



# Oktoberfest: Grand Tour of Germany

15 days | 18 days with Black Forest & Swiss Alps extension

Discover storied landmarks as you travel from Hamburg to the Rhine Valley. Soak up WWII history in Berlin, see striking architecture in Dresden, and take in the beauty of Bavaria in Bamberg. Join revelers at the legendary Oktoberfest celebration in Munich, where you'll get a taste of Bavarian delicacies. Then, watch the Middle Ages come to life on a Rhine River cruise.



## Your tour package includes

- 13 nights in handpicked hotels
- 13 breakfast
- 6 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 beer tasting
- 1 wine tasting
- 11 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Oktoberfest in Munich
- Brandenburg Gate
- Sanssouci Park
- Zwinger Palace
- Leipzig
- Rothenburg ob der Tauber
- Heidelberg Castle
- Rhine River cruise

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours 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 Hamburg today.

## Hamburg → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Hamburg

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Germany! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Hamburg

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join a local expert on a guided tour of Hamburg, Germany's second largest city and a historic port on the Elbe River.

- Pass by the neo-Renaissance Rathaus, the city hall
- Admire St. Michaelis Church, the largest Baroque church in northern Germany
- Explore the Speicherstadt, the city's historic harbor district

Enjoy a free afternoon in Hamburg or add an excursion.

+ Hanseatic Lubeck

## Berlin → 2 nights

### Day 4: Transfer to Berlin & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel to Berlin, where a local guide introduces you to the monuments of the city'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 the UNESCO-listed Museum Island

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

### Day 5: Free day in Berlin

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Berlin or add an excursion.  
+ World War II Walking Tour

## Dresden → 2 nights

### Day 6: Dresden via Potsdam

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Make your way to Dresden, stopping along the way to admire the city of Potsdam on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Step inside Cecilienhof Palace, which was the site of the Potsdam Conference's iconic photograph of Truman, Churchill, and Stalin
- Enter Sanssouci Park and view Sanssouci, the former palace of Frederick the Great

Continue on to Dresden and sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Dresden

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set off on 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, and walk through the palace gardens

Spend a free afternoon in Dresden or add an excursion.

+ Görlitz

## Bamberg → 2 nights

### Day 8: Bamberg via Leipzig

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Drive to Leipzig, an important trading center, for a guided walking tour.

- Stroll past 16th-century buildings in the historic Market Square
- Visit Mädler Passage, a famous shopping arcade that was once a fair trade building
- Admire the Renaissance architecture of the Old City Hall

- Pass St. Nicholas Church, St. Thomas Church, and the Bach Museum

Then, continue on to Bamberg, where you'll enjoy dinner and a Rauchbier tasting at a local restaurant.

*(Please note: Some departures may overnight in Würzburg, Bayreuth, or Coburg instead of Bamberg.)*

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Bamberg

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set off with a local guide on a walking tour of Bamberg, a UNESCO-listed city.

- Admire 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 fishermen's village of Little Venice

Enjoy a free afternoon in Bamberg or add an excursion.

+ Historic Nuremberg

## Munich → 3 nights

### Day 10: Munich via Rothenburg ob der Tauber

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel to Munich, stopping en route in Rothenburg ob der Tauber for a sightseeing tour of the town's picturesque squares. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Munich & afternoon at Oktoberfest

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get to know the Bavarian capital on a guided sightseeing 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 Hofgarten to view the Residenz, once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria
- Explore Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, and see the famed Glockenspiel

Later, join in on the legendary Oktoberfest

celebrations, which take place on the historic Theresienwiese fairgrounds. Enjoy special admission to an Oktoberfest tent and sample Bavarian delicacies along with steins of Munich's world-renowned beer.

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#### Day 12: Free day in Munich

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Munich or add an excursion.

+ Bavarian Castle & Lunch

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### Rhine Valley → 2 nights

#### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Heidelberg

*Included meals: breakfast*

Transfer to the Rhine Valley today. Stop in Heidelberg along the way, where you'll get to know the romantic cityscapes and Baroque architecture on a guided tour.

- Wander through Heidelberg's elegant Market Square in the city's Old Town
- Explore the grounds of Heidelberg University, the oldest university in Germany
- Take a funicular ride to the city's rose-colored hilltop castle for panoramic views of the Old Bridge and the Rhine River below

#### Day 14: Rhine River cruise

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner, wine tasting*

Start your afternoon with free time for lunch in the town of Rüdesheim am Rhein. Then, take in the spectacular sights of the UNESCO-recognized Rhine River Valley on a scenic cruise to Sankt Goar, passing castles from the Middle Ages (*seasonal, April–October*).

After disembarking, celebrate your trip during a wine tasting and farewell dinner at a local vineyard.

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### Flight Home

#### Day 15: Departure

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

Transfer to Frankfurt airport for your flight home or continue your journey in the Black Forest region.

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### + Black Forest & Swiss Alps extension

The Black Forest is famous as the setting for all those fairy tales, and it's a beautiful part of

Germany—plus it's got really amazing cake.

Continue your trip to explore this stunning region with your Tour Director, then head to Lucerne, Switzerland, for a sightseeing tour of the Alpine town.

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### Black Forest → 1 night

#### Day 15: Sightseeing tour of the Black Forest

*Included meals: breakfast*

Transfer through the Rhine Valley to explore more of the Black Forest with your Tour Director in the lead.

- Visit the Black Forest Open Air Museum to learn about the region's history, culture, and tradition (*seasonal, late March–early November*)
  - Try a slice of Black Forest cake, named for the tart cherry liquor that gives it its signature taste
  - Marvel at regional artifacts inside the Black Forest Museum during free time
  - Admire one of the world's largest cuckoo clocks
  - Head back to Freiburg, stopping at Lake Titisee for free time along the way
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### Swiss Alps → 2 nights

#### Day 16: Swiss Alps via Lucerne

*Included meals: breakfast*

Journey across the border from Germany to the Swiss Alps, stopping in the lakeside city of Lucerne for a guided tour of this idyllic Alpine town.

- 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

#### Day 17: Free day in the Swiss Alps

*Included meals: breakfast*

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

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

+ Mount Pilatus

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### Flight Home

#### Day 18: Departure

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

Transfer to the Zurich 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/GTO](https://goaheadtours.com/GTO) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Hanseatic Lubeck

\$69/\$79\* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Discover soaring spires and deep-rooted history as you explore UNESCO-listed Lübeck on a guided tour. This Baltic port served as the capital of the Hanseatic League from the 13th to the 16th century, and remnants from its powerful merchant past still abound throughout the medieval Old Town. Pass through the 15th-century Holstentor gate into the heart of the city where you'll see the Rathaus, or city hall, and explore the Gothic-style St. Mary's Church, one of the largest churches in Germany. Enter a local confectioner's shop to enjoy a tasting of marzipan, a local specialty invented in Lubeck. Then, enjoy free time to explore—and perhaps try some famous German beer.

## Day 5: 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 7: 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 9: Historic Nuremberg

\$105 (6 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Step into history as you set off on a guided tour of Nuremberg, 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 Nuremberg 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 12: 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 the 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.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 17: 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.

\*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)