

NIU
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
Presents

Berlin to Bavaria

May 16 – 25, 2019

\$4,095 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Day by Day Itinerary

Thursday, May 16 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this morning by scheduled service of United Airlines and take to the skies as we begin our transatlantic journey to Berlin, Germany.

Friday, May 17 – BERLIN (I,L,D)

As the sun begins to rise on the German heartland we arrive in Berlin, where we'll meet our Tour Escort who will accompany us on vacation and introduce us to the highlights of Berlin and Bavaria. Once the capital of Prussia and leading cultural center in the 1920s, today the new capital of Germany is characterized by dazzling modernity and breathtaking architecture.

Saturday, May 18 – BERLIN (B)

Our day will begin with a tour of historic and beautiful Berlin. We'll start with a stop on Museum Island, the cradle of Berlin's history where the first settlements appeared at the beginning of the 13th century. Here we'll see Berlin Cathedral and an impressive collection of museums that give the island its name. Then we'll travel past the monumental Red Town Hall as we make our way to Unter den Linden, one of the most famous streets in Berlin. We'll pause to view the Neue Wache, a memorial to all victims of war and dictatorship, and see the University, Opera House and the State Library where Albert Einstein once worked. Our next stop is the Brandenburg Gate, the quintessential symbol of Berlin. We'll view the Reichstag, crowned by the dome designed by Sir Norman Foster and see how 21st century Berlin is taking shape on Potsdamer Platz, the new financial and business district. From here, we'll make our way to the site of the Berlin Wall to visit the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, before ending our tour in Gendarmenmarkt, one of Europe's most beautiful squares. Following our tour, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Berlin on our own. As you'll soon find out, Berlin has a vibe all its own.

Sunday, May 19 – BERLIN (Potsdam) (B)

Today we travel west of Berlin to Potsdam, the capital of Brandenburg. Once the home to German royalty, we'll stop to view the Cecilienhof residence, the site of the famous 1945 conference between the United States, Soviet Union, and United Kingdom, where Truman, Churchill, and Stalin would seal Germany and Europe's fate for the 20th Century, laying the groundwork for the Cold War. Then we'll travel past the Neo-Classical Marble Palace with its scenic lakeside setting as we make our way through the 18th century Nauener Gate for a visit to Potsdam's quaint Dutch quarter. Afterward, we'll visit Sanssouci Park, where 700 acres of lush gardens and scattered pavilions make up one of the most beautiful palace complexes in Europe, and enjoy a guided tour of the magnificent royal residence of Schloss Sanssouci, the oldest building in the complex with a beautifully terraced vineyard.

Monday, May 20 – BERLIN / BAMBERG (Dresden) (B,RD)

This morning we depart Berlin and set our sights on Saxony and its capital city of Dresden. Almost destroyed by Allied bombing, the city has since been restored to its Baroque splendor. More recently, meticulous restoration work continues to return the historic city center to its former glory after flooding in 2002. Our introduction to Dresden will highlight the monumental Hofkirche and include a visit to the beautiful Zwinger, the most important example of the city's Baroque architecture. During our guided tour we'll learn about the festivals that Augustus the Strong celebrated here, walk through the golden Kronentor to discover the numerous pavilions and galleries in the garden of the Zwingerhof, and view the Nymphenbad. Following our tour, we'll be on our way to the town of Bamberg, located in the Upper Franconia region of Bavaria. Tonight, we'll enjoy a legendary "Bamberg Beer Evening" featuring dinner in one of the local beer cellars, followed by a visit to one of the breweries for a mug of Bamberg brown beer and an original beer schnapps and pretzel – an evening we'll long remember!

Tuesday, May 21 – BAMBERG (B)

Our day will begin with a tour of Bamberg's splendidly preserved Old Town, home to exceptional artistic heritage. A good place to start is the Domplatz, one of Germany's prettiest squares where we'll find the magnificent Bamberg Cathedral, dominating the city skyline with its four massive towers. We'll also see the colorful Baroque Bishop's Palace, the Old Residence that today houses the city's historical museum, and the Neue Residenz with its impressive Rose Garden from where there is a memorable view of the former Benedictine Abbey of St. Michael. Our tour will come to an end with a cruise along the Regnitz River that encircles the medieval Old Town and Altes Rathaus.

Wednesday, May 22 – BAMBERG / BADEN BADEN (Wurzburg & Waldenbach) (B,D)

This morning we depart Bamberg and travel to the city of Wurzburg, surrounded by the Franconian vineyards. An introductory tour of the city will reveal Germany's most pristine example of baroque architecture, the great Residenz built in 1744 by the Prinz-Bishops. We'll also see the Dom St. Kilian, Germany's fourth largest Romanesque church, the beautiful red sandstone façade of Neumunster Kirche, as well as the picturesque Rathaus. Then we'll cross the medieval statue-lined Alte Main Bridge to visit the Marienberg fortress, originally a Celtic hill fort and later residence of the bishops. Following our visit to Wurzburg, we'll be on our way to the beautiful village of Waldenbach. Headquartered here is the Ritter Sport Company, where we'll experience the world of chocolate; where it comes from, how cocoa is transformed into candy and how different flavors are created. Afterward, we'll set our sights on the Black Forest, as we travel past small historic towns that have lost nothing of their original charm on our way to Baden-Baden.

Thursday, May 23 – BADEN BADEN

(Black Forest Touring)

(B)

A day of touring will take us through the Black Forest, passing pretty timber-framed houses, numerous abbeys, and castles set in idyllic valleys, as we travel the scenic Schwarzwald-Hochstrasse. This 40-mile long road through the northern Black Forest is the oldest and perhaps most beautiful route through the Black Forest. Our first stop will take us to the village of Gutach where we'll visit the open air Black Forest Folklore and Farmhouse Museum to learn about the over 200 year history of farming in this fascinating region. Next, we'll travel to the town of Triberg, where we can follow the historical trail of the clock carriers with a visit to the Black Forest Museum specializing in the exhibition of traditional costumes and local craftwork. On our return to Baden Baden, we'll stop in Alpirsbach, situated on the Kinzig River and home to Alpirsbach Monastery. The monks began brewing beer in the middle ages, and in 1877 Johann Gottfried Glauner re-opened the Klosterbrau, which is operated today by fourth generation Glauners. We'll enjoy a tour of the brewery museum and learn about the traditional art of brewing, as well as enjoy a fresh brew of the Alpirsbacher Klosterbräu.



we'll see the Marktplatz as well as the bathing area with the well-known Roman-Irish Friedrichsbad and the Caracalla Spa thermal baths. Our tour will come to an end as we return to the Kurhaus and dive into a world of old-school gaming with a visit to the Casino, described by Marlene Dietrich as "the most beautiful casino in the world." Following our tour, the remainder of the day is free to explore Baden Baden's Museum Mile where museum lovers can enjoy numerous exhibitions, including the Fabergé Museum, the first of its kind to devote itself to the life's work of Carl Fabergé, and for an afternoon stroll in Lichtentaler Allee, the historic park and arboretum located along the west bank of the Oos River.

Friday, May 24 – BADEN BADEN

(B,RD)

Situated in beautiful countryside on the fringes of the Black Forest and known as the "summer capital of Europe," for over a century Baden Baden has been the European destination for sophisticated relaxation. A leisurely day on tour will begin with a guided introduction to the history and sights of Baden-Baden. We'll begin at the Kurhaus, the architectural masterpiece that is the heart of the city, and take a stroll along the impressive frontage of the Trinkhalle, Baden-Baden's Pump Room, with its Corinthian pillars and striking murals. Next, we'll see the Festspielhaus, Germany's largest opera house and one of the finest addresses for classical music worldwide. Then we're headed in to the Old Quarter where

Saturday, May 25 – BADEN BADEN / CHICAGO (B,I)

This morning we depart Baden Baden and travel to Frankfurt Airport in preparation for our return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Berlin to Bavaria* vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

* * * Welcome Home * * *

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Escort.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$480 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Escort, and Step-on Guides; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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