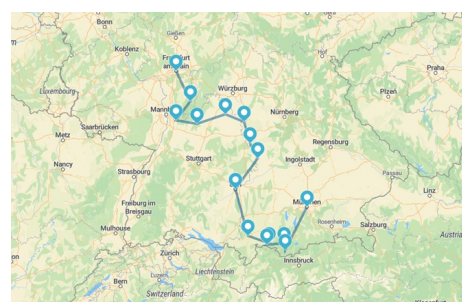




Germany, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Crossing between the Castle and Romantic Routes

If you want to explore the most emblematic places of the Romantic Road and at the same time visit some of the most important castles in Germany, then this is the tour for you. A fusion that will captivate you with its variety and its beauty. During our tour, we'll visit fortifications such as Heidelberg Castle, where we'll also be able to taste wines and see the world's largest barrel, which can hold 220,000 litres of wine. In Bad Mergentheim, we'll visit the Castle of the Teutonic Knights. And in Neuschwanstein, you'll discover one of the most romantic castles in Bavaria. Perched on a cliff is the building that inspired Walt Disney to recreate the castle of Sleeping Beauty. Is it possible to find a more magical place in the world? Our tour is full of unforgettable sights. One of them is the medieval city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber. And another is Heidelberg, said to be the most beautiful and romantic city in the country. In Dinkelsbühl, stroll among its colourful houses and enter what is said to be one of the most beautiful Baroque palaces in Germany. In Nördlingen, you'll be amazed to see how a wall and a city can be built on a meteorite crater of 25 kilometres in diameter. And in Ulm, you can touch the sky with your fingertips from the spire of its Cathedral, the highest in the world and known as "the finger of God." We'll pass through cities with more than 2,000 years of history and cross part of the German Alps, stopping off at some of the most picturesque and lively places en route such as Füssen, Oberammergau, Kempten and Garmisch-Partenkirchen. All starting from the modern and financial city of Frankfurt and ending in the ever-lively Munich. A journey of contemplation and reverie that will take you to the very best of Germany.



CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: London

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - FRANKFURT

Flight departure from the city of origin to Frankfurt and rental car pick-up. Get ready to discover the best-kept secrets in the beautiful region of Bavaria! Start your journey on German soil after dropping off your bags at your central hotel and familiarising yourself with the area. Depending on the time of arrival in Frankfurt, we suggest starting off with a stroll around the old quarter. Get lost as many times as you want because all the roads will take you to Römerberg, the city's bustling main square. This is home to the Town Hall which in turn is the seat of Der Römer, aka the Lord Mayor. A few minutes from here, the Dom St. Bartholomäus cathedral stands alongside other lay buildings. The first things that will strike you is its colour, as it was built in red sandstone, and its gigantic 96-metre spire that commands incredible views of most of the city... but only for those brave enough to climb the stairs all the way up! From here you'll be able to admire the Frankfurt skyline like nowhere else. You'll see why they call it the city of skyscrapers. Once you've admired the panorama, head back down for a dose of culture. This is another of the city's strong points, as there are lots of museums and many of them are the best of their kind in Europe. The Jewish Museum of Frankfurt is remarkable, but the most outstanding is the Städel Museum, where you can admire works by some of history's most renowned artists. There's no shortage of Picassos, Renoirs or Rembrandts. If you're travelling with children, your luck is in as you won't have to make any excuse to visit even more museums, and particularly the Kinder Museum, a space designed to fascinate the little ones. If that isn't enough, the zoo is very close by, or you could drive out to Hanau. If you're a fan of the Brothers Grimm, we won't have to tell you that it's their birthplace. Hanau is half an hour from Frankfurt and offers an enjoyable activity to experience with the family: the Fairy Tale Route. You'll see flags identifying the places that inspired the Brothers Grimm to write tales such as Little Red Riding Hood or the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Obviously, you can't visit the city without eating a Frankfurter sausage. Although it sounds very touristy, it's practically mandatory. If it's not your cup of tea, you could plump for some hearty cured pork chops. And there are also two classic drinks: either a good German beer or an Apfelwein, a low-alcohol drink made from apples. You could always head to the Zeil for some retail therapy before dinner. Overnight stay in Frankfurt.

DAY 2 · FRANKFURT - MICHELSTADT - HEIDELBERG

Bid farewell to Frankfurt and head south to the state of Hesse. Take the B45 for just over an hour and you'll reach Michelstadt, famous for its ivory-based craftsmanship which has given it prestige for the past few centuries. In the centre, you'll find the 500-year-old Town Hall, a stunning half-timbered building that dominates the lively Marktplatz. But its charm lies not only in this oft-snapped building, but also in its well-kept streets, with a quiet and relaxed atmosphere, perfect for strolling around or sitting on a terrace to enjoy a good beer. It's also worth visiting the Einhard Basilica, which once belonged to a farm and today can still be visited to view its Roman style immersed in the midst of nature. Our second destination today is Heidelberg, which lies in the Neckar River Valley. It's a beautiful university town, located on the Burgenstraße (Castle Route) and famous for its majestic castle. To get there, you'll have to head back onto the B45 for an hour and a quarter. It's famous for being one of the most beautiful, and also one of the most romantic, cities in Germany. What's more, this city has the privilege of being the site of the oldest university in Germany, dating back to 1386. As you can imagine, a student atmosphere reigns over the city. Interestingly enough, very close by is the former Studentenkarzer, a prison where wayward students were sent back in medieval times. Another neighbouring monument is Peterskirche, the oldest church in the city (12th century). This is also where'll you find the longest pedestrian street in the country, the Hauptstraße, which for almost two kilometres links the modern part of the city with the old quarter, crowned by the Karlstor, the beautiful city gate of Heidelberg. Nothing can beat a stroll down this boulevard to admire its historic buildings, such as the Haus zum Riesen or the Morais Palace, and discover its cute little shops. At the end of the street, you'll reach Marktplatz, home to the Heiliggeistkirche (Church of the Holy Spirit), the Town Hall, a fountain with a statue of Hercules and the Haus Zum Ritter, built in the late 16th century in a Renaissance style. This was one of the few buildings left standing after the city was destroyed in the 17th century. This square is the prime place to stop for a bite to eat, as it has many bars and restaurants. If you want to take the best pictures of the city and confirm that it really is as beautiful as they say, head over to the vantage points after the Karl-Theodor bridge, one of the symbols of Heidelberg, and walk up the Philosophenweg. From here, you'll see the city with the outline of its popular castle in the background and the River Neckar at your feet. If you want to reach the ruins of Heidelberg Castle, you'll find them directly opposite. From the towers to the moats or the courtyard, each section is truly majestic. And inside you'll discover the wine cellar where you can taste some local wines and see the world's largest barrel, the Grosses Fass, which can hold 220,000 litres of wine. (Note: To access the castle, you'll have to go up on the funicular. Admission not included). Overnight stay in Heidelberg.

DAY 3 · HEIDELBERG - CASTLE ROUTE (MOSBACH) - ROMANTIC ROUTE (BAD MERGENTHEIM - ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER)

We'll depart today eastbound from Heidelberg. After an hour's drive, we'll reach Mosbach. You can make a quick stop to stretch your legs at this beautiful town, famous for its old houses that are found around the Marktplatz. (Note: We recommend crossing the Neckar Valley along the Castle Route, if you didn't do so yesterday. Then you can venture into the Bergstraße-Odenwald Nature Park and reach the beautiful town of Mosbach). Then stay on the B292 up to Bad Mergentheim, a town on the banks of the River Tauber and which in ancient times was the seat of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, a community founded in the 12th century by German knights during the Third Crusade. Well worth a visit is the Castle, where you'll be able to see its Baroque chapel and the Museum of the Teutonic Order. Once in town, make sure you visit the Marktplatz, home to the Rathaus and several medieval houses deserving an odd photo or two. After this, take the L1020 for forty minutes and you'll arrive at Rothenburg ob der Tauber, one of the highlights of this tour. The Castle and Romantic Routes meet in this stunning world-famous jewel of the Middle Ages. A stroll around its cobbled streets, brimming with medieval half-timbered buildings, proves why it's one of the most magical places on this tour. Of course, its town walls are a must-see. They embrace the old quarter and still preserve the original drawbridge, so you imagine what it was like to be one of the knights protecting the fortress. Also amazing is the Alt-Rothenburger Handwerkerhaus, where artisans have their workshops today, and mostly have had for the house's 700-year-plus existence. You can easily spend an hour or so watching the craftsmen at work. Christmas lovers, regardless of whether it's winter or summer are also in for a treat in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, as it's home to the Käthe Wohlfahrt Weihnachtsdorf, a store with a huge selection of meticulously-designed Christmas decorations. There's also the Museum of Criminology, which exhibits devices used to torture citizens during the Middle Ages. Spine-tingling! Overnight stay in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

● DAY 4 · ROMANTIC ROUTE (ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER - DINKELSBÜHL - NÖRDLINGEN - ULM)

More stops on the German Romantic Route. Our first stop, and definitely one of the most picturesque, is the town of Dinkelsbühl, located in an area of vineyards on both sides of the River Main and whose fame lies in art and its quirky architecture. It's surrounded by a medieval wall, almost twenty lookout towers and four perfectly-preserved gates. One of its main attractions is the Würzburg Residenz, considered one of the most beautiful Baroque palaces in Germany and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Leave the car behind and explore its streets lined with colourful houses and then savour its famous wines, some local Wurst and Maultasche, a type of spinach and minced meat ravioli typical of the area. Half an hour south on the B25 is Nördlingen. The highlight of this town is its location. It sits in a crater of 25 kilometres in diameter that was created by a meteorite more than fifteen million years ago. It's something so unique that it earned the town the title of "Geopark", so it's well worth stopping off to see it. Its original fourteenth-century walls stand on the rim of the crater. And if you want to find out more about its history, you can visit the Rieskrater Museum and the Stadtmuseum. An hour's drive along the A7 will take you to Ulm, a canal town on the banks of the Danube.

Despite being devastated by the war, Ulm was rebuilt preserving traditional elements alongside über-modern buildings such as Richard Meier's groundbreaking Stadthaus (a milestone of modern architecture), the glass pyramid that houses the Municipal Library, or the moving façade of the Obere Stube. The town a prime example of contrasts and regeneration. Although if one element stands out above the others, it's the Cathedral. The reason is obvious the minute you look up at it. Its spire is the highest in the world. This is possibly where its nickname 'the finger of God' comes from. Although it's not the only tower in Ulm. There are two more. They are the Goose Tower and the Butcher's Tower. Legend has it that some butchers locked themselves inside and deceived the town by mixing meat with sawdust in the sausages they made. When the mayor entered the tower, all the butchers scrambled to one side and this is why it's said to be 'the leaning tower of Ulm'. Pure myth, though, as it was actually built in a marshy area.

(Note: Günzburg, a town near Ulm, is home to the Legoland theme park. Admission not included).

Overnight stay in Ulm.

● DAY 5 · ROMANTIC ROUTE (ULM - KEMPTEN - NEUSCHWANSTEIN - FÜSSEN)

Yet another day to continue enjoying the Romantic Road. Kempten is our destination today, an hour to the south on the A7. We're going to venture into the heart of the pre-Alpine region of Allgäu, in Swabia, with its wonderful landscapes of meadows, mountains and forests. Kempten, our final stop, is one of the oldest towns in Germany (with 2,000 years of history) and also one of the largest in the German Alps. You'll instantly discover Bavarian hospitality in this town at the foot of the Allgäu hills, ideal for excursions, sports or relaxing dips in its beautiful lakes. There's a lively yet laid-back atmosphere here, with bars and restaurants that are always full in summer. When winter arrives, though, the centre stage is taken by its charming Christmas market, which is very popular with families. A must-visit is the Rathausplatz, where you'll see medieval, Baroque and Late Baroque buildings. A forty-minute drive on the A7 will then take you to the area of Schwangau, home to the famous Neuschwanstein Castle, one of the most popular and romantic castles in the whole of Bavaria. Its majestic outline inspired Walt Disney to recreate the castle of Sleeping Beauty, one of the best-known fairy tales of all. Its nickname is the Mad King's Castle, referring to no other than King Ludwig II of Bavaria, who had it built in the 19th century because he wanted this magical building to become his holiday retreat. Visiting this castle will whisk you off into a world of imagination and reverie, as its location and design are simply breathtaking. It stands on a cliff surrounded by trees as if it were a minaret in the midst of nature. And what nature! No other than the Tyrolean Alps. The interior is equally stunning. It boasts 200 rooms, including the Throne Hall or the Singers' Hall, the largest of all, and even the first mobile phone in history! One of its main attractions are the paintings which inspired Wagner to compose his world-famous operas. Lose yourself in this castle and you'll feel like a character in a fairy tale. (Note: Admission not included. You're not allowed to drive up to it, so you'll have to leave your car at the nearest car park. There are then three options to reach the castle itself: enjoy a ride in a horse and carriage, take the bus, or walk up for around 45 minutes. Don't forget to buy tickets beforehand if you decide to walk; otherwise you won't be able to get in. For security reasons, you can only visit it on a guided tour). Before arriving, it's worth stopping on the Marienbrücke, a steel bridge that links two mountains and from where you'll get the best views of Neuschwanstein and its lakes. Our last stop today is Füssen, one of the liveliest towns in the German Alps. As for things to do here, make sure you take a stroll along its main street, the Reichenstraße. It is pedestrianised and full of life seven days a week. There are loads of shops and restaurants, as well as a great deal of history. It stands on the Roman Via Augusta and ends in the Ritterstraße square. You'll easily spot it because there's a huge statue of King St. Magnus. It's also worth checking out the Town Hall and admiring its balconies. And if you want to see even more castles, have a look at the Hohes Schloss in Füssen. Overnight stay in Füssen.

DAY 6 · FÜSSEN - LINDERHOF - OBERAMMERGAU - GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN

Bid farewell to Füssen and say hello to Linderhof. The main attraction here is its palace and again we should thank King Ludwig II for his obsession about perfection. This included his desire to build truly unique buildings or to sponsor artists such as Richard Wagner and become his main supporter. This fervour for beauty is reflected in and around the palace, with it widely considered to be a true gem of German architecture. With clear influences of the Palace of Versailles, it's the only one that Ludwig II saw completed before his death. When you go inside, don't even think about taking out your phone or camera as photographs are strictly forbidden. This means you should fully explore it, because all you'll be taking home are memories. When you finish inside, head back outside and wander around the gardens, the Venus Grotto or the Moorish Kiosk. It's a homage to the hedonism of sight. But set aside some of your visual curiosity for the next stop of Oberammergau, a laid-back and picturesque town nestled in a valley at the foot of the Alps. In winter, it's surrounded by snow-capped mountains, while throughout the rest of the year it veers between lush green and autumnal brown. But the kaleidoscope of colours is always perfect. Our tip is to leave your map in the car and simply wander around. This way, you'll discover each of the paintings that adorn most of the town's façades. You'll see depictions of biblical scenes, fairy tales such as Little Red Riding Hood or Hansel and Gretel, and one particular façade that we adore. It's known as Pilatushaus and is truly amazing, because it is so meticulously designed that you'll think it's a work in three dimensions. As for what to take home... no doubt: wooden figurines. You'll see them in every shop window.

They're true works of art and there must be a space in your home for one. The last stop of the day is Garmisch-Partenkirchen, divided by train tracks. You have to use tunnels to cross from one side to the other. As in Lenggries, the primary source of income is tourism. Seasonal winter tourism, though, when the roofs are blanketed in snow and you can take advantage of the wonderful ski slopes. And it's also famous for the traditional New Year's Ski Jumping that takes place every year as part of the Four Hills Tournament. You might well have seen it on the TV after ringing in the New Year! In summer, the best thing is to enjoy the mountains for hiking and climbing. This is also where you'll find Zugspitze, the highest peak in Germany at 2,962 metres. (Note: If you have time, we recommend a brief stop in Ettal to admire its majestic monastery).

Overnight stay in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

DAY 7 · GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN - MUNICH

Today, we'll have just an hour's drive on the A95 before reaching one of Germany's major cities. Welcome to Munich, the capital of Bavaria! We've designed a one-day itinerary of all the must-dos. Tomorrow, depending on the time of your flight, you can finish anything you don't get to see. Where else to start off from than Marienplatz? This square contains three major sights: the buildings known as Neues Rathaus and Altes Rathaus and, of course, the Column of St. Mary. After this, and to get an overview of the city, there's no better location than the spire of St. Peterskirche. From here, you'll get a jaw-dropping view of Munich and some wonderful photos, especially on a clear day. If you like religious art, our suggestions include the Cathedral, St. Kajetan's and St. Michael's. If you're a real foodie, in Munich you can taste a wide variety of Weisswürste (white sausages cooked with a bit of Bavarian mustard) and beers. This city is one of the beer capitals of the world, hence the sheer popularity of the Oktoberfest. In Munich, there are beer halls with capacity for more than 5,000 people and, of course, much smaller ones. You choose the type of entertainment you want to accompany your drink or meal. If you're more into strolling around and admiring the best gardens in town, don't miss the Englischer Garten. It's a spectacular garden and so meticulously manicured. The River Eisbach flows very close to this park. Head over to the bridge and open your eyes wide. Oh yes. What you're seeing is real. There are people surfing! Munich has an astonishing adventurous side. Where else could you surf in the heart of the city? But don't put away your camera yet, because if you're a petrolhead, you've come to the right place. Head over to BMW Welt and delve into the history of this prestigious German car brand. It's right next to the factory, so you'll never have seen so many BMWs in your life. However, if cars aren't your thing and you were looking forward to reaching Munich to visit museums, then take note of these names: the Deutsches Museum, any of the Pinakotheks and the Glyptothek. As for dinner, and when you know the dates of your trip, find out the on-trend restaurants and book a table sooner rather than later. You won't be disappointed. Overnight stay in Munich.

● DAY 8 · MUNICH - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Frankfurt.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Frankfurt.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Heidelberg.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Heidelberg.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Ulm.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Ulm.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Füssen.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Füssen.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Garmisch Partenkirchen.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Garmisch Partenkirchen.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Munich.
- ✓ Insolvency protection.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Frankfurt direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Munich direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.

Destinations Visited

Frankfurt



Michelstadt



Heidelberg



Mosbach



Bad Mergentheim



Rothenburg ob der Tauber



Dinkelsbühl



Nördlingen



Ulm



Kempten



Schwangau



Füssen



Oberammergau



Garmisch Partenkirchen



Munich



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.