

**Oktoberfest Tour 2024**  
**21 – 29 September 2024**  
**Itinerary**  
(subject to change)

**Saturday 21 September 2024 (Arrive in Frankfurt, Rothenburg, Würzburg)**

We gather at the Frankfurt airport and board our chauffeured coach which will take us to the charming medieval village of [Rothenburg ob der Tauber](#). Nearly every building inside this walled city is the same as it was in 1650 when it was spared from destruction during the 30 Years War. Climb the narrow steps 60 meters to the top of the Rathaus (city hall) where you can take in a [panoramic view](#) of the entire town. The [Rothenburg Museum](#) is where you can learn how the mayor negotiated the city's safety nearly 400 years ago. Visit the [Medieval Crime Museum](#), which is both very interesting and rather gruesome. Tour Kathe Wohlfahrt's [Christmas Museum](#) where you can view and purchase any Christmas ornament you can imagine. Walk the parapet like a night watchman around the [city's walls](#). Enjoy lunch, whether it is a simple [Döner Kebab](#) or [traditional German fare](#) at one of the city's very good restaurants. At the end of the afternoon we will reboard the coach and take the short drive along Germany's [Romantic Road](#) to [Würzburg](#) where you can start to explore this charming city with its fortress perched high above vineyards which stretch down to river. Cap off the day with a stroll across the charming [Old Main Bridge](#), wineglass in hand. Our first day in Germany ends at the [Barthels Boutique Hotel](#), where we will stay for two nights. It is a quirky artsy modern hotel in the center of Old Town.

**Sunday 22 September (Würzburg, Bamberg) B, L, D**

After a hearty continental breakfast, we will board our coach for nearby [Bamberg](#), famous for its [smoked beer](#). Bamberg is a very walkable town and is said to be the largest German city to escape major destruction during WWII. As a result, the city contains a collection of architectural styles spanning the centuries all within a few blocks. Visit the Romanesque 13<sup>th</sup> century [Bamberg Dom](#) (cathedral) with its four spires you can even attend Sunday mass there. Tour the [Obere Pfarre](#) (upper parish church) with its 14<sup>th</sup> century gothic stone exterior and 18<sup>th</sup> century baroque interior. Stroll past the [Altes Rathaus](#) (old city hall), a rococo masterpiece perched atop a bridge over the swiftly moving Regnitz River. Look for the bas relief figures protruding from the painted exterior. We will enjoy lunch at the [Schlenkerla Brewery](#) founded in 1405. Its restaurant occupies a former cloister built in 1310. Enjoy a [stuffed onion](#) in Schlenkerla's smoked beer sauce. Then we board our coach and return to our last night in Würzburg. There you can taste [Frankenwein](#) (Franconian wine) at one of the city's two large wineries: [Juliusspital](#) and [Bürgerspital](#). Both wineries were founded to fund local hospitals. Try the [Silvaner](#), an underappreciated dry white wine grown throughout the region. If you have time, walk up to the [Festung Marienburg](#) (Marienberg Fortress) or stroll through the gardens of the [Residenz](#), a palace designed by famed baroque architect Balthasar Neumann. We will enjoy dinner together at the [Ratskeller](#) beside the Old Main Bridge.

**Monday 23 September (Regensburg, Munich) B, L**

We will leave our first hotel and drive about two-and-a-half hours to [Regensburg](#). Settled by Romans in 90 AD, [Regensburg's Altstadt](#) (Old Town) is a UNESCO heritage site. We will enjoy traditional [Regensburger sausages](#) at the 12<sup>th</sup> century [Historische Wurstkuchl](#), which is thought to be the oldest continuously operated restaurant in the world. From there, explore the [Stone Bridge](#) across the Danube River at its northernmost point. Tour [Sankt Peter Dom](#) (St. Peter's Cathedral). See the [Altes Rathaus](#) (Old City Hall) and its picturesque square. Visit the [Schloss St. Emmeram](#) (Thurn und Taxis Palace) or stroll through the [Herzogspark](#) (Bishop's Park) filled with sculptures and beautiful landscaping. We then

will reboard our coach and drive about 90 minutes to Munich through the [Hallertau](#) region, famous for its hops. After checking into the hotel, walk to the [Marienplatz](#) in front of the city hall. Tour the [Frauenkirche](#) (Munich's cathedral) with its onion-domed twin spires. If you don't yet have your lederhosen and dirndl, go shopping at one of the several [Trachten](#) (traditional Bavarian outfit) stores around the Marienplatz. They stay open late this time of year. Enjoy a Bavarian dinner at one of the great restaurants and Bierhalls throughout [Munich's Altstadt](#). Most of them are affiliated with a local brewery, which is included in the name, like [Schneider's Bräuhaus](#), [Ayinger am Platzl](#), [Augustiner Klosterwirt](#), [Andechser am Dom](#), or many many more. If the weather is nice, enjoy a nearby Biergarten like the one at the [Viktualienmarkt](#), or near the train station at [Augustiner Keller](#). Our base for the next three nights is the [Hotel Torbräu](#). This highly-rated, 4-star, family-run hotel sits just inside the city's gates and has been serving Munich's visitors since 1490.

#### Tuesday 24 September (Munich) B, D

Wear your new trachten and stroll north to the [Englischer Garten](#) (English Gardens). Walk the trails of this park as large as New York's Central Park. Stop at the [Chinese Tower](#) and enjoy your first beer of the day at the biergarten. Or you can head further north (perhaps by [bike](#)) to the [Seehaus Biergarten](#) beside a lake in the park. Head over to the [Eisbachwelle](#) where you can watch surfers—yes, surfers—hone their craft on the frigid waters that flow through the park. After all that walking, you will deserve a beer, which you can find aplenty at the [Theresienwiese](#), home to [Oktoberfest](#), the world's largest festival. Enjoy VIP seating courtesy of one of our suppliers and enjoy the raucous atmosphere of this bucket list event.

#### Wednesday 25 September (Munich) B, D

After an evening at Oktoberfest, you might want to start the day a little later than usual. Begin with a visit to the city's largest market, the [Viktualienmarkt](#) where you can find culinary delights from around Germany and around the world. Or if it's raining, you might enjoy the [Dallmayr Delikatessenhaus](#) a 300-year old coffee shop/pasty shop/delicatessen/gourmet grocery store/restaurant. See some sites you didn't get a chance to visit the previous day, and then gather together for dinner (in trachten again) at the world famous [Hofbräuhaus](#).

#### Thursday 26 September (Tegernsee, Königsee) B, L

It is time to say goodbye to the bustle of Munich. We will board our coach and head toward two glacial lakes at the foot of the Alps. First is the Tegernsee, site of a monastery first built in 754. Today's abbey is a beautiful baroque structure which dominates the lake's southeastern edge. The monastery had a brewery producing the Duke of Bavaria's personal beer. We will get a tour of the monastery and then have lunch at the [Bräustüberl Tegernsee](#) itself. After lunch we turn east and head toward the Austrian border and stop near another lake, the [Königssee](#), or "king's lake," which sits within Berchtesgaden National Park. Our home for the next two nights is the [Hotel Hanauerlehen](#), a small family-run spa hotel in an idyllic hilltop location on the edge of Schönau am Königsee.

#### Friday 27 September (Berchtesgaden/Salzburg) B

This day is yours to explore nearby Berchtesgaden or go into the Austria's Music City: Salzburg. Or you can just relax at the hotel and enjoy the surrounding countryside of forests, lakes, fields, and mountains.

#### Saturday 28 September (Ramsau) B

We depart early to celebrate an autumn alpine tradition, the [Ramsauer Herbstfest](#). The picturesque village of Ramsau is home to one of the most famous fall festivals, albeit one far different from the much larger Oktoberfest. There may even be an opportunity to watch the cows come down from their

summer homes. At the end of the festival we return to the Hotel Hanauerlehen for one last night in Bavaria.

Sunday 29 September (**Depart Munich**) **B**

Early this morning we board our coach bound for the Munich International Airport and return to the States.

**B** – Breakfast Included, **L** – Lunch Included, **D** – Dinner Included