

BONTOUR

Bavaria and the Black Forest

Munich, Neuschwanstein, Mainau, Triberg, Freiburg

DIRECT from the Channel Islands

Saturday 27th August - Saturday 3rd September 2022



8 day / 7 night, fully escorted tour
From only £1,595pp
Single supplement £250

Day 1: DIRECT from Jersey via Guernsey (same plane connection) to Zurich

Jersey clients will be met in departures at Jersey Airport by their Bontour Tour Manager who will escort the tour throughout. (Departure to Zurich via Guernsey 10:20 - 13:55. We will remain on the plane in Guernsey for approx. 20 minutes).

Guernsey clients will board the flight direct at Guernsey Airport at 10:55 joining the rest of the group on-board for arrival into Zurich at 13:55 with Blue Islands.

From Zurich Airport we will be collected by coach, along with our Tour Manager, and begin our journey to Munich. The journey will take around 4.5 hours through Swiss and German countryside, before arriving at the 3* Superior Mercure Hotel Munich Altstadt, located in a quiet area of Munich's old town. We will have time to check-in and freshen up after the journey before enjoying a 3 course welcome dinner in famous Merienplatz Square, just a short walk from the hotel, where we will get to know our fellow travellers.



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Day 2: Monastery Ettal, Oberammergau & Neuschwanstein Castle

After a hearty breakfast in the hotel we will be collected by coach, along with a local English speaking guide, for a full day excursion. The first stop on this busy day will be the famous Benedictine Monastery at Ettal, where we will have chance to feast our eyes upon the ornate Rococo Basilica, considered by many to be the most beautiful in Southern Germany. After time to explore the Monastery and its expansive grounds, we will be transferred by coach to nearby Oberammergau, home to the world-famous once-a-decade Passion Play. Enjoy lunch at your leisure in this quaint town, before admiring the traditional painted houses or perhaps picking up one of the hand carved wooden souvenirs for which the area is known.

After lunch we will depart Oberammergau for the scenic journey to Neuschwanstein Castle, the romantic medieval pile whose fairy-tale spires, standing proud amongst a mountainous backdrop, served as inspiration for Disney's Sleeping Beauty. Built by 'Mad' King Ludwig II in homage to the composer Richard Wagner, Neuschwanstein is one of the most recognisable and popular tourist destinations on earth. Our tour will include some of the best vantage points to admire the spectacular views along with exploration of the majestic interior frescos and beautiful walled garden. *Please Note: An uphill walk of circa 30 minutes is required to reach Neuschwanstein Castle. Carriage or bus transfers may be possible however these are not pre-bookable and will be at an additional charge.*

On return to Munich we will enjoy together a lively traditional 3 course dinner accompanied by Bavarian folk music in the famous Hofbrauhaus in Munich, before retiring to our hotel.

Day 3: Munich & Andechs Monastery

After breakfast at the hotel we will be collected from the hotel by coach with our English speaking guide and embark on a tour of the fascinating city of Munich, where the traditional and the modern sit shoulder to shoulder. Our tour, on foot and by bus, will take in such impressive sights as the exterior of the baroque Nymphenburg Palace, futuristic BMW world, both old and new areas of the city centre, the historic Opera House and the bustling Marienplatz Square.

Lunch is at leisure in Munich before we depart by coach for the one hour journey to the delightful Andechs Monastery, affectionately known locally as 'The Holy Hill' due its elevated position above the small town of Andechs. Despite being home to a number of enormously important relics, the Monastery is perhaps best known for its brewery where monks have been brewing a variety of Bavarian beverages for hundreds of years. Our tour will include a visit to the Brewery and tasting of 6 speciality beers.

On return Munich the evening is your own. Enjoy a hearty local meal in one of the city's many restaurants, perhaps accompanied by another local beer.

Day 4: Munich at leisure

After a busy itinerary so far, today is a chance to catch your breath and spend the day at leisure. Enjoy a relaxed breakfast at the hotel before heading out to explore Munich at your own pace. You may wish to pay a visit to one or two of the city's fascinating museums such as the Glyptothek, housing a wealth of ancient sculptures, the Deutsches Museum of science and technology, or perhaps the Kartoffel Museum which tells the story of the humble potato! Alternatively you may wish to take advantage of your generous 20kg baggage allowance by hitting the shops, or simply relax in your hotel.

Lunch and dinner are for you to find something for your own taste and we can make recommendations should you like. Options for local or international cuisine in the city are deliciously endless.

Day 5: Meersburg, Lake Constance & Mainau

This morning we will check out of the Mecure Hotel Munich Altstadt and be collected, along with our luggage, for another exciting day on route to Triberg.

The first stop today is the charming town of Meersburg, which like the surrounding vineyards, seems to roll down the verdant hillside towards the banks of Lake Constance. Famed for its wine growing history and immaculate medieval centre, the lower and upper sections of the town are linked by a network of stairs and steep streets. We will have time here to take a stroll along the lakefront promenade and explore the cobbled streets and half-timbered houses, before enjoying an independent lunch and perhaps a glass of local wine in a cosy tavern.

After lunch we will be transported to the 'Flower Island' of Mainau. Lying just off the shore of Lake Constance this 45 hectare garden has to be experienced to be believed. Summer flowers will be in full bloom during our visit and there will be time to soak up the tranquil atmosphere whilst discovering each unique zone; from the 150 year old arboretum to the meticulously landscaped Italian rose garden, or the vibrant and eclectic herbaceous area. Step inside the butterfly house to discover 120 colourful species from around the world or admire the architecture of the Baroque Palace.

After our visit you will be transported by coach to the 3* Hotel Zum Ochsen in the Black Forest where we will check in before enjoying dinner with the group in the hotel.

Day 6: Triberg

After a substantial and tasty breakfast in our hotel we will depart by coach to explore the delights of the local area. First stop on today's itinerary is the magnificent Triberg Waterfalls. Tumbling and tripping over seven tiers and a total drop of 163 metres, these wild and romantic falls are the highest in the Black Forest, and an awesome spectacle of nature. Those who wish to, can take a stroll along one of several inclined trails to the higher vantage points, simply relax at the base of the falls and enjoy the natural environment and abundant wildlife, or take an option to visit the model railways and miniature cities on display at Museum Triberg-Land.

Having explored the waterfalls, the next stop is a nearby falconry centre where we will enjoy an impressive birds of prey flight display featuring hawks and owls, and have the chance to view these beautiful and majestic creatures at close range.

After a lunch at leisure, an afternoon of fun awaits. Of many things that The Black Forest area is synonymous, one of the best known is Black Forest Gateau, and no trip would be complete without a taste! In the afternoon we will enjoy a demonstration of how to make the traditional Black Forest treat. It goes almost without saying that there will be an opportunity to try a slice with a tea or coffee.

In the evening we will enjoy another dinner in your hotel.

Day 7: Freiburg

On our last full day in Germany we will be collected after breakfast for transfer to historic Freiburg, famed as being the country's sunniest city and known as Jewel of the Black Forest. The cobbled old-town is the stuff of story-books, with brightly painted gabled townhouses, cafe-lined plazas and chiming clock towers. Meeting an English speaking guide we will embark on a walking tour of the medieval centre, taking in significant sights along the way, not least the Gothic Cathedral.

After a relaxed lunch at leisure, we will be transported to the lower station of the Schauinsland Cable Car, from where we will ascend to the highest peak of the Freiburg area and enjoy breath-taking views for miles in each direction. Learn about the history of this particular cableway, first of its kind in the world and now classified as a technical monument, before descending back to your coach and returning to Triberg.

Enjoy a farewell dinner in our hotel in Triberg before packing and preparing for the journey home.

Day 8: Return to Jersey (onwards to Guernsey)

Enjoy a final breakfast with our fellow travellers, by now no doubt new friends, before departing by coach at approximately 08:30 for return to Zurich Airport.

Our direct flight for Jersey departs Zurich Airport at 14:25 arriving at 15:25 with Blue Islands. All passengers will disembark in Jersey and clear passport control, with Guernsey passengers taking an inter-island flight for the final stage of their journey. The connecting Blue Islands flight to Guernsey departs at 17:40 arriving at 18:00.

Please note:

- The currency in Germany is the Euro.
- We advise you should be able to walk for up to one hour at a leisurely pace to be able to enjoy this tour to the full. There may be some steady inclines / declines.
- Note, it is a 30 minute walk uphill to Neuschwanstein Castle - horse-drawn carriages and special buses can be booked and paid for locally on arrival, subject to availability.
- Drinks are not included with your meal unless otherwise stated.

This itinerary is subject to change without prior notice.