



ALPINE BEAUTY

HIKING THE AUSTRO-GERMAN ALPS

BOOK BY MAY 31
SAVE \$200 PP



ACTIVE SIGHTSEEING TOUR
JOURNEY LEADERS: ROBB AND KOLLEEN SYKES
SEP 21 - OCT 4, 2024 | 14 DAYS | 24 MEALS

The grand Neuschwanstein Castle

Stunning Alpine vistas speckled with storybook castles and majestic palaces await us in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps. This culturally rich region features diverse mountain landscapes from enchanting valleys to soaring heights.

Starting in Salzburg, we delve into its musical legacy, before heading into the Bavarian Mountains to the Eagle's Nest, perched dramatically above Berchtesgaden. A world of wonder emerges as we lose ourselves in the grandeur of Oberammergau, a tiny Bavarian village seemingly lifted from a storybook. We will also visit one of Europe's most famous landmarks, the fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle.

Our days are filled with scenic hiking, revealing views of beautiful parks, dense forests, expansive countryside, and towering peaks. We will marvel at the remarkable Breitachklamm, the deepest and one of the most impressive rocky gorges in middle Europe.

With a good balance of visits to this region's great sightseeing attractions and activity in the great outdoors, this exciting hiking adventure promises to be a truly exceptional journey.



Book With Confidence

For peace of mind, your deposit for this journey is fully refundable until:

June 18, 2024

Highlights

- Leisurely itinerary with 4 nights in Salzburg, 3 nights in Oberammergau, and 5 nights in Riezlern
- Walking city tour of Salzburg
- Visit to the Eagle's Nest (Obersalzberg)
- Cruise on Lake Königssee to visit the church St. Bartholomew
- 7 optional guided hikes in the Austro-German Alps
- Breitachklamm, central Europe's deepest gorge
- King Ludwig II's Neuschwanstein and Linderhof castles

Journey Leaders

Robb Sykes is the lead pastor of the Upper Room Christian Fellowship in Orangeville, Ontario, which is affiliated with the Catch the Fire churches. He entered full-time ministry after a career in management consulting, banking, and owning several small businesses. Over the years, he has dedicated much time to charity, volunteering, and Christian mission work. His wife, **Kolleen**, works for Family Transition Place, the women's shelter in Orangeville, and as an independent facilitator of parenting and relationship programs. They are passionate about travel and have explored several destinations around the world including Israel, the UK, Italy, Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, and South America. They look forward to sharing their next journey with all those who will join them.



Inclusive Features

- Return airfare to Munich on Air Canada from Canadian cities listed
- Accommodations in comfortable European-style hotels as indicated or similar
- Travel by modern climate-controlled motorcoach
- 24 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B – 12 European buffet breakfasts, D – 12 dinners)
- Services of our Canadian journey leader plus local guides in Salzburg and Munich and tour director throughout
- Baggage handling of one suitcase per person
- All gratuities and taxes for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

SEP 21, Saturday

DEPART CANADA

Group members gather for the transatlantic overnight flight to Munich.

SEP 22, Sunday

MUNICH / SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

Upon arrival in Munich, we are met by our guide before settling into our motorcoach and enjoying a picturesque drive south to the Alps. We leave Germany and enter Austria, where we check in at our hotel in Salzburg. In the evening we meet for our welcome dinner.

Hotel Untersberg (4 nights)

D

SEP 23, Monday

SALZBURG

In the morning, we will set off on our guided city stroll through the centre - a pedestrian zone where we visit many historic sites related to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Salzburg, which is also known as the "Rome of the North," has many magnificent monuments from both the Baroque and Renaissance periods. Designated as a World Cultural Heritage Site, Salzburg was ruled for centuries by Prince Archbishops. Highlights of our walk will include Mozart's birthplace, Salzburg Cathedral, and the Fortress of Hohensalzburg. The afternoon offers free time to explore Salzburg further on your own.

BD

SEP 24, Tuesday**EAGLE'S NEST**

Today we will venture into the Bavarian Mountains to the Berchtesgaden area. On our first hike, we will walk through an enchanted forest to Hintersee. The "Zauberwald" (magic forest) is a pristine mountain forest. Created by a dramatic rockfall thousands of years ago, nature has formed a wild, romantic landscape with huge boulders. Our bus will pick us up at the quaint village of Ramsau and bring us to the Obersalzberg. Afterwards, we take the shuttle bus up to the peak, the "Eagle's Nest". Located at an elevation of 1,834 m, on a clear day the "Eagle's Nest" offers a magnificent view across the Bavarian Mountains and the Salzburg Alps. From the bus drop off you have the chance to either take the elevator for the last 124 meters of elevation change, or you can walk a short panoramic way up which takes about half an hour. Of course, you can take the way down as well instead. In the afternoon we head back to Salzburg for dinner and overnight. (6.4 km, 2 hours, easy hike, 120 m elevation change) BD

*Bask in the beauty of the Austrian Alps***SEP 25, Wednesday****LAKE KONIGSSEE**

In the morning we board our boat and sail across the crystal clear waters of Lake Konigssee to visit the church St. Bartholomew, located at the foot of Mount Watzmann. After 1810, St. Bartholomew became one of the favourite places for Bavarian kings. From here, we enjoy some free time to explore the various walking trails that dip into the National Park. Afterwards, we continue to Berchtesgaden and visit a salt mine before returning to our hotel. BD

*Discover the elegant Linderhof Palace***SEP 26, Thursday****MUNICH / OBERAMMERGAU**

This morning we leave Salzburg for Munich, Germany and have a guided city tour. Discover well-known sights such as the world-famous Hofbräuhaus, Marienplatz, and the Viktualienmarkt with its colourful outdoor stalls. Visit the Nymphenburg Palace, the former summer residence of the Bavarian elector princes and kings, with its beautiful and spacious gardens, and the site of the Olympic games. In the evening we arrive in Oberammergau and check in at our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Hotel Alte Post (3 nights)

BD

SEP 27, Friday**LINDERHOF**

We start our day with a visit to Ettal Monastery where we can catch glimpses of the lives of the Benedictine monks residing here. Dating from 1330, the building has been maintained and restored through the dedication and hard work of the residents and, at times, the knights. After that, we will explore one of King Ludwig II's dreamy castles, the Linderhof Palace. We discover King Ludwig's safe haven within the mountains before we take a leisurely walk for 1 hour (about 5 km) to Graswang where we meet our bus again that brings us back to Oberammergau, or walk (another 6 km). BD

*Clear waters of Lake Konigssee***SEP 28, Saturday****OBERAMMERGAU**

Our hike this morning brings us along the Ammer River north to Unterammergau. We walk through the Pulvermoos nature reserve. On a slight incline, we walk along Romanshöhe to Christuskreuz, which offers a magnificent view over the Ammer Valley. We stop at the mountain lodge Romanshöhe for lunch. In the afternoon continue along Gregorichapel back to Oberammergau. (11 km, 4 hours, easy hike, 143 m elevation change) BD

*Discover the timeless charm of Salzburg*

SEP 29, Sunday**NEUSCHWANSTEIN**

This morning we leave Oberammergau. Our first stop is the Wieskirche, a pilgrimage church and one of the most beautiful Rococo churches in southern Germany. Next, hidden in the seclusion of the mountains, is Neuschwanstein, a grand castle that epitomizes the architectural brilliance and vision of Bavaria's King Ludwig II. We will explore this extraordinary structure before crossing into Austria in the afternoon. Our destination is a hidden secret, the enclave Kleinwalsertal, an Austrian high valley that can only be entered from German territory. After, check in at a privately owned hotel well-known for its delicious cuisine. **Hotel Almhof Rupp** (5 nights) BD

SEP 30, Monday**RIEZLERN / KANZELWAND**

Our day starts with a cable car ride to the top of the mountain right next to our hotel, the Kanzelwand. Within 10 minutes we cover 870 meters of elevation change, reaching almost 2,000 meters above sea level. Enjoy a lovely walk to the neighbouring peak Fellhorn, which takes about an hour to go up. Afterwards, follow the way down the mountain and stop in the quaint mountain lodge "Adlerhorst" for a refreshment. Take your time to learn more about the mountain between the two countries. Later you decide whether you want to follow the hiking path further down the mountain back to Riezlern where we cover 870 meters of elevation change in about 2 hours or you can walk 15 minutes back to take the cable car. Dinner in the evening at Almhof Rupp. BD

OCT 1, Tuesday**BREITACHKLAMM**

After breakfast we discover a magical place within the Alps, a natural monument. We walk through a canyon, a small creek that is bordered by high cliffs. The Breitachklamm is the deepest gorge in Middle Europe. We walk for about 1.5 hours at the edge of the Breitach Creek and have fantastic views of the raging stream. After almost 3 km we end in Tiefenbach. Our bus brings us to the mountain resort of Oberstdorf for lunch and time on our own. In the afternoon, back to Riezlern. BD

OCT 2, Wednesday**SÖLLERECK**

Today we cross back into Germany to catch a cable car to the top of Mount Sollereck. At the top, we follow a trail for about two hours, on a gradual decline, back across the border into Austria. The hike ends next to our hotel. [6 km hiking / 300 m elevation change] BD

OCT 3, Thursday**RIEZLERN**

Enjoy a free day today in the beautiful landscape of the Austrian Alps. Local buses and cable cars are included. Take the cable car to Walmendinger Horn for an incredible view of the surrounding mountains. Or take the bus to Oberstdorf, the first village in Germany after leaving the Austrian enclave, for some shopping. In the evening we meet for the farewell gourmet gala dinner. BD

OCT 4, Friday**RIEZLERN / MUNICH / CANADA**

All too soon we have to say goodbye to the mountains and leave Riezlern for Munich, where we catch our flights back to Canada. B

CT Rating 4/5 - Very Challenging: This tour includes walks on well marked trails with uneven terrain. Distances and elevation changes are estimated. Some days provide options to extend hikes, members can choose to skip hikes/walks. This rating is based on the non-extended hikes. Locations visited reach up to 2,300 metres above sea level. Good walking shoes are essential and members should have no mobility issues to fully enjoy this itinerary. Itinerary and hikes may be adjusted due to trail conditions or unforeseen factors beyond our control.



Book by May 31, 2024 and save \$200 per person

**Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Land Only (Join / Leave at hotel)	\$5,145
Toronto	\$6,845
Ottawa / Montreal	\$7,025
Halifax.....	\$7,135
Winnipeg/ Fredericton / St. John's	\$7,135
Saskatoon / Regina	\$7,245
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	\$7,195
Victoria.....	\$7,245
Single Supplement	\$945

*Land only price is based on joining the group at the first hotel and leaving the group at the last hotel. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and add-ons are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels. Prices are based on a minimum of 15 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective April 2024 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due June 19, 2024

Deposit is \$600 per person

To reserve your spot on this journey, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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