MOMENTS on the road

Around the Heart of Europe (14 Days)





BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

Welcome!

We love road journeys. They are by far our favourite way of traveling. And when we're in the mood for spoiling ourselves with fine food and delightful hotels besides the sheer pleasure of being on some of the world's best roads, we turn to Europe!

Few regions within Europe offer as much variety of landscapes, cultures and roads as that which you will travel through on this journey. From the beautiful countryside of southern Austria and Slovenia to the drama of the Dolomites and the Swiss Alps; from the elegance of Salzburg to the mystery of the Black Forest, this itinerary will take you right to the heart of Europe.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to share with you we've come to love ourselves so much...now turn the page to see what we have in store for you. May every day be filled with colourful anticipation and unforgettable memories.

Yours truly,







Table of contents

Itinerary Map

Journey of Discovery

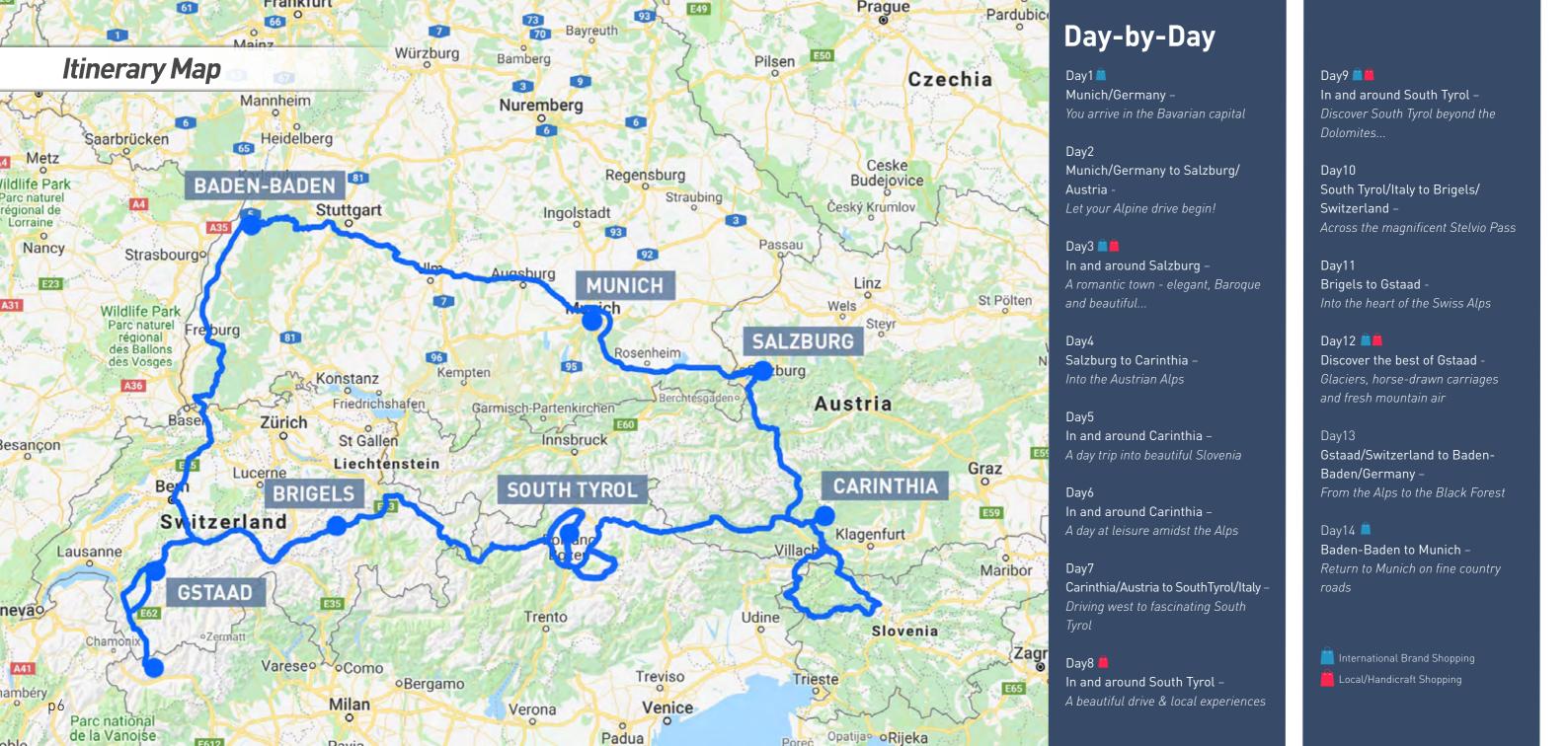
Day by Day

Choice of Cars

Local Cuisine

What's Included/When to Travel

Photo credits





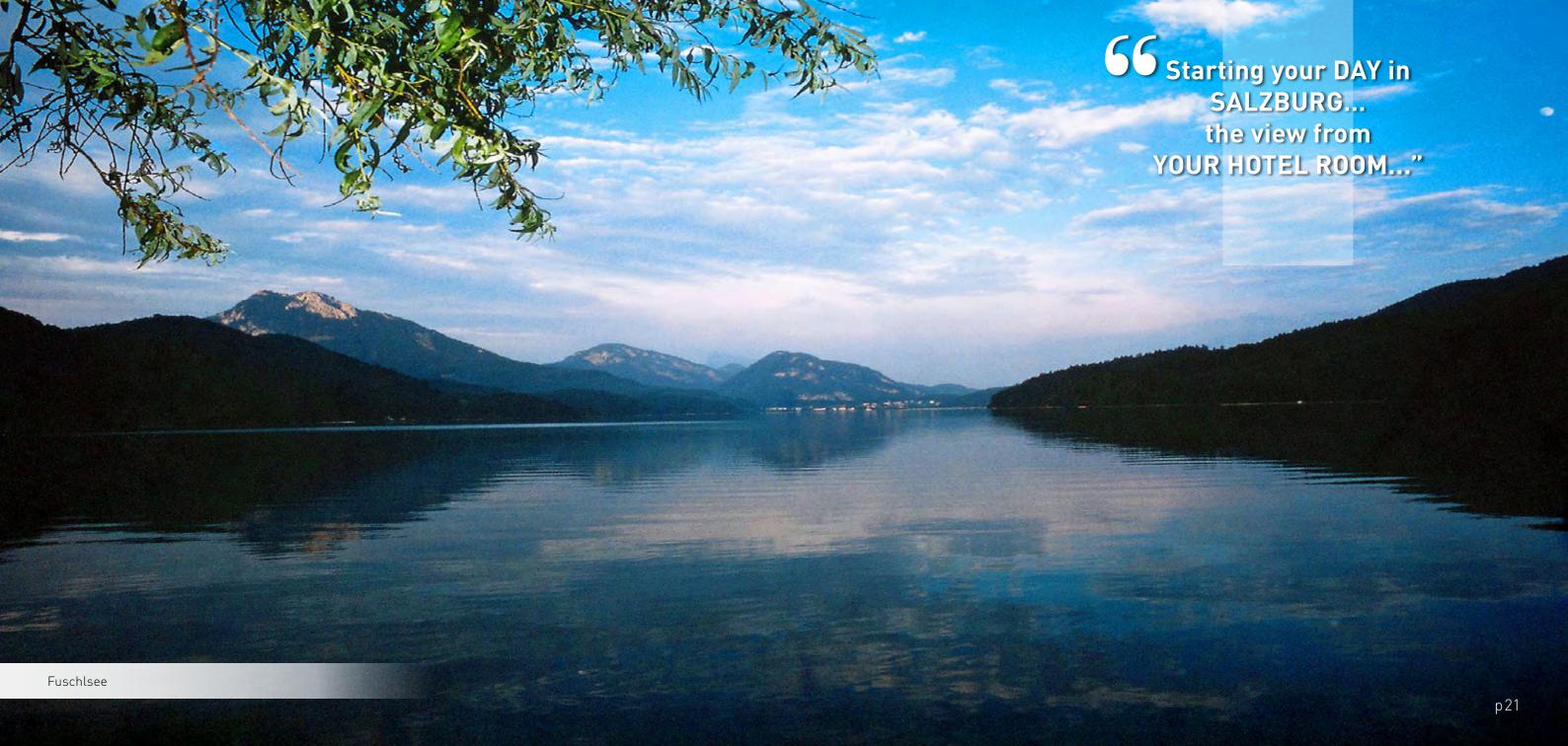






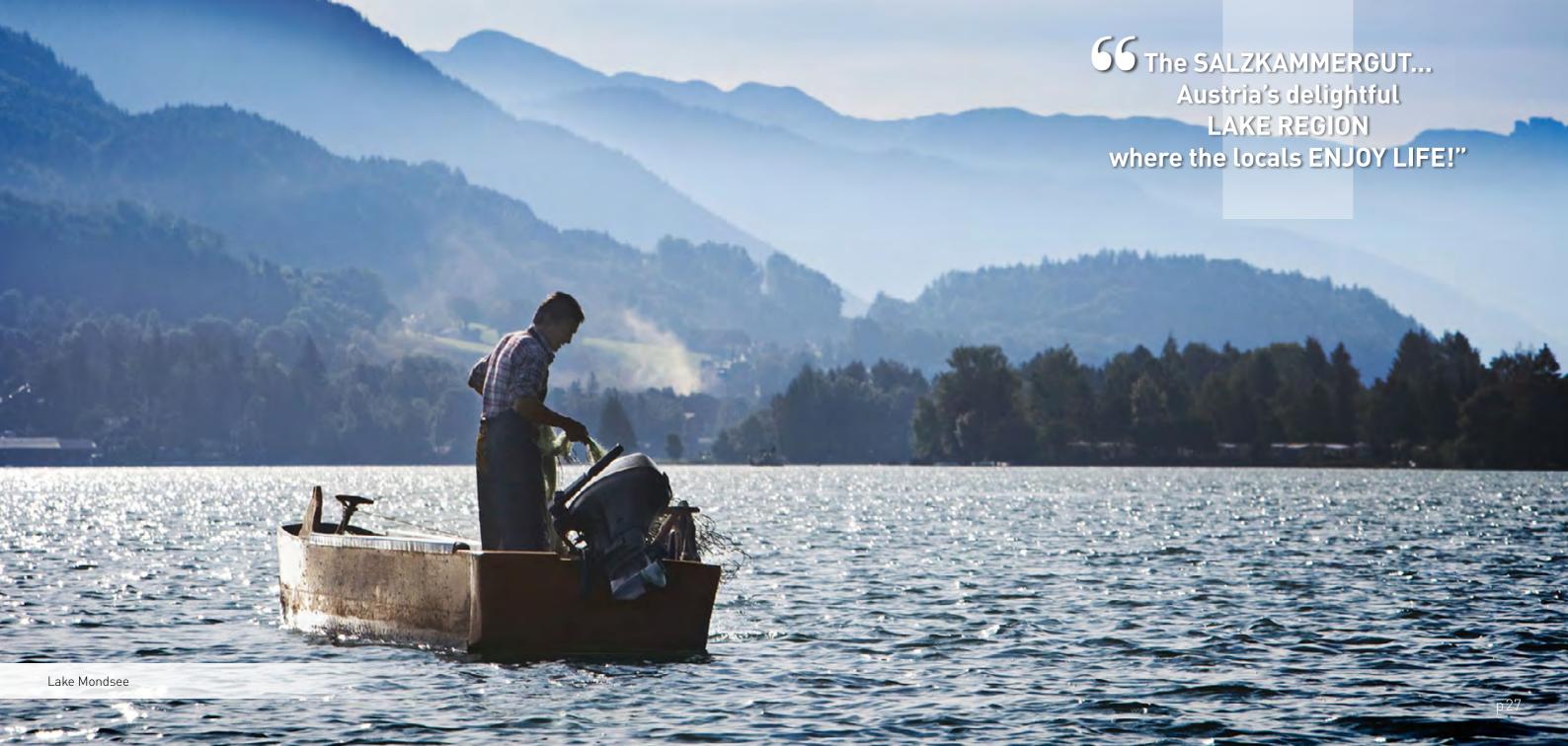
































































Day 1

Arrive in Munich as per your

As the cultural capital of Bavaria, Munich is home to many museums and interesting sights, but is perhaps best known for Oktoberfest, a celebration of Bavarian culture - and the region's beer! If your trip falls in September or early October, you will be able to join in the revelry. At other times of year our local host will help you to experience the best of Bavaria in other ways!



Distance: 0 km **Duration:** 0 hours

Hotel

A 5* hotel in the historic city centre (*****)





Day 2 Let your Alpine drive begin!

This morning we will complete the car hand-over process, and you will be ready to set out on the roads of Europe!

After navigating our way out of Munich you will have the opportunity to enjoy the German Autobahn, as it winds through the Bavarian countryside towards Salzburg. If time permits, we can visit a gem of an automobile museum before stopping for lunch on the shore of Lake Chiemsee.

In the afternoon, motorists have another treat in store, on the Rossfeld Panoramastrasse. site of a famous hill race. You will find this a wonderful introduction to driving amongst these glorious mountains.

Your hotel for the next two

nights will be a beautiful hotel housed in a castle in the heart of the Salzkammergut, Salzburg's Lake District.

Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 245km **Duration:** 4-5 hours

Hotel

A luxurious lakeside castle outside Salzburg (*****)







own arrangements. Our team will be there to meet you, and to transfer you to your hotel. After checking in, we will arrange the day's itinerary to suit your interests.

Day 3 A romantic town, elegant, Baroque and beautiful

"Salzburg with its surroundings is – alongside Rio de Janeiro and Constantinople – one of the most beautiful urban regions in the world!" Even today, the words of Alexander von Humboldt, world-famous traveler and scientist of the late 19th century, ring true.

Today, after you drive to the outskirts of Salzburg, we have arranged a horse-drawn carriage ride into the heart of the city, then a guided tour of Salzburg's highlights, a private Mozart concert, and local and international shopping opportunities.

In the late afternoon, you will drive back to your hotel. After a short rest, we will take you to a superb local restaurant only a few minutes from your hotel.





Day 4 Into the Austrian Alps

Today begins with a short drive beside some of the Salzkammergut's most beautiful lakes and a visit to Bad Ischl, the Austro-Hungarian Emperor's summer residence for many years.

Then, we would like to introduce you to one of Austria's finest *konditoreis* - their desserts and pastries are to die for!

In the afternoon, you will drive through the charming Austrian countryside and into the Austrian Alps.

Your accommodation for the next three nights is a boutique hotel in the midst of Alpine meadows and pineforests.
The hotel is built in the style of traditional Austrian mountain homes - rustic from the outside, but with all modern amenities on the inside, making it a true gem of a hotel.





Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 230 km **Duration:** 4 hours

Hotel

A charming boutique hotel in a rural location(****)



Day 5 A day trip into beautiful Slovenia

There are many things to do in and around your beautiful hotel. So, you may be tempted to enjoy the hotel and its surroundings in the mountains of Austria's Carinthia province. While Carinthia is a tempting place to linger, today we will also arrange an exciting (and optional) excursion into northwest Slovenia.

This corner of Slovenia is home to the country's only national park, the Triglavski National Park, which centres on the country's highest mountain (2844m). The Park is a region of unspoiled beauty and gorgeous roads.

We have arranged lunch with a local family - a unique opportunity to try authentic Slovenian home-cooking - and a special afternoon experience for you, before we loop back to Austria on a different road.



Day 6 A day at leisure amidst the Alps

Today you will have several options for how to spend the day.

The first is to stay in and around your hotel, enjoying the hotel spa and other facilities.

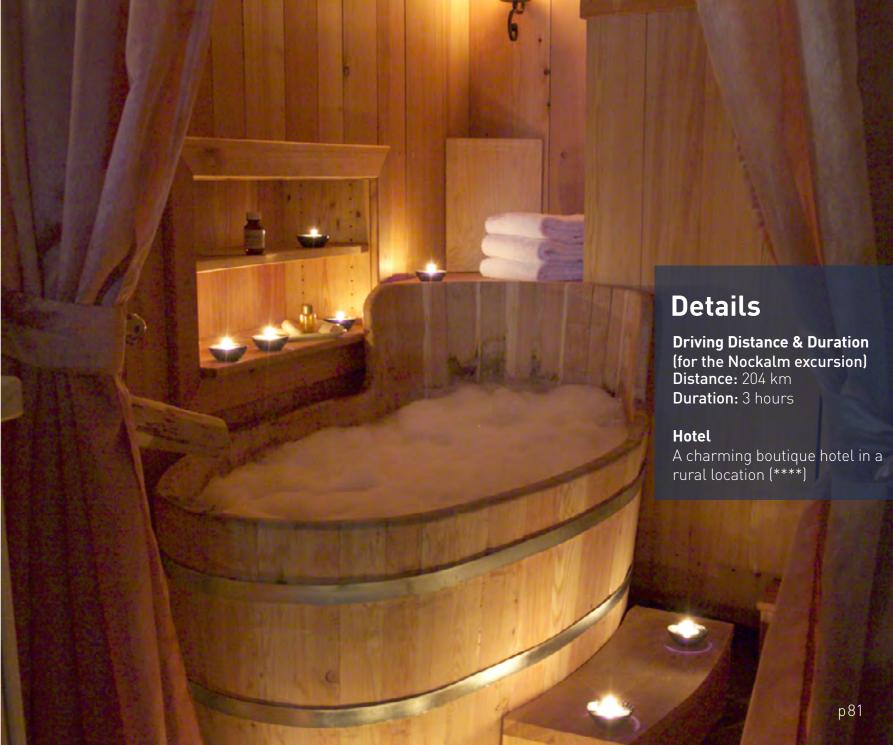
The second, more active, option is to go hiking or biking. There are plenty of excellent trails in the immediate vicinity of the hotel, and our team will be happy to advise you.

Keen motorists may wish to join a drive along one of Austria's most scenic roads, the Nockalm Panoramastrasse. This road packs 52 hairpin turns into its modest 35km length, as it winds through the rounded hills of the Nockberg National Park. Your destination is a privately-owned Porsche museum in Gmund, making it a full half-day excursion.









Day 7 Driving west to fascinating South Tyrol

Today you will enter a region called Tyrol that is centered in the west of today's Austria. Nowadays, Tyrol is divided into three parts, two of which – Tyrol and East Tyrol – remain within the borders of Austria. The third is South Tyrol: it became the northern-most province of Italy after the World War I.

From Carinthia you will drive due west through a valley with the Central Alps to your right, and the Southern Alps on your left. The roads are excellent and a joy to drive.

As we enter South Tyrol after lunch, you will sense that we have entered a different world, where Alpine ruggedness and Mediterranean flair combine.

Once in South Tyrol we will have a choice between two routes

- one shorter, the other longer but more scenic. We will decide which to use on the day itself.

Once in Merano, a small town surrounded by high peaks, you will drive to your hotel, located on a hillside just outside Merano itself.







Day 8 A beautiful drive & local experiences

With its mild climate, stunning mountains and unique traditions, South Tyrol offers something for everyone.

As you will have two full days in the region, we have created a program for this first day, and offer a handful of options for the following one.

Today, we would like to take you into the little-known Sarnthal

Valley to glimpse traditional South Tyrolean life.

The Sarnthal is a short drive from Merano. Once there, you will enjoy lunch in a 700-year old farmhouse, visit an artisanal producer of essential oils, and a workshop producing exquisite embroidery.

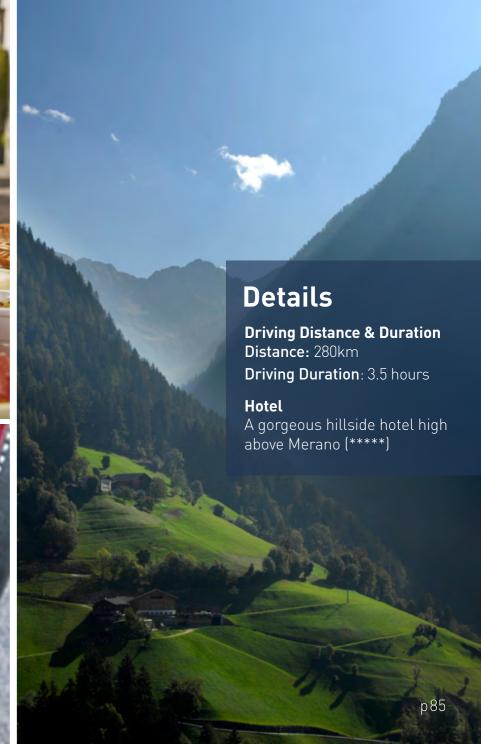
In the late afternoon, we will return to Merano across two

spectacular mountain passes.

Once back in the hotel, you will have free time until dinner.







Day 9 Discover South Tyrol beyond the Dolomites...

For your second day in South Tyrol, we would like to give you a number of options to enjoy. Here are some of them:

- A visit to *Ötzi*, the "Ice Man", a well-preserved mummy of a man who lived around 3300 BC. He is kept at icy temperatures in the South Tyrol Museum of Archeology... an amazing exhibition for those interested in history!
- A lunch at an Alpine restaurant, high above Merano, surrounded by beautiful summer meadows and forests....will require a bit of hiking!
- An excursion to downtown Merano for shopping of both local and international brands and a stroll through local markets
- An early-evening wine tasting to sample the many exquisite wines that South Tyrol produces (subject to a minimum of six

- participants).
- Or, why not stay at the hotel, relax, read a book, enjoy a spa and the tranquil, Alpine surroundings?

Not all of these activities can be easily combined. We will discuss these options further during the journey.





Details

Driving Distance & DurationSubject to activities

Hotel

A gorgeous hillside hotel high above Merano (*****)





Day 10 Across the magnificent Stelvio Pass

Today you will leave South Tyrol and cross the border into Switzerland.

Weather permitting, you can look forward to a spectacular driving day since you will cross four beautiful passes: the Stelvio, the Umbrail, the Ofen and the Albula.

Keen motorists will be particularly excited to drive over the Stelvio, since it is - for many reasons - one of the best known Alpine passes.

Once across Umbrail Pass. you will enter into the Swiss Canton of Grisons, Grisons is Switzerland's largest canton, and one of the most traditional parts of the country, as well as the only canton where Romansch is an official language.

Here, we will skirt the most

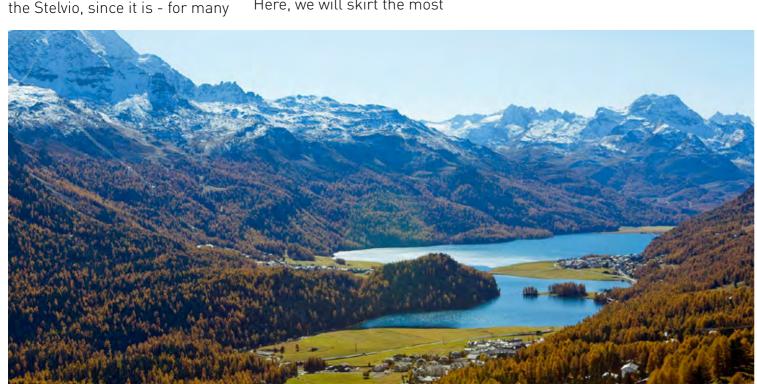
Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: 265 km **Duration:** 5.5-6 hours

Hotel

A traditional spa lodge in Brigels (****)

touristy resorts - including St Moritz and Davos - heading instead for Brigels in western Grisons, where you will stay in a lovely hotel, reminiscent of a comfortable Swiss chalet.



Day 11 Into the heart of Swiss Alps

Even after days amongst some of the Europe's most spectacular mountains, today's scenery will take your breath away.

On the drive from Brigels to Gstaad you will cross two passes - first the Oberalp [2044m], then the Furka (2427m) - before stopping for lunch atop the third, Grimselpass.

After the morning's high mountains, you will descend into gentler, more rolling country as you drive around two lakes, Brienzersee and Thunersee. The lakeside scenery is lovely, but the traffic may seem much busier once we leave the mountains behind.

The countryside around Gstaad is particularly charming.

Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: 225 km **Duration:** 4.5-5 hours

Hotel

A luxury mountain retreat in Gstaad (****)

We have selected one of the village's finest hotels for your stay.



Day 12 Glaciers, horse-drawn carriages and fresh mountain air

Today you will start the day in the heart of the mountains, by riding the Glacier 3000 cablecar up Scex Rouge.

Here, at almost 3000m elevation, you will be able to walk along the spectacular Peak Walk suspension bridge for views of the Matterhorn, Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau. On clear days, it's possible to see as far away as Mont Blanc, 60km away.

Later, back on earth again, you will be able to experience the region's other natural beauty, Lake Lauenen. Horse-drawn carriages will take you to the lake, where another surprise awaits.

For lunch and dinner, you will experience typical and delicious Swiss food.



Day 13 From the Alps to the Black Forest

Today you will get a glimpse of Germany's Black Forest, which lies in the country's southwest, abutting France and Switzerland. It is a region of rolling hills, still largely covered with thick forest. In contrast to the rocky austerity of the Swiss Alps, the landscape of the Black Forest will seem charming and inviting.

The region offers many wonderful dishes. The most famous of them all is the Schwarzwälderkirschtorte or "Black Forest Cake".
Interestingly, the cake is named not directly after the Black Forest region but rather after a specialty liquor of that region known as Schwarzwälder Kirsch(wasser) that is distilled from tart cherries.

Depending on your appetite for driving at this point in your journey, we will either use the Black Forest's beautiful back roads to reach today's destination, or rely on the Basel to Baden-Baden highway.

Your hotel for the night is the finest in Baden-Baden, a well-known hot spring area in Germany.

Details

Driving Distance & Duration
Distance: 345-400 km (approx.)
Duration: 5.5 hours

Hotel

A luxury spa hotel in Baden-Baden (*****)





Day 14 Return to Munich on fine country roads

Today you can look forward to a straightforward drive on Germany's excellent Autobahns. While we hope to send you off with a fun driving experience, we may have to disappoint you - yes, you may be able to "go for it", but likely only a few times - the Stuttgart to Munich corridor is busy at the best of times.

After breaking our journey for lunch in Swabia, we will aim to arrive in Munich by 4pm, traffic permitting.

Wherever your onward journey will lead you, we hope that you will set out filled with beautiful memories of your time on the road in Europe. Bon voyage!

Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 340 km

Duration: 4-4.30 hours





Choice of Cars



A cabriolet is included in your package price.

We strongly encourage you to enjoy this journey in an opentop car because the natural beauty, the fresh and scented air, the glorious mountains, the vineyards, and the many gorgeous roads are best enjoyed when wind is in your air and you can fully immerse yourself in the enjoyment of being on the road!

Of course, if you prefer a coupe or sedan of the same class or something a little or a lot more exotic, we're happy to offer you upgrade options.



66 ANY car, as long as it is a CABRIOLET"

Local Cuisine

While this itinerary is **not** one of our 'Foodie'-themed journeys, we do believe that each one of our journeys should introduce you not only to hidden gems of cultural and scenic beauty, but that sampling local cuisines is also a must.

We will therefore arrange for you 'tasting menus' such that you can try out a variety of specialties during each meal.

While alcoholic beverages are not included in the price, on certain occasions, when we believe that a particular dish is best enjoyed when combined with a local drink, we will make it part of the experience!

For private journeys, we can, of course, tailor the meal experience to your taste (and budget).















What's Included / When to travel...



Generally speaking, our journey packages and prices are all-inclusive. Once you've paid and you arrive at the starting point, you really won't have to take out your wallet again except for liquids (alcoholic drinks and petrol) and presents to take home!

• Carefully and thoughtfully designed *On the Road Experiences* itinerary as

described in this Journey Dossier

- A crew consisting of a journey host, subject matter experts/ destination guides in various locations and a lead car driver. Depending on group size, we will add additional crew members.
- All meals in 'tasting menu' (or omakase) style

- All accommodations
- A cabriolet from one of our highly reputably car rental partners.

Many car-upgrade options exist at an extra charge.

- All ground transportation and airport transfers
- Pre-programmed GPSs and printed maps

- Walky-talkies to stay in touch with fellow travelers and your crew
- All toll fees and parking fees
- Entrance fees for all attended activities
- Lead car for your crew
- On the Road Experiences service (goodies basket and other treats along the way:

wet towels, daily picnic, basket containing fresh fruit, fruit juice, water, and a mixture of sweets and nibbles)

• All tips

What's Not Included

- Your transport to/from Munich
- Petrol for your car
- Personal shopping

- Visas (if required)
- Alcoholic drinks (unless explicitly included)
- Activities, Meals, Transport during 'free times' as indicated in this Journey Dossier
- Top-up Collision Damage Waiver insurance

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A picture is worth a thousand words. True, but when it comes to a road journey, moving images are priceless. Please visit:

http://www.ontheroadexperiences.com/en/video-gallery





BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

