



**Trip # 100: The Best of the Bavarian & Austrian Alps with
Salzburg, Erding and Munich's Oktoberfest
September 10 - 18, 2023**

Day 1 September 10, 2023

Depart USA for Germany

Day 2 September 11, 2023 Munich

Welcome to Germany! After our arrival at the airport in Munich at 7 am and clearing immigration, transfer to our hotel in the city center where we will store our luggage until check-in time. Then, visit the Marienplatz, the central square in the heart of Munich where we will view the famous Glockenspiel tower clock. After lunch on your own, take the City Sightseeing Hop On Hop Off Tour. The fully narrated tour takes you to 16 stops of Munich's most interesting attractions. (Admission fees to attractions not included). Prost! In the evening, enjoy a welcome drink and dinner at the Hofbrauhaus, the world's most famous tavern.

Overnight: Aloft by Marriott Munich Hotel

Meals: Dinner

Day 3 September 12, 2023 Oberammergau

After breakfast, embark on the 2-hour rail journey to the Oberammergau in Bavaria. Upon arrival, take a guided walking tour of this quaint town known for its woodcarving, visit the Passion Play Theater, home to the world-famous Passion Play that takes place here every 10 years, and tour the Oberammergau Museum where you will enjoy historic films and special exhibitions. After lunch on your own, spend the remainder of the afternoon marveling at the wooden crafts and beautifully painted houses of Oberammergau. Then take the train back to Munich. **Overnight: Aloft by**

Marriott Munich Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 September 13, 2023 Munich - Salzburg

After breakfast, depart for the rail journey to Salzburg. Upon arrival, drop off our luggage at the hotel and embark on the renowned Panorama Tours *Sound of Music Tour*. Experience the picturesque World Heritage City of Salzburg as well as the beautiful landscapes where the opening scenes of the Sound of Music were filmed. Other film locations visited are:

- Mirabell Garden and Pegasus Fountain, where Maria and the children danced in the movie
- Nonnberg Convent, where Maria was a novice
- Schloss Leopoldskron, the house, where the Trapp Family lived in the movie which is now a luxury hotel
- Hellbrunn Palace (singing scenes in the movie)
- Gazebo (now placed in Hellbrunn), where the Baron von Trapp kissed Maria for the first time
- Church Mondsee, where Maria and the Baron get married.

Stop for a delicious slice of crisp apple strudel before returning to the hotel. The evening is at leisure to enjoy dinner on your own at one of the quaint restaurants in Salzburg and to further explore the city which offers the perfect combination of a picturesque mountain setting and a beautifully preserved old town.

Overnight: H+ Hotel Salzburg

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 September 14, 2023 Eagles Nest - Berchtesgaden Salt Mine - Berchtesgaden

After an included breakfast at the hotel, take a guided tour to the Eagle's Nest. The Eagle's Nest Tour takes the route from Mirabell Square in Salzburg to neighboring Bavaria and finally to the Obersalzberg. Upon arrival, you change to specifically equipped buses that take you up the 4 miles long and 12ft wide road with a gradient of 22%. The last stretch to the Eagle's Nest consists of a 406ft long tunnel through solid rock and a sumptuously decorated elevator, which takes 41 seconds to go up the 406ft to the interior of the Eagle's Nest. The road leading to the Eagle's Nest is a feat of architectural mastery. It was blasted into the solid rock of the mountain over a period of only 13 months. The elevation difference of 2625ft is covered with only a single switchback and 5 tunnels. The design of this road is unique around the world. Enjoy the striking views of the Alps from the Eagle's Nest plateau. Discover alpine flora and fauna and greet each other with a "Berg heil" ("Hail to the mountain") traditional mountaineer greeting. Before we get back on route to Salzburg, we stop at the picturesque Alpine village of Berchtesgaden for lunch and free time to explore the town on your own. Next we take a fascinating tour of the Salt Mine Berchtesgaden which has been in uninterrupted operation since 1517 before returning back to Salzburg. **Overnight: H+ Hotel**

Salzburg

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 September 15, 2023 Salzburg

After breakfast take the funicular up to the magnificent Hohensalzburg Fortress where you will witness spectacular 360 degree views of Salzburg and the surrounding areas. Built in 1077, it is the largest fully preserved castle in Central Europe. Your tour includes the courtyards, bastions, chapel, fortress museums and the descent funicular down to the street level. Next, we visit the house in which Wolfgang Amadé Mozart was born on January 27, 1756. His birthplace is now one of the most visited museums in the world. Nowhere else can Mozart and his music be felt so vividly as in the house where he was born. The spirit of Mozart still permeates the city. **Overnight: H+**

Hotel Salzburg

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 September 16, 2023 Salzburg - Munich - Erding

After an included breakfast at the hotel, take the 90-minute rail journey to Munich aboard the Railjet Xpress High Speed Train. Upon arrival at the Munich HFB, transfer by local train to Erding, a charming Bavarian town that is home to the world famous Erdinger Weissbier, the world's largest wheat beer brewery since 1886. After meeting our coach driver and storing our luggage, we'll embark on a 90-minute walking tour of Erding by our local guide. Then you'll have some free time to explore this quaint town on your own. Perhaps have a meal at one of their many traditional beer gardens or do some last-minute souvenir shopping. Our day will conclude with an included spa package at Therme Erding, the world's largest spa. Pamper yourself by taking a dip in their healing thermal spring waters in a gorgeous tropical setting and relax at their invigorating sauna world. After we are all rejuvenated, we meet up with our coach driver for the short bus ride to our hotel for a restful night's sleep.

Overnight: Moxy Airport Marriott Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 September 17, 2022 Munich

After an included breakfast at the hotel, head on over to the Oktoberfest 2023, the worlds largest folk festival for an exciting day of celebration, German Style, with traditional German food, dancing and entertainment and a whole lot of beer (You don't have to be a beer drinker to enjoy Oktoberfest). We begin by viewing the Costumes and Riflemen Parade beginning at 10:00 am. The 3 ½ mile long parade is the most remarkable Oktoberfest event and lasts for 2 hours. Then spend the afternoon visiting the wide variety of festive beer tents, riding the fairground rides, shopping at the concession stands and admiring the visitors in traditional Bavarian attire.

(NOTE: Table reservations at Oktoberfest are not included).

Overnight: Moxy Airport Marriott Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8 September 18, 2022 Munich - USA

After an included breakfast, depart the hotel for Munich International Airport for the flight back to the USA, bringing back fond memories our *Once in a Lifetime* trip to Germany and Austria.

Meals: Breakfast

