

Best of Germany & Austria Tour, July 5th – July 12th, 2020

This “**Optional 8-day**” tour is offered during the last week of the 4-week stay. On July 5th the German host families will bring their American partners to **Rüdesheim**, a town directly on the Rhine River, by 11:00am so we can begin our tour.

July 5 1:00pm The bus takes us directly to the famous statue of **St. Germania**, high above the Rhine River, and then to **Rüdesheim**, one of the most popular tourist towns on the Rhine. We visit the **Kabinett Museum**, a unique museum which contains one of the largest collections of 18th, 19th and early 20th century mechanical music-producing devices in the world. Then free time in Rüdesheim until **5:00pm**. **5:15pm** We take a boat trip down the **Rhine River**, return to our hotel by bus, with a brief stop on top of the legendary cliff, the **Loreley**, which offers a tremendous view of the Rhine.

July 6 Head for **Heidelberg**. Spend the morning and early afternoon exploring the "Altstadt" on your own. Overnight in **Schwäbisch Hall**, a beautiful medieval city, somewhat off the tourist route. In the evening, meet with teenagers from the Schwäbisch Hall high school, which participates in our program.

July 7 Visit the famous castle **Neuschwanstein**, after which the Disney castle was modeled; also visit the **Wieskirche**, a church with one of the most impressive rococo interiors in all of Germany. Overnight in **Wängli, Austria**, a small village surrounded on three sides by the **Alps**.

July 8 Cross back into Germany and head for Garmisch. Walk the **Partnachklamm**, a deep gorge formed over hundreds of thousands of years by the ice-cold rushing waters coming from the Alps. Then head for **Munich**, eat at the **Augustiner Keller** in the heart of Munich; then have a bus and walking tour with free time in downtown Munich and experience the **Glockenspiel** at **Munich's Rathaus**. Overnight in **Munich**.

July 9 Head for **Salzburg**. On the way, take a boat ride to the impressive island castle of “**Mad**” **King Ludwig II**, called **Herrenchiemsee**. Once in Salzburg, take a tour of the inner city, then have free time to shop, explore and have dinner. Evening: several options will be offered.

July 10 Get an early start for the **Ice Caves in Werfen**, the largest known network of caves ever discovered. You enter the caves high up in the Alps. Getting there is half the fun! Then stop for a **Rodelbahn** ride in the Alps (a bobsled on wheels) directly on Lake St. Wolfgang. Evening: native **Schuhplattler** dancers will entertain us after dinner in a restaurant directly at the edge of **Lake St. Wolfgang**. Return to Salzburg.

July 11 Depart early, head for **Rothenburg**, which is the best preserved medieval town in all of Germany, with the original town wall or ramparts completely intact. Great place to shop! Evening: Bus takes us to our hotel in Frankfurt.

July 12 Eat an early breakfast and return by bus to the Frankfurt Airport for the flight home.

Cost of this optional 8-day tour is an additional \$1,000, which includes a tour bus, experienced tour guides, all hotel accommodations and breakfasts, all boat rides and entrance fees to museums and castles, and all other large group activities. The only costs not included in this price are lunches and dinners. Students should have extra money if they wish to buy gifts and souvenirs. **We strongly recommend all students bring a credit and ATM card.**

Payment Schedule

Due when you sign up = \$150 non-refundable

By February 25th = \$300

By March 23rd = \$550

Cancellation fees:

Up to February 24th = **\$150**

After February 24th and before June 13th = **\$300**

On June 14th and thereafter = **\$500**

If you are interested in this tour, please send a non-refundable deposit of **\$150**, made out to **The Friendship Connection, Inc.**, in care of **Krista Winzer-Lee, P.O. Box 1444, Hudson, OH 44236**. Important: Write “**8-Day Tour**” plus the participant’s full name and high school in the lower left corner of the check. **We only take the first 48 participants who send in their \$150 deposit**, so please sign up early to ensure a seat on this tour!

Teachers, parents and siblings are welcome on the extended version of this tour! “Tour only” participants would depart on **July 1st** and spend an extra 3 days in Marburg, Wetzlar, and Limburg, then meet up with their children on the Rhine River on July 5th. Additional information and **12-day tour application forms** are available on our website under the link “Forms.”

Krista Winzer-Lee, Coordinator, The Friendship Connection, Inc.

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