



# Oktoberfest: Jewels of Alpine Europe

14 days | 16 days with Salzburg extension

Journey from Switzerland's mountain-lined Lake Lucerne to France's inspiring Lake Annecy. Take in the picturesque Chamonix Valley, stroll along Italy's Lake Como, cross Liechtenstein, and hit the winter wonderland of Innsbruck. End your adventure in Munich, the lively capital of Bavaria, where you'll join thousands of beer lovers from around the world in celebrating Oktoberfest.



## Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 9 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 train ride

## Included highlights

- Oktoberfest in Munich
- Kapellbrücke
- Interlaken
- Chamonix
- Mont Blanc
- Lake Como
- Bernina Express train ride
- Liechtenstein
- Munich Residenz
- Glockenspiel

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills and stairs.

## Group size

15-38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Zurich today.

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## Lucerne Region → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Zurich & transfer to Lucerne Region

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Switzerland! Transfer to the Lucerne region and get settled in to your hotel. Then, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get an up-close look at the lakeside city of Lucerne, Switzerland's idyllic Alpine town, on a guided sightseeing tour.

- View the Lion Monument, a tribute to the Swiss Guards who sacrificed their lives in Paris during the French Revolution
- Pass hand-painted facades that line the cobbled streets of the Old Town
- Cross the medieval Kapellbrücke, a covered wooden footbridge spanning the Reuss River, and view the Water Tower
- See the Jesuit Church, the first large Baroque building of its kind to be built north of the Alps in Switzerland

Enjoy a free afternoon in Lucerne or add an excursion.

+ Mount Pilatus

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## French Alps → 2 nights

### Day 4: French Alps via Bern

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel through the Alps today, taking in stunning scenery as you pass Alpine lakes, mountains, and charming villages.

- Stop in Interlaken, where you'll have the opportunity to snap photos of towering Jungfrauoch (*weather-dependent*)
- Visit the Swiss capital of Bern and walk through its charming Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site

- Pass through the vineyards of Lausanne and Lake Geneva as you make your way to your hotel

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Annecy

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel north and get to know the lakeside town of Annecy today.

- Walk through Annecy's Old Town with your Tour Director and take in sweeping views of the Alps
  - Peruse the stalls of the town's open-air market, featuring fresh fruits and vegetables
- Then, return to your hotel in the French Alps and enjoy a free evening.
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## Lake Como Region → 2 nights

### Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Chamonix

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

On your way to Italy, stop to explore and learn about Chamonix, a picture-perfect village at the base of Mont Blanc. Then, continue through the scenic Aosta Valley en route to the Lake Como region.

This evening, sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 7: Como & Villa Carlotta

*Included meals: breakfast*

Head out on a morning trip to explore Como, a city known for its mix of cultural and natural attractions.

- Enjoy free time in Como for lunch and shopping, while admiring the lakeside vistas
- Transfer to the beautiful Villa Carlotta to soak in spectacular views from the elaborate villa gardens

*Please note: From November through February, a funicular to Brunate will replace the visit to Villa Carlotta.*

Enjoy a free evening in the Lake Como region or add an excursion.

+ Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio

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## St. Moritz → 1 night

### Day 8: Train ride to St. Moritz

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel to Tirano, where you'll board the Bernina Express. Enjoy a scenic train ride through the stunning, UNESCO-recognized landscapes of the Alps to St. Moritz, a prestigious Swiss resort town and hub of wintertime sports. Later, sit down for an included dinner.

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## Austrian Alps → 2 nights

### Day 9: Austrian Alps via Liechtenstein & Innsbruck

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Cross into Liechtenstein, a tiny Alpine principality dating back to the Holy Roman Empire.

- Visit the capital of Vaduz
- Pass the royal family's hilltop castle, still in use as a royal residence

Continue on to Innsbruck, site of two winter Olympic Games, where you'll enjoy a guided walking tour.

- See the famed Golden Roof and the City Tower in Innsbruck's historic Old Town
- Pass the Hofburg, a former Hapsburg imperial palace, and walk into its cobblestoned courtyard
- Enter the Baroque Cathedral of St. James

Then, travel to the Austrian Alps and sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 10: Free day in the Austrian Alps Region

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in the Austrian Alps region or add an excursion.

+ Bavarian Castle & Lunch

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## Munich → 3 nights

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Munich

*Included meals: breakfast*

Cross into Germany and get to know the Bavarian capital of Munich on a guided tour this afternoon.

- Travel past the Englischer Garten and fashionable Schwabing district
- Enter the Nymphenburg Palace, the Baroque home to past Bavarian royalty

- Walk from Odeonsplatz through the Hofgarten to view the Residenz, once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria
- Explore Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, and see the famed Glockenspiel

#### Day 12: Oktoberfest in Munich

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join thousands of others in celebrating Oktoberfest this afternoon. Enjoy special admission to an Oktoberfest tent, where you can sample Bavarian delicacies along with steins of Munich's famous beer.

#### Day 13: Free day in Munich

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Enjoy a free day in Munich or add an excursion. Then, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner this evening.

+ Dachau

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### Flight Home

#### Day 14: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to Salzburg, Austria.

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### + Salzburg extension

It's the birthplace of Mozart and setting for The Sound of Music, but that's not all that makes Salzburg sing. Join your Tour Director and spend a couple days exploring this Austrian city, where Baroque churches and a UNESCO-listed old town will leave you in awe.

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### Salzburg → 2 nights

#### Day 14: Transfer to Salzburg & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Head to Salzburg, where a local guide leads you on a walking tour of the Old Town.

- View the University of Salzburg and the churchyard of St. Peter
- Enter the 17th-century Salzburg Cathedral, built in the Baroque style
- Pass through scenery from the beloved film "The Sound of Music"
- Enter the 17th-century Salzburg Cathedral, built in the Baroque style

Enjoy a free evening in Salzburg or add an excursion.

+ Mozart Concert & Dinner

#### Day 15: Free day in Salzburg

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Salzburg or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Eagle's Nest & Salt Mines

+ Berchtesgaden: Salt Mines & Village Visit

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### Flight Home

#### Day 16: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the Munich airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.com/DAO](http://goaheadtours.com/DAO) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Mount Pilatus

\$135/\$145\* (4.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

This scenic excursion begins with a cruise on Lake Lucerne. After docking, ascend 7,000-foot Mount Pilatus on the world's steepest cogwheel railway. Legend holds that the mountain was named for Pontius Pilate, blown here by the devil after the Crucifixion. From the peak, the views of the Alps are stunning; on a clear day, you can see for 200 miles. Toward the end of your trip, you'll return to the base of the mountain via gondola. Please note: The cruise and cogwheel railway only run from mid-May through October. During the winter months, this excursion includes the cable car ride only. If the cogwheel railway is unavailable, you'll enjoy lunch on the mountain.

## Day 7: Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio

\$105/\$115\* (5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Hop aboard a scenic cruise of Lake Como to soak in some of Italy's most beautiful estates and gardens. Float past charming lakeside towns to Bellagio, a village whose scenery has inspired poets and young lovers for centuries. You'll have time to take in Bellagio's classic beauty before heading to a local restaurant, where you'll sample cuisine from a carefully chosen menu. Please note: Your included meal may be lunch or dinner as departure time varies by season. This excursion is weather-dependent.

## Day 10: Bavarian Castle & Lunch

\$125 (7.5 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Head into the mountains of Bavaria to visit the regal Hohenschwangau Castle, the childhood home of Bavaria's Mad King Ludwig II. Start with a photo stop at the fairy-tale Neuschwanstein Castle, which is believed to be the inspiration for Disneyland's castle. Then, transfer to nearby Hohenschwangau Castle for a guided tour of its rooms, such as the Drinking Hall, which has been turned into a chapel. View beautiful wall and ceiling murals illustrating German Folklore and medieval legends, and don't forget to keep an eye out for all the homages to swans. They're the symbolic animal of the king's family. Enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant before heading back to the hotel. Please note: On some departures, a shuttle bus may be offered to take travelers up the hill to Neuschwanstein for a closer look. When shuttles are not running, the path to the castle is mostly paved road, but it's steep and the walk can take approximately 20–30 minutes. Winter months are prone to inclement weather, in the event of which shuttle buses might not run. This means the walk to the castle may be slippery and covered in snow. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 13: Dachau

\$55/\$65\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Once a typical German town, Dachau served as the first Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Visit this somber site, which has since been transformed into a Holocaust memorial museum that serves as a testament to the strength of the human spirit. You'll take a self-guided audio tour through Dachau's poignant exhibits, which are echoed by the memorials to the victims that adorn the grounds.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 14: Mozart Concert & Dinner

\$149/\$159\* (4.5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Step inside the 1,200-year-old St. Peter Stiftskeller, located within St. Peter's Abbey, to enjoy an evening of fine dining and music. Mozart composed over 600 works in his short life, and tonight, you'll hear his masterpieces accompanied by opera singing as you sample local delicacies during a three-course dinner. Please note: The temperature in the room can be hot in the summer, therefore we recommend dressing accordingly based on the season.

### Day 15: Eagle's Nest & Salt Mines

\$135/\$145\* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Drive through the Bavarian Alps to the mountain village of Berchtesgaden, where you'll tour the 450-year-old salt mines that brought wealth to Bavaria and Salzburg. Explore the mines during an underground boat ride on Mirror Lake before enjoying free time for lunch. Continue to Obersalzberg, where a scenic bus ride along steep gorges offers gorgeous views of the snow-capped Alps. Then, take an elevator ride up to the Eagle's Nest, an Alpine retreat built for Adolf Hitler. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from mid-May through September. If the Documentation Center is closed it will be replaced with a Schnapps tasting.

### Day 15: Berchtesgaden: Salt Mines & Village Visit

\$85/\$95\* (5 hours, departs in the morning)

Drive through the Bavarian Alps to the mountain village of Berchtesgaden, where you'll tour the 450-year-old salt mines that brought wealth to Bavaria and Salzburg. Take an underground boat ride on Mirror Lake before enjoying free time for lunch in the village. Please note this excursion only runs January - April and November - December.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](http://goaheadtours.com/terms)