



Germany, Austria & Switzerland

Designed for John White

May 26 - June 4, 2009

Magnificent alpine settings and medieval half-timbered houses dot the romantic, winding road from Vienna in Austria to Lucerne in Switzerland. This spring 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 Schonbrunn 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, from the fairytale fantasy of Neuschwanstein Castle at the foot of the Bavarian Alps to Munich's quaint historic center, we'll experience the glory of the Hapsburgs set against a backdrop of green valleys, azure blue lakes, and snow-capped mountains.

Our final destination is Lucerne, one of the most beautiful cities in Switzerland. As our travels draw to a close, a trip by cable car and cog railway up Mount Pilatus allows you to take in the splendid scenery from a bird's-eye viewpoint.



The Swiss Alps



Neuschwanstein Castle

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Washington Dulles departure:	\$2990
Land Only (no airfare included):	\$1960
Single supplement:	\$450

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

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in superior tourist class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily, 4 dinners.
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director throughout. Local guides in Vienna & Salzburg.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Travel insurance including cancellation coverage.

The cost of the Zermatt Extension is **\$880** per person, double occupancy and includes 3 nts hotel, breakfast and all transportation.





Tuesday, May 26. Evening departure from Washington Dulles aboard an overnight flight. **Overnight: Flight**

Wednesday, May 27. Morning arrival at Vienna airport, where a coach picks you up and transports you 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**

Thursday, May 28. Morning sightseeing with a local guide introduces this sparkling jewel of the Hapsburg Empire. Our tour ends at the Schonbrunn 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**

Friday, May 29. 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 before dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Salzburg**

Saturday, May 30. 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 free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) Overnight: Salzburg**

Sunday, May 31. 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**



Salzburg



Lucerne

Monday, June 1. 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, 20km west of Munich, today preserved as a powerful memorial. Upon our return to Munich, the rest of the afternoon and evening are free to explore the city. **(B) Overnight: Munich**

Tuesday, June 2. Departing Munich, we journey through a 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**

Wednesday, June 3. 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 close in 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 courier 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**

Thursday, June 4. Morning transfer to Zurich Airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B) Overnight: Home**

Optional Zermatt Extension:

Thursday, June 4. This morning we bid farewell to our recent traveling companions and drive to Chur, where we board the world famous Glacier Express. We change at Brig and continue on to our hotel in Zermatt. **(B, D) Overnight: Zermatt**

Friday, June 5. A free day in Zermatt - perhaps a trip up the Matterhorn, towering over the town. **(B) Overnight: Zermatt**

Saturday, June 6. Back on the train today to Geneva. Arriving at our hotel, the rest of the day is free. **(B) Overnight: Geneva**

Sunday, June 7. Morning transfer to Geneva Airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B) Overnight: Home**

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