

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Jewels of Alpine Europe

With Optional 2 Night Salzburg Extension

13 DAYS: Monday, July 1-Saturday, July 13, 2019

\$4,489 per person double occupancy; \$5,119 for single reservations*

EXPERIENCE RICH CULTURE, impressive architecture and culinary delights against a backdrop of soaring alpine peaks. Begin in sophisticated lake-side Lucerne and explore the winding, medieval-era streets of the Old Town. Cross into France for a boat cruise around Lake Annecy, offering panoramic views of the breathtaking mountains that inspired Paul Cezanne. Visit the picturesque valley and charming resort village of Chamonix at the base of Mont Blanc. Cross the border into Italy and spend the day on Lake Como as we visit Villa Carlotta, an elegant 18th century Italian estate surrounded by 14 acres of gardens. Soak up the views from chic St. Moritz, visit Innsbruck, capital of the Austrian Tyrol, and Munich for a guided tour and a day to explore on our own.

Your tour package includes

- 11 nights in handpicked hotels, 11 breakfasts, 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 8 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Chapel Bridge, Lake Annecy boat ride, Chamonix, Mont Blanc, Lake Como, Bernina Express train ride, Liechtenstein, Nymphenburg Palace, the Glockenspiel,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 1 hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston
 - DAYS 2-3 Grand Hotel Europe, Lucerne
 - DAYS 4-5 Hotel Novotel Annecy Centre Atria, Annecy
 - DAYS 6-7 Albergo Firenze, Lake Como region
 - DAY 8 Hotel Laudinella, St. Moritz
 - DAYS 9-10 Hotel Innsbruck, Innsbruck
 - DAYS 11-12 Holiday Inn Munich City Centre, Munich
 - DAY 13 Return flight to Boston
- or similar hotel accommodations



***Prices include round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required.**

Overnight Flight

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Zurich today.

Lucerne Region

Day 2: Arrival in Switzerland

Included meals: Dinner

Welcome to Switzerland! After arriving in Zurich, transfer to the Lucerne region to meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne

Included meals: Breakfast

A local guide introduces you to the charming lakeside city. • Explore Lucerne's Old Town • View the sandstone lion statue commemorating the Swiss Guards • Stroll over Chapel Bridge, a 17th-century covered footbridge, for views of Lake Lucerne and the Alps Enjoy a free afternoon in Lucerne or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion Mount Pilatus +\$119/pp

This scenic excursion begins with a cruise on Lake Lucerne. After docking, ascend 7,000-foot Mount Pilatus on the world's steepest cogwheel railway. Legend holds that the mountain was named for Pontius Pilate, blown here by the devil after the Crucifixion. From the peak, the views of the Alps are stunning; on a clear day, you can see for 200 miles. Toward the end of your trip, you'll return to the base of the mountain via gondola. Please note: The cruise and cogwheel railway only run from mid-May through October. During the winter months, this excursion includes the cable car ride only. If the cogwheel railway is unavailable, you'll enjoy lunch on the mountain. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$129)

Annecy

Day 4: Annecy via Bern

Included meals: Breakfast

Travel through the Alps today, taking in stunning scenery as you pass Alpine lakes, mountains, and charming villages. • Stop in the Swiss capital of Bern to walk through its charming Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site • Pass through the vineyards of Lausanne and Lake Geneva as you drive to Annecy

Day 5: Lake Annecy cruise

Included meals: Breakfast

Get to know Annecy today. • Walk through Annecy's Old Town with your Tour Director and take in sweeping views of the Alps • Get a close-up look at the villas on Lake Annecy's shores during a cruise *(Please note: From November through February, the cruise may be substituted with a walking tour.)*

Lake Como Region

Day 6: Lake Como Region via Chamonix

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

On your way to Italy, stop to explore Chamonix, a picture-perfect village at the base of Mont Blanc. Then, continue through the scenic Aosta Valley en route to the Lake Como region.

Day 7: Como & Villa Carlotta

Included meals: Breakfast

Get to know the city of Como's charming medieval quarter with a local guide leading the way. • Pass by the 15th-century Gothic Duomo • View the 12th-century Porta Vittoria, a defense tower overlooking the old city • Stroll through the elegant gardens at Villa Carlotta, a palace completed in 1690 *(Please note: From November to February you may alternatively take a funicular ride to Brunate.)* Enjoy a free evening in the Lake Como region or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion Lake Como Cruise & Bellagio +\$85/pp

Hop aboard a scenic cruise of Lake Como to soak in some of Italy's most beautiful estates and gardens. Float past charming lakeside towns to Bellagio, a village whose scenery has inspired poets and young lovers for centuries. You'll have time to take in Bellagio's classic beauty before heading to a local restaurant, where you'll sample cuisine from a carefully chosen menu. Please note: Your included meal may be lunch or dinner. This excursion is seasonal and runs March through October. The departure time varies by season. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$95)

St. Moritz

Day 8: Train ride to St. Moritz

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Travel to Tirano, where you'll board the Bernina Express. Enjoy a scenic train ride through the stunning, UNESCO-recognized landscapes of the Alps to St. Moritz, a prestigious Swiss resort town and hub of wintertime sports. *(Please note: The Bernina Express runs seasonally and will be replaced with a local train from mid-October through mid-May.)*

Austrian Alps

Day 9: Austrian Alps Region via Liechtenstein & Innsbruck **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Travel to the Austrian Alps region today. Stop along the way to explore Liechtenstein, a tiny Alpine principality dating back to the Holy Roman Empire, and enjoy a guided walking tour of Innsbruck. • Visit Liechtenstein's capital, Vaduz, and pass the royal family's hilltop castle, still in use as a royal residence • Arrive in Innsbruck, site of two winter Olympic Games • See the famed Golden Roof and the City Tower in Innsbruck's historic Old Town • Pass the Hofburg, a former Hapsburg Imperial Palace, and walk into its cobblestoned courtyard • Enter the Baroque Cathedral of St. James

Day 10: Free day in the Austrian Alps Region **Included meals: Breakfast**

Enjoy a free day in the Austrian Alps region or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Neuschwanstein Castle & Lunch** **+\$105/pp**

Spend your day discovering the regal Neuschwanstein Castle. The historic retreat of Bavaria's "Fairytale King" Ludwig II, who was known for his reclusive tendencies, was the inspiration for Disney's Magic Kingdom Castle. You may choose to walk or take a horse-drawn carriage up the castle hill to the fairy-tale residence. On a guided tour, explore the residential areas of the castle, including the oak-furnished servants' quarters and the king's lavishly decorated staterooms. Choose to take a horse-drawn carriage or walk back down the hill. Then, enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant. Please note: The pathway up to the castle entrance is a steep hill. In addition, this excursion involves walking up and down many stairs, including tight spiral staircases. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$115)

Munich

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Munich **Included meals: Breakfast**

Cross into Germany to arrive in Munich, where you'll get to know the Bavarian capital on a guided tour this afternoon. • Travel past the Englischer Garten and fashionable Schwabing district • Walk from Odeonsplatz through the nearby Hofgarten to step inside the Residenz, once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria • Explore Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, and see the famed Glockenspiel

Day 12: Free day in Munich **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Spend a full free day in Munich or add an excursion this morning.

Optional Excursion **Dachau** **+\$35/pp**

Once a typical German town, Dachau served as the first Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Visit this somber site, which has since been transformed into a Holocaust memorial museum that serves as a testament to the strength of the human spirit. Listen to an audio guide while you view Dachau's poignant exhibits and the memorials to the victims. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$45)

Day 13: Departure

Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to Salzburg.

Add an extension to Salzburg *from \$399 2 nights*



Salzburg

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Salzburg

Included meals: Breakfast

Head to Salzburg, where a local guide leads you on a walking tour of the Old Town. • View the University of Salzburg and the churchyard of St. Peter • See the Kapitelplatz, Residenzplatz, and Alter Markt in the city's Old Town • Enter the 17th-century Salzburg Cathedral, built in the Baroque style • Pass through scenery from the beloved film "The Sound of Music" • Take the funicular to the hilltop Hohensalzburg Fortress, one of Europe's largest medieval castles Enjoy a free afternoon in Salzburg or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Mozart Concert & Dinner** +\$119/pp

Step inside the 1,200-year-old St. Peter Stiftskeller, located within St. Peter's Abbey. Enjoy an evening of fine dining and music. Mozart composed over 600 works in his short life, and tonight, you'll hear his masterpieces accompanied by opera singing as you sample local delicacies. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$129)

Day 14: Free day in Salzburg

Included meals: Breakfast

Spend a full free day in Salzburg or add an excursion. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

Optional Excursion **Eagle's Nest & Salt Mines** +\$105/pp

Drive through the Bavarian Alps to the mountain village of Berchtesgaden, where you'll tour the 450-year-old salt mines that brought wealth to Bavaria and Salzburg. Take an underground boat ride on Mirror Lake before enjoying free time for lunch. Continue to Obersalzburg, where a scenic bus ride along steep gorges offers gorgeous views of the snow-capped Alps. Then, take a gilded elevator up to the Eagle's Nest, an Alpine retreat built for Adolf Hitler's 50th birthday. Please note: The elevation of the Eagle's Nest is approximately 5,500 feet, which may not be advisable for travelers with heart/lung problems or other altitude-related limitations. This excursion is seasonal and runs from mid-May through October. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$115)

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.