

## ACROSS THE ALPS

## September $26^{\text{th}}$ - October $5^{\text{th}}$ 2018

The Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range that lies entirely within Europe, stretching 750 miles from east to west across 8 different countries. We are excited to announce this brand new tour! Starting in the Bavarian capital of Munich, wend your way south ACROSS THE ALPS to the fabulous Italian Lake District, playground of the rich and famous. On the way, we will pass through 5 countries: Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, Switzerland, and Italy (we miss out France, Monaco and Slovenia!). In 218 BCE, Hannibal crossed the Alps with elephants – our journey will be much more comfortable!



We arrive in Munich at the beginning of Germany's largest Oktoberfest, so we will have a chance to join in the celebrations as we explore the city. Crossing the border, we enter the region known as the Tyrol: these are the Austrian Alps and we'll make a stop or two as we pass through. Next come the Swiss Alps, where we'll spend some time in Lucerne, nestled in the shadow of Mt. Pilatus, before finally leaving the mountains via Ticino, which enjoys a very mild climate. Finally we explore the Italian Lake District, tucked into the foothills of the Italian Alps, with a stay in Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore.

The geography of the area (and its climate) however, transcends political boundaries and gives the region a distinct, shared cultural identity, typified by traditional activities such as cheese-making and woodworking – and in more

modern times, by winter sports. This fall, join us for an adventure through the cities, towns and villages that make up this stunning area ACROSS THE ALPS.



## THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY: \$4560 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 980

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

## THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

**HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel including

all hotel taxes and service charges

**COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary

**MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 4 dinners

EXPENSES: Porterage of one large suitcase per person

ENTRANCES: Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

GUIDES: Discover Europe guide throughout, local guides in

Munich and Salzburg

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.

Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.





WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> - Departure from your chosen US city. OVERNIGHT: PLANE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>- Your morning arrival at Munich Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After time to unpack, rest up from the overnight flight, and perhaps begin exploring the surrounding area, there will a brief orientation meeting to gather the group together and go through the itinerary for the coming days. This will be followed by a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: MUNICH** 

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> - Our morning sightseeing with a local guide takes us through Munich's quaint and historic town center, with its bustling Marienplatz and the Frauenkirche (Cathedral of Our

Lady). The afternoon is free, or you may choose to accompany your tour guide to view the site of the first German SS concentration camp, set up by Heinrich Himmler at Dachau in 1933, 20km west of Munich, today preserved as a powerful memorial. Upon return to Munich, the rest of the afternoon and evening are free to explore the city. **(B) OVERNIGHT: MUNICH** 

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>- Leaving Munich, we travel to the foot of the Bavarian Alps where the fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein rises like a vision. The personal fantasy of 19th-century King Ludwig "the Mad," the castle is one of numerous palaces that collectively helped drive his kingdom into bankruptcy. We continue on, beginning our journey through the Alps, to Mozart's town of Salzburg, where a hearty dinner awaits. (B, D) OVERNIGHT: SALZBURG



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> - With its magnificent alpine setting, ornate Baroque churches, and Mozart legacy, Salzburg epitomizes all that is Austrian. A morning walking tour with a local guide introduces this "Rome of the North" and its medieval architectural treasures. We'll visit the house where Mozart lived for the first 17 years of his life and explore the surrounding neighborhoods. The afternoon is free—you might do a little shopping in the Altstadt (Old Town), designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, and view Fortress Hohensalzburg, the Cathedral, and the Festival Quarter. The evening is also free to sample a local restaurant. (B) OVERNIGHT: SALZBURG

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1**<sup>sr</sup> - Departing Salzburg, we journey through the Tyrol to the city of Innsbruck to enjoy a short walking tour with time for lunch. We continue through this remarkably beautiful landscape, past medieval mills and little towns characterized by half-timbered houses, to the tiny principality of Liechtenstein. We'll have time to

stop in the capital, Vaduz, before we continue across the border into Switzerland and on to our hotel in Lucerne. Dinner is included this evening. (B, D) OVERNIGHT: LUCERNE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>- This morning a walking tour of the old town takes us across the famous covered bridge, the Kapellbrücke, past the Old Town Hall (Altes Rathaus) and through the unspoiled pedestrian areas of Kornmarkt and Weinmarkt to see the remains of the old city walls. There will be free time to shop, explore and have lunch before we gather again for an afternoon excursion up nearby Mt. Pilatus. This is not for the faint of heart as we ascend by cable car and come back down by the steepest cog railway in the world! Should the weather take away the views, you can always spend the afternoon in Bucherer's, Switzerland's largest clock and watch outlet, but remember, it will always be sunny on top of the mountain above the clouds. The evening is free, but for those who wish, your tour guide will be happy to arrange an evening at the Stadtkeller, a Lucerne institution, where you can enjoy traditional Swiss food and entertainment. (B) OVERNIGHT: LUCERNE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup> - Continuing our journey through the Alps today, we turn south descending into the Italian-speaking, Swiss canton of Ticino and on into the Italian lake district. We'll break our journey in the lakeside town of Lugano before crossing the border and heading for Stresa, on Lake Maggiore. After checking on to our hotel, the evening is free. (B) OVERNIGHT: STRESA

Thursday, October 4<sup>TH</sup>- We'll begin our day with a boat transfer to Isola Bella for a morning walking tour. Literally translated as 'beautiful island' this is one of the Borromean Islands of Lake Maggiore. Scenically divided by a fishing village and the Palace with surrounding Italianate garden, we'll enjoy the setting of historically sumptuous parties and theatrical events for the nobility of Europe. The palace, begun in 1632 by Carlo III, from the influential House of Borromeo, was to be dedicated to his wife Isabella



D'Adda (from whom the island takes its name). We'll stop for lunch on Isola Pescatori before heading to Isola Madre. A walking tour will acquaint us with the largest of the three islands in the archipelago. We'll wander among the well-known English style gardens – the Giardini Botanici dell'Isola Madre – dating from about 1823, which cover eight hectares on the site of a former citrus orchard. We'll return to our hotel for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: STRESA** 

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - Morning transfers to Milan Malpensa Airport (please note that Milan Linate Airport is not convenient for this tour) for returning flights to the U.S. (B)