

Heart of Europe

September 18 - October 2, 2025

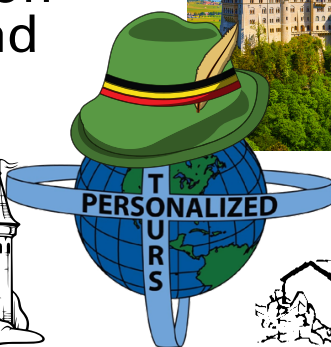
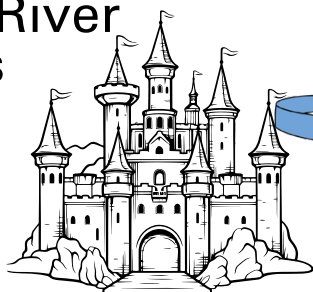
Embark on a journey through the enchanting landscapes and rich history of Europe on this tour. Traverse the picturesque countryside, wander through charming medieval towns, and immerse yourself in the vibrant cultures that define this iconic region. From the majestic castles of Germany to the romantic canals of Venice, this unforgettable adventure promises to capture the essence of Europe's timeless allure. Join us and experience the magic of Europe like never before.

Highlights:

- Schriesheim
- Rothenburg
- Bavaria
- Munich
- Tyrolean Village
- Innsbruck
- Lake Garda
- Verona
- Lake Lugano
- Swiss Alps
- Stans
- Lucerne
- Champagne Region
- Antwerp & Holland
- Rhine River
- Troyes
- Paris



Map At A Glance



Thursday, Sep. 18th - Today brings the beginning of a new adventure...your trip of a lifetime is about to unfold. The Trip Documents will provide guidance for airport check-in and arrival in Europe. Relax on your transatlantic flight with the assurance that all the details are taken care of.

Friday, Sep. 19th - As morning dawns, the European coastline comes into view. Upon arrival at Frankfurt's Rhein-Main Airport, you will clear passport control, claim your luggage, and pass through customs. Communicating is no problem as English is widely spoken. Settle in for a pleasant drive, through central Germany, to your hotel in the village of **Schriesheim**. This evening, get acquainted with your fellow tour members during a **"Welcome to Europe" dinner** at the hotel. (D)

Saturday, Sep. 20th - The route this morning takes you to the northern section of the “**Romantic Road**,” introducing unspoiled countryside, ancient castles, and storybook villages. Spend a few hours in **Rothenburg**, a beautifully preserved medieval village, surrounded by its original town walls. The cobblestone streets are lined with historic inns and charming storefronts, including the famous “**Käthe Wohlfahrt’s Weihnachtsdorf**,” a sprawling, year-round Christmas shop. Take a walk on the city walls for a bird’s-eye view of the town and the lovely surrounding landscapes. This afternoon, transfer to your hotel in the scenic and festive state of **Bavaria**. (B,D)

Sunday, Sep. 21st - The drive into **Munich** reveals many of the Bavarian capital’s interesting landmarks. There will be time to explore the **central square (Marienplatz)** with its unique **Glockenspiel (clock tower)**. For a taste of Oktoberfest, consider beer, sausages and sauerkraut at the famous **Hofbräuhaus**. After lunch, head south to the **Austrian border**. Take in the natural beauty while motoring through the majestic **Austrian mountains**. Enter **Tyrol**, one of the friendliest and most scenic regions in Austria. Continue to your chalet-style hotel in a typical **Tyrolean Village**. (B,D)

Monday, Sep. 22nd - This day is devoted to the boundless splendor of the **Austrian Alps**. Awe-inspiring mountain landscapes surround you as you walk through your Tyrolean Village admiring the flower adorned and frescoed chalets. Consider taking a chair lift up the mountain to behold the magnificent Alpine vistas. Another choice is to join your tour manager for a full day optional Salzburg & Dinner excursion (see Optional Excursions), which includes a guided tour of Salzburg (known for Mozart’s birthplace and setting for the “Sound of Music”) and a traditional Austrian meal. (B)

Tuesday, Sep. 23rd - The Hapsburg dynasty is responsible for much of the architectural beauty you will see during the morning stop in **Innsbruck**. Most notably, Maximilian I, ruler of the Holy Roman Empire from 1493 to 1519, commissioned the iconic Golden Roof balcony. Innsbruck is the capital of Tyrol and has twice hosted the Winter Olympics. Enter **Italy via the Europa Bruecke** (Bridge), a remarkable feat of highway engineering through the **Dolomite Mountains**. Descend to “**Lago di Garda**” (**Lake Garda**), whose steep mountain shores give it a subtropical climate with rich vegetation, including colorful oleander bushes, olive and citrus trees, and grape vines which produce some of the famous Italian wines. During an afternoon stop, stroll along the lakefront, browse the quaint markets, or enjoy a gelato. From Lake Garda, it’s a short drive to the legendary city of **Verona**, made famous by Shakespeare’s tragic love story of “Romeo and Juliet.” Experience an authentic Italian meal during an independent dinner before transferring to your hotel. (B)

Wednesday, Sep. 24th - Today is yours to absorb the Italian art, architecture, music, and overall romantic atmosphere at your own pace. Explore Verona and its nearly 2000-year-old **Roman Arena** that is still used today for performances of beloved Italian operas. Use your time to browse the fashionable shops or take a local bus back to turquoise-colored **Lake Garda**, where you can relax along its shore while sipping a Campari or Cappuccino. Another choice for today is to join the optional Venice excursion to see canals, gondolas, bridges and delicately-blown glass. This excursion includes dinner at a classic Venetian restaurant. However you choose to spend the day, Italy’s uniquely captivating ambiance will surely leave an everlasting impression. At the end of the day, return to your Verona area hotel. (B)

Thursday, Sep. 25th - Travel north through the unsurpassed splendor of the **Italian and Swiss Lake districts**. **Switzerland** greets you with a background of snow capped mountain peaks in contrast to the palm tree-lined subtropical **Lake Lugano**. Often referred to as the “Rio de Janeiro of the Old Continent,” Lugano is the perfect spot for a lunch break. In the afternoon, transfer from the Italian to the German speaking region of Switzerland by way of the 11-mile-long **St. Gotthard Tunnel**. Overnight in a cozy village surrounded by the **Swiss Alps**. (B,D)

Friday, Sep. 26th - A morning drive through William Tell country uncovers impressive **Lake Lucerne**. The soaring mountain peaks of Rigi and Pilatus standing guard over this vast water basin create one of the most imposing sights in Europe. Stop in the old mountain village of **Stans** for the optional Swiss Mountain excursion , offering thrilling panoramic views by funicular and cable car. In the afternoon, visit Lucerne with its historic covered bridge and famous **Lion Monument**, commemorating the heroic deaths of Swiss soldiers who defended Louis XVI during the French Revolution. The rest of the day is yours to explore **Lucerne’s Old Town**, browse displays of delicious chocolates and wood-carved music boxes, or relax on the lovely lakeshore promenade. Before returning to your hotel for dinner, consider joining your tour manager for an optional Swiss Lake Boat Ride excursion on beautiful Lake Lucerne. (B,D)

Saturday, Sep. 27th - The church bells usher in another glorious day. Follow the **Swiss Autobahn** past Basel, where Switzerland, Germany and France meet. This is where the **Rhine River** becomes navigable before starting its approximate 700-mile run through Germany and on to the Atlantic seaport of Rotterdam, Holland. Crossing the border into **France**, the mountains give way to hilltop settlements and rustic vineyards. Make a mid-day lunch stop before continuing through the **Burgundy and Champagne wine regions** to Troyes. Your tour manager will offer a walk to the picturesque medieval town square where you may wish to try the local champagne at one of the sidewalk cafés. **(B,D)**

Sunday, Sep. 28th - After a mid-morning arrival in **Paris**, venture out on your own, or join the optional Seine River Cruise excursion, featuring some of the city's popular landmarks. Before you start your independent exploration, the tour manager will direct you to the location of principal sights such as **Place de la Concorde, Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame Cathedral, Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, Arc de Triomphe and Galeries Lafayette** department store. Tonight, join the optional Paris Evening excursion with dinner at a characteristic French bistro located in the heart of Paris. Or, choose your own location for an independent dinner. **(B)**

Monday, Sep. 29th - Travel north to **Belgium** and proceed to the **North Sea port of Antwerp**, known for its convivial atmosphere and delicate lacework. Explore the city center, with its historic buildings and quaint shops. Treat yourself to an irresistible Belgian waffle at one of the outdoor café on the city's attractive main square. This afternoon, enter **Holland**, also known as **The Netherlands**. Much of the country lies below sea level and is protected from flooding by an intricate system of canals, dikes and pumping stations. Many of the retired windmills, which initially accomplished this process, have been beautifully preserved and can be seen on the drive to your **South Holland** hotel **(B,D)**

Tuesday, Sep. 30th - Take advantage of the efficient bus and railway network to a myriad of interesting places, many of which are less than an hour away. Your tour manager will offer a full-day optional Grand Holland excursion, featuring the neatly-groomed countryside, a picturesque Dutch village, and a boat ride through the canals of historic **Amsterdam** showcasing the elegant bridges and 17th-century architecture. Choose from pancakes, seafood, or other Dutch specialties for your independent dinner. **(B)**

Wednesday, Oct. 1st - This morning, return to Germany and **travel on the Autobahn** (Expressway) to the **Rhine River Valley**. From **Boppard**, embark on a scenic boat ride on the Rhine River, one of Western Europe's most important waterways. Glide past endearing villages, hillside vineyards, medieval castles and fortresses. Pass by the legendary **Loreley Rock**, which is the subject of boatmen folklore about a bewitching siren. Your hotel is strategically located near Frankfurt Airport and provides a place to gather with your tour companions to toast a memorable holiday during a celebratory **"Farewell Dinner."** **(B,D)**

Thursday, Oct. 2nd - Your journey of Europe's scenic, cultural and historic highlights has come full circle. You will forever remember the many sights, sounds and tastes from this wondrous adventure. Transfer to the Frankfurt Rhein-Main Airport for your flight home. We sincerely hope you will return and experience more of Europe's treasures with Image Tours. Until we see you again — "Auf Wiedersehen!" **(B)**

Tour Price:

\$6190 Per Person Double
\$7685 Per Person Single
\$1000 Per Person Deposit
Final Payment Due June 1, 2025

Tour Inclusions:

- Accommodations in Hotels
- 13 Breakfasts & 8 Dinners
- Tour Manager
- Land Transportation in Europe by Motorcoach

For Information & Reservations

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Optional Excursions

Salzburg & Dinner

Transfer to Salzburg where a local guide will accompany you on an informative walking tour through Mirabell Gardens and the historic town center. You will have ample free time for lunch and to discover more of Salzburg's many treasures. Before returning to your hotel, stop for a traditional Austrian dinner at an alpine village restaurant.

Swiss Mountain

Reach the summit of Mount Stanserhorn (elevation 6,232 feet) by both cog-wheel train and the world's only open-top cable car. At the highest stop, enjoy the panoramic views from the terrace, take a walk along the paths, and snap pictures of the magnificent alpine vistas. This excursion is subject to favorable weather and cable car operation, and may be rescheduled or cancelled. In some cases, another mountain may be substituted.

Seine River Cruise

Glide along the Seine River by boat, while viewing the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Notre Dame Cathedral, and several other impressive sights in Paris. This excursion provides for excellent photo opportunities.

Grand Holland

Travel among the rural and urban landscapes which highlight the distinctive characteristics of Holland.

The day includes a panoramic tour of Amsterdam aboard a glass-topped boat. Also visit the picturesque Dutch village of Delft with an informative explanation on the craft behind the famous locally-made earthenware.

Venice

A private boat transfers you from the mainland, through the Venetian Lagoon, to the center of Venice. A guided walking tour provides an introduction to the history, culture and architecture before concluding with a visit to a glass-blowing workshop. If you have your heart set on gliding through the canals, the cost is about €45 per person based on up to six people sharing a gondola. This excursion includes dinner at a characteristic restaurant.

Swiss Lake Boat Ride

Board a steamer for a relaxing and scenic ride on Lake Lucerne. The lake borders four cantons (states) of Switzerland and, for this reason, is also known as Vierwaldstättersee ("Lake of the Four Forest Cantons"). Your cruise will provide splendid views of the surroundings, comprised of mountain cliffs rising up to 5,000 feet, picturesque villages, and gorgeous lakeside resort homes.

Seine River Cruise

Your French cuisine experience at a true Paris bistro is accompanied by roving musicians. Dinner includes wine or another beverage and features a tantalizing choice of French dishes. Your return motor coach ride will provide memorable impressions of the "City of Light".