

## Research and Travel

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## Grüss Gott America

### Explore Bavarian Heritage

Munich, Passau, Bavarian Forest, Czech Republic, Nuremberg,  
Würzburg, Rothenburg, Dinkelsbühl  
Options for Castle Neuschwanstein, Berchtesgarden, Dachau

9 Days Tour: Heritage, History, Emigration, Folklife, People  
August 02<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2010



As a result of our cooperation with the Bavarian Tourist Board we present a unique opportunity to trace the migration experience in this beautiful part of Germany. Included are highlights as the Bavarian Alps, the Romantic Road, Nuremberg, Würzburg and Munich. But likewise unknown destinations with a fascinating history such as the Emerenz Meier home in the Bavarian Forest and the century old winery in the house where the father of German immigration to America and founder of Germantown PA in 1683 was born. Be prepared to discover places off the beaten path as you discover this rich unknown Bavarian heritage with us.



## Itinerary

### **Day 0 Transatlantic Flights**

Every airlines has flights either with direct service or connecting flights to Munich. Leave the US, arrive in Munich the next day.

### **Day 1 Mon. Aug 02 Welcome to Munich**

Arrival at Munich Airport. Transfer to your hotel is on your own and is best either with public transportation or taxi cab ( ca 45 minutes ca Euro 40 per car, seats 4 people.).Information will be provided with booking/confirmation. Your tour starts at 3 pm at your hotel. Meet your fellow travelers and your tour director for a reception, tour orientation and introduction into history and heritage of Bavaria. We will issue a reprint of an historic Bavarian passport to make you a "legal traveler" during your heritage tour in Bavaria. A light dinner will round up your day. Beer lovers have a chance to visit the famous Oktoberfest.

Hotel 2 nights: Munich

### **Day 2 Tue. Aug 03 City Sightseeing in Munich**

City sightseeing by bus with short walking excursions. Lunch included. Besides the highlights of Bavarias charming metropolis you will be introduced to unknown German-American sites and stories, such as the Meyersche Hofanstalt, a still aktive glass manufacturing site which exported numerous church windows to former German congregation in the US. Ferdinand Miller desined buildings and monument like the General's Hall in Munich but also parts of the Capitol in Washington, DC as well as buildings in Charleston, SC and St. Louis, MO. Not to forget the political refugees during the 1930ies and 40ies from Munich and Bavaria who found shelter in America like world renowned writer Thomas Mann, Lion Feuchtwanger or Oskar Maria Graf. Time for shopping or individual activities in the afternoon.

### **Day 3 Wed. Aug 04 The Danube, Passau and the Bavarian Forest**

We leave Munich for Deggendorf to board a river cruise ship. The Danube was the major route for millions of emigrants from the Austrian Hungarian Empire. In 1903 the Johnny Weissmüller family from today's Temeswar in Rumania was among them. Already during the 18th century the so called "Danube Swabians" from Württemberg, Hesse, the Palatiate and Bavaria travelled the Danube on flatboats towards the Black Sea. In Passau a sightseeing and walking tour acquaints you with this historic city before we reach our hotel in the Bavarian Forest.

Hotel: 2 nights Bavarian Forest

### **Day 4 Thu. Aug 05 The Migration Experience in the Bavarian Forests. Bohemian Culture and Czech Republic**

A local excursion includes a visit to the Emerenz Meier house. Bavaria's best known folklife writer emigrated in 1906 to the Bavarian neighborhood ("Waldlerviertel") in Chicago's Northside. Visit the open air museum in Finsterau and learn about life in the Old Days. Small farms, cutting wood, charcoal fabrication ment hard work and little income. The migration experience from around here is reflected in fascinating biographical portraits. Later that day the excursion continues into the Czech Republik to explore Bohemian traditions as well as the new shape of Europe. Dinner at the Emerenz Meier House restaurant.

### **Day 5 Fri. Aug 06 The Glass Road. German American History in Fürth and Nuremberg**

Drive on scenic route through the Bavarian forest, Germany's largest National Park, and learn about the centuries-old glassblowing traditions while visiting a traditional workshop. Continue to Nuremberg for city sightseeing including its medieval history as well as the former Nazi party rally grounds. Again we add interesting German American and Jewish biographical portraits from Henry Kissinger's birthplace to Sandra Bullock and Billy Joel in nearby Fürth.

Hotel: Two nights Nuremberg

**Day 6 Sat. Aug 07 Excursions in Franconia, Buttenheim, Klein Losnitz**

An excursion brings you to Klein Losnitz in the Franconian "Fichtelgebirge". It was from around here that many farmers, weavers, timber-rafting workers hailed for land and opportunities in the Midwest. On your way back visit the Levy Strauss museum at Buttenheim, depicting the life of the creator of the Jeans during the California Gold Rush. A nearby traditional beer garden offers Franconian specials before we go back to Nuremberg for the evening.

**Day 7 Sun. Aug 08 Marvels of Baroque and Medieval Times. The Father of German Emigration**

Drive to Würzburg to see the beautiful baroque residence surrounded by famous wine yards. A commanding officer of the American army saved this architectural masterpiece from destruction. In nearby Sommershausen and Bad Windsheim we visit the birthplace and hometown of Franz Daniel Pastorius who as early as 1683 founded the first German settlement in America. Germantown, today part of Philadelphia, PA was an exciting religious experiment and an investment too. Overnight will be in the beautiful medieval town of Dinkelsbühl. Dinner at your hotel. A walk with the town's night watchman finishes a long day.

Hotel: 1 night Dinkelsbühl

**Day 8 Mon. Aug 09 From Dinkelsbühl to Rothenburg and back to Munich.**

This morning we travel the Romantic Road and visit Rothenburg, Europe's best preserved medieval town. Free time allows you to stroll the narrow alleys. Back in Munich a farewell dinner in a traditional brewery finishes your visit to Bavaria.

Hotel: 1 night Munich

**Day 9 Thu. Aug 10 Homebound flights**

Airport transfer and bye-bye. Your tour director provides all relevant information and assists with transfers. Have a safe flight home. Arrival at your US destination the same day

**Optional Extension A: 1 Day Alpine Scenery Berchtesgadener Land**

Join an organized day's tour to the alpine National Park Berchtesgaden. Within the fantastic panorama and close to the beautiful Königsee it is Hitler's former hidden headquarter, the Kehlsteinhaus, referred to as the "Eagle's Nest" at Obersalzberg, that attracts many visitors. A documentation center depicts the story of this location. Back in Munich for the evening and one extra night at your hotel.

**Costs per person: Euro 120,--**

incl. one extra night in double room, breakfast, excursion ca 9 hours, admission Eagle's Nests

**Optional Extension B: Castle Neuschwanstein**

Join an organized tour to the world's best known castle, Neuschwanstein, King Ludwigs II's picture perfect palace in the Bavarian Alps. A guided tour inside and the breathtaking view from the Marienbrücke are scheduled.

**Costs per person: Euro 120,--**

incl. one extra night in double room, breakfast, excursion ca 9 hours, admission Neuschwanstein

**Optional Extension C: Time out in Munich and Visit to Dachau**

A free day allows you to visit the former concentration camp in Dachau on a self guided tour and excursion. The S-Bahn and a bus shuttle brings you there in ca. 30 minutes.

**Cost per person : Euro 80,--**

incl. one extra night in double room, breakfast, S-Bahn ticket

**Costs and Arrangements ( Land Only )**

<b>Price per person sharing a room:</b>	<b>Euro</b>	<b>1.480,--</b>
<b>Single supplement:</b>	<b>Euro</b>	<b>190,--</b>
<b>Extra nights in Munich</b>	<b>Euro</b>	<b>80,-- sharing room, per pers incl breakfast and taxes</b>
<b>Tour Dates 2010:</b>	<b>Aug. 02 - 10</b>	
<b>Tour starts:</b>	<b>Aug. 02 at Munich</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
<b>Tour ends:</b>	<b>Aug. 10 at Munich</b>	<b>after breakfast</b>

Minimum of 18 participants is required. Should we risk to cancel a tour we will send out a revised mini-group arrangement at least 2 month prior to departure or a full refund of any deposits paid. Detailed information and a consumer protection plan is available along with reservation/confirmations.

**Should we miss the minimum of participants we offer a minivan arrangements with driver-guide and a slightly modified program for the same price.**

**This tour is available all year round with driver-guide for a minimum of 6 persons.**

**Included (land only):**

- 8 nights in first class tourist hotels (three plus/four stars) with private facilities, double occupancy, full breakfast buffet each morning. City-Hotels are centrally located, attractions within short walking distance.
- Transportation in luxury air-conditioned motorcoach throughout the trip
- Danube river cruise Vilshofen to Passau
- Full program including all admissions and sightseeing: Open Air Museum Finsterau, Emerenz Meier Home, Würzburg Residenz, Pastorius Home, Buttenheim Museum, Klein Losnitz Museum
- Full time tour director / experienced bilingual university expert, local experts and English speaking step on guides for special sightseeing and programs.
- 8 full breakfast and one meal daily, reception upon arrival, farewell-dinner upon departure
- "Research and Travel" service package (brochures, reader, maps, manual for German handwriting, reprint of historic documents).
- Baggage handling one piece per person.
- All taxes on hotels, meals and other prepaid services.

**Not included:**

Airfares, transfers, beverages others than coffee, tea, juice with breakfast, possible individual cost for research, use of archives, databases etc., customary gratuities to tour directors / drivers.

**Optional Extension : Your Personal Itinerary**

We have designed a special service for the individual traveler who wants to benefit from pre-travel research and arrangements: „Your Personal Itinerary“: Based on your advance information we check your request and start preliminary research about the possible origin of your family. A dossier with all relevant information and professional tourist service allows you to find your way to the places, records and people you like to see.

You may want to travel on you own or decide to hire additional guiding and driving services (ca Euro 420,-- per full day incl use of vehicle; 1 – 3 participants).

**Day 10 Visit your Forefathers Place of Origin**

After breakfast meet with your tour director for a final check and orientation of your itinerary to come. Board train or pick-up rental car and continue your trip according to our proposals. Every destination within Germany can be reached within 8 hours maximum. Overnight accommodation according to local destination.

**Day 11 Local Heritage program**

We can prepare a local heritage program for you. Walk in your forefathers steps, see where they lived, find traces of the past in names, buildings, meet people at their farm, visit church and cemetery, enjoy local hospitality. Upon request we can pre-arrange meetings in church offices, local archives or with local experts.

**Farewell Day Home**

Transfer according to your flight connections. Arrive at your US destination early evening local time.

Costs for Individual Extensions:

Costs to design your Personal Itinerary include pre-trip research on the possible place of origin of your emigrant ancestor. Based on an hourly fee of Euro 38,-- costs are usually between Euro 200 - 300. You can also set a limit or agree on a step-by-step progressional plan. Please note that extensive genealogical research can be extremely time consuming and is not included in this service but can be carried out according to individual agreements.

Costs for transportation, accommodation and possible guiding services will be additional and based on final arrangements.