



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Pre-Departure Itinerary

# Europe's Christmas Markets

Austria, Germany, France & Switzerland

Tuesday, December 1 – Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Welcome in the Christmas season with “Old World” style. Pack light because this is an ideal opportunity to do your holiday shopping at traditional Christmas markets. Begin in the charming town of **Oberammergau** before you journey through the Bavarian Alps to **Innsbruck** where you'll see the Hofburg and the Golden Roof before leisure time at the Christmas market. Ample time is accorded to explore Oberammergau and **Munich** before you venture into the mysterious **Black Forest**. Enjoy photo stops at **Weis Church** (World Heritage Site) and **Nueschwanstein Castle** and the chance to bring home authentic cuckoo clocks, Hummels and wood carvings. In Strasbourg, France you'll visit the old quarter and the **Cathedral of Notre Dame**. End your journey in some of the most beautiful historic cities in Europe—**Bern** and **Lucerne**, the “Swiss Paradise on the Lake.”

### Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Munich and Zurich to Boston
- Seven nights' first class accommodations
- Twelve meals: seven breakfasts, five dinners
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

### Rates

**\$1,899** per person double occupancy

**\$1,869** per person triple occupancy

**\$2,139** for single reservations

Add \$390 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Cancellation waiver and travel insurance is \$150. Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at time of booking. Passport required.

### Features

Oberammergau, Bavarian Alps, Innsbruck city tour and Christmas market, Munich panoramic tour, Wies Church, Neuschwanstein Castle, Black Forest, choir concert with Black Forest dinner, Alsace, Strasbourg tour and Christmas market, Bern panoramic tour and Christmas market, walking tour of Lucerne; **Optionals:** Nymphenburg Palace, Seefeld Alpine Village

### Trip Planner

Day 1 Overnight flight

Day 2-4 Hotel Wittelsbach, Oberammergau

Day 5-6 Hofgut Sternen, Titisee Neustadt

Day 7-8 Hotel Bristol, Bern

Day 9 Return flight

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Tuesday, December 01, 2009-Depart Boston

Depart this evening on your overnight flight from Boston to Munich.

### Day 2: Wednesday, December 02, 2009- Arrive Munich

Welcome to our holiday program featuring the traditional Christmas markets, historic towns and spectacular scenery of Europe. Upon arrival in Munich you are met and transferred by motorcoach to the charming town of Oberammergau. This evening, join your fellow travelers for dinner featuring local delicacies. **(D)**

### Day 3: Thursday, December 03, 2009-Oberammergau - Innsbruck, Austria - Oberammergau

★LANGUAGE DISCOVERY: Today, your Tour Manager will help you discover the origin and history of the language(s) you will experience on your tour along with key words and phrases that will help you communicate with the locals. ★ Travel through the spectacular Bavarian Alps to Innsbruck, located in the heart of the Alps in the Austrian state of Tyrol. A local guide provides a tour highlighting the city's rich history, culture, and popular attractions including Maria Theresienstrasse, the Hofburg, and the “Golden Roof,” all set against the backdrop of the majestic Austrian Alps. The remainder of the day is at leisure to shop in the many specialty stores and the Christmas market. **(B)**

**Day 4: Friday, December 04, 2009-Oberammergau - Munich - Oberammergau**

Begin your day with leisure time to explore Oberammergau. This small town of craftsmen owes its fame to the internationally-known Passion Play which is performed only once every ten years. Later, return to Munich and enjoy a panoramic tour featuring the Marienplatz, the Glockenspiel and Olympic Park. The remainder of your day is at leisure to explore Munich's historic area. **(B,D)**

**Day 5: Saturday, December 05, 2009-Oberammergau - Black Forest**

Today's highlights include a picture stop at Wies Church, proclaimed as a World Heritage Site. You also view perhaps the most famous castle in Bavaria, Neuschwanstein, with its beautiful turrets and pinnacles. Continuing along the scenic route, you traverse southern Germany, skirting the northern shores of Lake Constance to the Black Forest, and proceed to the heart of the mysterious Black Forest region - the setting of legends and stories of yore! Don't forget to shop for authentic cuckoo clocks, Hummels and woodcarvings. Your evening begins with a private choir concert performed in an 850-year-old church and ends with a traditional Black Forest dinner. **(B,D)**

**Day 6: Sunday, December 06, 2009 Black Forest - Strasbourg, France - Black Forest**

Travel the picturesque valleys of the Black Forest and the vineyard fields of the Alsace to the provincial capital city of Strasbourg, France where centuries of Roman, French, German and Alsatian influences blend together to lend this city its unique local character. Enjoy a guided tour of the charming old quarter, "Petite France," featuring the Cathedral of Notre Dame, considered to be one of the noblest achievements of Western architecture. Time is available for you to explore the wonderful Christmas market before dinner at the Gurtlerhoft Restaurant, one of Strasbourg's finest. **(B,D)**

**Day 7: Monday, December 07, 2009- Black Forest - Bern, Switzerland**

Travel to Bern, one of Europe's most beautiful capital cities. Upon arrival, enjoy a panoramic city tour featuring the Bundeshaus (the Swiss Parliament), the famous Bear Pit and the impressive Cathedral. Afterwards you may explore more of the area or shop for handmade items at the local Christmas market. **(B)**

**Day 8: Tuesday, December 08, 2009-Bern - Lucerne - Bern**

This morning you travel to Lucerne, the "Swiss Paradise on the Lake." Enjoy a scenic walking tour of picturesque Lucerne, highlighted by a walk through the romantic old town. The balance of the day is at leisure to do some last minute shopping or simply enjoy the wonderful setting of this beautiful city on a lake, surrounded by snow-capped mountains. This evening, after returning to Bern, join your fellow travelers in celebrating the end of a marvelous trip with dinner, complete with the region's famous cheese fondue, at a popular local restaurant. **(B,D)**

**Day 9: Wednesday, December 09, 2009-Bern - Tour Ends-Return flight to Boston**

Your tour ends today in Bern. You will be transferred to the Munich Airport for your return flight to Boston. **(B)**

**OPTIONALS**

**Innsbruck**

**Seefeld Alpine Village \$60 USD**

During your free afternoon in Innsbruck you may want to participate on an optional tour to the nearby Alpine village of Seefeld. Enjoy stunning views as you travel by train to Seefeld, just 45 minutes from Innsbruck. Beautifully situated at 3,600 feet above sea level, this charming Tyrolean town commands breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and countryside. Known as one of the world's great ski resorts, Seefeld offers a relaxed atmosphere in an Alpine setting with miles of trails for walking, lakes, fine shopping and dining possibilities and pure Alpine fresh air. Warm yourself with a glass of schnapps and enjoy a traditional horse and buggy ride before shopping in some of the quaint village stores. Return to Innsbruck in time for dinner. Duration Approximately 4 hours.

**Munich**

**Nymphenburg Palace \$35 USD**

During your free afternoon in Munich you may want to join an optional tour of the outskirts of the city to visit spectacular, 320 year old Nymphenburg Palace. The baroque palace in the west part of Munich was the former summer residence of the Bavarian monarchs. Five generations of Wittelsbach rulers were involved in the construction of the stately ensemble. The palace is a fine example of opulence in the popular baroque and rococo style that Bavaria is famous for. During your visit you will explore the many areas of the palace and its grounds,

including the famous “Gallery of Beauties” and the Amalienburg Hunting Lodge, with its amazing “Hall of Mirrors”  
Duration Approximately 3 hours.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured.*  
*We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure. Flight schedules are approximate, and will not be guaranteed until 30 days prior to departure.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2 –3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*