

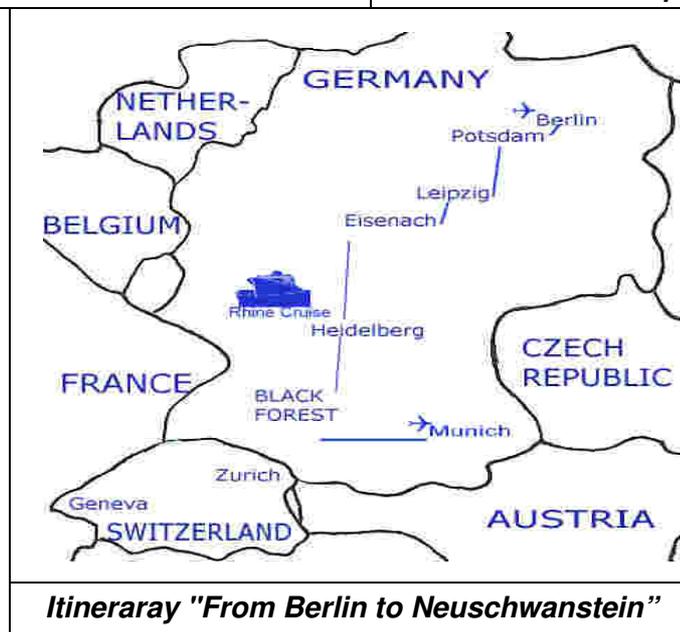
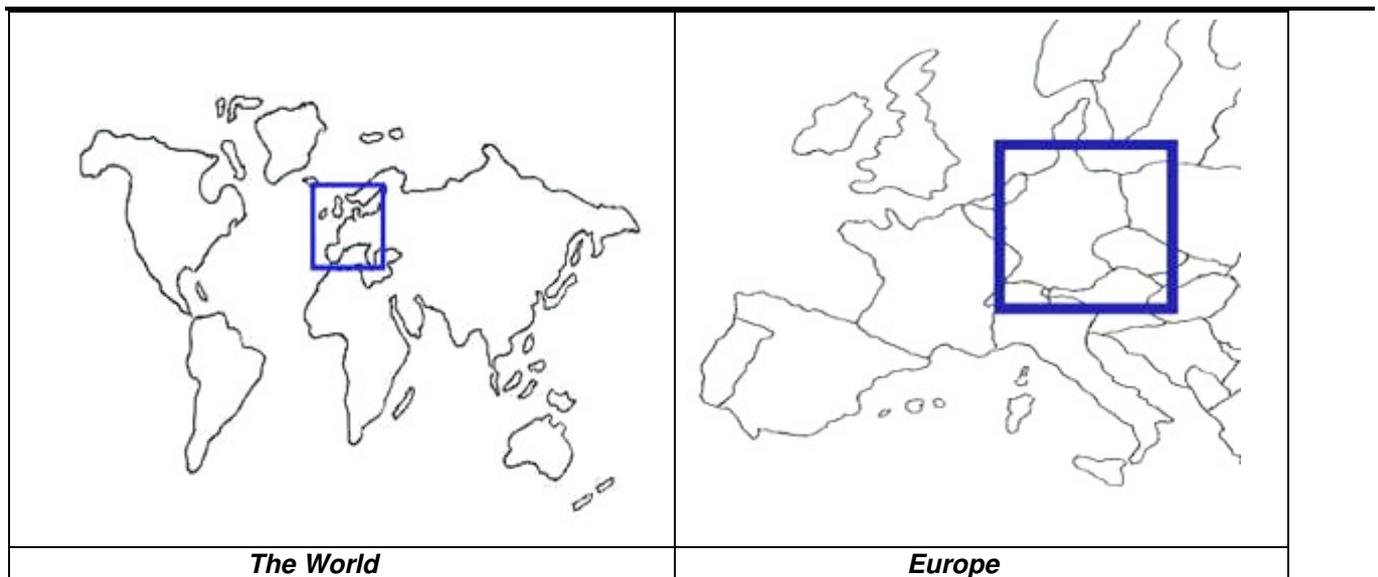
GERMANY: FROM BERLIN TO NEUSCHWANSTEIN

10 DAYS

This is an itinerary offering an in-depth experience of the Heartland of Germany -- it takes us to great and charming cities with treasures ranging from fascinating medieval centers to fortresses and palaces of kings and noble men and to cathedrals which were milestones in the wedding of faith and art. Yet as important as the past is, we will have also time to encounter the bustling present life in this important nation in the center of Western Europe.

And then there are all those wonderful in between picture book landscapes like the legendary Rhine Valley, the magical Black Forest, and the foothills of the Alps - just to name some of the most famous.

Berlin – the Rhine – Munich are waiting for us -- Auf geht's!



Sight seeing with local guides:

- Berlin
- Potsdam
- Leipzig
- Munich

Inside visits:

- Wartburg in Eisenach
- Museum of the Wall in Berlin
- Wartburg in Eisenach
- Luther's house in Eisenach
- Heidelberg Castle grounds, terrace, and Big Vat
- Neuschwanstein Castle
- Nymphenburg Castle in Munich

Features:

- Centrally located Hotels throughout the tour
 - Bavarian buffet dinner with music and entertainment in Munich
 - Drinks included at welcome and fare well dinner
 - Luxury coach with experienced driver
 - English speaking, multilingual qualified tour director throughout the tour
 - Rhine cruise
 - Bavarian Buffet dinner and entertainment in Munich
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Day 1 departure from the US**Day 2 Arrival in Berlin**

"Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome" in Berlin, pulsating World-Metropolis in the 20's, destroyed in the 40's, now reunited and again vibrant. Your sightseeing in Berlin includes numerous spots that will evoke the drama of this city's past and present: Unter den Linden -- Avenue of the Kings of Prussia, the Reichstag, former Checkpoint Charlie, the Kurfuerstendamm, the Brandenburger Tor, the newly rebuilt Potsdamer Platz and the remains of the Berlin Wall – places of tragedy and triumph in the 20th Century and scenes of contemporary culture and renewal.

Dinner + overnight in Berlin

Berlin - The Reichstag

Day 3 Excursion to Potsdam

In the morning our guide will take us to Potsdam for a walk through the gardens of Sanssouci, Frederick the Great's Palace and to see Cecilienhof (now a Hotel), where Churchill, Stalin and Truman met to decide the fate of post-war Germany in 1945.

Then free time for individual activities in Berlin. We may want to visit one of Berlin's world-famous museums (such as the Pergamon, with treasures of Greece, Rome and Babylon) or sample modern European Art in the National Gallery, or browse on the famous Kurfuerstendamm. Our tour director will have many suggestions for us.

Overnight in Berlin

Potsdam Cecilienhof

Day 4 Berlin – Wittenberg – Leipzig

A leisurely drive through the former Margravate of Brandenburg to Wittenberg, named “Lutherstadt” after its most famous resident, Martin Luther. Here we’ll have time to explore the house of Luther and his family. Then we arrive in Leipzig where a local guide is waiting to show us the living past and the active present of the city: Monument of the Battle of Leipzig, Old Town Hall, St. Nicolas Church that played such an important role 1989 in the “peaceful revolution”, and a great number of other memorable monuments.

Overnight in Leipzig



Leipzig: Thomas church

Day 5 Leipzig – Erfurt – Eisenach

The Thuringian capital, Erfurt, dates back to the 8th Century. It nestles on the bank of the river Gera – here Martin Luther lived as an Augustinian monk. After a stop in the town, the bus moves on to Eisenach, where we explore the mighty Wartburg castle. Here Martin Luther found refuge and translated the New Testament into German. We visit the House of the famous composer Johann Sebastian Bach and hear his music played on original instruments.

Overnight in Eisenach



Erfurt: Cathedral and St. Severin

Day 6 Rhine cruise – Heidelberg – Black Forest

Westwards the bus drives today to the Rhine. Here we board a cruise ship and we’ll see many of the old castles and fortresses, most of them from the Middle Ages. After the cruise we may stroll through the “Drosselgasse” in Ruedesheim – and – before leaving, a stop at the statue of “Germania”, overlooking the Rhine valley. Then it is on to Heidelberg, the old university town of Germany, which survived the war untouched. From the castle’s terrace we get a bird’s eye view of the old town and the Neckar valley. Then we’ll learn about the biggest wine barrel in the world, the Big Vat.

Overnight in the Heidelberg area



Rhine Cruise

Day 7 Black Forest – Munich

On our way to Munich, we’ll see enchanting landscape of the Black Forest, the States of Baden-Wurtemberg and Bavaria. There will be stops on the way for us to enjoy some off-the-beaten tracks places, before we reach Munich.

Overnight in Munich



Black Forest House

Munich: Marienplatz

Day 8 Munich

Sightseeing of Munich acquaints us with the historical center, the University quarter, the famous painting galleries, the square where the Oktoberfest, the World's largest beer festival is hold each year. Enjoy a visit to Nymphenburg Palace, the summer residence of the Bavarian rulers for many centuries.

Dinner + overnight in Munich



Nymphenburg



Bavarian Evening

Day 9 Excursion to Neuschwanstein

The most famous castle of fairy-tale-king Ludwig II is our destination for today. It was erected on a high rock and greets us from afar. It's a steep walk up to the castle but the visit is rewarding and the rooms and the setting unforgettable.

Farewell Dinner + overnight in Munich



Neuschwanstein

Day 10 Departure

Time to say "Auf Wiederseh'n", to Europe, to the many beautiful places, to our Tour Manager -- but we take with us wonderful memoirs and many lovely pictures that will help us to remember a great tour a great tour !

