

A Balancing Act Educational Tours

Canada and the World Wars in France and Germany

ITINERARY SUMMARY	
Days 1 & 2:	<p>CALGARY / PARIS Flights Tour representative to meet at airport & escort to hotel Private Coach Transportation from airport to Paris Hotel in Latin Quarter Walking tour of the Latin Quarter, (OPTIONAL entrance to Sainte-Chapelle & Conciergerie), Notre Dame Cathedral & the Archaeological Crypts of Notre Dame Cruise on the Seine River Welcome Dinner Meals: On Board flight / Dinner Accommodations: Paris Hotel in Latin Quarter – 3 nights Transportation: Paris Airport / Hotel Entrance Fees: Notre Dame Cathedral, Archaeological Crypts of Notre Dame, Seine River Cruise</p>
Day 3:	<p>Versailles Sightseeing by Private Coach & Les Invalides Guided Excursion to Versailles Visit Les Invalides & Napoleon's Tomb (guided tour) Group Dinner Meals: Breakfast /Dinner Accommodations: Paris Hotel in Latin Quarter Transportation: Full Day Coach Hotel - Versailles - Les Invalides - Hotel Entrance Fees: Versailles Palace & Gardens, Les Invalides & Napoleon's Tomb</p>
Day 4:	<p>Paris Sightseeing by Private Coach & Eiffel Tower Paris Guided City Tour by Coach - Stops at Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Elysees, Place de la Concorde, Sacré-Coeur Basilica, Place du Tertre, Musee D'Orsay Visit The Eiffel Tower - Behind the scenes Eiffel Tower Tour Group Dinner Meals: Breakfast / Dinner Accommodations: Paris Hotel in Latin Quarter Transportation: Full Day Coach City Tour Entrance Fees: The Eiffel Tower (2nd floor observatory) Behind the Scenes Tour</p>
Day 5:	<p>Normandy Region / Caen by Private Coach Private coach transfer from Paris to Normandy (about 3 hour drive) Juno Beach Centre, Beny-sur-Mer Canadian Cemetery, Caen Memorial, Arromanches 360° Meals: Breakfast / Dinner Accommodations: Caen Hotel – 1 night Transportation: Paris – Normandy - Caen Entrance Fees: Juno Beach Centre, Caen Memorial, Arromanches 360°</p>

Day 6:	Vimy Region – Arras by Private Coach Private coach transfer from Caen to Vimy Ridge (about 3 1/2 hour drive) Stop enroute at the Newfoundland Memorial Park in Beaumont-Hamel (20 minute stop) Vimy Ridge Historic Site with Tunnel & Trench Tour, Wellington Quarry Underground Guided Tour Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery (20 minutes) Private coach transfer to Paris (about 2 ½ hours drive) Meals: Breakfast / Dinner Accommodations: Paris Hotel – 1 night Transportation: Caen - Vimy Ridge - Paris Entrance Fees: Vimy Ridge Historic Site Tunnel & Trench Tour, Wellington Quarry Tour
Day 7:	The Louvre - Munich Morning - visit The Louvre Afternoon (around 3 pm) - Train from Paris to Munich – (arrive around 9:30 pm) Dinner on the train Meals: Breakfast / Dinner on Train Accommodations: Munich Central Hotel – 3 nights Transportation: Hotel - The Louvre - Paris Train Station / Train Paris to Munich / Munich Train Station - Hotel Entrance Fees: The Louvre Museum with Guided Tour
Day 8:	Munich Sightseeing by Private Coach & Dachau Morning - Marienplatz Square Walking Tour - New Town Hall, Mariensaule, St.-Jakobs-Place Munich City Bus Tour - Schwabing District, Residenz, Palace of Justice, Ludwigstrasse, Isartor, Frauenkirche, Museums’ Quarter, Kings Square, Viktualienmarkt, Nymphenburg castle, Olympiapark & Tower, BMW Headquarters Afternoon Excursion to Dachau Meals: Breakfast / Dinner Accommodations: Munich Central Hotel Transportation: Full Day Coach Entrance Fees: Olympic Tower, Dachau
Day 9:	Fussen - Neuschwanstein Castle & Hohenschwangau Castle by Private Coach Visit the Church of Wies enroute to Fussen Guided Tour of Hohenschwangau Castle & Neuschwanstein Castle including admission to the Museum of the Bavarian Kings Meals: Breakfast / Dinner Accommodations: Munich Central Hotel Transportation: Full Day Coach Entrance Fees: Hohenschwangau Castle, Neuschwanstein Castle, Museum of the Bavarian Kings
Day 10:	Private Coach transfer to Munich Airport for departure Meals: Breakfast MUNICH / CALGARY Flights



ITINERARY DETAILED

Days 1 & 2:

CALGARY / PARIS

Depart Calgary for overnight flight to Paris, France

Paris

Welcome to Paris! Once you clear Customs & Immigrations, your tour guide will greet you in the Arrival Lobby just outside of Customs and escort you by private coach to your hotel. Your **tour guide** will be fluent in both English & French, and able to assist you with anything you wish! The guide will be staying at the same hotels as you and on hand to help during your stay. Check-in to your hotel and have some time to rest and have lunch.

In the afternoon, meet with your Tour Guide for a **Walking Tour of the Latin Quarter**. This tour takes us through the heart of Parisian history and touches on everything from Roman ruins to the great intellectuals of France. This is where Paris began many centuries ago and continues to be one of the most popular areas of the city. See renowned churches **St. Etienne du Mont & St. Chapelle** (The stained glass walls are considered to be among the most impressive in the world), **Place St. Michel** (square in the heart of the Latin Quarter is dominated by the Fontaine St. Michel in which St. Michel, the archangel, is shown defeating two dragons. The square is also a popular spot at night for street musicians and socializing students), the **Panthéon** (the first great neoclassical monument & masterpiece of the architect Soufflot), **Pointe Zero** (this is the point where from which all distances in France are measured), **Les Bouquinistes** (line the banks of the Seine and sell everything from old books and posters to photos and trinkets), the **Sorbonne University** (the world's second oldest university), **Conciergerie** (formerly a royal palace and prison - the most notable of whom were Queen Marie Antoinette and Napoleon III), **Rue du Chat-qui-Pêche** (the narrowest street in Paris, with a width of only 1.8 meters).

Visit **Notre Dame Cathedral** - The most famous cathedral in the world is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Construction began in 1163 during the reign on King Louis VII and has stood as a symbol of Paris for almost nine centuries. On the top of the building sit 13 statues; 12 are the apostles and one is a statue of the architect himself.

Archaeological Crypt under the Parvis of Notre Dame - Converted in 1980 under the square in front of Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral to display archaeological remains discovered during excavations from 1965 to 1972, the crypt provides a unique overview of urban & architectural development of the Île de la Cité, the historical heart of Paris.

Discover some of the most beautiful monuments of Paris on a **Seine river cruise** with commentary. From the vantage point of the river, see the **Louvre Museum** (one of the largest & most important museums in the world with the Louvre Pyramid which functions as the museum's main entrance), **Alexander III Bridge** (the most luxurious bridge in Paris, built to commemorate the Franco-Russian alliance at the end of the last century), **Pont-Neuf** (the New Bridge is, in spite of its name, the oldest bridge of Paris. Finished under Henry IV in 1606, it was the first bridge of Paris built with stones), **Musée d'Orsay** (a museum housed in a grand railway station built in 1900 for the Paris World Exposition), **Hôtel de Ville** (Paris's City Hall).

Group Dinner in the Latin Quarter

Accommodations: Paris Hotel in Latin Quarter - 3 nights

Meals Included: Meals on board flight / Dinner

Day 3:

Versailles & Les Invalides

Versailles Sightseeing by Private Coach & Les Invalides

After breakfast this morning, you will depart for a Guided Excursion to Versailles. The magnificent **Château de Versailles** is a testimony of Louis XIV the Sun King’s extravaganza. The Palace and its magnificent formal garden became the quintessential model for palaces in Europe. The Château de Versailles, which has been on UNESCO’s World Heritage List for 30 years, is one of the most beautiful achievements of 18th-century French art. The site began as Louis XIII’s hunting lodge before his son Louis XIV transformed and expanded it, moving the court and government of France to Versailles in 1682. Each of the three French kings who lived there until the French Revolution added improvements to make it more beautiful.

The Hall of Mirrors has always played an important role in history including in 1919, as the First World War officially ended when Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles in this hall. The main feature of the hall is the seventeen mirrored arches that reflect the seventeen arched windows which look out onto Versailles equally- magnificent garden. **The Grand Apartment** was originally known as the Apartment of the Planets (the 7 salons of this apartment each featured a painting of a planet), this was King Louis XIV's apartment. **The Garden of the Versailles Palace** is Europe's largest palace garden. It was created in the 17th century by landscape gardener André Le Nôtre who designed what could be considered the quintessential formal French garden. The garden is laid out in a geometric pattern of paths, bushes, flowerbeds and trees.

After your return, stop at **Les Invalides (Hôtel des Invalides)** - The **Dôme des Invalides**, which contains **Napoleon tomb**, is the emblem of the Hôtel National des Invalides and an unmissable monument in the Parisian landscape. You will visit the museum's permanent collections, the Dome Church (Napoleon's Tomb), Charles de Gaulle Monument, temporary exhibitions and Museum of Relief Maps and the Museum of the Order of the Liberation with your guide.

You will have a **group dinner** this evening upon your return to the Latin Quarter.

Accommodations: Paris Hotel in Latin Quarter
Meals Included: Breakfast / Dinner

Day 4:

Paris & Eiffel Tower

Paris Sightseeing by Private Coach & Eiffel Tower

After breakfast this morning, embark on a half day sightseeing tour of Paris with your Guide by Private Coach. Drive through Paris and see all the famous landmarks and monuments like the **Arc de Triomphe** (one of the greatest arches in history commissioned by Napoleon in 1806 to commemorate his victories). Stop for a walking tour along **Champs-Elysees** (probably the most famous avenue in the world) to **Concorde Square** (with a surface of 84.000 square meters , the place offers a superb sight of the avenue of the Champs-Élysées in all its length and the Arch of Triumph, on a side, the Louvre and Gardens of Tuileries on the other side. **Place de la Concorde** is the where King Louis XVI, Marie-Antionette, and revolutionary Robespierre, just to name a few were beheaded and is now the site of **Cleopatra's Needle**, the 3200 year old obelisk from the temple of Ramses II at Thebes. Stop at the **Sacré-Coeur Basilica** on top of the Montmartre hill, an area where famous painters lived and worked in this beautiful hilltop part of Paris. The Savoyarde clock installed here is one of the worlds largest. Due to its location on the Montmartre hill, the basilica towers over the city; its highest point is even higher than the top of the Eiffel Tower). Next to Sacré-Coeur is the **Place du Tertre** (the charming artists square where works are painted and sold on the spot).

	<p>After your tour, we will stop at the Eiffel Tower. Once the tallest structure in the world, the Eiffel Tower is probably Europe's best known landmark and Paris's most famous symbol. The Eiffel Tower was built for the World Exhibition in 1889, held in celebration of the French Revolution in 1789. The tower rises 300 meters tall (984 ft); when it was completed at the end of the 19th century. Visit the 2nd floor observatory with its panoramic view over Paris.</p> <p>Behind-the-Scenes Eiffel Tower Tour - Discover the Eiffel Tower like you have never seen it before! Your guided tour will start in the bunker under the Champ de Mars. During World War I, the Eiffel Tower was used to house communications equipment for the army and an evacuation route was built underground, with several secret corridors and tunnels. In case the German army advanced, the tunnels were an escape route and lead from the bunker into the River Seine. Wartime secrets are revealed during this tour, with several accounts of World War II, when Paris fell to Nazi occupation in June 1940. As a privileged visitor, you will also have backstage access to the engine room where your guide will tell you more about the hydraulic system process which controls the Eiffel Tower's elevators. You will then go to the second floor where you will reach the roof of the famous restaurant Le Jules Verne.</p> <p>Accommodations: Paris Hotel in Latin Quarter Meals Included: Breakfast / Dinner</p>
<p>Day 5:</p> <p>Normandy Region & Caen</p>	<p>Normandy Region</p> <p>After breakfast buffet this morning, embark on a three hour drive to through the picturesque Normandy countryside to the location of the Normandy battlefields and landing beaches of World War II (about 3 hour drive)</p> <p>Juno Beach Centre - This is the only museum along the landing beaches that is dedicated solely to the Canadian troops that fought along with the rest of the allies during the Second World War. The museum offers numerous interactive displays with original photos, video footage and artefacts, which illustrate and explain the role played by Canada during the war as well as give an insight into Canadian culture. After a detailed introduction by a guide, the group watches a film (4½ min.) and then begins a self-guided visit of the museum. Afterwards, you will have a 30 minute Guided tour of Juno Park with a bilingual (English/French) Canadian guide. Discover the history of the D-Day landings by exploring the remains of the Atlantic Wall, including the inside of a bunker, situated directly in front of the Centre.</p> <p>Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War cemetery - The men who fell on the beaches and in the bitter bridgehead battles are buried here. The cemetery contains 2,049 headstones enclosed by pines and maples. These mark the dead of the 3rd Division and the graves of 15 airmen.</p> <p>The Caen Memorial - devoted to illustrations and films about the Second World War and the Normandy landings of June 1944. This large-scale museum is dedicated to peace and to the history of the 20th century, including the Second World War, the Reconstruction, the Cold War, the political stakes and the construction of peace. Embark on a journey at the heart of the Second World War and the Cold War! On more than 5600m² of exhibition, discover some interesting objects and some totally original archive documents like a BM-13 Katyusha rocket launcher nicknamed 'Stalin's Organ', some films where resistants explain how they helped people during the Battle of Normandy and some sections of the Berlin Wall. Discover the whole D-Day story in the permanent exhibition dedicated to the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy!</p>

	<p>Arromanches 360° - This circular cinema was built to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Visitors are invited to watch a short film, created with 360° images, which gives an insight into the events that took place on the beaches in 1944 alongside images of daily life in the area today. Once you have watched the film, be sure to step outside to take a moment to reflect as you gaze out across the landing beaches at Arromanches.</p> <p>Accommodations: Caen Hotel - 1 night Meals Included: Breakfast / Dinner</p>
<p>Day 6:</p> <p>Vimy Region & Arras</p>	<p>Vimy Region</p> <p>After your breakfast this morning, transfer from Caen to Vimy Ridge by Private Coach (about 3-½ hour drive).</p> <p>Stop enroute at the Newfoundland Memorial Park in Beaumont-Hamel for about 20 minutes.</p> <p>Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial - Pays tribute to all those Newfoundlanders who served in the First World War and specifically commemorates those who have no known graves. It was here at the opening of the Battle of the Somme, that the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment suffered particularly grievous casualties. The battleground features encompassed by the site were largely preserved, retaining the trenches and other features of the time.</p> <p>Vimy Ridge Historic Site - Canada's most impressive tribute overseas to those Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the First World War is the majestic and inspiring Canadian National Vimy Memorial which overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge, about ten kilometres north of Arras. The Memorial does more than mark the site of the engagement that Canadians were to remember with more pride than any other operation of the First World War. It stands as a tribute to all who served their country in battle in that four-year struggle and particularly to those who gave their lives. Guided tour of the underground tunnels and front-line trenches included.</p> <p>Wellington Quarry - an underground museum which has been carefully and sensitively created in a section of the many kilometres of tunnels dug by the British Army in the 1914-1918 war. The First World War tunnels connect with original tunnels and quarries dating back to the middle ages and Roman times underneath the city of Arras. The museum is founded to the memory of thousands of men of the British Army and Dominion Forces who lived under the city during the Great War of 1914-1918. In particular work of the tunnelers of the New Zealand Division is commemorated. The New Zealand Tunneling Company was based in this part of the underground tunnel system during the build-up to the Allied offensive, the Battle of Arras 1917, which was launched in the early hours of 9th April 1917. The guided visit to the tunnels shows a number of features of special interest which were found in these tunnels when they were discovered and excavated. These include mining trucks and bits of equipment, food containers such as glass bottles, tins and rum jars left in the tunnels. There are numerous examples of drawings and “graffiti” on the walls by soldiers.</p>

	<p>Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery - It is from this cemetery in 2000 that the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier were exhumed and laid to rest within the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the War Memorial in Ottawa. Oliver and Wilfred Chenier, brothers from Buckingham, Quebec, who died on the first day of the Battle of Vimy Ridge are also buried here. Caberet Rouge was a small, red-bricked, red-tiled café that stood close to this site in the early days of the First World War. The café was destroyed by shellfire in March 1915 but it gave its unusual name to this sector and to a communication trench that led troops up the front-line. Commonwealth soldiers began burying their fallen comrades here in March 1916. It is also the final resting place of over 70 officers of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force. Cabaret Rouge has a particularly close connection with the Canadian Infantry, however, as hundreds of Canadians who were killed at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 were ultimately laid to rest here.</p> <p>After your group dinner in Arras, return to Paris by private coach (about 2 ½ hours drive)</p> <p>Accommodations: Paris Hotel - 1 night Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner</p>
<p>Day 7:</p> <p>The Louvre & Train to Munich</p>	<p>The Louvre / Munich via Train from Paris</p> <p>After your breakfast this morning, you will check out of your hotel & then transferred by private coach to The Louvre. Start your visit with a private guided tour, and then time to spend on your own exploring the museum.</p> <p>The Louvre - The Louvre was originally a fortress built by the French king Philippe Auguste. It was intended to reinforce the defenses that the king had ordered to be built in 1190 to protect Paris from attack via the Seine. Today, visitors can walk around the original perimeter moat and view the piers that supported the drawbridge. The Louvre became a museum in 1793, and now exhibits over 73,000 sq. m of Western artworks from the Middle Ages to 1848, as well as the art of the ancient civilizations that preceded and influenced them. Some 35,000 artworks are on display, the oldest of which date back over seven thousand years. The museum collections are grouped into eight curatorial departments: Egyptian Antiquities; Greek, Etruscan, and Roman Antiquities; Near Eastern Antiquities; Islamic Art; Paintings; Sculptures; Decorative Arts; and Prints and Drawings. The Tuileries and Carrousel gardens are immediately adjacent to the Louvre, between the museum and the Place de la Concorde. The Tuileries garden is the largest and oldest public park in Paris. With its stunning landscape art, perspectives and sculptures, it provides visitors with a relaxing setting in the heart of the city.</p> <p>Lunch in the area of The Louvre (<i>on your own</i>)</p> <p>This afternoon, you will be transferred from The Louvre to the Paris Gare de l'Est Train Station to board a high-speed train to Munich. The train leaves Paris around 3:30 pm to arrive in Munich at 9:30 pm. The French rail network offers passengers the chance to travel anywhere within the country in a matter of hours. That wouldn't be possible without the iconic TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse); one of the fastest high-speed trains in Europe. Everyone has access to a buffet car which serves hot and cold food, as well as drinks. There tend to be meal deals available which make eating on the train a reasonably priced offer.</p> <p>Dinner on board the train (<i>on your own</i>)</p>

	<p>For the sights, sounds and tastes of traditional Germany, Munich – the heart and soul of Bavaria – is where you’ll find it. Often called the “most northern city in Italy” for the stunning baroque architecture of the 18th and 19th Centuries, Munich’s palaces, royal avenues, theatres and churches make it one of the most characterful cities in Germany.</p> <p>Accommodations: Central Munich Hotel - 3 nights Meals Included: Breakfast</p>
<p>Day 8:</p> <p>Munich & Dachau</p>	<p>Munich Sightseeing by Private Coach / Dachau</p> <p>After your breakfast buffet this morning, embark on a half day sightseeing guided bus & walking tour of Munich.</p> <p>Take a walking tour of Munich's City Center (Altstadt meaning "Historic city center") in the heart of Munich. Marienplatz “Mary’s Square” dates back to the 12th century & used to be home to medieval markets, celebrations, and tournaments; today, the square is a popular meeting point for locals and tourists alike. Gaze upon architectural masterpieces like the Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall’s over 300 feet long and elaborately decorated façade with hundreds of statues, turrets and arches dominates the whole square. The tower houses the Glockenspiel, a 100-year old carillon. Every day at 11 a.m. and noon, hundreds of people gather in front of the tower to hear the Glockenspiel chime and watch the 32 life-sized figures reenact historical Bavarian events). In the center of the Marienplatz, you’ll find the Mariensaule, the column of St. Mary, which was erected in 1683; topped by the golden statue of Virgin Mary, the column celebrated the end of the Swedish invasion during the 30 Years' War. St.-Jakobs-Place, adjacent to Marienplatz and Viktualienmarkt, is home to a new building complex which includes the new Jewish Museum which opened 2007, the new main synagogue and the center of the Jewish community.</p> <p>At the edge of Munich's old town, hop aboard our private coach & pass by the Residenz (former seat of government and royal palace of the Bavarian monarchs), Frauenkirche (the landmark of Munich and the city's largest church; it can hold up to 20,000 people. Built in 1494, the architectural style of the brick-built church is late Gothic. Its famous domes atop each tower were modelled on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem), Alte Pinakothek (which was contracted by King Ludwig I of Bavaria. It was opened in 1836 and is one of the oldest art galleries in Germany), Palace of Justice (this monumental but well-proportioned building combines Renaissance and Baroque elements, and is one of the most successful examples of late 19th century German historicism), Ludwigstrasse (an entire street built in Neo-Renaissance by King Ludwig I, grandfather of Ludwig II), Isartor (original gate of the 14th Century medieval city wall), Viktualienmarkt (popular and lively market boasts 140 shops and stalls that offer flowers and plants, vegetables, exotic fruit, venison and poultry, eggs, butter, honey, fish, meat and sausages. The market has grown considerably in size since it was built in 1807, now occupying about 5.5 acres. The market was severely damaged during World War II. Demolition was considered when the war ended but, instead, the city decided to save the market. Fountains and other new elements were added to spruce up the area), University where the "Weisse Rose" (student resistance group against the Nazis) was active and Hans and Sophie Scholl got caught, Schwabing (quarter of intellectuals, artists and students in the 19th - mid 20th century), Museums’ Quarter or “art district” & the nearby Königsplatz (King's square was completed in 1862 as a "forum for the arts" but during the era of Adolf Hitler from 1933-35 the square soon became the National Socialists' "Akropolis Germaniae" in what had become known as the "Capital City of the Movement".).</p>

	<p>Afterwards, we will continue to Nymphenburg Castle (summer residence of the kings of Bavaria) and have a short walk through its gardens.</p> <p>Finally, having arrived at the Olympiapark, we will ascend to the panoramic platform of the Olympia Tower and enjoy a splendid panoramic view over the city of Munich (weather permitting). We will then pass by the BMW Headquarters (the four-cylinder BMW tower and the bowl-shaped museum next to it) on our way to Dachau.</p> <p>Dachau - Dachau is a town about 45 minutes from Munich which is now infamous for having been the location of the first Nazi concentration camp. Those incarcerated in Dachau were primarily political prisoners, which constituted anyone who resisted the absolute suppression of freedom that the National Socialist regime was imposing on the population after Hitler's election as Chancellor in January, 1933. The KZ ("Konzentrationslager," or concentration camp) in Dachau was a slave labor camp and not a "death camp" like Auschwitz or Treblinka. Following a disarmingly scenic drive through the village of Dachau, you will reach the former concentration camp. In 1965, a Dachau memorial site was created, giving visitors a chance to learn of the atrocities prisoners were forced to suffer. Explore the chilling Dachau museum and watch a documentary film about the terrible atrocities that took place in Dachau concentration camp, which served as a prototype to other concentration camps.</p> <p>Accommodations: Central Munich Hotel Meals Included: Breakfast / Dinner</p>
<p>Day 9:</p> <p>Neuschwanstein Hohenschwang Castles & Museum of the Bavarian Kings</p>	<p>Neuschwanstein Castle & Hohenschwangau Castle by Private Coach</p> <p>After your breakfast this morning, embark on a full day sightseeing tour of Neuschwanstein Castle & Hohenschwangau Castle with your Guide by Private Coach. Drive through the rolling countryside to the land of enchantment – the Bavarian foothills of the Alps near Fussen – and visit the glorious castles of King Ludwig II. Enroute, stop at the Pilgrimage Church of Wies to stop to explore and take photos inside the gorgeous 18th-century Rococo-style church.</p> <p>Church of Wies (Wieskirche) - a UNESCO World Heritage Site - The sanctuary of Wies, a pilgrimage church miraculously preserved in the beautiful setting of an Alpine valley, is a perfect masterpiece of Rococo art and creative genius, as well as an exceptional testimony to a civilization that has disappeared.</p> <p>You'll arrive in Hohenschwangau just in time for lunch (on your own).</p> <p>Afterward, embark on a guided tour of Hohenschwangau Castle, a neo-gothic 19th-century palace built upon medieval fortress ruins by Ludwig's father, King Maximilian II. As you explore the interior rooms with your guide, hear stories about the castle where King Ludwig II spent his childhood. Admire the banquet halls and the 'oriental room' – furnished from King Maximilian's travels through Turkey and Greece – in addition to an illuminated starry sky ceiling and murals in the writing room of Queen Mary, who developed an alpine garden on the grounds.</p> <p>Hohenschwangau Castle - was mentioned the first time in records of the 12th century and until the 16th century its owners were the knights of Schwangau. During the following time it changed hands a couple of times and was partially destroyed during different wars. Prince Maximilian II of Bavaria, Ludwig II's father, had the ruined castle of Schwanstein rebuilt from 1832 in the "Gothic style". The young Ludwig was influenced by the romantic mountain scenery and the summer castle became one of his favourite places to stay. Hohenschwangau was decorated with scenes from medieval legends and poetry, including the legend of the swan knight Lohengrin.</p>

	<p>Next, head to nearby Neuschwanstein Castle, the famous fairytale castle built by King Ludwig II after his ascension to the throne. As you come upon the palace, glimpse the white towers rising amid the forest – inspiring Disney’s Sleeping Beauty Castle. While you listen to your guide’s commentary inside, learn about the tragic reign of the legendary “mad” Ludwig, including the obsession that drove him to build his secluded dream castle in the Alps.</p> <p>Neuschwanstein Castle - This glorious folly was built in the 19th century by the famed "mad" King Ludwig II, a man intoxicated by myth and who himself became a legend. The shimmering white towers of the castle among the clouds are instantly recognizable to many and is the inspiration for Disney's Sleeping Beauty Castle, and is also famous as the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Castle. To visit it is to step inside a fairy tale. Hear the engaging story of King Ludwig's renowned and tragic reign, of his turbulent times, and of the obsession that drove him to build his fantasy castle in the mountains and ultimately destroyed him. There are 165 stairs to climb, and 181 to descend to get to and from the Castle. The tour of the palas (the residential part of a medieval castle) begins with a view into the servants' rooms with authentic oak furnishings on the first upper floor. The rooms on the second floor were never finished and today house a shop, a cafeteria and a multimedia room. The apartments and state rooms of the king are on the third and fourth floors.</p> <p>Afterward, visit the Museum of the Bavarian Kings - Explore a permanent unique exhibition within a journey through time into the history of the Wittelsbach dynasty and their bavarian Kings. Experience the history of King Ludwig II and his family in authentic vicinity of the royal castles of Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau. Precious objects, fascinating stories and interactive media stations will provide you an extraordinary insight into the history of the former Royal Family and their still living descendants. Audio Guide included.</p> <p>Before your return journey to Munich, enjoy a stroll along a circular path around the shore of the famous Lake Alpsee.</p> <p>Accommodations: Central Munich Hotel Meals Included: Breakfast / Dinner</p>
<p>Day 10:</p>	<p>After breakfast this morning, check out of your hotel & then a private coach transfer to the airport, where your guide will assist you with check in for your return flight home.</p> <p>Meals Included: Breakfast</p> <p>MUNICH / CALGARY</p>



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