



THE ROMANTIC ROAD

VIENNA, SALZBURG, MUNICH & HEIDELBERG

SEPTEMBER 26TH - OCTOBER 5TH 2019

Magnificent alpine settings and medieval half-timbered houses dot the romantic, winding road from Vienna to Heidelberg. This autumn we'll journey through old-world charm and jewel-like Bavarian splendor as we explore the remarkable realm of the Hapsburgs, one of the greatest dynasties the world has ever known.

Sparkling Vienna, the elegant Austrian capital, will beguile and enchant with its beautiful architecture, which comes to full expression at Schönbrunn Palace, the exquisite summer residence of the Hapsburgs. From here we'll follow the mighty Danube, stopping for a cruise down the river before traveling towards Salzburg, a gorgeously situated World Heritage site and the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Castles and quaint corners beckon as we meander further along Germany's Romantic Road. From the fairytale fantasy of Neuschwanstein Castle at the foot of the Bavarian Alps to Munich's historic center, to the well-preserved medieval magic of Rothenburg, we'll experience the beauty of Die Romantische Straße as it winds through the backdrop of green valleys, azure blue lakes, and snowcapped mountains.

Our final destination is Heidelberg, one of the most beautiful cities in Germany. A leisurely cruise along the Rhine reveals why—as our journey draws to a close with stunning vistas up and down the river, and dramatic views of Heidelberg Castle and the Old Town embedded into the mountainside.



NEUSCHWANSTEIN



ROTHENBURG

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$3990
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 880

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 5 dinners
GUIDES:	Discover Europe tour director throughout; local guides in Vienna, Salzburg & Munich
EXPENSES:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
CRUISES:	Danube and Rhine River cruises
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.





THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: FLIGHT**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH - Morning arrival at Vienna airport, where you will meet me for the transfer to your hotel. Here you can unpack, relax, and begin to explore the elegant, old world Austrian capital and its beautiful architecture. We'll meet up in the evening for a welcome dinner party at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - Morning sightseeing with a local guide introduces this sparkling jewel of the Hapsburg Empire. Our tour ends at the Schönbrunn Palace, the exquisite summer residence of the Hapsburgs, where we'll enjoy a guided tour of the interior and have time to stroll the gardens before heading back into the city

for free time. **(B) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH - This morning we journey west toward Salzburg, home of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Our route takes us along the mighty Danube River, where we'll stop for a picturesque river cruise. We'll visit the town of Melk, and its fabulous Baroque Benedictine Abbey. We continue on to Salzburg, checking in at the hotel and meeting up for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SALZBURG**

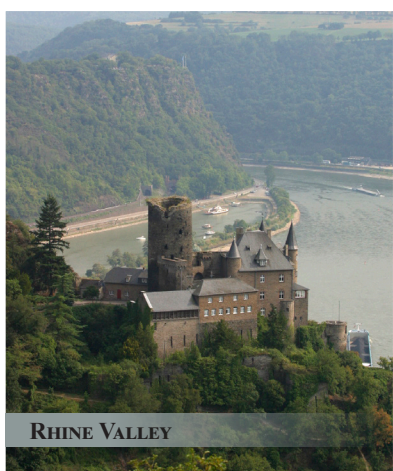
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH - With its magnificent alpine setting, ornate Baroque churches, and Mozart legacy, Salzburg epitomizes all that is Austrian. A morning walking tour with a local guide introduces this "Rome of the North" and its medieval architectural treasures. We'll visit the house where Mozart 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**



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST - Leaving Salzburg, 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 to Munich, the capital of Bavaria, where a hearty dinner awaits. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MUNICH**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND - 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). Then a somber afternoon as we head out to view the site of the first German SS concentration camp, set up by Heinrich Himmler at Dachau in 1933, 20 km 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**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD - Departing Munich, we journey through a remarkably beautiful landscape, past medieval mills and little towns characterized by half-timbered houses, to historic Rothenburg. Well-preserved medieval architecture and a handy location on Germany's Romantic Road make this town a fascinating destination—you'll want to explore the beautiful Market Square (Marktplatz) and the picturesque Plönlein, a small, triangular wonder of colorful medieval houses and towers. On to Heidelberg, one of the most beautiful cities in Germany and the site of its oldest university (1386). After we've unpacked and relaxed, we'll meet up for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: HEIDELBERG**



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH - Our morning Rhine cruise takes us past the Lorelei, with stunning views up and down the river. In the afternoon we'll visit Heidelberg Castle built between the 14th and 17th centuries, incorporating Gothic and Renaissance styles, and dramatic against its backdrop of hills. Inside, the famous Heidelberg Tun, a seven-meter wine cask, holds more than 58,000 gallons and has a dance platform on top! This evening we head into the lovely old section of the city (Altstadt) and sample the local cuisine. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: HEIDELBERG**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH - Morning transfers to Frankfurt Airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner