

Motor - Coach

- Agency



The Best of GERMANY including LUXEMBOURG, to SWITZERLAND and to northern ITALY including VENICE

(FRANKFURT in/ MILAN out - 14 days)
A leisure tour with a minimum of packing & unpacking

Your day by day itinerary



Day 01: Arrive at Frankfurt Airport

A warm welcome awaits all group members upon arrival Frankfurt by your Tour Director who will be with you from now on throughout land. – A brief orientation drive will show you first the lively city center of Frankfurt and its financial district. – Of further interest will be the "Roemer", a complex of eight historic buildings dating back to the 15th up to the 18th C, including the City Hall and St Leonard Church even of the 14th C. – Following a break, a short transfer drive takes you to your first-class hotel in Frankfurt. – Toward evening join your Tour Director for a welcome reception and for a special dinner at the hotel. (D)

bank details:

Sparkasse Huenfeld

BIC: HELADEF1FDS

IBAN: DE 36 5305 0180 0072 0031 45

VR Bank Nord Rhoen

BIC: GENODEF1HUE

IBAN: DE 41 5306 1230 0004 1106 25

**All of our package tours are covered
by a payment protection plan in
in case of insolvency !**



**Day 02: Excursion to HEIDELBERG, to RUEDESHEIM
for a Rhine River Cruise and to KOBLENZ**

Enjoy another good breakfast this morning and leave then first for beautiful Heidelberg, an ancient university town celebrated in songs, poetry and described as the "German Heart of Romanticism". - Here, you will be visiting the city's Church Of The Holy Spirit, an example of late Gothic architecture, its old market square, the City Hall and its glorious "Knight Mansion" that was built during the late 16th C. - Arriving at the castle hill and walking to its terrace you will be rewarded by a wonderful view of Heidelberg and its river Neckar. - Afterwards, visit the old Castle Museum and admire its "Great Vat", holding a capacity of nearly up to 50.000 gallons. - Some later, our today's excursion leads you to the quaint town of Ruedesheim, where the vineyards of the "Rheingau" cease at the beginning of the Rhine Gorge. You will enjoy the picturesque streets and alleys, especially its "Drosselgasse" lined with a number of ornate wine bars inviting visitors for a local wine tasting. - Some later and according to our schedule, you are booked on an unforgettable Rhine river cruise past castles crowning hills, vineyards, medieval towns and the legendary "Loreley Rock" where mermaids are said to have lured sailors to their death - You disembark at St. Goarshausen and continue with your motor coach to the city of Koblenz at the confluence of the rivers Rhine and Mosel, where Romans have established an encampment already in the 9th C. - From the fortress Ehrenbreitstein, above the right bank of the Rhine river enjoy excellent views of Koblenz with its church towers of the "Liebfrauenkirche", built during the 12th C and "St. Kastorkirche" of the 18th C. - One of the most striking views of all is the hallowed piece of ground on the promontory at the confluence, called "Deutsches Eck" (German Corner), so named because here in 1216 the Teutonic knights established their first base. - During the later afternoon we return to our hotel in Frankfurt in time for freshen up and for dinner. (B & D)



Day 03: Excursion to TRIER and to LUXEMBOURG

A most scenic motor coach excursion is waiting this morning when your journey takes you into the lovely valley of the river Mosel. Here, you will be attracted by deep curves, numerous vineyards planted on slopes which are in sharp contrast to the short harsh span of the Rhine Gorge. - The route leads through the stylish small town of Koblenz-Gondorf overlooked by the ruins of two castles, each of which enhances the other. - A few miles further west rises the powerful fortress Eltz bristling with towers and pinnacles above the trees in an awe-inspiring site. - Soon, we shall arrive at Cochem and to its beautiful setting, one of the most picturesque towns on the river Mosel for a stop including a delicious wine tasting. - Then, our route continues to Trier, founded by the Romans about 2.000 years ago, the oldest city in Germany. - Following a lunch break the city tour includes its highlight "Porta Nigra", an imposing gateway of a fine Roman relic. - Also of much interest will be the fortress-like Cathedral with its square towers and turrets, the old Roman Basilica and the Imperial Baths, constructed under the Roman Constantine. - Less than a hour from here we cross border for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and enjoy its scenic region with a lush, green and rugged landscape. - Your sightseeing tour will show you its fortification and casemates, a remarkable complex of tunnels and fortresses. - We shall visit Eglise St-Michel, a beautiful church of Gothic style displaying a great altar, a masterpiece of the 17th C and an impressive Baroque organ. - Travelling on road Chemin de la Corniche, we pass elegant turrets which flank the facade of the Grand Ducal Palace and which are decorated with low-relief geometrically designed sculptures. - Time will be yours now to shop or browse around before we later during the afternoon return to our hotel for another delicious dinner and for overnight. (B & D)



Day 04: Excursion to ROTHENBURG and to NUREMBERG

While leaving our hotel this morning we travel some further south and east to Rothenburg on the Romantic Road which links the river Main and the Bavarian Alps by way of peaceful valleys. The nature of this road is to be found in its gentle and poetic quality and provides a serene journey through history that evokes the great periods of old medieval towns such as the former Franconian Imperial city of Rothenburg. - Hardly any other town casts such a spell on visitors as this architectural gem. A short walking tour reveals half timbered houses, medieval turrets, gates and towers, almost untouched in its original architecture since the Thirty Years War. - Enjoy here its beautiful painted Old Town Hall of both Gothic and Renaissance style and admire the outstanding "Baumeister-Haus", an ancient restaurant building of 1596. - On the north side of this square you won't miss the former "Ratstrinkstube", an old tavern whose clock jacks enact several times a day the famous bumper of a wine legend representing a "master draught" which took place here in 1631. - Afterwards, you will be visiting St James Church with its famous High Altar, known as the "Last Supper of the Holy Blood", a 16th C masterpiece of woodcarver Tilman Riemenschneider. - Time will be left in charming Rothenburg to do as you please before our route leads some further east to historic Nuremberg, Germany's imperial capital during the Middle Age. - The city sightseeing will show you first its old town quarter surrounded by an almost intact city wall with numerous towers. - The Museum Bridge, that spans the Pegnitz river will lead you to the bustling market place and to its 14th C "Beautiful Fountain" of Gothic architecture. - The east side of this square is overlooked by the Church Of Our Lady, where mechanical figures perform their noon time rituals. - Across the Old and New City Hall, you will be visiting St. Sebaldus Church, built during the 13th C with a magnificent Gothic choir and tomb, an outstanding example of brass art including a sarcophagus of the late 14th C. - In the course of time, Nuremberg also became known for its annual International Toy Fair and for its famous gingerbread and roasted sausages. - So, why not try here a tasty "Bratwurst" and explore this delightful city center on your own, - before we return to our hotel in Frankfurt for dinner. (B & D)



Day 05: Excursion to COLOGNE to visit its mighty Cathedral

During the morning your today's excursion takes you further north to the city of Cologne, capital of the Rhineland and one of Germany's largest cities. Especially known for its gigantic High Cathedral of St Peter, a Roman Catholic church and a World Heritage Site. Constructed around 1248 which took more than 600 years to complete this great incomparable edifice that attracts each day up to 20.000 visitors. - You will be visiting the inside of this church, overwhelming by the height of each tower and with a 24 ton bell of St Peter, the largest free-swinging bell in the world. - Enjoy the ornateness of decoration such as five stained glass windows depict the lives of the Virgin and St Peter, donated by former King Ludwig I of Bavaria. - Not to be missed the medieval statue of St Christopher, Patron of Travellers who welcomes each visitor to this Cathedral. - The altar piece is a famous masterwork by S. Lochner and the 10th C Cross of Gero is one of the oldest sculpture of crucified Christ carved in oak and displays an unique example of Othonian art. - However, the most celebrated work of art is the 12th C "Shrine of the Three Kings". - You will enjoy also the Treasury Chamber, home of church treasures of which some dating back to the 4th C. Admire here works of art made of gold, silver, bronze, ivory and holy relics, liturgical items, textiles, insignias of Archbishops and valuable sculptures from the Middle Age. - Then, time will be left to explore its nearby car-free pedestrian and shopping zone of the inner-city, perhaps for a light lunch and a glass of good local beer named "Koelsch". - Do as you please now and join later for our return to Frankfurt. (B & D)



Day 06: Morning at leisure - afternoon CHURCH SERVICE including an ORGAN CONCERT

A day at leisure. - During afternoon you are invited for a private church service including organ music. - Toward evening we meet again for a festive farewell dinner with wine at the hotel. - As a surprise there will be a drawing of valuable gifts with everyone is winning. - We wish this last evening the most enjoyable one during your stay in Frankfurt. (B & D)



**Day 07: Depart FRANKFURT by way of BADEN BADEN
to INTERLAKEN in SWITZERLAND**

Leaving our hotel this morning travelling south by way of Baden-Baden with a stop, right at the fabled Black Forest attracted by its dark coniferous woodland. - Baden-Baden means Europe's most luxurious spa resort and has seen famous visitors such as the King of Prussia, Napoleon III and Queen Victoria. - Enjoy an easy walk through the lovely park and "Kurgarten" and see its elegant Casino of 1838 which has made Baden-Baden a meeting place of the fashionable world and a summer capital of Europe. - Following this stop and some further miles south we cross into Switzerland and proceed to the area of Interlaken and to your hotel for the next 2 nights. - A welcome reception is waiting today before we join for dinner this evening at the hotel. - Afterwards, your Tour Director invites you for a leisurely walk to become some more acquainted with the resort of Interlaken, rich in tradition and to enjoy its scenic location right in the heart of the Swiss Alps providing a beautiful mountain panorama. (B & D)



**Day 08: Excursion to GRUYERES and to MONTREUX including
CHILLON CASTLE**

An excursion day leads us this morning over the Jaun Pass, one of Switzerland's most mountainous roads to the fortified and picturesque town of Gruyeres lined by old houses with twin windows and wide eaves. - The medieval main street slopes down to the town fountain before rising up again toward the old castle of former counts, the ruling class between the 11th and 16th C. The heraldic crane of the Counts of Gruyeres can be seen in many places, over doors and in stained glass windows. - Following this site you are invited to experience a typical Gruyeres Cheese Dairy for a tasting on the ground floor, viewing a cheese cellar and its storage area. From the second floor and its galleries you can overlook the demonstration area where the manufacturing of Gruyere cheese is made in wheels of up to almost 80 lbs. - After this interesting stop we motor down the Jaun Pass to the resort of Montreux on Lake Geneva, stretches along the shore of a great bay facing south and rises in tiers to heights covered with woods or vineyards which shelter it from the north and east winds. - On the lake shores you may enjoy seeing fig, almond and mulberry trees and even cypresses, magnolias and palm trees flourishing in a truly Mediterranean climate. - Among other international events held in Montreux are the Golden Rose Television Festival and the famous Jazz Festival taking place in spring and summer. - From the terrace of the old parish church enjoy a beautiful view now of the city, the lake with its Chillon Castle, the mountains of the Savoy Chablais and the sparkling



Dents du Midi are clearly visible. – Following a break we soon arrive at Chillon Castle, occupies an attractive site and is framed by the lake and Alps. The origins of this castle dating back to the 9th C and was extended during the 12th C by the Counts of Savoy. - The moat has to be crossed on a 18th C bridge which took the place of an earlier drawbridge. - You will see the Knights' Hall and several salons, remarkably decorated and furnished like the Great Hall with a magnificent ceiling and an imposing 15th C fireside. On display also a fine set of Savoyard furniture and a large collection of pewter. The former Banqueting Hall is adorned with a timber roof in the shape of an inverted ship's hull and a collection of rare silver coins is displayed in the Domus Clericorum Hall. – The castle's dungeons have served as a state prison on several occasions over this period. Probably the most famous prisoner De Bonivard, who was arrested here in the 16th C by the Duke of Savoy and chained to one of the pillars. The English poet Byron commemorated the captivity of Bonivard in a poem after his visit in the year of 1816 which helped to make the castle the most popular monument in Switzerland. - From the castle enjoy some last views of Montreux, its lake and the Alps and then return to your hotel in Interlaken for another tasty dinner with wine. (B & D)



Day 09: Leaving INTERLAKEN for COMO in ITALY

We leave the area of Interlaken this morning and its beautiful Bernese Alps and travelling further south through the impressive St. Gotthard tunnel, journey along the lovely Ticino Valley by way of Bellinzona, for almost a thousand years a stronghold guarding its surroundings with a fortification resting on three castles connected by walls, a great part of which can still be seen. – Then, past Lugano and its lake, framed between the mountains Bré and Salvatore. - Toward evening arrive at Lake Como, appreciated for its beautiful setting and opulent lakeside gardens, a great favourite of its captivating landscape and scenery. – Following hotel check-in for staying on the upcoming 2 nights, you are invited for a welcome reception and a special Italian dinner this evening at the fine hotel restaurant. (B & D)



Day 10: Excursion to LUGANO, LOCARNO and to LAGO MAGGIORE

Our today's excursion takes us first on a short drive back to Switzerland and to Lugano, shares its lake shores with Italy and set among steep slopes of the Alps. -Winding our way along the lakeshore promenade past the municipality of Paradiso, a wonderful blend of nature and culture. You will see the Cathedral of St. Lawrence showing a fine decorated doorway of Renaissance, numerous buildings and monuments in the Italian Lombardy architecture. – Then, our route leads further north to Locarno on the Swiss side of Lago Maggiore and best known for its annual Film Festivals. - An orientation drive will take us to the city's historical Castello Visconti and to its monastery Madonna del Sasso, a pilgrim church overlooking Locarno from a hill in the hollow of a sunny bay. - Following this stop we continue with our today's excursion around Lago Maggiore on the Italian side as far as Stresa which still attracts many artists and writers. – We board a ferry here which takes us over to Isola Bella, one of the famous Borromean islands, named after the wife of Charles III. Here, you will be visiting its palace of the former Princely family, built in Lombard Baroque style representing several state rooms like Napoleon's Apartment, a Ball Room and a Hall of Mirrors. – Time is left to enjoy the colorful gardens, filled with a variety of exotic plants which form an amazing Baroque composition. A truncated pyramid of ten terraces ornamented with statues, beautiful fountains and a shell-shaped amphitheatre providing an extraordinary scenic effect. – Back from its island we then return to our hotel in Como for another delicious dinner with wine and for overnight. (B & D)



Day 11: Leaving LAKE COMO via VERONA to VENICE-MESTRE

Following breakfast we leave our hotel and Lake Como by way of Italy's largest lake Lago di Garda with a short stop before we continue with our drive to Verona, former home of Romeo and Juliet, immortalized by Shakespeare. - An orientation drive will show you delightful buildings of Roman and Venetian architecture, the splendid and fortified castle Castelvechio of the 14th C and its famous Arena, largest amphitheatre in the former Roman World which can accommodate up to 25.000 spectators during the annual opera season. – Then, we motor further east arriving its ancient area of Padova which used to be one of the most prosperous Roman cities about 2.000 years ago and Venice-Mestre for another two nights stay. - Enjoy a welcome reception and a fine dinner this evening at your hotel restaurant. (B & D)



Day 12: Full day VENICE

Leaving our hotel this morning for a beautiful sightseeing day with a short drive to legendary Venice. - From the boat station Piazzale Roma we take a "Vaporetto" to St. Mark's Square gliding on Grand Canal that winds through Venice past magnificent palazzos and numerous footbridges like the famous one of Ponte Realto. Founded about 1.200 years ago and built on 117 little islands with a link to the sea, Venice' beauty still reflects an incomparable architecture of Byzantine domes, palaces of Venetian-Gothic style, charming squares, dozens of silent canals and for centuries gondolas which have been the traditional means of transport. - One of the city's highlights will be a guided visit to the Doges' Palace, residence of the former rulers features a vast collection of art treasures, a symbol of Venetian power and glory. Founded in the 12th C but completely transformed between the 13th and 16th C. - Your tour will start at the top of the Golden Staircase and will lead you through a suite of rooms and halls like the Grand Council Chamber of about 14.000 sq ft with paintings and portraits of over 70 doges as well as Tintoretto's famous "Paradise". - Following this visit ample time is yours now for a lunch break or to stroll around. - Explore the city's fascinating alleys, shop for Venetian glass or discover the romance of this intriguing city of canals perhaps by a gondola ride. - Experience the unique atmosphere that makes Venice one of the most charming and attractive cities in the world. - Later this day we meet again for our return in time for freshen up and for dinner with wine at the hotel. (B & D)



Day 13: Leaving VENICE-Mestre for MILAN

After breakfast leaving Venice area travelling west with a stop at the fortified town of Sirmione on Lago di Garda. A most popular holiday location surrounded by a beautiful alpine region which was formed by glaciers at the end of the last Ice Age. Home of the picturesque Scaliger Castle and of numerous restaurants and cafes, fashion stores and local markets. - Following this stop we continue with our drive further west and arrive at the Duchy of Milan, former state of the Holy Roman Empire. In the course of centuries Milan has been alternatively dominated by the Spanish, Austrians and French until in the mid of the 19th C the city was annexed by the new Kingdom of Italy. - An orientation drive of the capital of Lombardy will show you first Milan's world famous Opera House La Scala, built 1778 and its museum (depending on arrival time) to view from one of the boxes of six levels the mighty auditorium with a seating of about 2.000 visitors. - Afterwards, your sightseeing tour will lead you to Castello Sforzesco of the 15th C and its landmark and Cathedral of the 14th C, presenting over 2.000 statues of marble and saints keep a vigilant eye over the city from its spires in contrast with its imposing interior. - Later, a welcome reception, dinner and wine are waiting at our hotel restaurant. - Classic Italian music and one more valuable gift to each member of tour will end another great day. (B & D)



Day 14: Last day of tour - return to your home

During the morning it's on to Milan Malpensa Airport for your flight back home. - At the airport it's time to say "Buon Viaggio" and good-bye to the Old World, to your driver and Tour Director before your flight takes off - Now, - wishing all of you a happy return ! (B)

(copyright by Heinz Ackermann)



What your land tour cost all includes:

- * 13 accommodations at personal selected fine hotels:
 - 6 overnights in Frankfurt, Germany.
 - 2 overnights in Interlaken, Switzerland.
 - 2 overnights on Lake Como, Italy.
 - 2 overnights in Venice-Mestre, Italy.
 - 1 overnight in Milan, Italy.
 - (On request further information on all hotels)
- * 13 full buffet-style breakfasts.
- * 13 three or four-courses dinners with choice of main-course;
five evenings with wine.
- * Total: 26 Meals.
- * Bag service in/ out at all hotels.
- * 5 welcome receptions at hotels.
- * Touring by a private and modern motor coach with all facilities,
such as air-condition, washroom and toilet, kitchen/ bar, reclining
seats, panorama windows, etc.
Airport transfers upon arrival Frankfurt and for Milan departure,
all excursions, side trips, boat trips, sightseeing and entrance fees
as per itinerary.



*** Highlights:**

- ° Orientation tour of Frankfurt
- ° Excursion to Heidelberg with sightseeing and entrance to its Castle Museum, to Ruedesheim, Rhine River Cruise and to Koblenz
- ° Wine tasting in Cochem on the Mosel river, to Trier and to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, both with sightseeing
- ° Excursion to Rothenburg and Nuremberg, both with sightseeing
- ° Excursion to Cologne including its Cathedral and Treasure Chamber
- ° Private church service and organ music
- ° Transfer to Interlaken in Switzerland by way of Baden-Baden/ Black Forest including orientation drive
- ° Excursion to Gruyeres with a cheese tasting and to Montreux including sightseeing and entrance to Chillon Castle
- ° Transfer to Lake Como, Italy with stops en route
- ° Excursion to Lugano and Locarno including sightseeing and boat transfer to/ from the island of Isola Bella, Lago Maggiore with entrance to its castle
- ° Transfer to Venice-Mestre by way of Lago di Garda and Verona including sightseeing and its arena
- ° Full day Venice including boat transfer and guided entrance to the Doges' Palace
- ° Transfer to Milan with sightseeing including the Opera House La Scala and entrance to its museum (time depending), Castello Sforzesco and Cathedral
- ° A valuable gift to each member on day 06 and day 13.
- * An experienced motor coach driver and a professional English-speaking Tour Director throughout land.

Land tour cost per person sharing dbl or twin-bedded room

30 - 35 paying persons = 2.155 Euro p.p.

36 - 40 paying persons = 2.060 Euro p.p.

41 - up paying persons = 1.965 Euro p.p.

Single supplement 390 Euro

- * All rates net in Euro and not commissionable, valid thru 2014.
- * From 25 paying persons on – plus one person FOC on land.
- * Please select your own dep/ arvl dates in agreement with us.