



Across the Alps

October 8 - 21, 2007

Designed for Judy Pike and Friends

Welcome to our annual European travel adventure! This year we start in the Bavarian capital of Munich and wend our way south *Across the Alps* to the fabulous Italian Lake District, playground of the rich and famous. Like our previous adventures, this will be a small, select group of friends traveling at a leisurely pace, staying in fabulous hotels and escorted by Discover Europe's own David Phillips.

We arrive in Munich just after the end of their annual Oktoberfest, so the crowds will have left and we'll have the city to ourselves (almost). We'll explore the city and take a full day excursion out to visit the surrounding countryside before heading south. 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 Italian Alps, leading down into the Dolomites, home of most of the chic Italian skiing areas, and then down to the plains of the Veneto. We'll stay a couple of nights in Merano, beautifully located in the upper valley of the Adige river. Facing south this valley, known as the Val Venosta, enjoys a very mild climate.

Finally we explore the Italian Lake District, tucked into the foothills of the Italian Alps, from Verona to Lake Como. We'll wander the streets of Romeo and Juliet, visit magnificent villas and gorgeous gardens, and enjoy the natural beauty of this spectacular region.

As usual, space on our adventure is limited to 14 ladies, so, if this sounds like the trip of a lifetime to you, we strongly suggest you register without delay.



The Dolomites



Lake Como

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

Land Only:	\$3980
Single supplement:	\$890

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

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 12 nights accommodation in first-class hotels.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Continental buffet breakfast daily.
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director throughout; local guides in Munich and Venice.
- Expenses:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.





Monday Oct 8th. Today you depart from your chosen U.S. gateway city for your overnight flight to Munich. **Overnight: Flight**

Tuesday Oct 9th. Your arrival at Munich Airport will be met and you will be transferred to our centrally located hotel. There will be time to relax, unpack and begin exploring the city before we gather for an orientation meeting – and perhaps a glass of wine before deciding where we would like to eat this evening. **Overnight: Munich**

Wednesday Oct 10th. 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). We’ll end our tour with a visit to Das Alte Pinakothek, literally the Old Picture Gallery - one of the greatest art museums in the world. The afternoon and evening are free to enjoy the city. **(B) Overnight: Munich**



Downtown Munich

Thursday Oct 11th. A full day excursion from the city today takes us first to the Benedictine Abbey of Andechs, famous both for its superb Rococo style and for the excellent beer that is made in the brewery here. After taking a tour of the church and brewery, we’ll drive the short distance to the nearby Wieskirche, the masterpiece of the local architect Dominikus Zimmerman. We then return to Munich via the remarkably well preserved medieval town of Landsberg am Lech, where we’ll have a walking tour. The evening is free in Munich. **(B) Overnight: Munich**

Friday Oct 12th. Today we cross the Alps. We climb into the Bavarian Alps and cross the border with Austria near Garmisch-Partenkirchen, a mecca for winter sports, and into the Tyrol. Descending into the Inn Valley, we’ll stop in Innsbruck for lunch and then head to the nearby town of Wattens before continuing up into the Italian Alps. At Wattens we’ll visit the incredible Svaroski Crystal World exhibition and have time to shop in their factory store before crossing over the Brenner Pass and down to Merano in the Dolomites. **(B) Overnight: Merano**

Saturday, Oct 13th. A morning walking tour of Merano shows us the Gothic Cathedral of St. Nicholas, the castle (the Castello Principesco) and the beautiful passeggiate – promenades running alongside the river, past shops and through parks and gardens. The afternoon is free to further explore this lovely spa town, or David may arrange an excursion up into the mountains, depending on the weather. **(B) Overnight: Merano**

Sunday, Oct 14th. A spectacular drive today takes us first to Bolzano and then along the Dolomite Road, a superb feat of road engineering dating from the Renaissance, to Canazei, a lovely little town known as a center for exploring the Dolomites. This route takes us down the Val Gardena, some of the most beautiful mountain scenery in the world. We return to Merano for a free evening. **(B) Overnight: Merano**

Monday Oct 15th . Descending from the Dolomites today, we’ll take the main autostrada down through Bolzano and Trento before turning off to the west to Lake Garda, the largest in the Lake District. We’ll tour the east side of Lake Garda on the Gardesana Orientale, stopping in Sirmione for a visit before arriving in our hotel in Verona. **(B) Overnight: Verona**

Tuesday Oct 16th. A morning walking tour of Verona includes a visit to San Zeno Maggiore. The church is modeled on an ancient Roman basilica and was built to house the shrine of Verona’s patron saint. The fascinating 11th and 12th-century bronze door panels depict Old and New Testament scenes. We’ll view the massive 1st-century AD Arena, the third largest amphitheatre in the world, and gaze on Juliet’s balcony at the Casa di Giulietta. The afternoon and evening are free. **(B) Overnight: Verona**



Venice

Wednesday Oct 17th. Our excursion today takes us through the fertile valley of the River Po, and to the historic and marvelously preserved town of Mantua, where a local guide takes us around the Palazzo Ducale, the ancestral home of the Gonzaga family and one of the finest palaces in Italy. There will be free time in Mantua before we head back to Verona for a free evening. **(B) Overnight: Verona**

Thursday Oct 18th. A full day excursion to Venice today. A morning walking tour with a local guide places Venice in its historical context as we visit St Mark’s Basilica and the Doge’s Palace. The remainder of the day is free; you may wish to visit Venice’s cathedral to art, the Accademia, or take an excursion to the island of Torcello and the Cathedral of S. Maria Assunta, built in the Ravenna style with the finest mosaics in Venice, or, if you’ve had enough churches, visit the glassblowers on Murano. We return to Verona for a free evening. **(B) Overnight: Verona**

Friday Oct 19th. Leaving Verona this morning we head west along the foothills of the Italian Alps. We’ll stop at Bergamo, a pretty town that mixes medieval and Renaissance architecture. The two parts of town are linked by funicular, and you’ll have time to visit the upper town and find lunch before we continue on to our hotel overlooking Lake Como. **(B) Overnight: Como**



Lake Como

Saturday Oct 20th. This morning we explore Lake Como by boat, traveling south down the lake to the provincial capital of Como. The palatial villas of the Milan aristocracy line the southwest arm of the lake and the best views of them are from the water. We’ll visit the Villa Carlotta; originally built by a Prussian princess for her daughter, the setting and gardens are unequalled. The afternoon and evening are free. **(B) Overnight: Como**

Sunday Oct 21st
Morning transport to Milan airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

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