

Research and Travel

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From Munich to Berlin

Bavaria and Prussia

Munich, Passau, Bavarian Forest, Czech Republic, Nuremberg, Buttenheim, Dresden, Torgau, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Potsdam, Berlin

9 Days Tour: Heritage, History, Emigration, Folklife
October 25st – November 2nd 2010



Bavaria and Prussia: two German states with an incomparable rich history and key players in European traditions. We have designed an itinerary that connects the charming Bavarian capital with the metropolis of Berlin. En route we visit Dresden and its magnificent historic setting, its art galleries and the dramatic history of the Frauenkirche, which today has become a symbol for German unification and international understanding. Before we visit Potsdam and trace Post War Chronicles at Berlin a visit to Lutherstadt Wittenberg adds the history of the reformation to your itinerary. Join us on this Bavarian Prussian blend of German Heritage.



Itinerary

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

Day 1 Mon. Oct 25 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.). Detailed 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 Hofbräuhaus for the evening.

Hotel 2 nights: Munich

Day 2 Tue. Oct 26 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. Oct 27 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. Oct 28 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. Oct 29 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 glass 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: 1 night Nuremberg

Day 6 Sat. Oct 30 Dresden

Leave Nuremberg and continue to Dresden (Time allowing : stopover at Buttenheim to visit the Levy Strauss museum, depicting the life of the creator of the Jeans during the California Gold Rush). In the afternoon sightseeing at Dresden: The historic setting at the Elbe River, Brühlsche Terrasse, Kings Palace, The Zwinger Palace and Gallerie. A special focus will be on the reconstructed Frauenkirche, Germany's largest evangelical cathedral, today a symbol for Germany's reunification and international friendship likewise. Optional: music event, concert in the Frauenkirche or famous Semper Operahouse.

Hotel: 1 night Dresden

Day 7 Sun. Oct 31 Dresden to Berlin: Lutherstadt Wittenberg and Potsdam

First stop today will be Lutherstadt Wittenberg to trace the history of Reformation: Visit the Schloßkirche, see the famous door where Martin Luther nailed his thesis, vist Luthers and Melanctons grave, walk the old town. En route to Berlin stop for the second attraction in your day's program: the splendid palace and park of Sanssoussi at Potsdam. Visit the new Palais and grave of Frederic II, named "der Große", King of Prussia near the terrassed gardens. Sightseeing as we drive into Berlin.

Hotel: 2 nights at Berlin

Day 8 Mon. Nov 01 Berlin: Prussian Residence and Modern Metropolis

Sightseeing tour including highlights of Berlin: old and new, East and West - Berlin has always been in the crossroads of European history. See remains of the wall, check point Charlie, Potsdam Square, Brandenburg Gate, new American Embassy, airlift monument, Jewish heritage sites, Topographie of Terrors etc. Afternoon free e.g. for sopping at KADEWE department store at Kurfürstendamm. In the evening we meet again for a visit to the German Parliament building, the Reichstag with it's spectacular glass dom and a farewell dinner at the rooftop restaurant.

Day 9 Tue. Nov 02 Homebound Flights

Airport transfer after breakfast. Yout tour director assits with information.Have a safe flight home. Arrival at your US destination the same day.

Costs and Arrangements (Land Only)

Price per person sharing a room:	Euro	1.480,--
Single supplement:	Euro	190,--
Extra nights in Berlin		80,-- per pers in double room incl breakfast and taxes
Tour Dates 2010:	Oct. 25 – Nov. 02	
Tour starts:	Oct. 25 at Munich	3 p.m.
Tour ends:	Nov. 02 at Berlin	after breakfast

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 arrangement 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
- Full program including all admissions and sightseeing: Open Air Museum Finsterau, Emerenz Meier Home, Buttenheim Museum, Dresden Palace, Frauenkirche and Zwinger, Schloßkirche Wittenberg, Sanssoucci Palace
- 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 dinner 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.