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15 Days

15 Day Heart of Europe® Tour

 22 Sep 2027 - 06 Oct 2027

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About This Trip

Heart of Europe®** Tour

PRICES LISTED GOOD UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

s for an unforgettable journey through Europe's most popular destinations, crafted for a truly enriching travel experience. Our's **highest elevation** is 3,855 feet in the St. Gotthard Tunnel, with some routes reaching 6,919 feet and Swiss hotels at 10,000 feet. **Walking Expectations:** "Active" - An average of 3 1/2 miles per day often encountering uneven surfaces, steps and inclines. The tour includes a Rhine River boat ride past castles and vineyards and a walk along Rothenburg's medieval wall. Sip at the Hofbräuhaus beer hall. Enjoy views of the Alps from an Austrian chalet, marvel at Paris's architectural triumphs, and wear traditional Dutch wooden shoes.

Steps Unlimited Partner Tour

This tour is operated by our trusted partner, **Image Tours**, a company specializing in European travel since **1939**. Their decades of experience and expertise in Europe allow us to offer this itinerary with confidence.

Steps Unlimited is a guaranteed departure. Because this is an Image Tours operated program, there may not be a member of the Steps Unlimited team traveling with the group. Once in Europe, your tour will be operated and managed by Image Tours and their experienced European tour staff.

Flight Options

We have flexibility when it comes to your flights. You may **book your own airfare** or choose to have your airfare arranged through **Steps Unlimited Tours**.

The airfare price shown with this tour is based on departure from **Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR)**. If you would like to depart from another airport, we will be happy to request and verify the current airfare available from your preferred home airport. Airfare must be confirmed before booking and may vary depending on your departure city and flight availability.

Activity Level: ACTIVE

Travelers should pay particular attention to the activity level when considering this tour. This itinerary is rated **ACTIVE** and is best suited for travelers who are comfortable with a significant amount of walking.

Travelers should expect to walk an average of approximately **3½ miles per day**, often over **uneven surfaces and cobblestone streets, stairs, steps and inclines**. Christmas markets and historic European city centers are wonderful to explore on foot, but they can also involve extended periods of standing and walking.

Some locations in Austria may be located at elevations of up to approximately **3,500 feet**.

If you are comfortable with an active pace, this is a spectacular way to experience Europe's most popular destinations!

Insurance Information: [Assure Tour & Cruise – TripAssure – Book. Protect. Enjoy.](#)

Overnight Flight to Europe

Wednesday, September 22



Today begins your HEART OF EUROPE® adventure. Relax on your transatlantic flight.

GERMANY . . Arrival at Frankfurt Airport - Schriesheim

Thursday, September 23



As morning dawns, the European coastline comes into view. Communicating is no problem as English is widely spoken. Take a break in Frankfurt's charming Old Town to start your introduction to Germany, and enjoy time for lunch before heading to your hotel in the village of Schriesheim. This evening, get to know your fellow travelers over a "Welcome to Europe" dinner at the hotel.

 **Dinner Included**

GERMANY . . Heidelberg – Rhine River – Schriesheim

Friday, September 24



A morning drive brings you to the scenic Rhine River Valley for a boat ride, taking you past endearing villages, hillside vineyards, medieval castles and fortresses. You'll also pass by the legendary Loreley Rock, which is the subject of boatmen folklore about a bewitching siren. Pause for an independent lunch before continuing to the renowned university town of Heidelberg. Situated on the Neckar River and dominated by its red sandstone castle ruins, Heidelberg is considered by many to embody the spirit of Germany. Sample German specialties during an independent dinner before returning to your hotel.

Breakfast Included

GERMANY . . Rothenburg – Nuremberg – Bavaria

Saturday, September 25

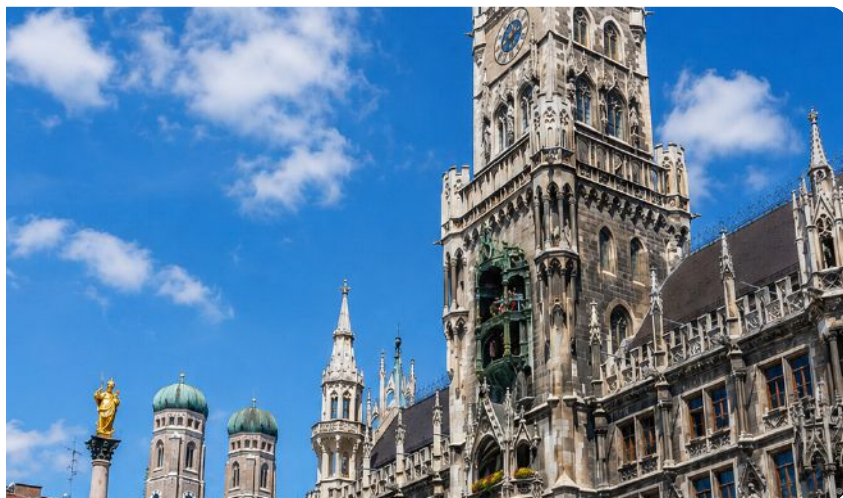


The route this morning takes you along the Autobahn (Expressway) to the northern section of the "Romantic Road," known for its unspoiled countryside, ancient castles and storybook villages. Spend a few hours in Rothenburg, a beautifully preserved medieval village, surrounded by its original defensive wall. 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 wall for a bird's-eye view of the town and the lovely landscape in the valley beyond. This afternoon, following a brief visit to Nuremberg, make your way to your hotel in the scenic and festive state of Bavaria.

Breakfast & Dinner Included

GERMANY . . Munich & AUSTRIA . . Tyrolean Village

Sunday, September 26



Take in Munich's landmarks as you drive into Bavaria's capital. There will be time to explore the Marienplatz (central square) with its unique Glockenspiel (clock tower). For a taste of Oktoberfest, stop by 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.

Breakfast & Dinner Included

AUSTRIA . . Tyrolean Village

Monday, September 27



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 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.

Breakfast Included

AUSTRIA . . Innsbruck & ITALY . . Lake Garda – Verona

Tuesday, September 28



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 lake front, browse the quaint markets, or enjoy a gelato (Italian ice cream). 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.

Breakfast Included

ITALY . . Verona

Wednesday, September 29



Today is yours to absorb the Italian art, architecture, music and overall romantic atmosphere at your own pace. Explore Verona and its nearly 2,000-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 on the shore while sipping a Campari or Cappuccino. Another choice for today is to join the optional *Venice* excursion (see Optional Excursions) 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 captivating ambiance will surely leave an everlasting impression. At the end of the day, return to your Verona area hotel.

 **Breakfast Included**

SWITZERLAND . . Lake Lugano – Swiss Alps

Thursday, September 30



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.

 **Breakfast & Dinner Included**

SWITZERLAND . . Stans – Lucerne – Swiss Alps

Friday, October 1



A morning drive through William Tell country uncovers impressive Lake Lucerne. The soaring mountain peaks of Rigi and Pilatus stand guard over this vast water basin creating one of the most imposing sights in Europe. Stop in the old mountain village of Stans for the optional *Swiss Mountain* excursion (see Optional Excursions), offering thrilling panoramic views by funicular and cable car. In the afternoon, visit Lucerne with its historic covered Chapel bridge and famous Lion Monument, commemorating the deaths of heroic Swiss soldiers who died defending 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.

FRANCE . . Champagne Region - Troyes

Saturday, October 2



The church bells usher in another glorious day. Follow the Swiss Autobahn past Basel, where Switzerland, Germany and France meet. Here, the Rhine River becomes navigable as it starts its approximate 700-mile run through Germany and on to the Atlantic seaport of Rotterdam, The Netherlands. 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 can try the local champagne over an independent dinner at one of the many sidewalk cafes.

 **Breakfast Included**

FRANCE ... Paris

Sunday, October 3



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

Breakfast Included

BELGIUM . . Antwerp & THE NETHERLANDS . . Holland

Monday, October 4



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 cafés on the city's attractive main square. This afternoon, enter the Netherlands (Nederland) which means "low lands". 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 were once used for this purpose, have been beautifully preserved and can be seen on the drive to your hotel in the region of Holland. With only one more day of tour ahead, gather with your fellow travelers to toast to a memorable holiday during a celebratory "Farewell Dinner."

Breakfast & Dinner Included

THE NETHERLANDS ... Holland

Tuesday, October 5



With the aid of an efficient public transport network, you have a full day to explore any Dutch city of your choosing. For a comprehensive sightseeing experience, your Tour Manager will offer a full-day optional *Gra Holland* excursion (see Optional Excursions), 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.

Breakfast Included

Daytime flight back to U.S.A.

Wednesday, October 6



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 Amsterdam Schiphol Airport for your flight home. Until we see you again — "Tot Ziens!"

Breakfast Included

What's Included

Included

Accommodations in Superior Tourist Class or First Class hotels

13 Breakfasts and 6 Dinners in addition to any in-flight meals

Not Included

✕ Gratuities for tour director and driver

✕ Meals not listed

- Tour Manager for the full duration of the tour within Europe
- Land and Transportation in Europe by deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach
- Land and Transportation in Europe by deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach
- Baggage Handling at hotels, where available
- Image Tours Touroclopedia® preparation tips
- Trip Documents with final details and travel guidance

- ✕ Personal purchases and souvenirs
- ✕ Travel insurance (recommended)

Book Your Trip

Double Occupancy

2 People 1 bed or 2 beds

\$300 Non-refundable Deposit per person

\$6,690.00 USD per person

Book now

Single Occupancy

Private Room

\$300 Non-refundable Deposit per person

\$6,185.00 USD per person

Book now