

Senior Softball-USA “The Romantic Rhine Region”

September 4th – 15th 2007

Plus an add-on to Salzburg, Austria

Day # 1 Tuesday, September 4 (Arrival -Transfer to Koblenz)

Group arrival in Germany Frankfurt’s International airport. Clear customs & Immigration. Group should then make their way through to the arrivals hall where you will be met by a Custom Euro Tours Representative. Board your motor coach and transfer to your hotel in Koblenz. (Approx 1 ½ hours)

On arrival in Koblenz, an orientation tour will be conducted, visiting the German Corner (Deutsches Eck) and the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial. Have your picture taken in front of part of the original Berlin Wall on display.

Check into hotel for 3 nights

Dinner and welcome reception to be taken in Germany’s famous Weindorf (Wine Village) built in 1925 for the German International wine fair of that year.



(D)

Day # 2 Wednesday September 5 (Koblenz)

Breakfast in the hotel

Full day free to relax and adjust to the local time. A short orientation tour is planned with free time for a *softball game*.

(B)

Day # 3 Thursday September 6 (Koblenz - Boppard - Rhine Cruise - Koblenz)

Breakfast in the hotel

Depart for our scenic day in the Rhine Valley. A short drive will take us to the beautiful historic town on Boppard on the Rhine. This picturesque town is nestled on the left bank of the Rhine and has a charming old town square surrounded by souvenir shops and outdoors cafes. Time to relax or to explore the old Roman ruins or take the chairlift to the four lakes view. The city was the site of an early Celtic settlement and of the Roman Fort of Baudobriga, from which the modern name is derived. Under the Merovingian dynasty it became a royal residence.



After lunch we board our Rhine River cruise ship for a roundtrip cruise from Boppard to the Loreley and return, passing many of the famous hilltop castles such as the Liebenstein, Sterrenberg, Maus & Kat Castles and many more (3 Hours approx) optional lunch can be taken on board.

On our return to Boppard our coach will transfer the group back to Koblenz. Remainder of the day is free at leisure.

(B)

Day # 4 Friday September 7 (Koblenz - Marksburg - Rudesheim - Frankfurt)

Breakfast in the hotel

Departing Koblenz this morning we drive over to the right bank of the Rhine and south to Braubach.

A short stop will be made in Braubach, our starting point for our visit to the Marksburg. The Marksburg Castle, built in the 13th century, is the only castle in the Rhine valley never to have been destroyed during the 100-year war. We board our transport "The Marksburg Express" for our short but exciting trip up to the castle. A guided tour is planned.



Re-boarding our coach we continue driving south along the right bank of the Rhine passing through towns, village and vineyards until we arrive in the most famous of all towns situated in the romantic Rhine valley, Rudesheim.

Rudesheim lies at the spot where the Rheingau vineyards cease and the Bingen Gap opens up - the beginning of the Rhine gorge. Rudesheim is the most famous of the wine areas in the Rhine valley and is home to the famous Drosselgasse, with its many wine taverns, Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet and the Asbach Uralt Brandy distillery.

On arrival in Rudesheim free time is given for lunch and personal sightseeing. Perhaps some shopping or to visit the Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum or take the thrilling chairlift ride to the Niederwald Monument towering high above on the bluffs overlooking Rudesheim. Finishing our day in Rudesheim we continue to your hotel in the Frankfurt area and check in for the next 3 nights. Remainder of the day is free at leisure. (B)

Day # 5 Saturday September 8 (Game Day Frankfurt area)

Breakfast in the hotel

Full day of softball at the 10th Annual International Slo-pitch Tournament, sponsored by Dreieich Vultures Old Star. (B)

Day # 6 Sunday September 9 (Game Day Frankfurt area)

Breakfast in the hotel

Full day at the tournament (B)

Day # 7 Monday September 10 (Frankfurt - Wurzburg - Rothenburg)

Breakfast in the hotel

Departing the Frankfurt area we journey to Wurzburg the old Franken capital and the region's center of wine production and marketing. From the 10th century on, wealthy and powerful prince-bishops, who created the city as it stands today, ruled Wurzburg. Our first stop will be at the Royal Residenz. This is the palace of



the prince-bishops, built between 1720 and 1744. It is considered the most important secular Baroque-style structure in Germany.

After our visit to the Residenz the group will have free time for an independent lunch before departing for Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

Located about 70 miles east of Heidelberg, this Bavarian town's full name is Rothenburg ob der Tauber, meaning "Red Castle on the Tauber River." Its roots started in 970 when the first castle was built. The last castle was destroyed in the 14th century, and now the town has a garden in its place. After its heydays ended around 1400, Rothenburg landed in a long slump that helped to save its medieval buildings and fortifications.

A late afternoon walking tour of the city is planned, with a local step on guide.

Check into your hotel for the next **2 nights**

Remainder of the day free at leisure

(B)

Day # 8 Tuesday September 11 (Rothenburg)

Breakfast in the hotel

Morning free at leisure to enjoy personal sightseeing or shopping. Perhaps go for a walk around the city on top of the medieval wall or plan a visit to the Torture Museum or visit the Jakob's Church where you can view the beautiful Alter carved by the Master woodworker Tillman Riemenschneider.

Afternoon *softball game*

(B)

Day # 9 Wednesday September 12 (Rothenburg - Romantic Road - Munich)

Breakfast in the hotel.

This morning we drive south leaving Rothenburg behind and following the Romantic Road.

A Trade Route During The middle Ages, Germany's Romantic Road Still Retains Much of Its Medieval Character. The Road Often Winds Through Forgotten Sections Of Countryside, Connecting Walled Towns And Picturesque Villages. Travelers May Enter A Town Through An Arched Gateway Complete With Guard Towers. Inside, You Will Find Gothic Cathedrals, Half-Timbered wood framed Houses, Beautiful Historic Hotels and Often a Medieval Festival. Fairytale Castles And The Alps Complete The Charm. Our tour will stop in some of the more famous locations such as, Dinkelsbuhl and Nordlingen.



Driving towards Munich the Capital city of Bavaria we have the option to stop in and visit the site of the Dachau Memorial site, Hitler's first concentration camp. Used as a work camp for dissidents, Jews, mentally handicapped and gays, some 33,000 inmates lost their lives while living in brutal hard and cruel conditions. Arriving in Munich early evening we check into our hotel for the next **3 nights**

Remainder of the day free at leisure.

(B)

Day # 10 Thursday September 13 (Munich)

Breakfast in the hotel.

A morning city orientation tour of Munich is planned. We have time to enjoy the beautiful sights of this amazing international metropolitan city nestled at the foot of the Bavarian Alps.

Munich is the capital of the **German Federal State** of Bavaria. It is also **Germany's** third largest city and one of Europe's most prosperous. The city has a population of about 1.3 million and the Munich **metropolitan area** is home to around 2.7 million people. The city is located on the River **Isar** north of the **Bavarian Alps**.

The city's **motto** was The World City with a heart for a long time and has been recently replaced by Munich likes you. The figure on Munich's coat-of-arms is a monk referred to as the **Münchner Kindl**, the child of Munich. Black and gold - the colors of the **Holy Roman Empire** - have been the city's official colors since the time of **Louis IV, Holy Roman Emperor**.

You will see the sights of the world famous "Glockenspiel" on the Marienplatz, The Inner-ring, Frauen Kirche, Hof Residenz and the Bavarian State Capital. This tour will finish in the Marien Platz at 11:00am in time for the world famous "Glockenspiel".

Independent lunch can be taken in the Farmer's Market place "Viktualien Markt" The afternoon is free at leisure. Perhaps a *game of softball* or free time for personal shopping or sightseeing. Munich has many wonderful museums.

Remainder of the day is free at leisure.

(B)



Day # 11 Friday September 14 (Munich - Neuschwanstein - Ettal - Oberammergau - Munich)

Breakfast in the hotel

Full day excursion to Ludwig's Fairytale Castle, Neuschwanstein.

Construction was started by **King Ludwig II** of Bavaria, also known as "Mad King Ludwig". It was named after the Swan Knight, **Lohengrin**, of **Wagner's** opera, and was designed by **Christian Jank**. The castle is located near **Hohenschwangau Castle**, an older structure restored by Ludwig's father, **Maximilian II of Bavaria**. Owing to his eccentricities and his perceived use of Bavarian funds (a myth, as Ludwig actually used his own money to finance the construction of the castle), Ludwig was removed from power before the castle was completed. Soon after Ludwig's mysterious death (he drowned in **Lake Starnberg**) in **1886**, the castle and its amazing interior were opened to the public. Many **tapestries** and paintings depict scenes from the operas of **Richard Wagner**, a reflection of Ludwig's love for Wagner's work. However, many of the interior rooms remain undecorated; only 14 rooms were finished before Ludwig's death.



After lunch our tour will visit Ettal Monastery, Compared to the large and important monasteries of the Middle Ages in Bavaria, Ettal is of relatively recent origin. It owes its foundation to the Duke of Bavaria, at the same time Roman Emperor of the German Nation, Kaiser Louis the Fourth. He was called the "Bavarian",

From Ettal we continue into the charming little town of Oberammergau. Oberammergau is a **lies** in **Bavaria, Germany**, and most famous for its production of a **passion play** depicting the life and death of **Jesus**. The play was first performed in **1634** and is the result of a vow made by the inhabitants of the village that if God spared them from the effects of the **bubonic plague** then sweeping the region they would perform a passion play every ten years. The play is now performed in years ending with a zero, except 1984 which was the 350th anniversary, and involves over 2000 performers, all residents of the village.

Our final stop of the day before we continue into Munich will be the Wieskirche. The Wieskirche, whose official name is Pilgrimage Church of the Scourged Saviour, is the most beautiful rococo church in Bavaria and probably in the world. The church has been a UNESCO world heritage site since 1983.

The church was completed in 1754 based on designs by the brothers Dominikus and Johann Baptist Zimmermann and is a masterpiece of 18th century rococo art. Rococo is a late baroque building style dating between 1730 and 1770.

This evening, a Bavarian style dinner is planned in the famous Munich landmark "Hofbrauhaus". This will be a Bavarian Buffet dinner with a musical Bavarian folk show. Sit back relax and enjoy an evening of great entertainment. Bavarian Folk music, dancing, singing, thigh slapping, yodeling and Alpine horn playing.



Dinner in the Hofbrauhaus

(B, D)

Day # 12 Saturday September 15

Breakfast in the hotel.

Group transfer to Munich's Franz Josef Strauss international airport. Check in for the Flight back to USA.

(B)

For those who choose we have a **tour extension** planned in Salzburg, Austria. Salzburg, the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is dominated by churches, castles and palaces. The picturesque old town is a UNESCO world heritage sight and is waiting to be seen by you!

What is included:

- ✓ Meet and greet at the Frankfurt International airport
- ✓ All land transportation by modern touring motor coach (**Land portion only**)
- ✓ All road tolls and applicable taxes
- ✓ Services of a professional Bi-Lingual Tour Manager throughout
- ✓ 11 Nights in quality 4 star category hotels
- ✓ 11 German breakfasts
- ✓ 1 Welcome reception
- ✓ 1 Welcome dinner
- ✓ 1 Bavarian buffet dinner and Folk Show
- ✓ All excursions as specified in the Itinerary
- ✓ All entrance fees as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Tour Coach Driver's and Tour Escort's room & board throughout
- ✓ Luggage handling at hotels (**2 pieces per person**)
- ✓ Gratuity to Tour Manager/Escort (**\$4 per day per person**)

Included meals:
B = Breakfast
D = Dinner

What is not included:

- ✓ Airfare, however, we will assist you in making all arrangements
- ✓ All items of a personal nature i.e. Telephone calls, laundry, pay TV. Hotel mini-bars in room.
- ✓ All meals not specified in the itinerary.
- ✓ All entrances to museums, art galleries, etc. not specified in the itinerary
- ✓ All private excursions not specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Any public transport, Taxi, local bus, rail or flights not specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Travel Insurance (Can be purchased direct through Custom Euro Tours. See Booking Form)
- ✓ Gratuities to local guides (**\$1 per person**)
- ✓ Gratuities to local drivers and transport operators. (**\$2 per person per day**)
- ✓ Player's uniform

Payment

All the above-mentioned services at the following rates:

\$2,690.00 per person based on double occupancy/twnb

To secure reservations for this tour please sign & return this page. We will require a non-refundable deposit of **\$500.00** per person by **June 15, 2007**. Full & Final payment should reach us no later than **July 1, 2007**

****Currency Exchange Supplement**

As of going to print March 9, 2007, the US dollar currency exchange rate against the Euro, is **Euro 1.00 = US\$1.30** Should the exchange rate fluctuate 2% or above, International Sports Holidays reserves the right to charge clients the currency exchange supplement necessary.

Waiver

International Sports Holidays reserves the right to substitute, change or cancel any of the included excursions in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

I (We) have read through the Itinerary and fully accept the terms and conditions within, (including the currency surcharge clause.)

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Responsibility

International Sports Holidays (ISH) has contracted suppliers to provide transportation, accommodation and other services. ISH or any employees thereof shall not be held responsible for accidents, loss, damage, delay and expenses arising from acts of God, wars, strikes, quarantine, weather, irregularity, failure of planes, government restrictions or regulations, change in hotel accommodations, delays or other services and any other cause over which it has no control.

Terms & Conditions

Passport

all passengers are required to possess a passport valid for at least 6 months from departure date. Be sure to secure this documentation well in advance of departure.

Flights

Flights leaving the US arrive in Europe the following day. Therefore, it will be necessary to fly out the day before the tour starts. International Sports Holidays will assist you in making flight arrangements; all travelers must arrive in Frankfurt no less than 2 hrs. prior to groups departure of tour (TBA).

Itinerary Variations

We strive to improve tour itineraries. If such improvements can be made, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control make changes necessary, we reserve the right to vary itineraries.

Single-Rooms

Single-rooms are available for an additional supplement. Please call for single room availability.

- ✓ Cancellation
- ✓ Non-refundable deposit
- ✓ Cancellation 120 days out --all but \$500 refundable
- ✓ 90 days out --50% refundable
- ✓ 60 days out --100% of trip cost is non-refundable
- ✓ No refunds for unused portions once trip has begun.

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