



# Romantic Germany 2020

■ May 17-29, 2020 • Group capped at 16

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all rooms with private bath
- Bavarian castles of **Linderhof** and **Neuschwanstein**, built by King Ludwig
- **Wies** Church, a rococo masterpiece • exceptional food and wines
- The Romantic Road and some of its finest towns – **Augsburg**, **Würzburg**
- The UNESCO World Heritage village of **Rothenburg ob der Tauber**
- Charming, half-timbered villages of **Dinkelsbühl** and **Nördlingen**
- Magnificent castles and picturesque vineyards of the **Rhine Valley**
- Boat cruise on the Rhine • Pretty **Mosel River Valley** and its vineyards
- Old **Trier**, founded in Celtic times and both lovely and lively today

*Tour cost – \$4,295\* per person sharing for land arrangements (airfare not included) • Singles add \$550*

## TOUR

### SUMMARY

Begin at **Frankfurt Airport**, end at **Munich Airport**

FLY FROM U.S. – Leave May 15, arrive May 16 (overnight, **Hotel NH**, Frankfurt Airport)

TOUR BEGINS – At 9 a.m. May 17, **Hotel NH**, Frankfurt airport

TOUR ENDS – May 29, in the morning, at our **Munich Airport** hotel (you will fly home today)

12 NIGHTS • TOUR MEALS – Breakfast daily and eight other meals (lunches & dinners)

## ■ Day 1 (Sunday, May 17)

Leaving our **Frankfurt Airport** hotel, we are soon in the exceedingly charming **Saarland**, on the lovely **Saar River**. We visit the amazing **Saarschleife** (Saar Loop), where the river, flowing northwest, abruptly reverses itself and heads southeast. Late in the day we enter venerable **Saarburg**, thick with half-timbered houses and a waterfall in the middle of it all. Here we check into our delightful hotel and have **DINNER. OVERNIGHT – SAARBURG**

## ■ Day 2 (Monday, May 18)

Today we hit the road for nearby **Trier**, the largest town in these parts and the oldest city in Germany. It was inhabited by the **Celts** some 1,300 years before Rome came into being. Its vibrant market square, which pulses with activity, is considered by many to be the most attractive in all of Germany. After visiting the sights, we depart for the lovely valley of the **Mosel**, where steep vineyards plunge down to a sparkling river. Our destination: the utterly charming riverside town of **Cochem. OVERNIGHT – COCHEM**

## ■ Day 3 (Tuesday, May 19)

We travel today to the best sight in the region, **Burg Eltz**, a massive castle rising proudly above a ravine. Its walls have seen 700 years of local history, and its furnishings have remained intact since the 1500s, making Eltz the most impressive castle for many miles around. After our

visit, we follow the Mosel to delightful **Beilstein**, a fairytale village on the river. From here, we catch a riverboat back to **Cochem**, where we have **DINNER. OVERNIGHT – COCHEM**

## ■ Day 4 (Wednesday, May 20)

The **Mosel Valley** boasts peaceful, half-timbered medieval villages, an idyllic river hemmed in by steep slopes, and vineyards and castles jostling each other for pride of place. On today's agenda are visits to villages along the **Mosel** (including **Zell** and **Bernkastel-Kues**). Along the way we're likely to see wine producers working their vertiginous vineyards. **LUNCH** in **Zell. OVERNIGHT – COCHEM**

## ■ Day 5 (Thursday, May 21)

Leaving **Cochem**, we are soon in **Bad Kreuznach**, whose **Romerhalle** boasts third century Roman mosaic floors. By 4 p.m. we're in **Bacharach**, on the **Rhine River**. where we check into our hotel and have **DINNER. OVERNIGHT – BACHARACH**

## ■ Day 6 (Friday, May 22)

Today we get to know the scenic **Rhine Valley**, catching a river steamer at **Bacharach**, disembarking at the former Roman town of **Braubach** and driving to **Marksburg**, the only medieval castle in this part of the valley that was never taken in battle. Then, still on the right bank, we come to an overlook high above the

**Lorelei Rocks**, where ancient sailors were said to have been lured to their deaths by a river siren. **OVERNIGHT – BACHARACH**

### ■ Day 7 (Saturday, May 23)

Leaving **Bacharach** and the **Rhine**, our itinerary takes us to **Würzburg**, lying at the foot of a medieval citadel, where we enjoy free time and have lunch. Würzburg is the home of many baroque churches and the splendid **Residenz Palace** (1720), which boasts a huge fresco by the Venetian painter **Tiepolo**. Late in the day we arrive in perhaps the most charming village on our tour – **Rothenburg ob der Tauber**. **DINNER** in town. **OVERNIGHT – ROTHENBURG**

### ■ Day 8 (Sunday, May 24)

We have the entire day to explore **Rothenburg**, which hides a delight around every corner. One of the Romantic Road's oldest towns, **Rothenburg** overlooks the winding **Tauber River** from its rocky crag. Once inside the intact medieval walls, you'll encounter traffic-free streets crammed with ancient houses, narrow, cobbled lanes and bubbling fountains. **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – ROTHENBURG**

### ■ Day 9 (Monday, May 25)

From **Rothenburg** we make a day trip to two incredibly charming villages: **Dinkelsbühl** (ramparts and watch towers surrounding an authentic medieval town); and **Nördlingen** (well-preserved medieval houses, some of them a bit lopsided). We return to **Rothenburg** in the afternoon. **OVERNIGHT – ROTHENBURG**

### ■ Day 10 (Tuesday, May 26)

Leaving **Rothenburg**, we travel south along the **Romantic Road**, first visiting ancient, imperial **Augsburg**, once the home of two great medieval merchant dynasties. Connected to **Verona** by the **Via Claudia**, an ancient Roman road, **Augsburg's** favorable location promoted it as a center of commerce. We find some lunch here and also visit two worthy sights – the old **Town Hall** (**Augsburger Rathaus**, 1624) and the **Fuggerei** (1521), a “town within a town” originally built to house the town's poorer Catholics. In the afternoon we arrive at one of the most magnificently decorated churches in Europe, opulently rococo **Wies**, lying in a placid meadow. Finally, at day's end, we come to the terminus of the **Romantic Road at Füssen**, surrounded by soaring **Alps**. **DINNER** in **Füssen**. **OVERNIGHT – FUSSEN**

### ■ Day 11 (Wednesday, May 27)

Two castles associated with Bavaria's “**Mad**”

**King Ludwig** are nearby – **Hohenschwangau**, a hunting palace that the Bavarian royal family used in the 1800s, and the most romantic castle in Germany, **Schloss Neuschwanstein**, built by **Ludwig** but occupied by him for only six months. Visiting these imposing palaces adds to our understanding of the Bavarian royal court, caught between the enormous power of the Prussian and Austrian empires. **LUNCH** today. **OVERNIGHT – FUSSEN**

### ■ Day 12 (Thursday, May 28)

We leave **Füssen** but still have one more day in the **Bavarian Alps**. In the morning we visit the most gracious of the castles built in the 19th century at the order of **King Ludwig – Linderhof**. This lovely palace, modeled after **Versailles**, gives a glimpse of the life of the supposedly Mad King. Then it's on to charming **Mittenwald**, where stucco houses boast centuries-old wall paintings of local scenes. Here the 18th-century **St. Peter and St. Paul Church** is famed for its colorful frescoes. Near day's end we arrive at our hotel in the vicinity of **Munich Airport**, convenient for flights home tomorrow. **OVERNIGHT – MUNICH AIRPORT**

### ■ Getaway day (Friday, May 29)

We depart **Munich Airport** today for our flight home.

## Notes

**MEALS** – Tour includes breakfast every day, as well as eight other meals (lunches and dinners), as indicated in **BOLD CAPS** on the itinerary.

### OUR HOTELS (subject to availability)

**Hotel Saarburgerhof**, Saarburburg  
**Hotel Cochemer Jung**, Cochem  
**Hotel Alte Mühle**, Bacharach  
**Hotel Markusturm**, Rothenburg  
**Hotel Sonne**, Füssen  
**Hotel Mövenpick**, Munich Airport

**RESTAURANTS** – Subject to availability.

**ITINERARY** – Details of this preliminary itinerary could change. A final itinerary will be issued closer to trip departure.

\* **TOUR PRICE** – Price of \$4,295 is based on a “benchmark” U.S. dollar/euro exchange rate that existed pre-tour and could change if there are significant exchange rate fluctuations. Call us for details – (800) 676-1247 Price quoted is for land arrangements only and does not include airfare.