

EUROPEAN CHARM & OBERAMMERGAU

13 days



Day 1 (Sun.) Board your overnight transatlantic flight.

Day 2 Arrival in Amsterdam, Holland. (Mon.) The day is free to rest or to start exploring the Dutch capital. At 6 pm, meet your traveling companions and Tour Director for a welcome dinner at your hotel. (D)

Day 3 Amsterdam. (Tue.) A Local Guide shows you the 700-year-old capital, and the highlight is a CANAL CRUISE past patrician mansions, gabled façades and humpback bridges. Next, visit a major DIAMOND CENTER to appreciate how a rough mineral is transformed into a sparkling jewel. You may wish to visit one of Amsterdam's many museums. Later, an optional excursion to Volendam can be arranged. (B)

Day 4 Amsterdam-Heidelberg, Germany-Rhineland. (Wed.) On the way to Germany, a passing glance at the Dutch region best known as the locale of *A Bridge Too Far*. Stop in Cologne to visit the awesome twin-spired gothic CATHEDRAL. Then the afternoon's highlight: a romantic RHINE CRUISE past castle-crested cliffs, terraced vineyards, and trim, half-timbered towns. Next stop is Heidelberg, famous for its red-walled castle. (B,D)

Day 5 Rhineland-Rothenburg-Munich. (Thu.) Enjoy a leisurely morning break on the Romantic Road in spectacular Rothenburg with its ramparts and towers, cobbled lanes, and 16th century houses. South towards the Danube Valley and Munich, Germany's "secret capital." How about an optional outing to the famous Hofbräuhaus tonight? (B)

Day 6 Munich-Oberammergau. (Fri.) Your morning orientation features the Olympic Stadium, the 1,000-foot-high Television Tower, and a picture stop at Nymphenburg Palace. Next, visit Munich's most famous square, MARIENPLATZ with the Old and the New Town Halls, and the gothic Frauenkirche. Then into the Bavarian Alps to picturesque Oberammergau for the highlight of this vacation: the original PASSION PLAY, held every 10 years, and performed by the residents of Oberammergau. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Oberammergau-Innsbruck, Austria-Venice, Italy. (Sat.) Morning break in Innsbruck, capital of the Austrian Tyrol. Stroll through quaint medieval lanes to Emperor Maximilian's GOLDEN ROOF. Continue south on the spectacular Brenner Pass road across the mighty barrier of the Tyrolean Alps into Italy to Venice, the celebrated "Pearl of the Adriatic." Tonight, enjoy the city's fine restaurants. (BB)

Day 8 Venice. (Sun.) Enter Venice in style by PRIVATE BOAT to meet your Local Guide. Highlights of your walking tour are ST. MARK'S SQUARE and the byzantine BASILICA, lavish DOGES' PALACE, the Clock Tower, and the BRIDGE OF SIGHS. Also watch skilled GLASS BLOWERS fashion their delicate objects in an age-old traditional manner. Then, enjoy Venice at your own pace or join an optional gondola ride. (B,D)

Day 9 Venice-Lugano, Switzerland-Lucerne. (Mon.) Through the lush Lombardian plains, past the commercial capital of Milan and into Italian-speaking southern Switzerland, stopping in flower-festooned Lugano for lunch. Next, admire the towering majesty of the Swiss Alps and the St. Gotthard mountain on your way to picture-book Lucerne. On arrival, enjoy a walking tour to admire Thorwaldsen's LION MONUMENT and the ornate patrician houses lining the cobbled streets of the walled Old Town, then cross the famous covered CHAPEL BRIDGE to the Jesuit Church. Why not sign up for a folklore party with yodeling and alphorn blowing for a first-hand impression of Alpine merrymaking? (B)

Day 10 Lucerne-Montreux. (Tue.) Morning at leisure. You may wish to shop for Swiss watches or join an exciting optional excursion to the top of a mountain. In the afternoon, a smooth drive brings you to Lake Geneva and Montreux of festival fame. Take pictures of the Festival Hall. (B,D)

Day 11 Montreux-Lausanne-Paris, France. (Wed.) A short drive to Lausanne, home to the International Olympic Committee, where you board the high-speed "TGV" train to Paris. On arrival, sightseeing with a Local Guide features the most famous sights: the Opéra, Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame Cathedral, and more. For a bird's eye view, take the elevator to the second floor of Paris' most famous landmark, the EIFFEL TOWER. (B,D)

Day 12 At Leisure in Paris. (Thu.) Another day to enjoy what this extraordinary metropolis has to offer. Explore the world capital of chic and style at your own pace. Shop for perfume and fancy fashion accessories, take your pick from many fine museums or stroll through the magnificent parks. Optional excursions are available to the Louvre Museum and the lavish baroque Palace of Versailles. (B)

Day 13 Paris. (Fri.) Your homebound flight arrives the same day. (B)

TOUR HBO - Prices from \$3,889 US, per person, twin occupancy

Dates, prices, itinerary, and terms and conditions will be advised at time of reservation and are subject to change.