



Oktoberfest: Jewels of Alpine Europe

14 days | 16 days with Salzburg extension

SEPT 14-27, 2028

Celebrate the splendor of late September in the Alps, where golden light warms lakefront villages and crisp mountain air sets the scene for adventure. Wander Lucerne's cobbled lanes and iconic Kapellbrücke, ride the glacier-lined Bernina Express, and stand beneath the mighty Mont Blanc in charming Chamonix. Cruise across Lake Como's shimmering waters and stroll through Vaduz, the fairy-tale capital of Liechtenstein. In Innsbruck, admire the colorful Old Town and famed Golden Roof—then raise a stein in Munich during an unforgettable Oktoberfest celebration inside a traditional beer tent. From Alpine passes to time-honored traditions, this journey captures Europe at its most festive and scenic. Want more music and mountains? Join the Salzburg extension for Mozart and Baroque charm.



Pricing and Reservations: <https://forms.gle/HsEebUH7Y4JnGcsi6>

Your tour package includes

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

Included highlights

- Oktoberfest in Munich
- Kapellbrücke
- Interlaken
- Chamonix
- Mont Blanc
- Lake Como cruise
- Bernina Express train ride
- Liechtenstein
- Munich Residenz
- Glockenspiel

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills and stairs.

Group size

15–38

Contact Marah Walsh for more details
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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Zurich today.

Lucerne Region → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Zurich & transfer to Lucerne Region

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Switzerland—or, as they say in the local dialect, gruezi (“GROO-tsee”)! Transfer to the Lucerne region and get settled into your hotel. Then, meet 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 clear views of Pilatus, Rigi, and the rugged ridges of 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 to medieval times.
- Cross the famous Kapellbrücke (say it “ka-PELL-broo-kuh”), the covered wooden “chapel bridge” that spans the Reuss River, and view the adjacent Water Tower. Octagonal in shape and stone in build—with a complicated past as a sentinel’s post, state treasury, and prison—it predates the Kapellbrücke by roughly a century.
- See the Jesuit Church, the first large Baroque building of its kind to be built north of the Alps in Switzerland.

If you’d like, add an afternoon journey to the top of Mount Pilatus and explore Lucerne’s surroundings by ferry, cogwheel railway, and cable car. Alternatively, hang back in town and

treat yourself to some rosti. Pronounced “ROO-stee,” this dish centers on grated, fried potatoes—kind of like a Swiss hashbrown. Top it with eggs or sausage to elevate it from a satisfying snack to a hearty meal.

+ Mount Pilatus

French Alps → 2 nights

Day 4: French Alps via Bern

Included meals: breakfast

Travel through the heart of the Alps today, soaking in breathtaking views of snow-dusted peaks, glassy lakes, and storybook villages nestled between rolling meadows.

- Pause in Interlaken, a postcard-perfect town tucked between two shimmering lakes, to stretch your legs and—if the skies are clear—snap unforgettable photos of the Jungfrauoch, a mountain pass known as the Top of Europe. (*weather-dependent*).
- Continue to Bern, Switzerland’s charming capital, where a guided walk takes you through its UNESCO-listed Old Town. Wander beneath medieval arcades, past 15th-century fountains, and to the famous Zytglogge astronomical clock that has kept time for centuries.
- Conclude your sightseeing with a drive through the wine country near Lausanne, its terraced vineyards sloping toward the glittering expanse of Lake Geneva. As the day winds down, arrive at your hotel and settle in, with the Alpine landscape still fresh in your memory.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Annecy

Included meals: breakfast

Travel north to the Haute-Savoie region of France and get to know the lakeside town of Annecy today. Often referred to as the Venice of the Alps for its enchanting canals and pastel-hued buildings, this little slice of heaven at the northern tip of Lake Annecy epitomizes storybook charm.

You’ll walk through Annecy’s Old Town and its fairy-tale maze of cobblestone streets and

medieval homes with your Tour Director. Along the way, you’ll stop to peruse the stalls of the town’s open-air market, overflowing with fresh fruits and vegetables. If you get a chance, make sure to try a tartiflette—a cheesy potato dish. Then, return to your hotel in the French Alps and enjoy a free evening to unwind.

Lake Como Region → 2 nights

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Chamonix

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

On your way to Italy, stop to explore and learn about Chamonix, a picture-perfect village at the base of Mont Blanc, Western Europe’s highest peak. The town hosted the first Winter Olympics in 1924 and is a year-round playground for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Later, continue through the scenic Aosta Valley en route to the Lake Como region of Italy. The journey is a feast for the eyes: Expect dramatic peaks, cliffside castles, and quintessentially Italian mountain towns.

This evening, sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 7: Villa Carlotta, Lake Como cruise & Bellagio

Included meals: breakfast

Begin your morning with a journey into the heart of Italy’s lake district, where the shores of Lake Como are lined with elegant villas, lush gardens, and quaint hillside villages. Admire the stunning blend of natural beauty and refined architecture as you cruise the lake’s shimmering turquoise waters.

- Transfer to the grand Villa Carlotta, a Neoclassical estate famed for its botanical gardens and sweeping waterfront views. Take time to wander its terraced pathways, where bursts of color frame a backdrop of soaring peaks and calm waters.
- Board a boat for a scenic cruise past opulent lakeside estates and fairy-tale villages. Glide toward Bellagio, the Pearl of Lake Como, where steep lanes and flower-draped balconies have enchanted visitors for centuries.

- Enjoy free time in Bellagio to explore at your leisure—whether that means shopping for artisanal goods or sipping an aperitivo at a waterfront cafe.

Return to your hotel in the Lake Como region by bus and enjoy a free evening to relax.

Please note: From November through February, a funicular to Brunate, a picturesque hilltop village, will replace the visit to Villa Carlotta.

St. Moritz → 1 night

Day 8: Train ride to St. Moritz

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Make your way to the charming Italian town of Tirano, the departure point for one of Europe's most jaw-dropping rail journeys—the iconic Bernina Express. This red panoramic train winds through the heart of the Alps: As you glide along the tracks of this UNESCO-recognized route, take in dramatic vistas—crystalline glaciers, mountain villages, deep ravines, and spiraling viaducts.

Arrive in St. Moritz, a glamorous Swiss resort town known for its upscale charm, lakeside beauty, and legacy as a host of the Winter Olympics. Enjoy time to explore its elegant shops and admire the architecture or simply soak up the fresh mountain air.

Later, sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Please note: The Bernina Express runs seasonally and will be replaced with a local train from mid-October through mid-May. You'll need to present your passport when crossing from Italy to Switzerland.

Austrian Alps → 2 nights

Day 9: Austrian Alps via Liechtenstein & Innsbruck

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Cross into Liechtenstein, a tiny Alpine principality that dates to the Holy Roman Empire. (And we mean tiny: With a population of just under 40,000 people, it's the sixth-smallest nation in the world.) Visit the capital of Vaduz and pass the royal family's namesake castle. Perched atop a hill, it has watched over the region since the 12th century and serves as the royal residence to this day.

Afterward, continue to Innsbruck—capital of the Austrian state of Tyrol and site of two Winter Olympics—where you'll hop off your bus for a walking tour with a local guide.

- Venture into the Old Town for a glimpse of two local legends: the Goldenes Dachl (the Golden Roof, covered in more than 2,600 gilded copper tiles) and the Stadtturm (the City Tower, a 150-foot Gothic sentry post).
- Pass the Hofburg and walk its cobblestone courtyard. Prized for its architectural design, this former Habsburg palace is one of the most important cultural sites in all of Austria.
- Enter the Baroque Cathedral of St. James, an 18th-century structure that houses the “Maria Hilf” (“Mary of Succor”), one of the most venerated works of Marian art in the Christian world.

Then, travel to the Austrian Alps and sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 10: Free day in the Austrian Alps Region

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in the Austrian Alps region or add an optional excursion to visit Neuschwanstein Castle. A paragon of Romantic aesthetics, it was the fairy-tale retreat of Ludwig II—the 19th-century king deemed “mad” for his unrestrained patronage of the arts.

+ Bavarian Castle & Lunch

Munich → 3 nights

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Munich

Included meals: breakfast

Cross into Germany and get to know Munich. 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—a gargantuan urban park that counts a Japanese teahouse and an open-air, Greek-style temple among its many monuments—and the fashionable Schwabing district, formerly home to Munich's bohemian residents.
- Walk from the Odeonsplatz—Munich's large central square, named after an adjacent former concert hall—through the well-manicured grounds of the Hofgarten to enter the Residenz, a museum that once housed the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria.
- Explore the Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, and see the famed Glockenspiel clock. Maybe you'll catch it as it chimes!

Day 12: Oktoberfest in Munich

Included meals: breakfast, beer tasting, tasting

This afternoon, you'll get to join thousands of revelers with a special admission to an Oktoberfest tent. Prepare for a whirlwind of Bavarian tradition, music, and merriment as you toast with steins of golden lager. Don your dirndls and lederhosen and tap your feet to folk music from boisterous brass bands. The best accompaniment to Munich's famous beer? Bites of Bavarian delicacies like pretzels and sausage, of course. Prost!

Day 13: Free day in Munich

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Spend a free day in Munich or add an optional excursion. If you choose, join your group on a visit to Dachau—the former site of a notorious Nazi concentration camp—and gain sobering perspective on one of humanity's darkest eras. If you'd prefer to stay behind, spend the remainder of your day at your leisure—perhaps sipping a pint of local ale at a Biergarten to continue your Oktoberfest immersion.

Later, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

+ Dachau

Flight Home

Day 14: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue to Salzburg, Austria, to waltz through the city's whimsical blend of music, castles, and mountain charm.

+ Salzburg extension

It's the birthplace of Mozart and setting for “The Sound of Music,” but that's not all that makes Salzburg sing. Join your Tour Director and spend a couple days exploring this Austrian city, where Baroque churches and a UNESCO-listed old town will leave you in awe.

Salzburg → 2 nights

Day 14: Transfer to Salzburg & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Head to Salzburg, Austria, a city famed for its churches and musical history. Upon arrival, a guide will lead you on a walking tour of its Old

Town. Known locally as the Altstadt, Salzburg's historic core has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996, honoring its legacy as the confluence of Italian and German culture.

- Pass by the University of Salzburg—an institution of higher learning first established in 1622—and St. Peter's Abbey. Operating in some form or another since 696, it's the oldest continually operating monastery in German-speaking Europe.
- See a trio of famous squares: the Kapitelplatz, former site of the Cathedral Abbey; Residenzplatz, once home of the Prince-Archbishops of Salzburg; and Alter Markt, where the city's weekly market used to set up shop.
- Enter the richly ornamented Salzburg Cathedral. Although the current Baroque structure was built in the 17th century, the building's roots go all the way back to 774, when Saint Rupert founded the church atop the remains of an old Roman town.

Want to make plans for the evening? Serenade your senses by opting for tonight's dinner, served in one of Europe's oldest restaurants and accompanied by live performances of Mozart's music. Alternatively, relax in your hotel room and enjoy the sounds of the city.

+ Mozart Concert & Dinner

Transfer to the Munich airport for your flight home.

Day 15: Free day in Salzburg

Included meals: breakfast

A pair of outings await you today. For a helping of World War II history, set against the backdrop of a quaint mountain village, strike out for Berchtesgaden. Or, use your free day in Salzburg to roam more of the Altstadt at your leisure.

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

Please note: The Berchtesgaden excursions are seasonal. The Eagle's Nest & Salt Mines trip runs from mid-May to September, and the Berchtesgaden: Salt Mines & Village Visit outing runs from January to April and from November to December.

+ Eagle's Nest & Salt Mines

+ Berchtesgaden: Salt Mines & Village Visit

Flight Home

Day 16: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

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: <https://www.goaheadtours.com/DAOG> | 1-800-597-0350

Day 3: Mount Pilatus

From \$145.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (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 10: Bavarian Castle & Lunch

From \$125.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (7.5 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included) Head into the mountains of Bavaria to visit the fairy-tale Neuschwanstein Castle, which is believed to be the inspiration for Disneyland's castle. This regal castle, commissioned by Bavaria's Mad King Ludwig II, offers breathtaking views and a glimpse into the king's fantastical vision. Start with a photo stop to capture its iconic beauty before embarking on a guided tour of its rooms, such as the Throne Hall, adorned with stunning murals depicting German folklore and medieval legends. Don't forget to keep an eye out for the numerous homages to swans, 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. 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.

Day 13: Dachau

From \$40.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (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.

Extension excursion options

Day 14: Mozart Concert & Dinner

From \$155.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4.5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Step inside the 1,200-year-old St. Peter Stiftskeller, located within St. Peter's Abbey, to enjoy an evening of fine dining and music. Mozart composed over 600 works in his short life, and tonight, you'll hear his masterpieces accompanied by opera singing as you sample local delicacies during a three-course dinner. Please note: The temperature in the room can be hot in the summer, therefore we recommend dressing accordingly based on the season.

Day 15: Eagle's Nest & Salt Mines

From \$149.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (8 hours, departs in the morning) Drive through the Bavarian Alps to the mountain village of Berchtesgaden, where you'll tour the 450-year-old salt mines that brought wealth to Bavaria and Salzburg. Explore the mines during an underground boat ride on Mirror Lake before enjoying free time for lunch. Continue to Obersalzberg, where a scenic bus ride along steep gorges offers gorgeous views of the snow-capped Alps. Then, take an elevator ride up to the Eagle's Nest, an Alpine retreat built for Adolf Hitler. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from mid-May through September. If the Documentation Center is closed, your visit to it will be replaced with a schnapps tasting.

Day 15: Berchtesgaden: Salt Mines & Village Visit

From \$89.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departs in the morning) Drive through the Bavarian Alps to the mountain village of Berchtesgaden, where you'll tour the 450-year-old salt mines that brought wealth to Bavaria and Salzburg. Take an underground boat ride on Mirror Lake before enjoying free time for lunch in the village. Please note: This excursion runs from January to April and from October to December.

*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. Go Ahead Tours 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 <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.