



Twelve-Day Tour!

Austria & Switzerland Holiday

September 3 - 14, 2024





Tuesday, September 3 (In-flight meals)

Today we transfer to the airport to board our overnight flight bound for **Vienna, Austria**.

Wednesday, September 4 (Dinner)

We arrive in **Vienna**, the capital of Austria and once home to Beethoven, Mozart, and Freud. Baroque streetscapes and imperial palaces set the stage for a scenic **sightseeing tour** with our English-speaking guide. Mid-afternoon we'll check into the 4-Star **Rainers Hotel**, or similar, for two nights with time to refresh before dinner at the hotel.

Thursday, September 5 (Breakfast, Lunch)

This morning we depart on a **city tour** which will include some walking through the historic pedestrian areas. A highlight will be a guided tour of **Schönbrunn Palace**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the most important architectural, cultural, and historical monuments in the country. The 1,441-room Baroque palace was commissioned at the end of the seventeenth century as a hunting lodge. Through the next century it grew into a palatial imperial residence and became the glittering focus of court life. After we enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant, the remainder of the day is free for you to explore.

Friday, September 6 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Today we'll depart Vienna and visit **Melk** and **Mondsee**. We'll tour **Melk Abbey**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube River. Since 1089, Benedictine monks have been continually living and working in the Abbey. You'll be awed by the magnificent frescoes, sculptures and altar painting in the **Parish Church**. **Mondsee** is a delightful lakeside town best known for the Basilica St. Michael, where the wedding of Maria and Captain Von Trapp took place in the world-famous musical, *The Sound of Music*. We arrive in **Salzburg** and embark on a **guided walking tour**. The story-book old town burrowed below steep hills looks much as it did when Mozart lived here 250 years ago. The city is surrounded by graceful domes and spires, the formidable clifftop fortress and mountains. Later today we check into the **Austria Trend Hotel Europa Salzburg**, or similar, and settle into our rooms for a two-night stay. Dinner at **St. Peter Stiftskeller**, reputedly Europe's oldest restaurant, will feature creative dishes served in an elegant setting.



Saturday, September 7 (Breakfast, Lunch)

Although most visitors come to **Berchtesgaden** just to view the infamous "Eagle's Nest," this small German town in the Alps also offers panoramic views, WW II history and beautiful murals. We'll take a luxurious brass elevator up the mountain to visit the **Eagle's Nest**. Perched at 6,017 feet, it provides epic views of the surrounding Alps. This outpost was a gift to Adolf Hitler on his 50th birthday in 1939. Lavish decor like a red marble fireplace gifted from Mussolini made this remote site perfect for receiving official guests of state. However, Hitler's fear of heights prevented him from visiting often. After our guided tour, we'll enjoy lunch together and then return to Salzburg for a free evening.

Sunday, September 8 (Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we leave Salzburg and travel to **Innsbruck**, the capital of Austria's western state of Tyrol, known for winter sports and Imperial and modern architecture. Our **guided walking tour** of this charming Alpine town will take us in the footsteps of the Habsburgs, one of the most influential and distinguished royal families of Europe. We'll admire the Golden Roof, the Imperial Palace, the medieval Old Town and the famous Court Church with its life-size bronze figures. Our sightseeing continues as we travel on to **St. Moritz** where we'll lodge at **Hotel Laudinella**, or similar, for one night. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening.

Monday, September 9 (Breakfast, Lunch)

This morning we board the **Glacier Express train**. Winding its way 180 miles through the majestic Alps from Austria into Switzerland, the Glacier Express is one of the most iconic train journeys in the world! We'll take our first-class, reserved seats for this breathtaking ride from St. Moritz to **Zermatt**. During the trip, we'll pass through 91 tunnels, over 291 bridges and enjoy lunch served at our seats. The large panoramic windows provide unobstructed views of the magnificent landscape of the Alps. For the next two nights we will lodge at the 4-Star **Allalin Hotel**, or similar, in **Zermatt**. The evening is open for you to enjoy dinner at your leisure.



Tuesday, September 10 (Breakfast, Lunch)

Today we ascend high into the Swiss Alps! We'll ride the unique 3S cableway to **Matterhorn Glacier Paradise**, Europe's highest cable car station at 12,740 ft., to behold the panoramic views and breathe the fresh mountain air. The viewing deck offers 360-degree vistas across 38 Alpine peaks and

14 glaciers in the French, Italian and Swiss Alps. This vantage point also offers the finest view of the Matterhorn's south face. Lunch is included in our excursion. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Wednesday, September 11 (Breakfast, Dinner)

We bid farewell to Zermatt as we travel via **mountain train** to **Taesch**. There we board our coach and depart for **Montreux** where we will take a **guided tour** of **Chillon Castle**, one of the most famous castles in Switzerland. This impressive edifice is located on a rocky island near the shore of Lake Geneva and features fortified walls and towers. It houses the prison in which Bonivard was held in chains for four years and which provided Lord Byron with the inspiration for his famous poem "The Prisoners of Chillon." We are in for a special treat as we visit the **Maison Cailler Chocolate Factory** near **Gruyeres** for a tour and tasting. From there we'll continue to travel northward to Switzerland's capital city of **Bern**. We'll check into the **Ambassador**, or similar, for one night. Dinner is included this evening.

Thursday, September 12 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Enjoy a **guided walking tour** of **Bern**, a unique, medieval city with many intricately carved fountains, sandstone facades, narrow streets, notable towers, a prominent Gothic cathedral, and a whimsical astronomical clock that dates back to 1530! Not many cities have managed to retain their historic features quite as successfully as Bern, which has been designated a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site. This afternoon we will drive through some of Switzerland's most beautiful countryside with its surrounding mountains, dense forests and alpine meadows. Our next stop is the town of **Interlaken**, a traditional resort town in the mountainous Bernese Oberland region of central Switzerland. Built in a narrow valley, between the emerald-colored waters of Lake Thun and Lake Brienz, it has old timber houses and parkland on either side of the Aare River. Our ultimate destination today is the old-world town of **Lucerne** located on Lake Lucerne at the foot of Mount Pilatus. Our home for the next two nights is the **Grand Europe**, or similar, located in the city's historic center. This evening we're in for a special treat as we enjoy a traditional **Swiss meal** complete with cheese fondue followed by a lively and entertaining **Folklore Show** at **Restaurant Stadtkeller**.

Friday, September 13 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Our day begins with a **guided walking tour** of **Lucerne**, including the Old Town with its quaint streets and squares, busy market places and decorated houses, the Jesuit Church and the poignant Lion Monument. We'll stroll across Chapel Bridge, the town's iconic covered bridge built in 1333. Our tour will end with a **private cruise** on beautiful **Lake Lucerne**. A free afternoon gives you time to explore Lucerne on your own, taking advantage of the many shops and boutiques to complete your souvenir shopping. Or, take an *optional* trip to the top of Mt. Pilatus. This excursion begins with a boat ride on Lake Lucerne to Alpnachstad where you'll board a cogwheel train for the ride to the summit. With a gradient of 48% it's the world's steepest train! Enjoy picture-perfect panoramas of the surrounding mountains and lakes before descending by aerial cable car to Kriens where you'll board the public bus for the return trip to town. (*Additional fee applies - please speak with Nadine.*) This evening, we gather together for a lovely farewell dinner.

Saturday, September 14 (Breakfast)

After breakfast we'll transfer to the Zurich airport for our flight home. We'll be taking with us treasured memories of our scenic Austria and Switzerland holiday!



Tour Cost* per person:**\$7,988 Double****\$8,638 Single**

*These prices are based on the value of the Euro and the Swiss Franc as of August 2023. Tour participants will be notified prior to final payment of any change in the tour price due to fluctuations in the exchange rate.

**INCLUDED**

**ROUND-TRIP LOCAL AIRPORT TRANSFERS FROM MUNDELEIN
AIR TRAVEL (CHICAGO/VIENNA, ZURICH/CHICAGO)
DELUXE MOTOR COACH TRANSPORTATION
TEN NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
BAGGAGE HANDLING (WHERE AVAILABLE)
TEN BREAKFASTS, FOUR LUNCHEES, AND SIX DINNERS
ALL ACTIVITIES AND ADMISSIONS AS LISTED IN THE ITINERARY
ALL TOUR-RELATED TAXES AND GRATUITIES
SERVICES OF A DESTINATIONS WITH NADINE HOST
SERVICES OF AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING EUROPEAN TOUR MANAGER**

Travel Documents:

All passengers must carry a passport valid for at least six months (March 15, 2025) beyond the return date of the trip. A passport card is NOT acceptable for this trip. In addition, all U.S. travelers entering the European Union must apply online for an ETIAS Visa Waiver prior to departure and pay the application fee, which is expected to be €7 (\$9 US) per person. Details on how to apply for the ETIAS Visa Waiver will be communicated by Nadine at final payment time.

Not Included: Optional travel protection plan premium (**highly recommended**). Please contact Nadine at 847-902-8064 for information.

Activity Level: Easy 1 2 3 **4** 5 Active

**Reservations:**

Please mail a completed **reservation form** and your **\$100 per person deposit** to:

**Destinations with Nadine, Inc.
PO Box 304
Mundelein, IL 60060**

Phone: 847-902-8064

Email: DestinationsWithNadine@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to

Destinations with Nadine, Inc.

If interested in the **optional travel protection plan (highly recommended)**, please request a quote from Nadine.

Deposit: \$100 per person

Balance Due: May 16, 2024



Cancellation Policy: All payments are fully refundable for cancellations received by **May 16, 2024**. Although every effort will be made to refund passenger payments, cancellations received after this date will be subject to the penalties imposed by our suppliers including, but not exclusive to, the airline used to purchase non-refundable air tickets, as well as a \$150 cancellation fee. It is highly suggested that all travelers help protect their vacation investment by purchasing an optional travel protection plan. Your group representative can provide information on a plan. Should the passenger purchase travel protection and need to cancel after **May 16, 2024**, a travel protection claim must be filed.

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