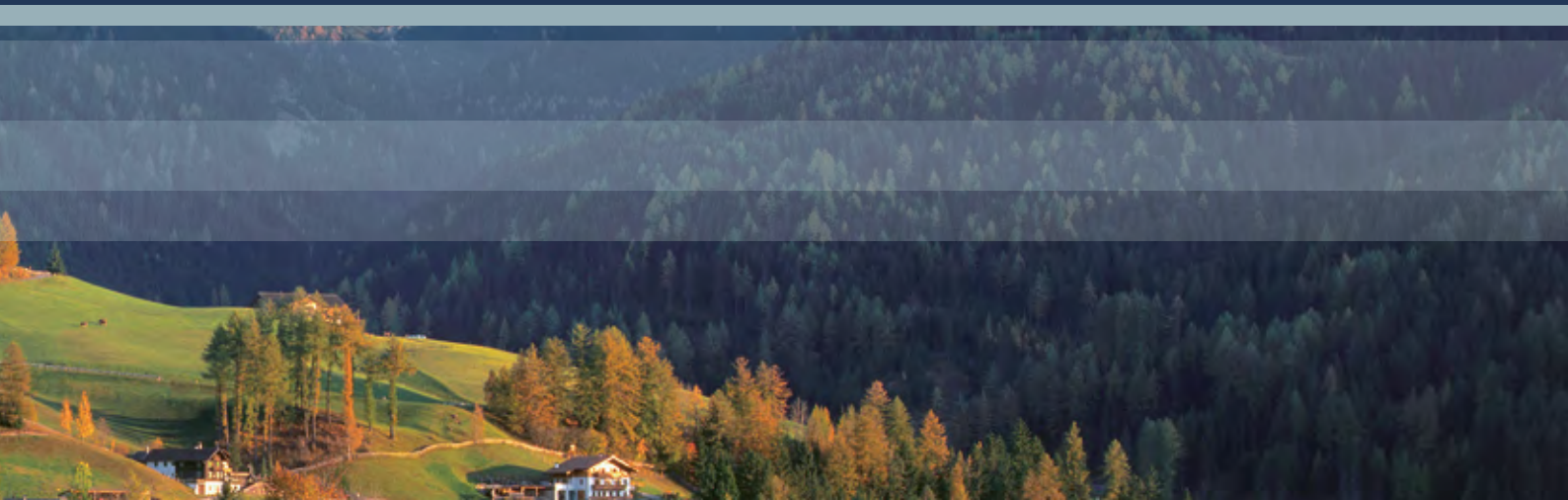


MOMENTS

on the road

Alpenglow & Edelweiss:
Back Roads Across Europe's Mountainous Heart
(The Austrian Alps - 9 or 11 Days)





ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

We love road journeys. They are by far our favourite way of traveling. And when we're in the mood for spoiling ourselves with fine food and delightful hotels besides the sheer pleasure of being on some of the world's best roads, we turn to Europe!

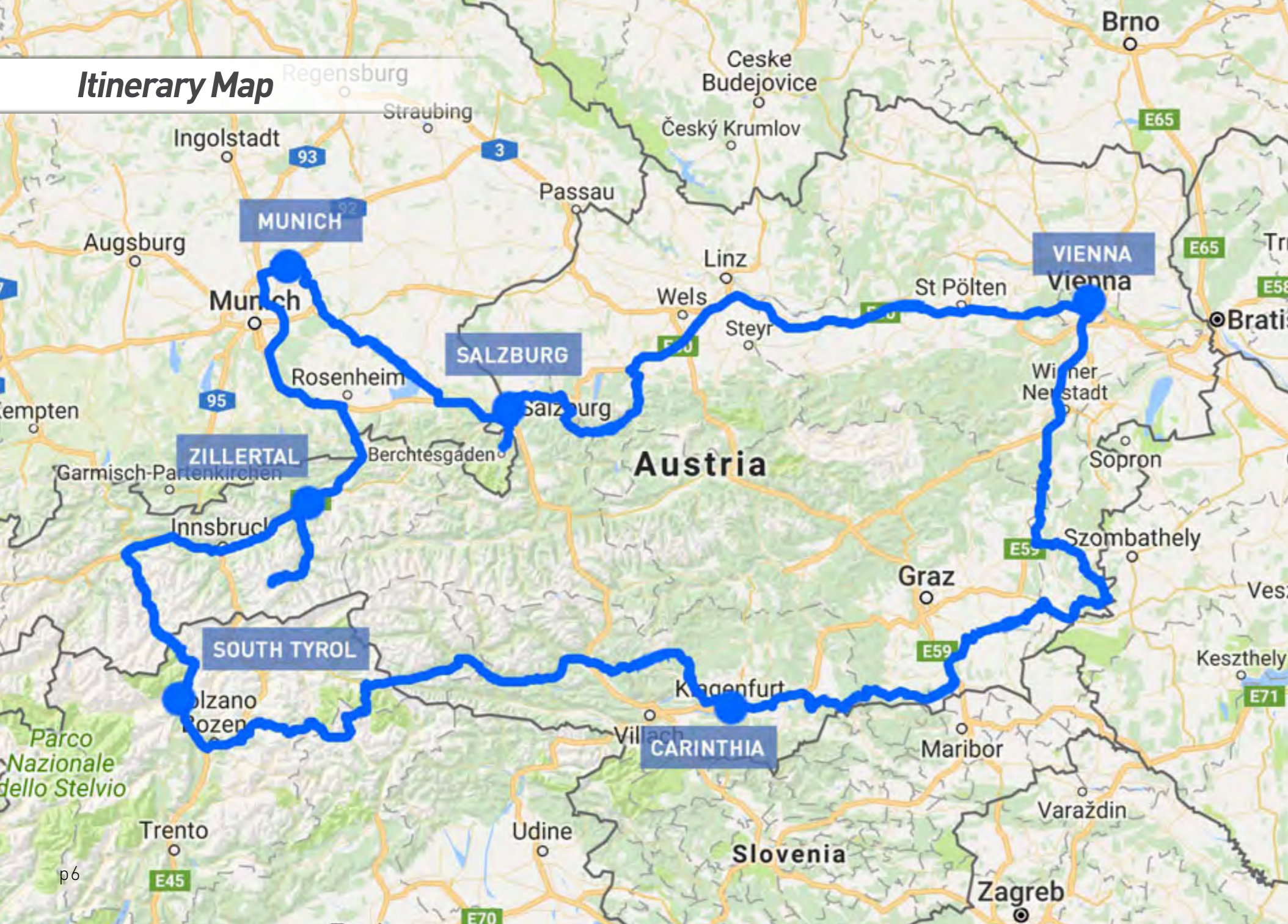
Few regions within Europe offer as much variety of landscapes and cultures and roads as the one centered on the Alps. The Alpine countries and regions – southern Bavaria, Austria, Switzerland, South Tyrol with its Dolomites, the French Alps – are a treasure trove of hidden gems. We therefore take great pleasure in introducing you to our first, carefully crafted Alpine driving journey itinerary that is without equal. Now turn the page and find out what we've come to love ourselves so much...



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Itinerary Map



Day-by-Day

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- Day2
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Core Itinerary
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It all goes back a long, long time...

Europe is the cradle of the motorcar and private motoring. Ever since Karl Benz's 1886 Motorwagen, people have taken pride in owning a car and being in its driver's seat. Driving in a beautiful car bespeaks privilege, freedom, privacy, and, especially in a cabriolet, allows one to be in communion with the elements and natural beauty: soak up the sunshine, feel the wind in your hair, smell the fresh air and the scents of freshly cut grass. Besides, there is the sheer pleasure of being in control, of directing the course of travel: to turn, to go, to stop where and when you feel like it.

These are pleasures that Europeans were the first to enjoy. Most evidently, these are pleasures that can be shared by couples. While it is often the gentleman who takes the driving seat, it was in fact Bertha Benz who undertook the first driving journey (with their two children) in the world. Driving journeys in a cabriolet is something that women have enjoyed ever since, whether as companion or driver.

Discovering the world by means of a driving journey is a unique pleasure that we want to share with you!




Journey of discovery



“ You have arrived
in EUROPE!
Let your ALPINE
JOURNEY begin!”

View of the Fraueninsel on lake Chiemsee



“ On your
FIRST DAY, get
UP-CLOSE-AND-PERSONAL
with the mountains
surrounding Salzburg...”

One of so many glorious mountains in the Austrian Alps in Salzburg (as seen from Berchtesgaden)



“If there is one
ROMANTIC
city in Austria,
then it is
SALZBURG...”

View of Salzburg at dusk

“ Starting
your DAY in
SAZLBURG...”



View from your hotel room



“Riding in a
FIAKER in
CHILD’S play in
SALZBURG...”

Riding in a Fiaker, a horse-drawn carriage in Salzburg



“SALZBURG,
one of the
MOST BEAUTIFUL
cities in the
world...”

View of Salzburg's magnificent public gardens

“The
SALZKAMMERGUT...
Austria's delightful
LAKE REGION
where the locals
ENJOY LIFE!”

On lake Mondsee...

“If AUSTRIA has one **UNIQUE CULINARY DISTINCTION**, it is its many Mehlspeisen, sweet delights of **INFINITE VARIETY...**”



An iconic Austrian Konditorei

“MELK ABBEY,
one of the most
magnificent in
ALL EUROPE...”



View of Melk Abbey



“VIENNA,
where ART and
CULTURE are a
way of life!”



Vienna at dusk...

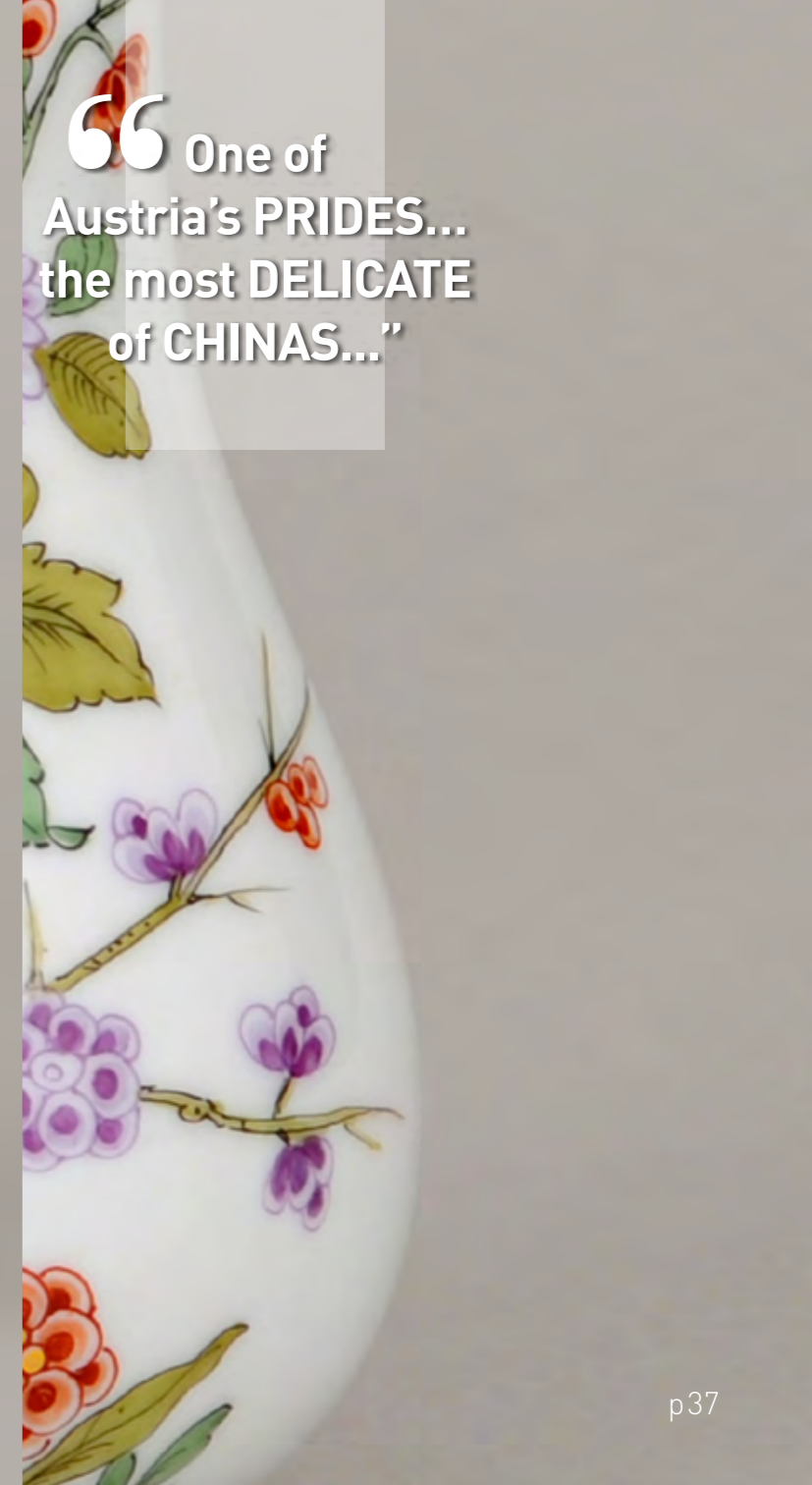
“VIENNA,
where even the
HORSES are
CULTURED...”



The Lippizan Stallions of the Spanish Riding school

“The VIENNESE
CAN and DO
spend their lives
in their beloved
KAFFEEHÄUSER...”

A typical Viennese Kaffeehaus (coffee shop)



“ One of
Austria’s PRIDES...
the most DELICATE
of CHINAS...”

Shopping for something special in Vienna?



“ For you,
a GRAND Hotel for
a GRAND city!”

Your hotel in Vienna



“Magnificent
MEDIEVAL CASTLES
everywhere...just BY THE
ROADSIDE!”



“TUSCANY
in AUSTRIA...
without the
tourists!”



“On BACK ROADS
through remote
regions of Austria...”

“ Stay in a
TRADITIONAL
ALM house,
now a BOUTIQUE
HOTEL for you!”

“ In SOUTH TYROL,
where the AUSTRIAN
ALPS meet
ITALIAN FLAIR... ”



“ In South Tyrol,
where the ALPS are
GRANDER still than
in Austria...”

The Dolomites, a UNESCO World Heritage region....



“ In South Tyrol,
with some of the
**LOVELIEST MOUNTAIN
ROADS** in all of Europe...”

Groednerjoch, road across the eponymous name...

“ In South Tyrol, one of
most BEAUTIFUL
WINE REGIONS of
the Alps...”

Lago di Caldaro, south of Bolzano...



“ In South Tyrol,
a FOODIE PARADISE of
haute cuisine and local
produce & techniques...!”

Roast chestnuts, typical in South Tyrol

“ South Tyrol,
a farming region of
**LONG, LONG
TRADITIONS!** ”



A farmer's life in South Tyrol



“ The Zillertal,
little known,
where the ALPS
are GRANDEST!”

“ Zillertal,
a hidden gem of
TRADITION and
scenic GRANDEUR...”



Semi-annually...cattle march up to and down from the "Alm"



“ A MUST-NOT-MISS
final stop:
the glass manufactory
in RATTENBERG...”



The finest of Austrian Glass



Day-by-day



Day 1 You have arrived in Europe...

We will pick you up at Munich airport. Then it is time for you to take possession of the car you've requested. In it you will find some *On the Road Experiences* goodies that will make your journey and the time on the road even more enjoyable...be surprised!

Only a little while after leaving Munich airport, you will sense that you have arrived in Europe since you will be driving in the charming countryside of Bavaria on the way to your first destination, Salzburg: enjoy the rolling meadows, picturesque villages with iconic church steeples, lunch right by the shore of beautiful lake Chiemsee with the Austrian Alps as the backdrop.

Then, in the afternoon, as a first real treat, we will guide you across a magnificent mountain road, designed as if it had only one function: to showcase and



to invite you to enjoy these glorious mountains.

You can expect to arrive at your hotel in the late afternoon. We will round out your evening with an easy walk from your hotel to Salzburg old town where we have arranged dinner for you in one of Salzburg's iconic, traditional restaurants.



Details

Timing

10:0

Depart from Munich Airport

12:30

Lunch at the Chiemsee

14:15

Depart for your afternoon drive to Salzburg

17:30

Arrive in Salzburg

19:00

Dinner

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 210 km

Duration: 4+ hours

Hotel

(a) A charming hotel near city center

(b) A magnificent hotel in the city center

Day 2 Exploring the romantic city of Salzburg

"Salzburg with its surroundings is – alongside Rio de Janeiro and Constantinople – one of the most beautiful urban regions in the world!" Even today, the words of Alexander von Humboldt, world-famous traveller and scientist of the late 19th century, ring true.

Above all, Salzburg is a city of romance and elegance. Along the river Salzach, and presided over by a mighty fortress, Festung Hohen Salzburg, (the largest fully preserved fortress complex in central Europe), fabulous churches, quiet monasteries, impressive palaces, lush parks, beautiful squares with impressive fountains – all these create an intimate and romantic cityscape that is made all the more lovely by the picturesque mountains (some so high that they are snow-covered all year round), pristine lakes and green



meadows of its surroundings.

Salzburg, literally meaning Salt Castle, over centuries generated enormous wealth through nearby salt, gold and copper mines. Their wealth allowed the city's Prince-Archbishops to employ not only some of the finest architects, painters and builders, but also

to invest in prodigious amounts on scientific research, fine arts and culture.

Today is your chance to get a glimpse of Salzburg's charm. We have included in your program some of the better known sites – the mighty fortress, of course, and also some of its charming *Gassen*



(alleyways) – as well as some of its less-well-known attractions – for example, an intriguing nunnery and a visit to a traditional Salzburg costumes manufactory. What’s more, Salzburg is most certainly worth some free time to explore it on your own or with our

guide. Should you be interested in handicraft for which Salzburg is famous or buy curiosities (for example, Austrian Schnapps, a kind of fruity brandy), we will be happy to advise you such that you can make the most out of your day in Salzburg.

Details

Timing

Breakfast at your leisure in the hotel

9:30

Start guided walking tour of some of Salzburg’s high-lights

12:30

Lunch at a traditional costume manufactory

14:30

Free time to explore Salzburg’s old town (with guide and suggestions as desired)

19:00

Dinner in a traditional Salzburg restaurant at the edge of town

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0 km

Duration: 0 hours

Hotel

(a) A charming hotel near city center

(b) A magnificent hotel in the city center

Day 3

Of sparkling lakes, classic patisseries, sweet back roads... on your way to Vienna

The better part of today is devoted to sampling the treasures of the *Salzkammergut*. With well over seventy large and small lakes (all of drinking-water quality), rolling pastures, tall mountains, and marvelous roads, the Salzkammergut is one of Austria’s most charming regions.

A highlight of the morning will be a visit to one of its typical towns and a snack at one of Austria’s best known *Konditoreien* or patisseries.

You will be able to enjoy lunch at a specially selected restaurant right by the lakefront. After your meal (with a selection of fish from the lake), you will drive to Melk Abbey. Situated above the town of Melk on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube river in Lower Austria, it is Austria’s most impressive monastery (founded in the year 1089) and



one of the world’s most famous monastic sites. Despite it being very much frequented by visitors from all over the world, it is a must-see!

The last leg of today’s journey will take you to Vienna. You will arrive at dusk when its grand buildings are beautifully and tastefully lit.

For dinner, we have selected a hidden gem of a restaurant in Vienna’s central district.

Details

Timing

7:00

Breakfast at your hotel

8:30

Begin your drive into Salzburg’s lake region

12:00

Lunch by Lake Traunsee

13:30

Continue your drive toward Vienna

15:00

Visit Melk Abbey

18:30

Arrive in Vienna

19:30

Dinner in Vienna’s 1st District

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 330 km

Duration: 5 hours

Hotel

(a) A lovely boutique hotel by St. Stephen’s Cathedral

(b) A world-class hotel in the 1st district

Day 4 In the city where art and culture are a way of life

Vienna - the former capital of the Habsburg Austro-Hungarian Empire and nowadays capital of Austria, the City of Music, the City of the Blue Danube, the only city worldwide that created its own distinct cuisine and the only capital that grows its very own wine within its city-borders. St. Stephen's Cathedral, *The Hofburg* (the Imperial Court), Schönbrunn and Belvedere Palaces, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Imperial Treasury, The Spanish Horse-Riding School, the world's largest graphic-art museum (the Albertina), the palaces and state buildings along *the Ring Straße* (the former inner defense line)...

Vienna – the melting-pot and nucleus of the former empire – attracted (and still attracts) scientists, entrepreneurs, artists, architects, engineers, physicists, *Zuckerbäcker*



("sugar bakers" or makers of sweets) and musicians from all around the world. Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Brahms, Schönberg, Mahler, Schubert, Gluck, the Strauss Family (creators and promoters of the Viennese Waltz tradition) and many more musicians lived and worked in this city and enriched its vast history with their master pieces. Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Oskar Kokoschka, to name but a few, are among Vienna's best-known painters. Otto Wagner, Friedrich Loos, Helmer & Fellner and Theophil Hansen its most prominent architects.

How to introduce you to a city of such splendor in less than forty-eight hours? We hope that, through a carefully selected sampling of its ubiquitous treasures, you will get a taste of this city in which art and culture is a way of life. We will delight you with visits to its best known manufacturer of porcelain, its imperial treasure chamber, a classic Viennese *Kaffeehaus* (or Café) with its inimitable vaults, a performance at the



horse-riding school, a ride in its nostalgic horse-drawn carriages and, of course, a selection of well-known and not-so-well-known Viennese dishes. (If you have specific interests, please let us know.)

Details

Timing

Breakfast at your leisure in the hotel

9:00

Morning visits to porcelain manufactory, treasure chamber, and walking tour through the first district

12:30

Lunch at a classic Kaffeehaus

14:00

Visit to one of Vienna's best known palaces

16:00

Free time to explore Vienna's central district (with guide and suggestions as desired)

18:45

Dinner in a special Viennese restaurant

20:00

Performance at the Imperial Horse-Riding School

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0 km

Duration: 0 hours

Hotel

(a) A lovely boutique hotel by St. Stephen's Cathedral

(b) A world-class hotel in the 1st district

Day 5

On magnificent roads into Austria's Tuscany

It is time, at last, to venture into the Austrian countryside, on back roads to get away from the crowds.

This morning's drive will take you, before long, onto small roads that run along Austria's border with Hungary. (If you like, you can take a short excursion across the border!)

The Austrian countryside is dotted with castles small and large. One of today's highlights will be your lunch at a small, local restaurant that presents a magnificent view over one of Styria's most impressive castles.

After lunch, you will continue your drive to Styria, one of Austria's nine states. Styria lies in Austria's southwest and borders on Slovenia. In this corner of Austria is a 'wine road' called the *Südsteirische Weinstrasse* (the South-Styrian Wine Road). Without a doubt, the rolling vineyard hills of this region count among the most memorable we've ever seen.

Before dinner, we will guide you to visit one or the other vineyard or to one of the many artisans of local produce.

Dinner itself will, of course, be in the midst of this unforgettable wine region.



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Details

Timing

7:30

Breakfast in your hotel

9:00

Departure from your hotel... begin your drive into the remote region of South Styria

13:00

Lunch by Riegersburg Castle

14:30

Continue your drive into Austria's Tuscany

16:00

Arrive in the South-Styrian wine region

Free-time to explore artisans of local produce

19:00

Dinner in the midst of vineyards

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 310 km

Duration: 4 hours

Hotel

(a) A boutique hotel in the heart of Austria's Tuscany

Day 6

Into the Alps proper and enjoying Alpine-style living...

In the morning, you will be driving along Styria's and then Carinthia's border with Slovenia on a gently winding road well known by all local and regional driving lovers...simply magnificent.

After a few hours of enjoying the sheer pleasure of driving, you will descend into Klagenfurt, the capital of Carinthia for a surprise lunch...

Carinthia is home to Austria's second lake region – it too is a well-known destination for Austrians and many Germans on holiday. For you, however, Carinthia is the beginning of

your exploration of the Alps themselves, this spectacular mountain range in the heart of Europe. From today onward until the rest of this journey, the Alps will become your familiar companion.

Your home for the day will be either a farm house lodge or a village of chalets where you can get a feeling of the unique style of Alpine living as practiced by mountain farmers since the earliest days. In the past life was harsh; today, you can get a taste of it in the comfort of a beautiful, yet rustic and authentic hotel.



Details

Timing

8:30

Breakfast at your hotel

9:30

Begin your drive along the Slovenian border towards Klagenfurt, Carinthia's capital

12:30

Lunch in Klagenfurt...it will be a pleasant surprise!

14:00

Continue your drive into the Alps

15:45 or 17:15

Arrive at your hotel for the night (depending on whether you stay in Carinthia or Osttirol)

19:30

Dinner at the hotel

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 230 km to Carinthia or 330 km to Osttirol

Duration: 4 hours to Carinthia or 6 hours to Osttirol

Hotel

(a) A boutique farm house lodge in Osttirol

(b) A village of Alpine Chalets in Carinthia

Day 7 From the Austrian Alps into South Tyrol...

Today you will enter a region called Tyrol which is centered in the West of today's Austria. Nowadays, Tyrol is divided into three parts, two of which – Tyrol and East Tyrol – remain within the borders of Austria. The third is South Tyrol which nowadays is the northern-most province of Italy. For the remainder of your journey, Tyrol will be your home...and what a magical place it is, as you will see!

From your hotel, you will be driving mostly due West in a valley called "Val Pusteria": roughly speaking, to your north will be the 'Central Alps' with its enormous peaks (something to look forward to on days 9 and 10) and to your south the "Southern Alps". The roads are beautifully paved, mostly gently winding and a joy to drive.

As you enter South Tyrol (not long after today's departure), you

will begin to sense that you are entering a different world, one that gently blends Alpine ruggedness with Italian softness: as you will discover these two days, Mediterranean influences are everywhere, from the cuisine you eat to the architecture of the buildings, from the produce that are grown hereabouts to the scents in the air! It will be well worth your while to stay here for two nights!

For the last two hours of your drive, we've chosen for you a mixture of highway and a stunning, small mountain road that will take you right into the center of Merano, a small town situated in a basin surrounded by peaks up to 3,335m tall. Merano will be your base for the coming two days.



Details

Timing

8:30

Breakfast at your hotel

9:30

Begin your drive in the Val Pusteria toward South Tyrol

12:30

Lunch along the way (depending on the location of last night's stay)

14:00

Continue your drive toward Merano

15:30 or 17.30

Arrive at your hotel for the next two nights (timing depending on whether you stay in Carinthia or Osttirol)

19:30

Dinner at your hotel

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 305 km from Carinthia or 165 km from Osttirol

Duration: 5 hours from Carinthia or 3 hours from Osttirol

Hotel

A small Jugendstil / Art Nouveau hotel with a breathtaking view and most memorable personal touch

Day 8 Alpine feelings blended with Italian flair...

South Tyrol with its mild southern climate, stunning mountains, traditions and culinary delights, offers something for everyone.

Today we suggest to take you into a little known valley called the Sarnthal such that you can get a glimpse of the uniqueness of South Tyrolean traditions and way of living.

In the morning, it will be a short drive from Merano to the Sarnthal.

There you will spend the better part of the day. Besides a very local lunch in a 700-year old farm house, we would like to introduce you to a producer of fragrant, essential oils made from a species of pines that are up to one thousand years old and to introduce to Sarnthein valley artisans of various kinds, among them a manufactory

of exquisite embroideries that are produced with the feathers of peacocks. All of them are artisanal handicrafts that are centuries old.

In the later afternoon, we will drive back to Merano across two spectacular mountain passes and beautiful back roads.

Upon returning to the hotel, you will have free time until dinner. Since we will be returning to the same hotel, you are of course also free to opt out of today's drive and activities. We kindly request that you please let us know in advance if you do not plan to participate.

Details

Timing

To be flexibly arranged for you depending on your interest

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: Distance: 0-250 km depending on your chosen activities

Driving Duration: 0-5 hours depending on your chosen activities

Hotel

A small Jugendstil / Art Nouveau hotel with a breathtaking view and most memorable personal touch



Day 9 Into the Zillertal... where the Austrian Alps are grandest...

Today you will leave South Tyrol and begin to head north across the Central Alps toward Innsbruck, the capital of Tyrol, Austria's most mountainous state and the cradle of its world-famous crystal glass making excellence. Regardless of whether you are on the core 9-day itinerary or the extended 11-day itinerary, we feel you must get a glimpse of this centuries-old craftsmanship.

Instead of taking you to Swarovski, however, we propose to introduce you to a tiny town (Austria's smallest with a history of well over a 1000 years) that is the home of an artisanal manufactory of beautiful glass – plain and simple or ornate and colorful. You will be delighted, either simply to look and marvel or perhaps to purchase and take home one of its gems.

Core Itinerary

If you are on the shorter 9-day itinerary, then the visit to this glass manufactory will be the last highlight of your journey since from there it is but another 1-1.5 hours drive to Munich. In Munich, we can either take you to its international airport or the city itself where, perhaps, you would like to extend your stay. We will make your arrangements accordingly.

Extended Itinerary

If, on the other hand, you have opted to stay on for another 2 days to immerse yourself in the glorious mountains of Tyrol, then it will be a short drive further into the Zillertal, one of Austria's hidden gems when it comes to experiencing the Alps as the locals do.



Details

Timing

8:30

Breakfast at your hotel

9:30

Drive north across the Alps

11:30

Arrive in the smallest 'town' in Austria for your glass making experience

12:30

Lunch in this little town

14:30

Continue your drive either toward Munich (core itin. or toward the Zillertal (extended itin.))

16:30

Arrive at Munich Airport (core itin.) or your destination in the Zillertal (extended itin.)

19:30

Dinner at your hotel

Driving Distance & Duration

Core Itinerary

Distance: 350 km

Duration: 3.45 hours

Extended Itinerary

Distance: 235 km

Duration: 3 hours

Hotel

An Alpine hotel of excellent comfort in a remote region of the Zillertal

Day 10 A day of Alpine living and exploration...

The Zillertal is the most mountainous region of Austria. What better way to conclude your journey than with a brief immersion into Alpine living and breathtaking landscapes?

The Zillertal is well-known for glaciers and stupendous mountains and the traditions of people who have made a living where the Austrian Alps are at their tallest.

You can take cable cars up the glaciers or drive on beautiful

high alpine roads to explore the area.

Depending on when you join this journey, you may be lucky to experience a Almauftrieb or Almbtrieb, the semiannual event when the farmer's cattle ascend to (in spring) or descend from (in autumn) nutritious pastures high, high up in the mountains.

Cycling, golfing, easy walking, or simply relaxing at your hotel may suit you given that the end of your holiday is approaching. We will help you make your arrangements as you like.

Note: Today's lunch and dinner are not included.

Details

Timing

To be flexibly arranged for you depending on your interest

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 0-50 km

Duration: 0-1 hours

(Depending on your chosen activity)

Hotel

An Alpine hotel of excellent comfort in a remote region of the Zillertal





Day 11

Return to Munich...life most go on, or stay for a while?

From your hotel to Munich, it is but a 2.5 hour drive.

There, we can either take you to Munich's International Airport or guide you into Munich itself where, perhaps, you would like to extend your stay. We will make your arrangements accordingly.

Details

Timing

10:00

Departure from your hotel

12:30

Arrive in Munich

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 220 km

Duration: 2.5 hours



Choice of Cars

We include in the package price a cabriolet.

We strongly encourage you to enjoy this journey in an open-top car because the natural beauty, the fresh and scented air, the glorious mountains, the vineyards, and the many gorgeous roads are best enjoyed when wind is in your air and you can fully immerse yourself in the enjoyment of being on the road!

Of course, if you prefer a coupe or sedan of the same class or something a little or a lot more exotic, we're happy to offer you upgrade options.



**“ ANY car,
as long as it is a
CABRIOLET”**

Adventures and Discoveries in Local Cuisines

While this itinerary is **not** one of our 'Foodie'-themed journeys, we do believe that each one of our journeys should introduce you not only to hidden gems of cultural and scenic beauty, but that sampling local cuisines is also a must.

We will therefore arrange for you 'tasting menus' such that you can try out a variety of specialties during each meal. While alcoholic beverages are not included in the price, on certain occasions, when we believe that a particular dish is best enjoyed when combined with a local drink, we will make it part of the experience!

For private journeys, we can, of course, tailor the meal experience to your taste (and budget).



What's Included / Best Months to Go...



Best months to go...

JAN FEB MAR APR **MAY** JUN

JUL **AUG** **SEPT** OCT NOV DEC

Generally speaking, our journey packages and prices are all-inclusive. Once you've paid and you arrive at the starting point, you really won't have to take out your wallet again except for liquids (alcoholic drinks and petrol) and presents to take home!

- Hand-crafted *On the Road in Europe* – Back Roads. Hidden Gems. – Itinerary design as described in this Journey Dossier
- A crew of three (your journey host, subject matter experts/destination guides in various locations, and a journey guest officer)
- All meals in 'tasting menu'

(or omakase) style

- All accommodations
- A car as described from one of our highly reputable car rental partners will full insurance
- All ground transportation and airport transfers
- Pre-programmed GPSs and printed maps

- Walky-talkies to stay in touch with fellow travelers and your crew
- All toll fees and parking fees
- Entrance fees for all attended activities
- Lead car for your crew
- *On the Road in Europe* service (goodies basket and other treats along the way:

wet towels, daily picnic, basket containing fresh fruit, fruit juice, water, and a mixture of sweets and nibbles)

What's Not Included

- Your transport to and from Munich
- Personal shopping

- Visas (if required)
- Alcoholic drinks (unless explicitly included)
- Petrol for your car
- Activities, Meals, Transport during 'free times' as indicated in this Journey Dossier
- Top-up Collision Damage Waiver insurance

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Contact Us

E-mail

contact@ontheroadexperiences.com

Main office

Telephone: +852 3106 4839

Fax: +852 3012 1251

Overseas

Taiwan: +886 978 317 465

+886 921 162 079

Australia: +61 2 8003 5317

Switzerland: +41 (44) 586 58 43

UK: +44 121 288 6879

Germany: +49 160 9622 2506

+49 170 839 0616

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ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

