



College
Break

**GERMANY, ITALY
& SWITZERLAND**

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10 DAYS

Germany // Austria // Italy // Switzerland

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare
- Hotels
- Travel between cities
- Welcome dinner
- Farewell drink
- Breakfast daily
- Full-time tour director
- Walking tours
- Sightseeing tours
- Entrance to select attractions

Itinerary subject to change



DAY 1 FLIGHT

OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO EUROPE

DAY 2 MUNICH

ARRIVE IN MUNICH • Welcome to Munich! After clearing customs, you'll meet your full-time tour director and the rest of your group. Munich is the capital of Germany's Bavaria region, and it still has strong ties to its folkloric traditions (you'll definitely see some lederhosen). There's also plenty of modernity, including a great music scene, cool art museums, and BMW's world headquarters.

DAY 3 MUNICH

EXCURSION TO DACHAU • Visit Dachau, once the site of a WWII Nazi concentration camp and now a moving memorial and museum. The camp was liberated in April 1945.

NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE • Continue on to Neuschwanstein Castle, which was the model for Disney's Sleeping Beauty Castle and also home to one of the weirdest kings in Europe's history.

WALKING TOUR OF MUNICH • Your tour director will show you around Munich. Pass the iconic Frauenkirche, with its onion-domed towers, and arrive at the Marienplatz, the central town square that always draws crowds. Then continue past the Hofbräuhaus, Munich's most famous beer hall.

WELCOME DINNER AT HOFBRÄUHAUS • Get to know the other travelers in your group over dinner at the world-famous Hofbräuhaus. With its classic Bavarian setting, traditional food and drink, and long tables full of fun-loving people, the Hofbräuhaus is quintessential Munich.

DAY 4 INNSBRUCK • VENICE

TRAVEL VIA INNSBRUCK • En route to Italy, stop in Innsbruck, a cool little city located at the intersection of several Alpine passes. Innsbruck has hosted the Winter Olympics twice, and it's the capital of Austria's scenic Tyrol province. Have time to explore the town square and grab a bite to eat, maybe an Austrian sausage (a local favorite).

ARRIVE IN VENICE • Continue on to Venice, once a huge naval power and now a major tourist spot. Venice is amazing. The one-of-a-kind canals have to be seen to be appreciated. Ride a gondola, browse the shops, eat a gelato.

DAY 5 VENICE

SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF VENICE (LOCAL GUIDE) • A local guide will lead you on foot through the narrow streets and



open piazzas of Venice. Start at St. Mark's Square, whose basilica allegedly houses the saint's remains. See the famous Grand Canal and the 324-foot Campanile bell tower, and then finish your tour at a cool glass-blowing demonstration (Venetian glass is famous around the world).

DOGES' PALACE • Visit the 14th-century pink-and-white palace, and walk over the famous Bridge of Sighs that connects the palace and its prison. According to lore, prisoners would sigh with sadness as they crossed the bridge and saw their city for the last time.

FREE TIME VENICE (day) • Top 5 suggestions:

- 1. Castello** • Take a walk through this relaxing district; try to make it all the way to the San Pietro di Castello Island.
- 2. Rialto Market** • Browse the noisiest, most colorful spot in Venice, where vendors sell an assortment of fruits, vegetables and fish.
- 3. le Zattere** • Walk along this picturesque quay, with its choice views of the Grand Canal and its popular *gelato* stop.
- 4. Glassware shopping** • Take home a piece of high-quality Venetian crystal.
- 5. Gondola ride** • You have to do it, the classic Venice experience. If you're lucky, your gondolier will serenade you as he directs the boat along the canals.

(For more ideas and details, see the Lonely Planet city guide for Venice at efcollegebreak.com.)

OPTIONAL EVENING TRIP TO BURANO (extra cost) • Enjoy a low-key evening on the island of Burano, located at the northern end of the Venetian Lagoon. Burano is known for its fine lace products and its small brightly-colored houses. You'll have dinner at a local taverna and time to explore the quiet streets and alleyways of this very picturesque island. Dinner is included.

DAY 6 VERONA • LUCERNE

TRAVEL VIA VERONA • On your way to Switzerland, stop in Verona, home of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. You can see the home of Juliet's family, and even the balcony where she called out for Romeo in Shakespeare's play.

ARRIVE IN LUCERNE REGION • Welcome to the majestic Swiss Alps. Lucerne is all about the scenery. With Lake Lucerne, the surrounding mountains, and a famous covered bridge, this is classic Switzerland.

DAY 7 LUCERNE

SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF LUCERNE (TOUR DIRECTOR)

• Explore Lucerne with your tour director. Walk the narrow streets and take in the incredible mountain scenery. See the one-of-a-kind *Löwendenkmal*, a surprisingly impressive rock carving of a dying lion. Walk across the *Kapellbrücke*—this mural-lined covered bridge was originally built back in medieval times.

OPTIONAL TRIP UP MOUNT PILATUS (extra cost) • Take an amazing trip to the top of Mount Pilatus, the majestic mountain dominating the Lucerne skyline. If it's summer, you'll travel to the foot of the mountain by boat across Lake Lucerne, and then ride the famous Pilatus cog railway—the steepest in the world—to the top. During other seasons, you'll drive to the mountain base before going up by cable car. Forty-five minutes and 6,387 feet later, you'll reach the summit. Take in the incredible panoramic views—see the city of Lucerne, its pristine lake, and the snow-capped Alps.

DAY 8 HEIDELBERG

TRAVEL VIA RHINE FALLS AND BLACK FOREST • See the thundering Rhine Falls and drive by way of the Black Forest. Many familiar fairy tales—including old Brothers Grimm favorites—are set in these dark, dark woods.

ARRIVE IN HEIDELBERG • Drive on to Heidelberg, Germany's oldest college town. Heidelberg's hillside castle, red-roofed townscape, and big nightlife (thanks to all the students who live here) make the city a popular stop for backpackers and others traveling through Europe.

SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF HEIDELBERG (TOUR DIRECTOR)

• Your tour director will show you the highlights of the town. See Heidelberg's 700-year-old castle, and take in the great views of the Neckar Valley. Walk the cobblestone streets to Marktplatz, where witches were burned at the stake back in the day. You'll also see Heidelberg's 58,000-gallon wine cask (the world's largest), which once kept the locals' thirst very well-quenched.

FAREWELL DRINK • Have some laughs and let the reminiscing begin over a farewell drink with the group.

DAY 9 FRANKFURT

TRAVEL TO FRANKFURT • After free time to explore Heidelberg, ride on to Frankfurt, where you'll spend your final night.

DAY 10 FRANKFURT

FLIGHT HOME

DON'T WANT TO GO HOME?

Plan beforehand, and you can change your return ticket and explore more of Germany on your own, or visit another city and fly home from there. Contact us for details.