dates, prices, itineraries and hotels shown may be subject to change on specific departures. Please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

## **Tour Suitability**

Due to the attractions on this trip, a level of physical mobility is necessary to enjoy all aspects of the tour.

- Neuschwanstein Castle is set high on rocky spur. If you walk up the hill it takes about 40 minutes each way. There is a bus service that can take you up the hill. It will drop you near the top and you will then have a relatively flat 10-15 minute, scenic walk to the castle entrance. Horse and buggy rides can also be arranged but they are very popular, so you need to expect a long wait. This will drop you about 400 metres from the top. Inside the castle... when Ludwig built the castle he did not install a lift! You will be touring up and down over five levels, however the stairways are not difficult, and not steep, however please be aware that there are nevertheless almost 350 steps in total to negotiate.
- Herrenchiemsee Palace is located on a beautiful island called Herreninsel. Our ferry drops us off on one side and it just over a 1 km walk to the Palace. Then of course after walking through the palace it is another km back. The walkway is on gravelled paths through the forest. Delightful. There is a possibility you can catch a horse and carriage (own expense) but they cannot be guaranteed, and can be expensive.

Please refer to our Tour Suitability section for more information.

### **Terms & Conditions**

• Information provided is true and correct at time of issue. Airfares not included. For further details please contact your consultant or full terms and conditions may be found at www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions. Albatross Tours ABN 45 010 585 143. ATAS Accreditation No: A11341. CATO Accreditation No. 69562707