

WILLKOMMEN !

A JOURNEY TO GERMANY, SWITZERLAND and AUSTRIA

DESIGNED AND OPERATED BY CLUB EUROPA FOR

PARKLAND COLLEGE

Champaign, Illinois



Heidelberg's fairy tale setting has captivated imaginations and inspired creative hearts for centuries. From writers such as Goethe, Eichendorff, Hölderlin, Jean Paul, Victor Hugo, and Mark Twain to name just a few, to painters including Turner, Rottmann, Issel, and Trübner, who created rich paintings of the town on the Neckar River. Composers such as Schumann, C.M. von Weber, and Brahms also captured their impressions of Heidelberg's unique blend of river landscape, historic town, and hillside castle in their music. Sigmund Romberg's world-famous musical "The Student Prince", a regular fixture of the Heidelberg Festival, romantically depicts the life of university students against the backdrop of a bittersweet love affair.

Day 1 Transatlantic flight from Chicago to Frankfurt / Germany
May 17 **03:45 pm: flight EI 122 departs Chicago O'Hare Airport ORD**
Sat (inflight meals)

Day 2 **ARRIVAL / Frankfurt > HEIDELBERG (Germany)**

May 18 05:15 am: arrival at Dublin Airport DUB

Sun 07:00 am: flight EI 650 departs Dublin Airport DUB

10:15 am: arrival at Frankfurt Airport FRA

Services of Club Europa escort commence with meet and greet

Time will be allowed for money exchange at Frankfurt Airport – Germany is EURO-Land !

Service of deluxe long distance motorcoach commences with drive to Heidelberg (1 hour)

Check-in at hotel, time to relax and unwind

Lunch is on own

xx:xx pm: sightseeing starts at the *Neckarmuenzplatz* with local, licensed guide
(funicular and admission to the *Castle* are included)

xx:xx pm: welcome dinner at Restaurant xxxxxxxx is included

Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxx / HEIDELBERG



On the banks of the River Rhine: Castle *Pfalzgrafenstein* near the village of Kaub

The number of castles in the Upper Middle Rhine Valley is unique in the world, and they are the reason why this stretch of river was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy the view of several of these historic buildings, such as Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, the legendary castles Katz and Maus (Cat and Mouse), the medieval Marksburg Castle, which was never destroyed, Schönburg Castle near Oberwesel, the Pfalz in Kaub, or Stahleck Castle in Bacharach. Not a castle, but nevertheless a fascinating sight, is the legendary Loreley Rock.

Day 3 HEIDELBERG and AREA (incl. Rhine River Cruise)

May 19 Breakfast at hotel

Mon Drive from Heidelberg to the banks of the Rhine River, to the small town of St Goarshausen (90 miles)

01:00 pm – 04:20 pm: Rhine River Cruise from ST GOARSHAUSEN to RUEDESHEIM, covering the most scenic part of the Rhine Valley

<https://www.k-d.com/en/cruises/scheduled-cruises-on-the-rhine>

Upon arrival in Ruedesheim: free time for a stroll in the small town center, visit of one of the local wineries

Return to Heidelberg

Dinner is on own

Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxx / HEIDELBERG

Day 4 HEIDELBERG > Black Forest/Freiburg > LUCERNE AREA (Switzerland)

May 20 Breakfast at hotel

Tue **xx:xx am:** private motorcoach for drive from Heidelberg – through parts of the Black Forest – to the Lucerne area in Switzerland

A lunch stop will be made in FREIBURG, “capital” of the *Black Forest*

Free time in Freiburg for walkabout in the old town and a visit of the beautiful “Muenster”

We will enter Switzerland near the town of Schaffhausen – a photo stop is planned at the *Rhine Falls*

Continuation to the Lucerne area - check-in at hotel, time to relax and unwind

07:00 pm: fondue dinner at Restaurant *Fritschi* is included

Menu: Mixed Salad – Cheese Fondue Wallis Style – Dessert of the Day

Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx / LUCERNE



The 'Westurm' still towers above everything in Freiburg and, as one would expect, it has been struck by lightning on many an occasion. The most damage was done in 1561 when the very tip of the steeple was totally destroyed by lightning with the repairs not being completed for 7 years. Even today the pride the local people take in the Westurm is evident. A clear example of this can be seen in the current pamphlet for the Münster: the description of the Westurm ends with the rather rhetorical question; "Wouldn't you also agree that here the 'most beautiful tower of Christianity' was created?"

The "Muenster" in Freiburg – supposedly the most beautiful steeple of Christianity !

Day 5 LUCERNE AREA

May 21 Breakfast at hotel

Wed Morning activities to be suggested.....

Lunch is on own

The afternoon is dedicated to a cruise on Lake Lucerne, combined with the ascent to the summit of Mount Pilatus

xx:xx pm: meet at the starting point for the cruise (boat departs at xx:xx pm)

The route of this excursion is as follows:

Lucerne > Alpnachstad (Boat) > Pilatus Kulm (Cogwheel Train) > Fräkmüntegg (Aerial Cableway) > Kriens (Gondola Lift)

The cable car for the descent from Pilatus to Kriens departs at **xx:xx pm**

It is a 20-minute drive by coach from Kriens back to Lucerne

You can study this WEBSITE for a virtual tour and other detailed information:

<https://www.pilatus.ch/en/discover/golden-round-trip>

NOTE: do not waste any time when you change from the boat to the cogwheel train; it is a rather tight connection!

Return by coach from Kriens to the hotel

Dinner is on own

Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx / LUCERNE

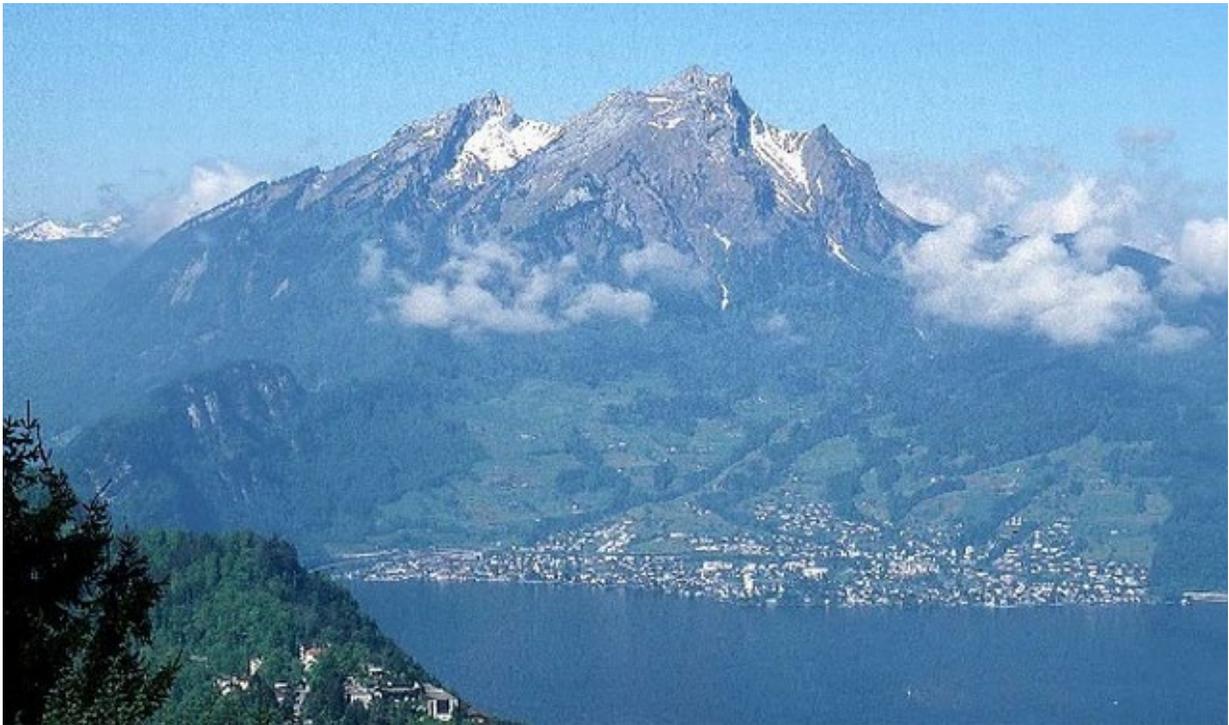


Visiting **Lucerne** is like stepping into a fairytale. The preserved medieval architecture against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains and Lake Lucerne create a mesmerizing scene. Wandering through the ancient town, the visitor finds a blend of history and modernity. The ramparts, quaint pubs, and stylish hotels of the Belle Époque add to the city's charm. The deep blue lake mirrors the grandiose mountains, enhancing a unique romantic atmosphere. Everywhere you looked, there is beauty and elegance. Whether strolling along the lakefront promenade or exploring the narrow cobblestone streets of the old town, Lucerne captivates with its timeless allure. It's a place where history comes alive, and every corner holds a story waiting to be discovered.

PLEASE NOTE:



THE USE OF MOTORCOACHES WITHIN ALL EUROPEAN CITIES IS DRAMATICALLY RESTRICTED, IF NOT ALTOGETHER IMPOSSIBLE. THE DISTANCES TO BE COVERED ON FOOT CAN BE CONSIDERABLE. COMFORTABLE SHOES ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED !!



Mount Pilatus (7,000 feet) - seen from Lake Lucerne

The giant mountain looming above Luzern to the southwest is **Mount Pilatus** (2132m), an odd name supposedly deriving from the myth that the corpse of Pontius Pilate was flung into a small lake on the mountain, his spirit for ever after haunting the summit and bound to bring tempest and damnation down onto Luzern if disturbed. More prosaically, the name is probably derived from the Latin word *pileatus*, meaning “capped” (i.e. with clouds). There are two means of transport to the top, making it an easy to do half-day round trip from Luzern – simpler than in 1868, when Queen Victoria made the excursion on muleback

Day 6 LUCERNE > GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN

May 22 Breakfast at hotel

Thu Drive from Lucerne to the country of LIECHTENSTEIN (1.5 hrs) – free time for walkabout

Lunch in Liechtenstein is on own

After lunch break: continuation from Liechtenstein back into Germany, to the town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Stop in the small town of OBERAMMERGAU – known for three things: a world-famous Passion Play, a centuries-long tradition of woodcarving, and elaborately painted buildings.

Free time for a stroll through the village before continuation to Garmisch (15 miles)

Dinner at Garmisch hotel is included

Overnight at xxxxxxxxxx Hotel / GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN



Neuschwanstein was the first of three "dream castles" that Ludwig II of Bavaria had built. Only Schloß Linderhof was completed before the king's death in 1886.

Day 7
May 23
Fri

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN / Neuschwanstein Castle / Ettal Monastery

Breakfast at hotel

xx:xx am: departure from the hotel for *Neuschwanstein Castle*

The drive takes about one hour

Arrival at the village of Schwangau and walk to the Castle courtyard

xx:xx am: arrival in the courtyard of the Castle

xx:xx am: start of Tour 445 (in English) (admission and guided tour included)

<https://www.neuschwanstein.de/>

After the visit: return to Garmisch with a stop at *Ettal Monastery*, free time to visit the Basilica.

The beautiful Ettal Abbey, known as *Kloster Ettal* is a roman catholic benedictine monastery. The monks have been living here for over 700 years centuries under a benedictine priory abbot in Ettal. It consists of a basilica, a convent, a boarding gymnasium (= high school), a brewery, a distillery, a book store and a large herb garden.

The main point of attraction is the **Basilica** at the center of the building complex.

Having been destroyed in 1744 in a fire, it was designed and rebuilt in the baroque style by Enrico Zuccalli, a Swiss-Italian architect.

The Ettal monks are known for producing first class **herb infused liqueurs** known as *Ettaler Klosterliqueur*. Today, they still produce a green and yellow liqueur within the walls of the monastery complex, similar to the Benedictine Chartreuse liqueur in France. The distilled liqueur is stored in massive oak barrels on the premises before it is bottled and sold in the monastery store.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ettal_Abbey

Dinner is on own

Overnight at xxxxxxxxx Hotel / GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN



Salzburg and the Fortress of 'Hohensalzburg'

A baroque city on the banks of the Salzach River, **Salzburg** is the beautiful capital of Land Salzburg. This former site of the Roman town of Juvavum is set against a pristine mountain backdrop. The city and the river were named after the early residents who earned their living in the region's salt mines.

This "heart of the heart of Europe" is the **city of Mozart**, who was born here in 1756. The composer's association with the city continues to draw loads of tourists, who come to visit this favorite son's birthplace, the Geburtshaus, an old burgher's house. The city is the setting for the Salzburg Festival, a world-renowned annual event that attracts music lovers, especially Mozart fans, from all over the globe – and yes: Salzburg was also the setting for *The Sound of Music* movie.

Day 9 SALZBURG

May 25 Breakfast at hotel

Sun **xx:xx:** sightseeing in Salzburg with local, licensed guide (admission to Mozart's birthplace included)

Lunch is on own

The afternoon is free for shopping and other personal activities – do not miss a cup of coffee at Austria's oldest Café, the *Café Tomaselli* - <https://tomaselli.at/en>

OPTIONAL at NO EXTRA COST:

Short drive from the hotel to the Abbey in the village of MONDSEE – the wedding scene in *The Sound of Music* was filmed in the Abbey Church

Dinner is on own

Overnight at xxxxxxxxx Hotel / SALZBURG

Day 10 SALZBURG > MUNICH (Muenchen)

May 26 Breakfast at hotel

Mon Drive from Salzburg to the town of DACHAU, located about 20 miles north of Munich

Lunch is on own

Continuation into the city of Munich (short drive)

Dinner is on own

Overnight at xxxxxxxxx Hotel / MUNICH



In March 1933, the Nazi regime opened a concentration camp on the grounds of a defunct factory complex in Dachau that once produced gunpowder and ammunition. This prison and place of terror existed for twelve years. More than 200,000 prisoners from over 40 nations were imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp and its subcamps; at least 41,500 persons died here of hunger and illness, from the torture they suffered, were murdered, or perished from the consequences of their imprisonment.

After U.S. Army units had liberated the prisoners on April 29, 1945, the American military government used the former prisoner camp as a Displaced Persons camp. From July 1945, the grounds served as an internment camp for suspected Nazi perpetrators; in 1948, the Bavarian state government set up a refugee camp. Thanks to the initiative of the survivors, who had joined forces in 1955 to form the Comité International de Dachau (CID), it proved possible to turn the onetime prisoner camp into a place of commemoration and remembrance.

The Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, featuring a documentary exhibition, opened in May 1965.

<https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de/en/>

Day 11 MUNICH

May 27 Breakfast at hotel

Tue **xx:xx pm:** guided sightseeing (walking) tour with local, licensed guide *Christa Karch*

Meeting point with local guide is xxxxxxxxxxxx

The tour will end near the *Viktualienmarkt*, a food market and a square in the center of Munich. With the exception of Sundays and holidays, it has been held daily since 1807.

Over the decades the *Viktualienmarkt* developed from an original farmers' market into a favourite place for food lovers and for visitors, who can find everything their heart desires here, from urban Bavarian goods to exotic fruits.

<https://www.viktualienmarkt-muenchen.de/en/home/>

Lunch is on own

The afternoon is free for individual activities, shopping etc.....

Suggestion: Munich holds a number of excellent art and history museums, amongst them the *Deutsches Museum*, the *Alte* and the *Neue Pinakothek*, the *Museum Brandhorst*, the *Pinakothek der Moderne*, the *Lenbachhaus*, etc....)

Farewell dinner is included at Restaurant RATSHELLER

(The Ratskeller is located inside City Hall on Marienplatz, the very center of town)

Overnight at xxxxxxxxxxx Hotel / MUNICH



Situated near a settlement (Munichen) that was established in Carolingian times, **Munich** (Muenchen) was founded (1158) by Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony and of Bavaria. In 1255 it was chosen as the residence of the Wittelsbach family, the dukes of Bavaria; in 1806 the city was made the capital of the kingdom of Bavaria. Under the kings Louis I (1825–48), Maximilian II (1848–64), and Louis II (1864–86), Munich became a cultural and artistic center, and played a leading role in the development of 19th- and 20th-century German painting.

After World War I the city was the scene of considerable political unrest. National Socialism (Nazism) was founded there, and on Nov. 8, 1923, Adolf Hitler failed in his attempted Munich “beer-hall putsch”—a coup aimed at the Bavarian government. Despite this fiasco, Hitler made Munich the headquarters of the Nazi party, which in 1933 took control of the German national government. In September 1938, the Munich Pact was signed in the city; in 1939 Hitler suppressed a Bavarian separatist plot there. Munich was badly damaged during World War II, but after 1945 it was extensively rebuilt and many modern buildings were (re)constructed. Nowadays the city is one of the leading cultural and economic centers of Germany.

Day 12 RETURN TO THE U.S.

May 28 **08:00 am:** private transfer from hotel to Munich Airport

Wed

RETURN FLIGHT:

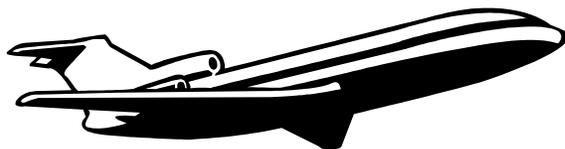
11:25 am: flight EI 353 departs Munich Airport MUC

01:00 pm: arrival at Dublin Airport DUB

(see notes on US Pre-Clearance below !!)

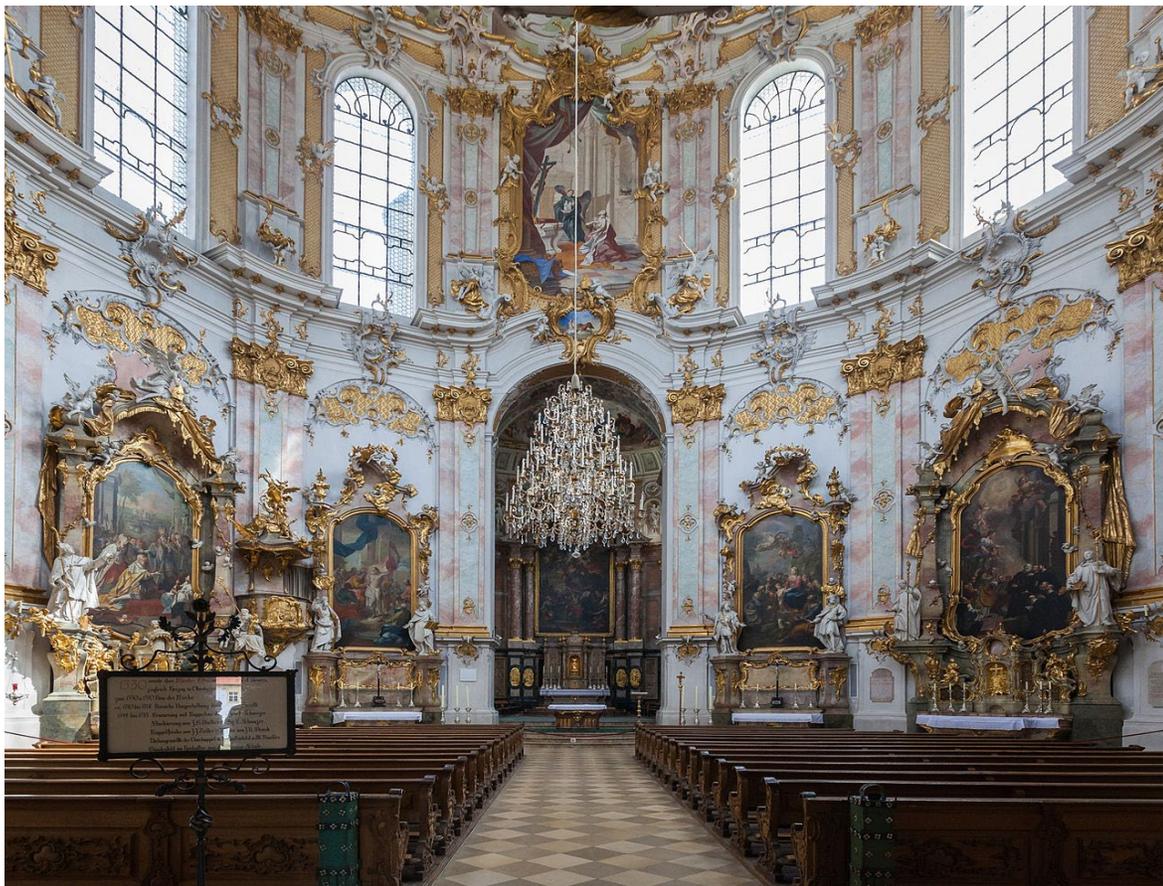
04:40 pm: flight EI 125 departs Dublin (inflight meals)

07:05 pm: arrival at Chicago O’Hare Airport ORD – Terminal 3



INCLUDED ARE :

- ☛ **TEN overnights at superior tourist / moderate first class hotels, conveniently located twin or double occupancy, all rooms with private facilities**
Brochures and / or websites of the hotels will be presented prior to final reservations
- ☛ **All breakfasts, buffet style**
- ☛ **Five dinners (one at each destination)**
- ☛ **Services of local, licensed guides for sightseeing as noted**
- ☛ **Experienced, multilingual Club Europa escort throughout**
- ☛ **Services of deluxe motorcoach (equipped with A/C) throughout**
(all highway tolls, driver's expenses, parking fees and city permits included)
- ☛ **Entrance fees as noted in the itinerary**
- ☛ **All applicable local taxes**
- ☛ **Gratuities to coach drivers and local guides**
- ☛ **Andy Benz of Club Europa is available for preparatory meetings as needed**



Inside the **Abbey Church at Ettal**, near Oberammergau and Garmisch, in Bavaria

NOT INCLUDED ARE :

- ☛ **Meals other than mentioned**
- ☛ **Drinks with dinners (please note that table water is not always free of charge in Europe)**
- ☛ **Expenses of personal nature such as passport, laundry, insurance, souvenirs etc...**
- ☛ **Airport transfers in the United States**
- ☛ **Luggage handling at hotels (not included for cost savings)**

The rules of travel to Europe will change: starting in the first half of 2025, visitors from over 60 visa-exempt countries will be required to have a travel authorisation to enter most European countries.

We will follow this matter closely and keep you informed.

https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en



As for all international travel, you need a valid **PASSPORT** !
Please make sure your passport is valid at least six months beyond the date of your return.

IMPORTANT !!!

PLEASE NOTE:

When flying from Dublin to the United States you go through
US Immigration and Customs at DUBLIN AIRPORT !

You will NOT go through US customs in the United States.

- >>> Go through Dublin Airport security screening
- >>> Make your way to the *US Preclearance* area (clearly signposted)



AER LINGUS AT CHICAGO O'HARE:

Terminal 3

We have moved to a new home in Chicago O'Hare (ORD) **Terminal 3**. Since 24 January 2024, all of our flights depart from and arrive into Terminal 3.