

NEW YEAR IN BAVARIA

7 NOSTALGIC DAYS – LUZERN TO FRANKFURT – ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

IMAGINE... New Year's Eve in the mountains of Bavaria enjoying a firework display with a backdrop of two, classic illuminated castles. Commencing in Luzern, some of the highlights include Lindau on Lake Constance, enchanting Fussen, Oberammergau, and magical, medieval Rothenburg. Now add Ludwig's Fairytale castles and Bavarian lakeside villages, the Romantic Road, Nurnberg and much, much more. What a way to spend New Year!



Luzern

DAY 1 - 28 DECEMBER LUZERN

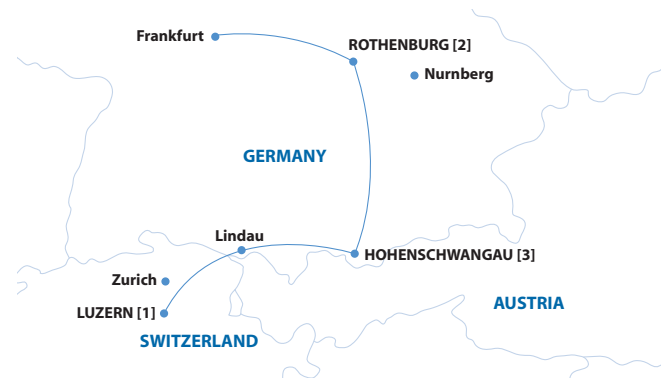
This 'New Year in Bavaria' tour has been specially designed to start in Luzern as your Christmas Tour ends. The day is free in this delightful lakeside town with its covered wooden bridges and excellent shopping promenades. Dine in style this evening. Your Welcome Dinner will be fine dining at the Hotel Schweizerhof but first enjoy a Welcome Drink in the hotel bar. (D)

Your Luzern Hotel - Hotel Schweizerhof. The Schweizerhof is distinguished by five generations of family tradition, a historical building with historical decor. This 5 star hotel located on the banks of the Lake, in the heart of Luzern's old town, is one of Switzerland's finest hotels featuring grand ballrooms, columns and colonnades and ornate ceilings. The stunning interior reflects the brilliance of the grand era of the 19th Century. Hotel Schweizerhof has played host to Emperors and Kings alike and was the meeting place of the famous composer Wagner & King Ludwig II. You will be charmed by the rooms which are discreetly elegant whilst being equipped with all the modern facilities required to ensure your comfort and enjoyment by day and night.

DAY 2 - 29 DECEMBER HOHENSCHWANGAU, BAVARIAN ALPS

Crossing Switzerland we enter Germany and make a stop in Lindau on Lake Bodensee (Constance). This beautifully preserved island town is complete with medieval lighthouses and cobble stoned streets. Later this afternoon we continue to the tiny village of Hohenschwangau where we stay for the next three nights. What a setting! On one hill overlooking the village you have the neo-Gothic Castle of Hohenschwangau and on the other side above the village is a wooded mountain spur and Neuschwanstein - the Fairytale Castle of 'Mad' King Ludwig. To complete the picture there's a beautiful lake not far from the hotel doorstep. On arrival we have arranged a Bavarian Welcome Drink before dinner in your charming hotel. (B, D)

Your Bavarian Hotel - The Hotel Muller. Your First Class hotel is in the most enchanting of settings. Old-style wood panelling, octagonal restaurant and Wintergarden both with castle views, veranda with open fireplace and views of Castle Hohenschwangau, Coachman's Room, cocktail lounge - the list goes on. Most rooms have views of one of the two castles and all have private facilities, telephone, TV.



DAY 3 - 30 DECEMBER HOHENSCHWANGAU, BAVARIAN ALPS

Boarding your horse and carriage right outside your hotel you will ride up through the wooded road to visit Neuschwanstein Castle. On arrival you will enjoy a guided tour inside the King's apartments, staterooms, halls and throne room, all reminiscent of a Wagner operatic saga. Around midday we take you to the nearby town of Fussen to take lunch at leisure. Stretches of the original Roman defensive walls are still in place, and the town's historic character is particularly evident along the cobbled Reichenstrasse. High above, the old castle of the Prince-Bishops of Augsburg dominates the town. In the afternoon we will also visit the neo-Gothic Hohenschwangau Castle. Rich in history, you will find the interior typical of the Castles of the Knights of the Middle Ages, with its 'Hall of Heroes', paintings and suits of armour. (B, D)

DAY 4 - 31 DECEMBER HOHENSCHWANGAU, BAVARIAN ALPS

A wonderful day in the mountains! Our first stop this morning is at the richly decorated Wieskirche (Church in the Meadows) with its incredible painted ceilings. Later we stop at the Passion Play village of Oberammergau with its ornately painted houses. Once every ten years this village stages a world famous Passion Play and we have included a guided tour through the Passion Play Theatre. Next stop is at Kloster Ettal. This monastery in a lovely shaded valley dates back over 700 years and is one of the finest examples of Rococo architecture in existence. Returning to our hotel mid afternoon we get ready for our special New Year's Eve dinner which is followed by an excellent, village firework display set with a backdrop of the two, illuminated famous castles. (B, D)

DAY 5 - 1 JANUARY ROTHENBURG O.D.T.

Happy New Year! Sleep in and relax. Breakfast is at leisure. Mid Morning we depart for Rothenburg via Ulm where you will have time for lunch and to visit the cathedral with the tallest steeple in the world. We then continue up part of the Romantische Strasse (Romantic Road) to picture perfect Rothenburg -the finest medieval city in all Europe - with its delightful cobbled stone streets, ramparts and turrets. Later, before dinner, we have



Rothenburg



Neuschwanstein above your New Year Village

Photo courtesy – Paul Maughan

included a special treat - a torchlight tour with the Night Watchman through the beautifully preserved ramparts and winding streets. (B, D)

Your Rothenburg Hotel - Tilman Riemenschneider. This splendid old, half timbered hotel is superbly located inside the medieval walls barely 50 paces from the central market square. The hotel offers restaurants traditionally decorated with original paintings and wooden carvings and rooms with individually painted alpine-inspired furniture, private facilities, cable TV and hair dryers. On the Web? Have a look at the hotel on <http://www.tilman-riemenschneider.de>

DAY 6 - 2 JANUARY ROTHENBURG O.D.T

We have included a morning excursion to medieval Nurnberg with its massive stone towers and gates. Once the setting for enormous Nazi rallies and the War Crimes trials, we visit the massive rally grounds before taking a walk through the old city with its extensive pedestrian walkways. Returning to Rothenburg mid-afternoon you will have ample time to relax and go shopping. Make a point of walking through the world famous 'Christmas Shop' nearby which is known for its stunning displays. Huge Christmas Trees, detailed festive scenes and even a Christmas Pyramid - the height of a two storey house. A walk around the intact city walls and ramparts is a must. Later, enjoy your Farewell dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 - 3 JANUARY TO FRANKFURT

This morning we depart Rothenburg and arrive into Frankfurt around midday. We will be making stops at the airport, central railway station and if possible other points. Regarding onward travel, note we will not arrive into Frankfurt until approximately midday. Please ensure that any onward travel arrangements you make are not confirmed for travel prior to 3pm. Sadly, after dropping everyone off, your very special New Year tour will be complete. (B)

Albatross gives you more...

Highlights

- Medieval Lindau on Lake Constance
- Horse and carriage ride to Neuschwanstein Castle
- Neo-Gothic Hohenschwangau Castle
- New Year in the Bavarian Alps
- Cobble stoned streets of Rothenburg
- Picturesque Fussen
- Ulm Cathedral – tallest steeple in the world
- Richly decorated Wieskirche – Church in the Meadows
- New Years Eve dinner and fireworks
- Old city of Nurnberg
- Kloster Ettal Monastery
- The Passion Play town of Oberammergau
- Nightwatchman tour in Rothenburg

Inclusions

- All sightseeing, scenic drives and excursions described in the itinerary
- Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
- Luxury touring coach for excursions and touring
- End of tour tips to Tour Manager, drivers and guides
- 6 nights accommodation
- Hotel portorage (1 bag per person)
- Full buffet breakfasts daily
- 6 dinners including a Welcome Dinner and Gala Dinner with dancing on New Year's Eve
- Tea and coffee with all dinners
- Welcome drink in Luzern and Hohenschwangau
- Nightwatchman tour in Rothenburg and horse and carriage ride to the Fairytale Castle
- Entrance and guided tours through Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau Castles and the Passion Play theatre

Tour Price

7 days only **\$2,679** pp twin share
Single supplement \$489 (land only prices)



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Less time on coaches, average 163 kms travelled each day



Over \$1,200 value of extras already included no hidden costs



Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers

...come share our love of Europe