GO AHEAD TOURS



Christmas Markets of Historic Germany

12 days | 15 days with Vienna extension

Begin your adventure in artsy, edgy Berlin, reunited Germany's political and cultural capital. Stop at the historic outpost of Potsdam, then continue on to Dresden, home of the country's oldest Christmas market. Take a step back in time as you wander along the medieval streets of Bamberg before ending in Munich, the capital of Bavarian food and culture.



Your tour package includes

10 nights in handpicked hotels
10 breakfasts
4 dinners with beer or wine
7 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Berlin Wall
Zwinger Palace
Striezelmarkt—Germany's oldest Christmas market
Potsdam
Weimar
Bamberg Cathedral
Christmas markets of Rothenburg ob der Tauber
Nymphenburg Palace

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 1 hour daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills.

Group size

15–38

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to Berlin today.

Berlin → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Berlin
Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Germany! Gather with your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Berlin
Included meals: breakfast
A local guide introduces you to the monuments of Berlin's intricate past as well as the signs of its re-emergence as a vibrant cultural center.

- Discover the Brandenburg Gate, the symbol of a reunited Berlin
- See the Holocaust Memorial and the Berlin Wall's East Side Gallery
- Journey down Unter den Linden, the city's most elegant boulevard, passing the Reichstag and Museum Island

Enjoy a free afternoon in Berlin or add an excursion.
+ World War II Walking Tour

Day 4: Potsdam
Included meals: breakfast
Travel to Potsdam, where American, British, and Soviet leaders drew up plans for the postwar administration of Germany at the Potsdam Conference.

- Explore the historic town center, New Garden, and Dutch Quarter with a guide
- Step inside Cecilienhof Palace, site of the Potsdam Conference's iconic photo

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Dresden → 2 nights

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Dresden
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Leave Berlin for a guided tour of Dresden, once considered to be the most beautiful city in the world.

- Stroll through the Old Town and pass the renovated Semper Opera House, site of the Saxon State Orchestra
- Admire the Dresden Frauenkirche and statue of Martin Luther
- See the Zwinger Palace, a striking example of Baroque architecture
- Visit the historic Striezelmarkt and enjoy a tasting of traditional mulled wine and pastries

This evening, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

Day 6: Free day in Dresden
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a full free day in Dresden or add an excursion.
+ Görlitz

Bamberg → 2 nights

Day 7: Bamberg via Weimar
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Travel to Bamberg by way of Weimar, the intellectual hub that nurtured the genius of Goethe, Nietzsche, and Schiller.

- Learn about the city's literary history on a walking tour through the Old Town
- See remnants of the Bauhaus architectural movement
- Discover the National Theater and its monument to Goethe and Schiller

Then, continue on to Bamberg where you'll enjoy an included dinner this evening.
(Please note: Some departures may overnight in Würzburg, Bayreuth, or Coburg instead of Bamberg.)

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Bamberg
Included meals: breakfast
Set off with a local guide on a walking tour through Bamberg, a city built on seven hills.

- Enter the towering Bamberg Cathedral and surrounding square
- Pass the Baroque New Palace
- Stand in awe of Old Town Hall, built in the middle of Regnitz River
- Visit the quaint fisherman's village of Little Venice

Enjoy a free afternoon in Bamberg or add an excursion.
+ Historic Nuremberg

Munich → 3 nights

Day 9: Munich via Rothenburg ob der Tauber
Included meals: breakfast
Set off for Munich today. En route, stop in Rothenburg ob der Tauber for a sightseeing tour of the town's picturesque squares. After, enjoy free time to explore the local Christmas Market before continuing on to Munich.
Enjoy a free evening in Munich or add an excursion.
+ Munich Home-Hosted Dinner

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Munich
Included meals: breakfast
Get to know the Bavarian capital on a guided tour.

- 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 nearby Hofgarten to view the Residenz, once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria
- Explore Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, and see the famed Glockenspiel
- Celebrate the season at the city's festive Christmas markets

Enjoy a free afternoon in Munich or add an excursion.
+ Dachau

Day 11: Free day in Munich
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
Spend a full free day in Munich or add an excursion.
Tonight, join your group at a farewell dinner.
+ Bavarian Castle Visit

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to Vienna.

+ Vienna extension

Vienna is famous for its musical history, beautiful Baroque architecture, and coffeehouse culture (three things that make it one amazing place). Continue your trip to explore the Austrian capital on a sightseeing tour, and soak it all in for yourself.

Vienna → 3 nights

Day 12: Vienna via Salzburg
Included meals: breakfast
Pass through the Austrian countryside, stopping for free time to explore Salzburg en route to Vienna.
Upon arrival in Vienna, set off with your Tour Director to uncover some of the city's festive Christmas markets.

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Vienna
Included meals: breakfast
Get transported back to the Age of Empires on a guided tour of Vienna.

- Travel down the Ringstrasse to the Parliament building and the Vienna State Opera
- View the impressive art collection inside the Kunsthistorisches Museum
- See the grand Hofburg Palace, the Hapsburg's preferred winter residence
- Visit the city's festive Christmas market

Enjoy a free afternoon in Vienna or add an excursion.
+ Traditional Viennese Heurigen Evening

Day 14: Free day in Vienna
Included meals: breakfast
Spend the day exploring Vienna on your own. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the 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/GMC | 1-800-597-0350**

Day 3: World War II Walking Tour
$79/$89* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, lunch included)
Take a walk through history on this insider's tour of Berlin during World War II, detailing the rise and fall of Hitler and the Third Reich. You'll start in the Wilhelmstrasse area and see the building that once housed the headquarters of Hermann Goering's Luftwaffe. You'll also view the former headquarters of the infamous SS and Gestapo, the massive Reich Chancellery, and the Propaganda Ministry. Finally, stand directly above Hitler's Führerbunker as your guide details the last days of World War II in Europe. Lunch is included.

Day 6: Görlitz
$115/$125* (7 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)
Until 1945, the modern-day towns of Zgorzelec, Poland, and Görlitz, Germany, were a single entity. In their current separated state, each town offers unique insights into their nations' shared history. Enjoy an included lunch in Zgorzelec, and then cross the bridge over the Neisse River onto the Germany side. Here, a local guide gives you a tour of Görlitz, including a visit to the Church of St. Peter and Paul.

Day 8: Historic Nuremberg
$105 (6 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Step into history as you set off on a guided tour of Nuremburg, Bavaria's second-largest city. The destination has something for history buffs, foodies, and culture lovers. Begin your visit by Palace of Justice. You'll enter the Memorium Nuremberg Trials museum and see Courtroom 600, where the infamous Nuremburg Trials took place after World War II. Then, follow your Tour Director on a tour of the city's charming, walled Old Town. In the winter, the Old Town is home to one of the oldest Christmas markets in Germany. But even when it's not the holiday season, there's plenty to discover. Admire the traditional Bavarian architecture, walk along the Pegnitz River, or pop into a local shop to try some local beer or gingerbread cookies during your free time. Please note: Court Room 600 may be closed when trials are in session. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 9: Munich Home-Hosted Dinner
$85 (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Join a local at their home in Munich to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Münchner. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Bavarian culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 10: 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.

Day 11: Bavarian Castle Visit
$95 (9 hours, departs in the morning)
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 the all the homages to swans. They're the symbolic animal of the king's family. 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.

Extension excursion options

Day 13: Traditional Viennese Heurigen Evening
$119/$129* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
After a brief drive, your first stop is Vienna's Prater Ferris Wheel. Take a breezy ride to the top, which offers a one-of-a-kind view of the city. Next, continue on to a picturesque village and sit down at local restaurant where you'll indulge in a festive night of music, food, and entertainment. Dinner will feature dishes typical of traditional Austrian Heurigens, or wine taverns. During your meal, you'll have the chance to try some of the tavern's own locally made wine—the perfect addition to your cozy, Old-World setting.

*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