

GERMAN HIGHLIGHTS & OBERAMMERGAU

11 days



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

Day 2 Arrival in Frankfurt, Germany. (Wed.) Time to rest or to explore the bustling metropolis on the River Main. At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel. (D)

Day 3 Frankfurt-Remagen-Cologne. (Thu.) A special treat at the very start of your journey through Germany is a RHINE CRUISE along the most scenic section of the Rhine River with castle-crested hills, terraced vineyards, pretty wine towns, and finally the legendary Lorelei Rock. Disembark, and drive to the ruins of the bridge in Remagen, where American troops breached Hitler's West Wall. Spend the afternoon in Cologne with plenty of time to visit the awesome GOTHIC CATHEDRAL. Its twin 515-foot towers, five naves, splendid stained-glass windows and the shrine of the Three Holy Kings are eloquent testimony to the quality of medieval engineering and craftsmanship. (B,D)

Day 4 Cologne-Berlin. (Fri) Ride the EURO CITY TRAIN to Berlin, capital of reunited Germany, where sightseeing with a Local Guide in the once-divided metropolis includes the elegant Ku Damm, the restored Reichstag, Charlottenburg Palace, the 210-foot Victory Column

in the vast Tiergarten Park, and a picture stop at monumental Brandenburg Gate. Visit KAISER WILHELM MEMORIAL CHURCH with its bomb-damaged tower, drive along Unter den Linden Boulevard, pass the State Opera House and *Checkpoint Charlie*. (BB,D)

Day 5 Berlin. (Sat.) You may wish to join an optional excursion to Potsdam, and tonight is your chance to sample Berlin's fine restaurants and nightlife! (B)

Day 6 Berlin-Leipzig-Nuremberg. (Sun.) On your way south through what used to be the "other" Germany, visit Leipzig, an important center since the Middle Ages. Visit the THOMASKIRCHE, where J.S. Bach worked, and the Market Square with its fine renaissance buildings. Continue to Nuremberg, the town of children's toys and gingerbread, and the birthplace of painter Albrecht Dürer and poet and meistersinger Hans Sachs. Admire Nuremberg's impressive medieval ramparts and walk through the charming pedestrian Old Town. Visit ST. SEBALD CHURCH, painstakingly reconstructed as a monument to peace from the rubble of near-total wartime destruction. (B,D)

Day 7 Nuremberg-Rothenburg-Munich-Oberammergau. (Mon.) Today, focus on Germany's Romantic Road, which leads from the flat country towards the Alps. Enjoy a walking tour of medieval Rothenburg with its ramparts and towers, cobbled lanes and 16th-century houses. Then, head south to the Danube Valley and Munich for an orientation drive before continuing to picturesque Oberammergau. (B, D)

Day 8 Oberammergau. (Tue.) Today, the highlight of your vacation: the original PASSION PLAY, held every 10 years, and performed by the residents of Oberammergau. (B,L,D)

Day 9 Oberammergau-Lindau-Black Forest. (Wed.) A scenic day starts out with a leisurely drive along the panoramic German Alpine Road to the sunny northern shore of Lake Constance, Europe's largest freshwater reservoir. Stop for a lunch break in charming Lindau, then, continue north and visit the baroque church at Birnau, on your way to your hotel. (B,D)

Day 10 Black Forest-Heidelberg-Frankfurt. (Thu.) This morning, enjoy a WOODCARVING DEMONSTRATION before arriving in Heidelberg, Germany's oldest university town of *Student Prince* fame. Time to stroll around and to have lunch in the Old Town. Then, the highlight of today: visit the red-walled CASTLE where the GREAT VAT, a 49,000-gallon 18th-century wine cask, attracts particular attention. Back to Frankfurt for a farewell dinner with your companions of a fascinating vacation. (B,D)

Day 11 Your homebound flight arrives the same day. (B)

Tour ZDO - Prices from \$3,339 US, per person, twin occupancy

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