

Alpine Adventure!

A Journey through Swiss and Austrian Alps with Mountain Lake PBS



Lake Lucerne

Join Mountain Lake PBS for a stunning trip to the crystal blue lakes, sparkling glaciers and quaint villages of Switzerland and Austria next October.

We'll travel from pristine, friendly Lucerne, a gem of a city nestled between lake and mountains with its breathtaking scenic mountain panorama backdrop, eastward to the rustic yet elegant charm of Innsbruck, where city and nature come together to delight. Finally, we'll explore the culture and culinary sophistication of Salzburg, where everyone seems to be humming a tune.

Our itinerary gives us ample time to explore and be inspired in city, village and countryside. We'll take a cog railway up to Mount Rigi, Lucerne's "Queen of Mountains" through a landscape of cherry trees and *kirsch*, enjoying the all-round view with nothing between us and the fresh mountain air, and travel by horse and carriage through the woods and around the lakes of the village of Seefeld in Austria. We'll visit the "Mad King" Ludwig's fairy tale castle on the Chiemsee, and climb up to the summit of Kehlstein to visit Hitler's secret "Eagle's Nest" hideaway.

At every stop along the way, we'll sample the finest food the region has to offer: a panoply of cheese and sausages, chocolates, potato rösti, fondue, goulash, *spatzle* and Wiener Schnitzel, all accompanied by fine wines and beers and perhaps a slice of *Sachertorte* or *Apfelstrudel* for dessert.



October 3-13, 2019*

Deluxe accommodations await us throughout the trip, 4-star hotels in each city in central locations. Once again, Alasdair Clayre, who has led us to Highclere Castle and beyond, as well as Scotland, will manage the tour.

Innsbruck



★★★★ Tour Highlights

- Tours of major sites and travel in three beautiful alpine regions of Switzerland and Austria, including tours of the cities of Lucerne, Innsbruck and Salzburg led by expert guides
- Cog-railway ride up the slopes of Mount Rigi
- Private boat ride on Lake Lucerne, weather permitting
- Boat excursion to Herrenchiemsee Palace on Chiemsee Lake
- Excursion to Hitler's Eagle's Nest on Obersalzberg Mountain
- Private motorcoach transportation to all destinations in the itinerary, including excursions
- Free time for hiking, relaxing, and further sight-seeing
- 9 breakfasts, 3 dinners and 6 lunches

***Tour begins October 4th at Zurich Airport** for transfer to Lucerne

Group limited to 25 participants or as hotel space allows.

The MLPBS Alps tour is organized by THE GRAND TOUR Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire.

Daily Itinerary



Salzburg

Thursday, October 3

Flights from the US, with arrival the following day.

Friday, October 4

WILLKOMMEN! [WELCOME!]

From your arrival at Zurich Airport (ZRH) our private motorcoach awaits to take us to our first home, the boutique 4-star Hotel des Balances, in Lucerne's car-free *Altstadt* (Old Town) where historic houses decorated with frescoes line picturesque town squares. Tonight we celebrate our arrival with a **welcome reception** at the hotel and **dinner** at the historic Restaurant Sauvage in the Hotel Wilden Mann.

Saturday, October 5

QUEEN OF MOUNTAINS

Breakfast daily at all three hotels. Lucerne is the ideal starting point for our day-long excursion to Mount Rigi, Switzerland's "Queen of Mountains." Our private boat on Lake Lucerne takes us to the town of Vitznau at the foot of the mountain, where it's a dramatic half-hour's journey aboard the cog railway up and right into the magnificent Alpine world. A breathtaking panoramic view across the Alps can be enjoyed from the summit. A short nature walk with private guide acquaints us with some of the rich Alpine flora comprising nearly 1000 species. Keep your cameras ready! We travel next via train and aerial cable car to the charming, tranquil town of Weggis, for **lunch** at the Seehotel Gotthard, set on the shores of Lake Lucerne with its panoramic mountain backdrop. Evening is free with dinner on your own.



Herrenchiemsee Castle

Sunday, October 6

CITY ON THE LAKE

The morning begins with a private guided tour of Lucerne, one of Switzerland's prettiest towns. Its lively streets, hidden alleys and beautiful façades of medieval buildings in the *Altstadt* make it perfect to explore on foot. We'll stroll across 14th century Chapel Bridge, one of the city's two iconic picture-perfect wooden bridges, and admire its medieval gable paintings, and rest and reflect in the contemplative 13th century Franciscan Church, an unspoiled example of medieval Gothic mendicant architecture. The sculpted Lion Monument commemorates the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792. Lunch is on your own. The rest of the afternoon and evening is free with dinner on your own. Optional performance at Lucerne's ultramodern Culture and Convention Centre (KKL), designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, with state-of-the-art acoustics.

Monday, October 7

SPORT, ARCHITECTURE AND PANORAMAS

Our alpine adventure continues this morning as we head eastward towards Innsbruck, stopping first in the Upper Rhine Valley to visit the tiny principality of Lichtenstein, one of the smallest countries in the world. Continuing our border-hopping, **lunch** is in Feldkirch in Austria before our late afternoon arrival and check-in at the Hotel Schwarzer Adler, a refined mountain hotel set in an elegant building dating from the 16th century, on the edge of Innsbruck's old town. After settling in, our city tour begins with a visit to the dynamic and elegant Bergisel Ski Jump, redesigned in 2001 by the renowned late architect Zaha Hadid. Two-hundred years ago, the historic Battle of Bergisel took place on these slopes, when Tyrolean insurgents, led by Andreas Hofer, were outnumbered by Napoleon's army and Bavarian forces. There we enjoy coffee and cake surrounded by a 360 degree view, and visit the amazing Tirol Panorama, a 360 degree painting from the late 19th century of the same view!



left: Seekirchl Church, Seefeld
right: Rigi Cogwheel Railway

Tuesday, October 8

CAPITAL OF THE ALPS

In Innsbruck the Alps appear close enough to touch. Located in a broad valley between high mountains, the city offers a unique mosaic of cultural history, shaped by its past but continuing to evolve with the times. Innsbruck became the capital of all Tyrol in 1429 and remained a center of European politics and culture well into the 16th century. Our morning tour of the city gives us a more complete view of this complex and diverse city, including the Hofkirche, with the unique large black statues commissioned by Emperor Maximilian I of his real and purported ancestors; St. James Cathedral, towering majestically over the roofs of the city, recognizable by the unmistakable sound of its bells; and after lunch on your own, a visit to Schloss Ambras, a Renaissance castle and palace located in the hills above Innsbruck. Your afternoon is free for more exploring until we gather as a group in the evening for a **wine tasting and dinner** within view of the Innsbruck Imperial Palace.

Wednesday, October 9

THE MOUNTAINOUS TYROL

Our full-day excursion today takes us to the alpine town of Seefeld in the Tyrol, situated on a sunny plateau high above Innsbruck, and a prime cross-county skiing center. The Seekirchl church, with its eight-sided Baroque style architecture, welcomes us to the entrance of Seefeld village where

you will soon board your own horse and carriage for a fun trip through the neighboring fields and woods and around the lake. **Lunch** is at an idyllic inn near the village of Buchen amidst blue skies and snow-capped mountain peaks. Our late afternoon return to Innsbruck leaves your evening free for dinner on your own.

King Ludwig II



Thursday, October 10

MUSICAL MECCA

Our travels continue eastward this morning to Salzburg, stopping first for a boat trip to visit Herrenchiemsee Palace on Chiemsee, a lake in Bavaria, Germany. The unfinished palace, built by King Ludwig II, sits on the lake's largest island, Herreninsel, or Men's Island, and is crossed with nature trails. After **lunch** at the Palace, we arrive at our home for the next three nights, the 4-star Hotel Altstadt, well-situated in Salzburg's Old Town. After settling in and an orientation walk, your evening is free for dinner on your own in this fascinating town, renowned for its particular Austrian hybrid of Gothic and Baroque.



Mirabell Castle and Gardens

Friday, October 11

CITY OF MOZART

Salzburg sits against a backdrop of graceful domes and spires, with cliff top fortresses and the mountains beyond. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997, its *Altstadt* (Old Town) looks much as it did when Mozart lived here 250 years ago, one of the best-preserved city centers north of the Alps. With our private guide, we'll explore the many treasures this city has to offer, including Mirabell Castle and Gardens, the 7th century church and abbey of St. Peter's Monastery, the spiritual heart of the city, and the Residenz Palace, home of the ruling archbishops of Salzburg in the Baroque era. **Lunch** is at Stiftskeller St. Peter's, close to the church. Your evening is free with dinner on your own.

Saturday, October 12

HITLER'S "EAGLE'S NEST"

The road rises 2600 feet in altitude as we make our way to Kehlsteinhaus, known as Eagle's Nest, on Obersalzberg Mountain, an architecturally unique building perched atop an alpine peak and built in 1939 as a gift to Adolf Hitler for his 50th birthday. A tunnel through solid mountain rock takes us via a lift



Eagle's Nest

up to the interior of the Eagle's Nest, with its spectacular panoramic view. After **lunch** at Café Windbeutelbaron, overlooking the emerald-green lake, Königssee, we head back to Salzburg for free time before our evening **gala farewell dinner** at Hotel Sacher, one of the most historic in the city, famed for its Torte.

Sunday, October 13

Tour ends after breakfast. Early morning coach transfer to Munich Airport for flights to North America.

*Itinerary is subject to change. Meals in **bold** are included in the cost of the tour.*



Tour Registration

Tour Cost: \$4,985 per person, ground only, double occupancy.

Single supplement: \$875. Group limited to 25 participants or as hotel space allows.

Deposit: \$1000 per person, first come, first served, due upon registration. Tax-deductible contribution to Mountain Lake PBS: \$500.

Registration Deadline and Balance Due: August 2, 2019.

After that date, call for availability.

To reserve your place, send registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit amount to: Alps Tour, Mountain Lake PBS, 1 Sesame Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Questions?

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Sachertorte

