



# Switzerland, Germany & Italy

10 days | 12 days with Italian Lakes extension

Want to make the most of a European vacation? Whether it's your first or fifth time crossing the pond, this trip fits the bill. As you pass through five countries, you'll marvel at storybook vistas, like the sky-scraping peaks of the Swiss Alps and Venice's serpentine network of gondola-laden canals, and plenty more in between. But don't let your jaw drop just yet: Fairytale German castles, residences fit for Liechtensteiner royalty, and one of the oldest wineries in the world dot your route, too. Get your fill of unforgettable moments and meals—and if you aren't quite ready to say goodbye (we wouldn't blame you), extend your trip to the scenic shores of the Italian Lakes.



## Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels
- 8 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 wine tasting
- 5 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Kapellbrücke in Lucerne
- Liechtenstein
- Neuschwanstein Castle
- Nymphenburg Palace in Munich
- Novacella Abbey & South Tyrol wine tasting
- Verona Arena
- St. Mark's Basilica in Venice

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least two hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or 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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## Swiss Alps → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Zurich & transfer to the Swiss Alps

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Switzerland! Transfer to your hotel in the Swiss Alps. Later, get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set out into lakeside Lucerne (one of Switzerland's most populated cities) for a guided sightseeing tour and enjoy a taste of Alpine life—complete with unbelievable views of Pilatus, Rigi, and other neighboring mountains.

- View the Lion Monument, a tribute to the Swiss Guards who sacrificed their lives in Paris during the French Revolution
- Pass the hand-painted facades that line the cobbled streets of the Old Town—the traditional core of the city that dates back to medieval times
- Cross the famous Kapellbrücke, a covered wooden footbridge spanning the Reuss River, and view the Water Tower—a 13th-century work that's one of the oldest structures in all of Lucerne
- 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 the Swiss Alps or add an excursion.

+ Mount Pilatus

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## Munich → 3 nights

### Day 4: Munich via Liechtenstein & Neuschwanstein

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

On your way to Munich, cross through Liechtenstein, a tiny Alpine principality that dates back to the Holy Roman Empire.

- Visit the Liechtensteiner capital, Vaduz, and pass the royal family's namesake castle. Perched atop a hill, Vaduz Castle has watched over the region since the 12th century, and serves as the royal residence to this day
- Enjoy free time in the town (and be sure to get your passport stamped!)

After, pass through the Bavarian Alps, making stops along the way.

- Pause for photos of Neuschwanstein Castle's unique mix of Gothic, Romanesque, and Byzantine architecture, and marvel at the fairytale retreat of "Mad" King Ludwig II
- Revel in scenic views of the Alps as you relax and explore during free time, or grab lunch in Schwangau, the town below Neuschwanstein

Then, continue on to Munich and sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Munich

*Included meals: breakfast*

Today, embark on a guided tour of Munich and experience daily life like one of its nearly 1.5 million inhabitants. Founded in the 12th century and boasting traditional and cosmopolitan appeal, the capital of Bavaria is the third-largest city in all of Germany. It's also home to the original Oktoberfest—a massive Volksfest that, to this day, remains the largest beer festival in the world.

- Travel past the 18th-century Englischer Garten—one of the largest urban parks in the world—and the fashionable Schwabing district, formerly home to Munich's bohemian residents
- Enter Nymphenburg Palace, the Baroque home to past Bavarian royalty
- Walk from Odeonsplatz—Munich's large central square, named after an adjacent former concert hall—through the well-manicured grounds of 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 clock before heading to the Frauenkirche—a Gothic cathedral and the seat of the local archdiocese
- Take some free time to explore the Viktualienmarkt, where you'll find fresh food, flowers, and other delicacies

Spend a free afternoon in Munich or add an excursion.

+ Dachau

### Day 6: Free day in Munich

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Munich or add an excursion.  
+ A Day in Salzburg

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## The Dolomites → 1 night

### Day 7: Dolomite Alps via Novacella Abbey & wine tasting

*Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, wine tasting*

Bid Bavaria ade (that means "farewell") as you travel through the Austrian Alps en route to Italy's mountainous Dolomites, also known as South Tyrol.

- Visit Novacella Abbey, a prestigious Augustinian monastery and an important cultural landmark that has existed for almost 900 years
- Explore the abbey alongside a guide and stroll through its cloisters, museum, and famous library hall
- Learn about the monastery's history as one of the world's oldest active wineries
- Sit down for a light lunch of South Tyrol specialties, along with a wine tasting

Continue to your hotel in The Dolomites and enjoy a free evening.

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## Venice → 2 nights

### Day 8: Venice via Verona

*Included meals: breakfast*

En route to Venice, stop in Verona with your Tour

Director for a walk along its historic streets. Situated on the shores of the Adige River, this UNESCO-recognized city traces its origins back over two millennia and still shows well-preserved vestiges of its Roman heritage.

- Stroll through the city's Old Town and explore a rich heritage tracing back to the first century B.C.
- Admire the 2,000-year-old Roman arena; the Piazza delle Erbe, which functioned as the town's forum during Roman times; and the Gothic villa (complete with a balcony) that inspired William Shakespeare's timeless *Romeo and Juliet*.

Enjoy free time in Verona before continuing on to Venice, where you'll have free time for the rest of the evening.

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Venice

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Today, meet up with your local guide and explore the heart of Venice on foot and by vaporetto, or water taxi. Admire historic churches, winding waterways, and storied piazzas on a tour of this UNESCO World Heritage site of a city, which was established in the fifth century and is known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Step onto iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica—an opulent, domed church built in the 11th century to house the body of St. Mark the Apostle
- View the stately Doge's Palace, a masterpiece of Venetian Gothic style that was built in 1340 and served as both the residence of the Doge (the supreme authority of the Republic of Venice) and the seat of the Venetian government
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs (or Ponte dei Sospiri in Italian), now a famous Venetian landmark that was built in 1600 to connect the Doge's Palace to a prison situated just across the canal
- See a Murano glassblowing demonstration and learn about Venice's most celebrated art form, whose roots in the city date back to the 10th century

Then, enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion.

*Please note: Travelers should feel comfortable getting into and out of the water taxi.*

Later, celebrate your trip at tonight's farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

+ Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

+ Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

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## Flight Home

### Day 10: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to explore the Italian Lakes.

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## + Italian Lakes extension

Ringed by rugged mountains and defined by pristine blue waters, the Italian Lakes typify the country's natural beauty. On this two-night extension, you and your group will visit a pair of the region's most famous lakes: Como and Maggiore. From their shores, you'll explore cities and castles, cruise between picturesque islands, take in Northern Italy's unparalleled vistas, and cap it all off with one final toast with your fellow travelers.

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## Italian Lakes → 2 nights

### Day 10: Lake Como & Rocca di Angera

*Included meals: breakfast*

Head north to beautiful Lake Como, located in the foothills of the Alps, where your Tour Director will introduce you to the waterfront city of Como.

- Take in Como's eclectic Rationalist architecture, along with its glittering lakefront and staggering mountain scenery
- View Como Cathedral, one of the last Gothic cathedrals built in Italy

Later, head through the Italian countryside to Lake Maggiore, Italy's second-largest lake.

- Climb to Rocca di Angera, a massive castle that towers over Lake Maggiore from a commanding perch atop limestone cliffs
- Trace the stories illustrated by the 14th-century frescoes that adorn its historic rooms—some of the most important examples of Lombard Late Gothic painting in existence
- Wander through the medieval garden, where you'll find beautiful flowers and medicinal herbs

Continue to your hotel in the Italian Lakes and enjoy a free evening.

### Day 11: Free day on the Italian Lakes

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in the Italian Lakes region or add an excursion.

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

+ Lake Maggiore Cruise & the Borromean Islands

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## Flight Home

### Day 12: Departure

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

Transfer to the Milan 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/GSI](https://goaheadtours.com/GSI) | 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 5: 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 6: A Day in Salzburg

\$99/\$109\* (9 hours, departs in the morning)

Cross the border to Austria this morning to explore Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart and setting for "The Sound of Music." After a quick orientation with your Tour Director, enjoy some free time to do your own exploration through the maze of shops, cafés, and restaurants. Later, rejoin your group and meet your local guide for a walking tour of the charming Old Town. Stroll through the Mirabell Gardens, where the scene of the von Trapp family singing "Do-Re-Mi" was filmed in "The Sound of Music" before heading to the Getreidegasse to see the home where Mozart was born. Pass through the Residenzplatz as you make your way to the churchyard of St. Peter and then enter the majestic, Baroque Salzburg Cathedral. After touring the Cathedral, head back to your hotel in Munich.

## Day 9: Gondola Ride: Venice Canal Cruise

\$89/\$99\* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, join your fellow travelers for a tour through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along. Please note: This excursion runs as weather permits, and travelers should feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. A private, two-person gondola ride is available for an additional cost.

## Day 9: Private Gondola Ride: Canal Cruise for Two

\$165/\$175\* (25 minutes, departure time varies)

More than 100 canals crisscross Venice, and boarding a sleek, black gondola to explore them has become a time-honored tradition. On this memorable excursion, you'll enjoy a private gondola cruise for two through the canals of Venice, with a gondolier deftly guiding your boat along.

Please note: This excursion requires two passengers.

Cost is per person, and each traveler must book the excursion. Travelers should also feel comfortable getting into and out of the gondolas. This excursion runs as weather permits.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 11: Lake Maggiore Cruise & the Borromean Islands

\$125/\$135\* (5 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

The Borromean Islands, a three-island archipelago on the western arm of Lake Maggiore, prove that great things come in small packages. Cruise to Isola Bella, a tiny isle that boasts a 16th-century palace and stunning, terraced gardens. After exploring the estate, hop back on your boat and sail around Isola Madre, the largest island in the chain. End your excursion on Isola dei Pescatori (Fishermen's Island), the only continuously inhabited member of the group, with 50 year-round residents. The traditional fishing village continues to pride itself on its heritage—look out for fishermen untangling their nets on shore. You'll have the chance to sample the island's specialties during an included lunch at one of the local restaurants.

\*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](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)