

Weihnachten

Christmas Markets Tour

Germany - France - Austria

Rothenberg ob der Tauber • Nürnberg • Strasbourg
Triburg • Oberammergau • Salzburg • Freising

November 29 - December 9, 2013



Christmas in Germany, Austria and France is really something special. The holiday season preceding Christmas is what it must have felt like here in the states decades ago. City squares are full of small markets with craftsmen selling handmade goods. There are sausage stands that fill the air along with the Glühwein stands with an aroma that even thinking about gives me a warm feeling. There is no hustle and bustle; there are no crowded and commercialized malls. There is just a warm feeling of the season. - *Mark Larsen, Ed-Ventures*

Ed-Ventures, Inc.

Christmas Markets Tour

Friday, November 29, 2013 • Depart

Our journey begins today with our trans-Atlantic flight to Frankfurt, Germany.

Saturday, November 30, 2013 • Rothenburg ob der Tauber



courtesy of Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus e.V.

Upon arriving at the Frankfurt International Airport, we meet our driver and board our luxury touring coach for the short drive to Rothenburg ob der Tauber. This medieval city is one of only a few in Germany that still has its entire medieval defensive wall intact. Long ago the city was declared a national treasure, and laws prohibited changing the appearance of the original city inside the wall in any way. For us, that means a chance to step back centuries in time in one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country. Rothenburg also has a Christmas market, and after **touring the city** on a short walk with a local guide to learn its history, we will have time to enjoy a smaller but perhaps more quaint market. While the market is a bit smaller in Rothenburg, they have a special Christmas attraction of their own. You will want to stop to visit **Käthe Wohlfahrt's Christkindlmarkt**, an enormous Christmas shop which is open year-round, and which has to actually charge admission for entrance during the holiday season due to its popularity (your entrance will be covered of course). **D**

Sunday, December 1, 2013 • Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Today we take a short drive to **Nürnberg**. In the past century, Nürnberg had dark ties to the Nazi party, and was the scene of the war trials held by allied forces. In more modern times, it has a much brighter reputation as the site of the best Christmas markets in Germany. Dozens and dozens of stands which are decorated for the season, are set in the city center square, with craftsmen that have hand made a large variety of goods to sell. Some stands are cooking sausages on outdoor grills and others are warming Glühwein, a mix of red wine and spices. The scenes and smells combine to create a picture of Christmas from days gone by, and bring a warmth inside, even for those that don't try the Glühwein. We return Rothenburg for overnight. **B/D**



courtesy of Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus e.V.

Monday, December 2, 2013 • Strasbourg, France

After breakfast, we depart for Strasbourg, France where we tour the **Cathedral of Strasbourg**, **St. Thomas's Church**, and the **University**, the **Astronomical clock** and the historic "**La Petite Strasbourg**" quarter. Our highlight will be exploring

Strasbourg's famous Christmas market (since 1570) around its impressive cathedral! While we are walking through the city, we see the work of the talented craftsmen, and the Bredle Market where we may taste little delicious cakes traditionally prepared during the advent period. **B/D**

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 • Triberg

Today we head for the beauty of the Black Forest at Christmas time. We stop in **Freiburg** to explore the Christmas Market held on the Rathausplatz with its wide range of traditional arts and crafts from the Black Forest region, including straw shoes and colorful wooden toys. Then we visit the **Gutach Farm Museum** and a **Cuckoo Clock Shop**. We overnight in Triberg where more of the magic of Christmas is on display. **B/D**

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 • Oberammergau



from Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus e.V.

We travel southeast to step away from our Christmas theme a bit for the opportunity to see Germany's top tourist attraction. **Neuschwanstein** was the grand palace created by Ludwig II of Bavaria in the foothills of the Alps, and is said to be the inspiration for Walt Disney's castle. We will get to tour the palace and take some memorable photos, before continuing on to Oberammergau. Oberammergau is an attraction in itself. The small village is dotted with ornately painted homes, most depicting biblical scenes. The village is also dotted with woodcarving shops, where handmade carvings are sold, as Oberammergau is a woodcarving center. **B/D**

Thursday, December 5, 2013 • Oberammergau

This morning we tour another of Ludwig's palaces which lies about 15 miles from Oberammergau. Not nearly as grand in stature as Neuschwanstein, the **Palace Linderhof** is tucked into the forest, hidden from view. It was actually the favorite residence of Ludwig, who was a bit of a recluse. A guide will take us through the palace on a tour, and it will become very clear that this little palace makes up for its size with incredible opulence on the inside. Virtually every room's decor is highlighted by thousands of dollars in gold, and most have priceless artifacts of ivory, rare porcelain and more. After touring the palace, we travel half the distance back to our hotel to stop in the village of **Ettal**. Here we have time to find lunch on our own, and stroll through the beautiful baroque monastery. After lunch, we will visit a **local cheese maker** for a tour and a cheese tasting. We then return for some free time to explore Oberammergau, where incidentally **Käthe Wohlfahrt's** second Christmas shop is located. **B/D**

Ed-Ventures, Inc.

Nov. 29 - Dec. 9, 2013

Friday, December 6, 2013 • Salzburg



We continue on our journey today, driving south past Garmisch and crossing into Austria. We will then turn east and in a short time arrive in Salzburg, the city of Mozart, and *The Sound of Music*.

A local guide takes us on a short **walking tour of the city**. This will get us oriented to our home for the next two days, and take us through **Mirabell Gardens** (*The Sound of Music* setting for the song *Do Re Mi*), and down the streets of the famous **Getreidegasse** (the traditional cobblestoned shopping street in the old part of the city). On our tour, we will go into the home where Mozart was born, and walk through the city's grand cathedral. This evening we will have dinner at the **St Peter Stiftskeller**, the oldest restaurant in Europe, having been documented as early as the year 803. **B/D**

Saturday, December 7, 2013 • Salzburg

After breakfast this morning, we take a fun excursion outside of Salzburg to tour a **salt mine**. We will don miners garb, and slide our way underground for a truly fun and educational experience. While it's not part of the holiday season, the opportunity to tour this part of the region's history can't be passed up. In the afternoon, we return to Salzburg for some free time to explore Salzburg's Christmas market. Tonight we have dinner on our own. **B**

Sunday, December 8, 2013 • Freising

The final leg of our journey takes us to Munich, where we meet a **local guide** and spend a short time learning about the history and highlights of the city. We then have one last opportunity to explore a Christmas market, or perhaps you may opt to visit one of the many world-class museums on your own. Tonight we will stay a short distance north of Munich, and very close to the Munich International airport. This will put us close to the airport for tomorrow's departure, and close to the **Weihenstephan Brewery**, a brewery started one thousand years ago by monks. The brewery has a beautiful restaurant serving traditional Bavarian food, and it is here that we will have our farewell **dinner** together in Germany. **B/D**

Monday, December 9, 2013 • Return

This morning we say *Auf Wiederseh'n* to Germany, and the new friends we have met along the way, as we drive the very short distance to the Munich airport for our return flights to the USA. **B**

TOUR COST: \$2,329* per person, land only

ECM13

**Price is based on a minimum of 20 participants, double occupancy*

Single supplement = \$475

Triples can be requested but are not advised

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- **Land transportation** via private, deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double-occupancy) in superior 3 star hotels
- **Meals** as indicated in itinerary
- Services of a **professional tour guide** throughout the tour
- **Local step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Admission** to all activities listed on itinerary
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person at hotels
- All **taxes and gratuity** for provided services, except as indicated below

NOT INCLUDED:

- **Airfare**, related taxes and fees
- Meals not indicated on itinerary
- **Beverages** except with breakfast
- **End of tour gratuity** for coach driver and tour guide
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees
Passport must be valid for six months beyond return date
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation
(This insurance is available and recommended.)

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure date. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Early registration is encouraged.

CURRENCY:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, Ed-Ventures reserves the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

REFUND/CANCELLATION POLICY:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 100 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee will be assessed. From 99-14 days, a \$300 cancellation penalty plus any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers as well as any penalties imposed by airlines (if applicable) will be assessed. Anyone cancelling less than 14 days prior to departure will receive NO REFUND. Airline tickets (if applicable) once written are usually not refundable.

Purchase of health, baggage and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly encouraged.

Abbreviations for Meals

B=Breakfast **D**=Dinner

320 Elton Hills Dr NW • Rochester, MN 55901
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Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

Responsibility: Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances be liable to the client under or by reason of this agreement directly or indirectly for any accidents, injury, delay, damage, or inconvenience caused to the client by negligence of others, by malfunctions of transportation systems or equipment, by acts of war, terrorism, or rebellion, strikes, theft, itinerary changes, extreme weather conditions, or cancellations, and the client hereby releases the above mentioned corporation and persons from any and all such liability. The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.



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Registration Form

CHRISTMAS MARKETS TOUR (ECM13) Nov. 29 - Dec. 9, 2013

Passenger Information (1st Traveler)

Full name must be exactly as it appears on your passport or passport application. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

First Name: _____

Middle Name(s): _____

Last Name(s): _____

(Nickname): _____ Gender _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Dietary needs: _____

Passenger Information (2nd Traveler)

Full name must be exactly as it appears on your passport or passport application. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

First Name: _____

Middle Name(s): _____

Last Name(s): _____

(Nickname): _____ Gender _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Dietary needs: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Work phone/cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Deposit Payment Information

(please fill out if paying by **check**):

Enclosed is my check made payable to
Ed-Ventures, Inc. in the amount of:

_____.

Deposit Payment Information (please fill out if paying by *credit card*):

Credit Card Number: _____

Visa/MasterCard/Disc: _____ Card ID Code*: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Amount: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**last 3 digits in signature box on the back of the card*

Sleeping Preference (circle one): Double bed Twin Beds Roommate (name): _____

Single supplement is an additional (\$475): _____ Yes _____ No

Travel Insurance (please check one):

☐ Yes, sign me up

☐ No, I decline

Insurance Payment Information:

☐ Charge my card below

☐ Check enclosed

Credit Card Number: _____

Card ID Code*: _____ Visa/MC/Disc: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Amount: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions. Please sign me up for the trip!

Signature of 1st traveler: _____ Date: _____

Signature of 2nd traveler: _____ Date: _____

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