

Baden-Baden and the Black Forest

Baden-Baden presents itself as a romantic but also a stylish spa with a history dating back to Roman spas and a traditional spa life between Casino, hot springs, park and monastery.

The former "summer metropolis" of Europe was once the backdrop for luxurious spa residences of emperors, kings and the noble society, and for unforgettable masquerade balls, literary salons, exquisite concerts, French laissez-faire and Italian summer flair.

The court of Baden and its many connections with the leading families of Europe were the basis for the growing popularity of Baden-Baden in the 19th century, its timeless and decent luxury and love for small but fine details.

Baden-Baden with its history as a Roman spa, dating back to the first century a.d., is home of Friedrichsbad, one of the most beautiful bath houses in Europe. Baden-Baden is the gate to the northern Black Forest. The famous Black Forest Panorama Road is offering breathtaking views into deep valleys, mountain peaks and beautiful villages.

Waldachtal, situated close to Freudenstadt, has preserved the traditional sawing trade. Therefore, the Mönchhof saw mill is not a museum, but an example of living culture and craft tradition.

A visit of Castle Favorite, the summer residence of Sibylla Augusta near Rastatt, is beautifully reflecting the noble elegance, exuberance, and a sense for beauty and luxury in its time. The little pleasure palace is situated in a park, equipped with ample baroque pomp and is also housing a very precious collection of porcelain and faïences of Chinese, Meissen and Delft origins.

Lake Constance Highlights

Lake Constance is connecting three countries, idyllic villages and lively cities, beautiful landscapes, culture and technology.

The island city of Lindau, which can be reached only via a causeway, has almost completely conserved her idyllic sight. The baroque city is laid open to the lake with a bustling promenade and a harbour for the ships of the White Fleet, sailing boats and yachts. At the mouth of the harbour, ships are passing the Bavarian Lion and the well known lighthouse of Lindau. If you look around from its platform on a clear day, you may see far over to Bregenz, the bay of Rorschach and over to the Swiss Alps. The history of this former imperial town is dating back to the 9th century, when the foundation of a monastery caused the fishing village to develop into an imperial town.

Tourist boats from Friedrichshafen are passing the idyllic peninsula of Wasserburg and the moorish style Montfort Castle, which was the summer palace of King William I of Württemberg.

When entering the harbour of Friedrichshafen, you cannot overlook the harbour station, built in the style of Bauhaus, which is now housing the Zeppelin Museum. The former invention of Count Zeppelin shaped the town and experienced a revival with the new construction of Zeppelin NT, a high tech air ship.

Tour to the Royal Castles of Ludwig II

3-day-Tour, 13th – 15th May 2009

This tour will show you the most well-known castles in Germany. Following the footsteps of King Ludwig II through the Allgäu Alps, you will learn all about his and his era's perception of life and arts and understand the strange world in which this "Fairy-Tale King" lived.

[On the 1st day] we will visit Castle Hohenschwangau, an impressive castle, built in neo-gothic style by Crown Prince Maximilian II, the father of the Bavarian "King of Castles" Ludwig II.

After a walk to the Bridge of St. Mary we will visit the fairy-tale castle Neuschwanstein. This is the most famous castle of the once "King of Castles" Ludwig II of Bavaria, situated on a hill in front of the grandiose panorama of the Tirolean Alps.

After a visit of the pilgrimage church in Wies, we will drive to the sports hotel Dorint in Garmisch-Partenkirchen where this day will end with a joint dinner.

[On the 2nd day] we will show you Castle Linderhof, the only castle which had been finished by King Ludwig II. Here you will understand "Fairy-Tale King" Ludwig II's world best on a walk through the spacious parkways and the Venus Grotto.

Later on we will proceed to the minster of Ettal which developed over the years to one of the most important Benedictine monasteries in the alps.

Afterwards we will return to the hotel where you will have some leisure time before we meet again at the hotel restaurant for a joint dinner.

[On the 3rd day] we will say good-bye to the wonderful landscapes of the alps and directly proceed to the Munich airport "Franz-Josef Strauss".