

CASTLES, CAKES & CARS

An Alpine Driving Journey



Alpine Farm in Austria © Österreich Werbung



Linderhof Palace © Foto-Design Ernst Wrbna



The Tremola, St. Gotthard Pass © swiss-image.ch

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Castles, Cakes & Cars

Combining a tour that includes castles, cakes & cars is as simple as pie. Unite Austria, Germany and Switzerland and you get the full experience. Welcome to Stuttgart – the home of luxury car brands Mercedes and Porsche. Taste the superb, award-winning tart, called 'Zuger Kirschtorte'. And become a knight for a day whilst exploring the medieval castle of 'Ambras'. Find many more suggestions below.

Good to know...

Driving the “Castles, Cakes & Cars” itinerary is uncomplicated and offers the greatest flexibility and freedom: you explore at your own pace. Roads are well maintained, whether you select a highway or a meandering byway.



Alpine driving, St. Moritz © swiss-image.ch

Car Rental

There are car rental agencies at airports and downtown locations in most larger cities. Except at airports, rental agencies are closed Sundays. Smaller vehicles have manual transmissions; automatics require advance reservations. Drivers must be over 21 years of age.

Include satellite navigation in your rental package to reduce stress during the journey.

Road Regulations

Reflective Safety Vest

Drivers are required to carry a reflective safety vest in their car at all times. This new regulation is required by law and is subject to heavy fines. Please check with your car rental company to ensure a Reflective Safety Vest is located in the car.

Road tolls

Prior on entering Austria's and Switzerland's motorways and highways, toll stickers are required on all vehicles! Stickers can be obtained from the gasoline stations as well as post offices and newsstands.

Seat belts

Seat belts are compulsory and children under-12 are required to sit in the back. Dipped headlights are compulsory in tunnels. Use of the horn is discouraged except on mountain roads with blind turns.

Speed limits

Maximum speed on motorways

Switzerland	120 km/h (75 mph)
Austria	130 km/h (81 mph)
Germany	no speed limit or as posted

Be sure to check when these routes are open, as most high passes close during winter.

Gasoline

Most gas stations are closed at night, but self-service stations usually remain open.

Emergencies

Emergency telephones are available on motorways, larger roads and in the mountains. Motorist help calls can also be made from any telephone 24hr a day by dialing: Austria 120, Germany 112 and Switzerland 140



Grossglockner High Alpine Road © Österreich Werbung / Popp Hackner

Store Opening Times

Most shops are open Mon - Fri from 9 am to 6.30 pm, Sat 4pm or 5pm (some may close for lunch.)

Useful Websites

Austria.info, Germany.travel, myswitzerland.com



Alpine driving, St. Moritz © swiss-image.ch

Driving times for the “Castles, Cakes & Cars” journey

The map below gives approximated driving times between some of the destinations, not counting the stop overs in-between.



Best times to travel

Summer Season

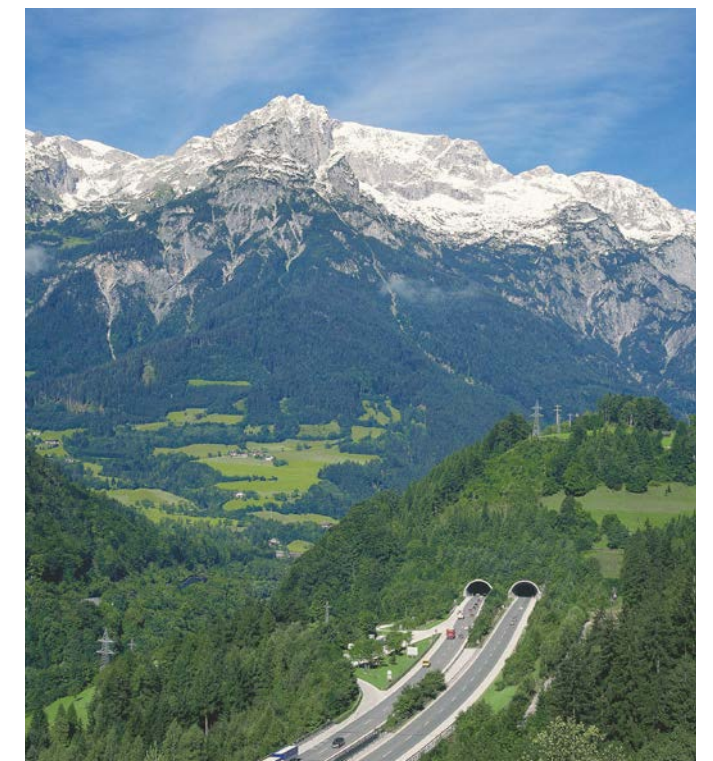
May – September

Special Seasons

Oct (Wine Harvest)
Nov – Dec (Christmas Markets)
March (Easter Celebrations)



Grossglockner High Alpine Road © Österreich Werbung / Hornberger



Tauernautobahn Werfen © Österreich Werbung / Weinhäupl W.

Central Switzerland

Switzerland

From its craggy and breathtaking peaks to its cozy, picture-book towns, from the snowy white of its mountains to the brilliant green of its sweeping meadows, Central Switzerland is jam-packed with breathtaking sights and legendary landmarks. The German-speaking town of **Zug** takes its name from its long fishing history — “zug” refers to the right to pull up fishing nets — and is also well-known for its much-loved cherry tart. To the south, the fjord-like tips of Lake Urnersee are irresistible to sailors and swimmers alike, while the surrounding countryside is manna to cyclists. Driving through the **gateway to the Alps** can't help but form a lasting memory, as will the **Gotthard Pass**, Europe's most spectacular high mountain pass.

centralswitzerland.ch



Zuger Kirschtorte © myswitzerland.com

EAT The charming **Waldstätterhof** - lying at the banks of Lake Lucerne - offers a spectacular view of the glorious Alps, and is an essential stop-over on the way to Andermatt. Guests have a fantastic choice between light and healthy salads, regional cheeses and a fine variation of local meat dishes. Meanwhile, **Zuger Kirschtorte**, a local layer cake with a rabid international following, celebrates its hundredth anniversary next year. The confectionery Speck offers guided tours, for those curious about how this award-winning sweet temptation is made. [Zuger Kirschtorte, waldstaetterhof.ch](http://ZugerKirschtorte.waldstaetterhof.ch)



The Chedi Hotel, Andermatt © myswitzerland.com

STAY A modern and deeply deluxe hotel, The **Chedi Andermatt** boasts 104 spacious rooms and suites with a terrace. The cozy après-ski bar and stylish wine room will help you unwind. The open fireplace and panoramic windows peering out onto the Alps will make you never want to leave. Guests have access to a sprawling, 25,000 square-foot wellness complex, featuring indoor and outdoor pools, saunas, a salt steam bath, whirlpools, ice fountains, spa treatments and more. thechedi-andermatt.com



The Tremola, St. Gotthard Pass © swiss-image.ch

DO Connecting Airolo and Goeschenen, as well as the German-speaking and Italian-speaking parts of Switzerland, the well-developed **Gotthard Pass** road is one of the country's most dramatic. At the top of the pass, the view opens onto a high plateau, where drivers will find a museum and, in summertime, a cozy pub with a small beer garden facing a small lake. History buffs will appreciate that international traffic first crossed the famed **Devil's Bridge** in 1230. anderematt.ch/en



Bernese Oberland

Switzerland

Crisscrossed by sailboats and excursion steamers, the turquoise waters of **Lake Thun and Lake Brienz** form a living postcard. In nearby tributary valleys and sunny ledges, meanwhile, the quaint villages — think sumptuous chalets and warm guesthouses — embody that much-imitated Swiss comfort and serenity. Mountain railways afford panoramic views, and epic ski tours take you to pristine mountain peaks. You'll meet friendly locals along the way, and at holiday resorts and traditional destinations such as Interlaken or **Gstaad**, you'll find top-level outdoor adventure. Above it all reigns the majestic mountain chain: Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. The Jungfrau railway travels from the heart of the peaks to Europe's highest-altitude railway station, over 11,000 feet high.

Berneroberland.ch

EAT Nestled in a beautiful park right on Lake Thun, **Schadau Castle** makes for an unforgettable gastronomic excursion. Awarded 14 Gault Millau points, it offers unparalleled views of the Alps and the famous Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau peaks. The Sun terrace at the **Hotel Kronen Restaurant** might just be the most attractive terrace in all of Thun, with its magical view onto the river Aare. Enjoy a variety of grilled food, soups and salads. schloss-schadau.ch, krone-thun.ch



Schadau castle Thun © myswitzerland.com



Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa © myswitzerland.com

STAY Gstaad's luxurious and newly renovated **Grand Hotel Park** enjoys a lovely south-facing location, just minutes from the promenade. Akin to a massive chalet, this five-star establishment delivers Alpine chic, contemporary interiors and quality service. Combining traditional style, elegance and spaciousness with modern luxury and comfort, the **Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa** purveys a welcome informality. Tucked between lakes and rivers at the foot of the Jungfrau massif, it affords stunning views of its majestic surroundings. grandhotelpark.ch, victoria-jungfrau.ch



Castle in Thun © swiss-image.ch

DO The city of Thun, at the lower end of Lake Thun, is the gate to the Bernese Oberland. The medieval **Thun Castle** above the town of Thun - from the Celtic dunum, meaning “fortified city” - dates to the late 12th century. Today, concerts and other public events are held in the intact hall, and five floors of the castle now house a museum highlighting the region's history. thun.ch

Basel

Switzerland

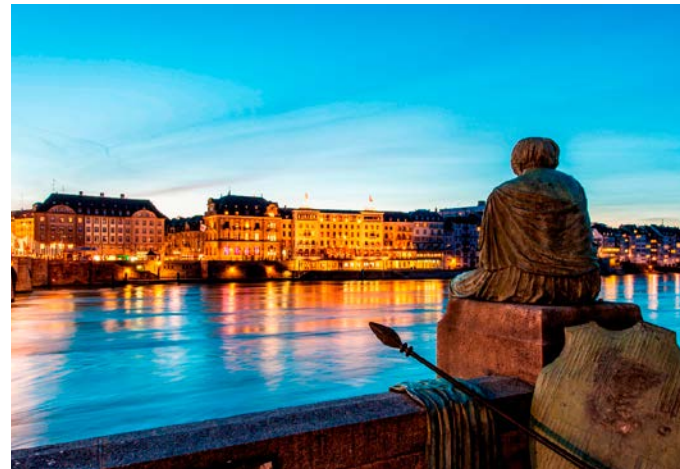
At the junction of three nations, this cultural epicenter offers nearly 40 museums and just as many high-caliber events. **Basel** is a city of contrasts; old patrician homes sit cheek-to-jowl with deeply modern buildings. A range of both classical and contemporary productions are shown on the stages of the Basel theater. The symphony orchestra is a renowned one, as is the musical theater. Historic landmarks include the large market square, with its richly decorated red sandstone town hall, and the late Romanesque-Gothic cathedral. The Zoo Basel is the oldest and largest in Switzerland. Need somewhere to catch your breath? The Botanical Gardens, a variety of parks and the banks of the Rhine are made for relaxing in this green city.

basel.com



Lächerlihuus in Basel © swiss-image.ch

EAT A Basel specialty, **Lächerli biscuits** are a sweet treat made from honey, almonds, candied fruits and spices. The Lächerli House purveys the largest selection of this widely exported delicacy. Sold in an old-fashioned aluminum box, they make a great souvenir. Culture and hospitality go hand in hand at **Teufelhof** in Basel. Awarded 16 Gault Millau, the chef creates a range of culinary delights, using only the finest and freshest products. laeckerli-huus.ch, teufelhof.ch



Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois, Basel © Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois

STAY The ornate **Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois**, a five-star riverside property, is within walking distance of museums and shops. With 101 traditional rooms and suites, the landmark offers a sophisticated blend of antique furniture and high-tech infrastructure. With its perfect view across the River Rhine, the **Hotel Krafft** is ideally located in the heart of Basel. Simplicity, authenticity and quality are the order of the day here, and have been since 1873.

lestroisrois.com, krafftbasel.ch



Castle Bottmingen © myschweiz.com

DO Basel is home of several world-class art museums such as the **Tinguely** museum, featuring many works from the 20th century Swiss painter and sculptor Jean Tinguely. Seemingly rising from water, the romantic castle **Schloss Bottmingen** is a site to behold. The moated 14th century edifice also makes for a wonderful place to enjoy an afternoon in the park, far from the hustle and bustle - yet convenient to the city of Basel. tinguely.ch, weiherschloss.ch

Baden-Baden

Germany

Baden-Baden represents both the gateway to the Black Forest and an epicenter of luxury. The spa resort tradition here dates back over two millennia, and has attracted a diverse cultural scene all its own. The Festspielhaus is Europe's second largest opera house and concert hall. The alabaster-white Kurhaus is a landmark and one of the world's most beautiful casinos. The annual horse races at the Iffezheim racecourse have been prominent society events since 1858. As it possesses the sunniest and warmest climate in Germany, Baden-Baden is also a remarkable wine region. The Southern Black Forest is just an hour away. Of course, no visit is complete without a slice of its namesake creation, the beloved Black Forest Cake.

baden-baden.de

EAT **Le Jardin de France** offers "la cuisine du coeur" (cuisine of the heart) within an intimate courtyard, and recognized by a Michelin star. With its deep red walls and shimmering chandeliers, the Michelin-starred **Brenners Park-Restaurant** offers gourmet cuisine and excellent service in a luxurious setting. lejardindefrance.de, brenners.com



Brenners Spa Pool © Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa



Cauliflower and Romanesco © Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa

STAY An urban oasis, the five-star **Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa** combines grace and tradition — all within an enchanting parkland. **Hotel Belle Epoque** is a green sanctuary of silence, nature and elegance. The villa, built in 1874, has been beautifully restored; the antique furniture sends guests back in time. **Hotel Der Kleine Prinz** belongs in a fairy-tale. The unique family-owned hotel, located in a gracious 1890 townhouse, calls to mind the charms of The Little Prince. brenners.com, hotel-belle-epoque.de, derkleineprinz.de



Schloss Favorite Rastatt © Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg

DO Nowhere else in the world is relaxation so stylish and sophisticated. Among the town's twelve thermal spas: the glassy Caracalla Therme and the historical Roman-Irish Friedrichsbad, a temple to bathing. Lichtentaler Allee, a historic park, is home to the **Frieder Burda Museum**, considered one of the world's greatest modern art collections. Schloss Favorite Rastatt, just 15 minutes outside town, is the oldest "porcelain palace" in Germany, and warrants a visit. baden-baden.de

Stuttgart

Germany

Not one but two luxury automotive brands call **Stuttgart** home - and as you might expect, the museums are as thoughtfully designed as the cars themselves. Sometimes referred to as "the cradle of the automobile," Germany's sixth-largest city also goes by the loving nickname "Benztown." Spread across hills, vineyards, valleys and parks — just an hour from the Black Forest — Stuttgart boasts a surprisingly lovely landscape for a car town. The city center sits in a bucolic valley, nestled between picturesque woodlands and vineyards; the surrounding wine region is one of the country's largest. Comprising opera, ballet and drama, Stuttgart's State Theater is the world's largest multi-genre theater. The baroque opera house is one of few in Germany to have survived World War II.

stuttgart.de



OLIVO Restaurant © Steigenberger Hotel Graf Zeppelin

EAT Stuttgart is famed for its **Maultaschen** – a Swabian cousin to the ravioli, filled with meat and vegetables. At the **Weinstube Schellenturm**, in a 16th century tower, diners can enjoy this traditional delicacy paired with the perfect wine, followed by Swabian cakes and the famous Black Forest Cake, naturally. Meanwhile, Nico Burkhard's Michelin-starred **OLIVO** allures with delicate innovations, from rabbit with carrot and sesame to sweetbreads with confit egg.

weinstube-schellenturm.de, olivo-restaurant.de



Junior Suite © Althoff Hotel am Schlossgarten

STAY

The five-star **Althoff Hotel am Schlossgarten** is centrally located within Stuttgart's famed castle gardens, near the Königstraße shopping area and the State Theater. In the Michelin-starred **Zirbelstube**, guests find distinctive local ingredients merged with contemporary French cuisine.

The rooms and suites of **Le Meridien Hotel** Stuttgart, both modern and elegant, meet the highest demands of business and leisure guests. The wellness and fitness center is the largest spa in downtown Stuttgart.

hotelschlossgarten.com, lemeridienstuttgart.com



Porsche Museum © GNTB, Jochen Keute

DO Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach developed the first internal combustion engine in a Stuttgart greenhouse, which is now a much-visited attraction. With its futuristic design, the Mercedes-Benz Museum offers a rare comprehensive history of the automotive industry. Not to be outdone, **Porsche's** spectacular museum was designed by the award-winning architecture firm HG Merz in Stuttgart's Zuffenhausen district, where the iconic vehicle first got rolling.

stuttgart.de



Innsbruck

Austria

Imperial Habsburg gave rise to some of history's most striking construction projects. In the heart of the majestic Alpine mountain range lies one of the most remarkable. Ambras Castle, a Renaissance castle and palace, perches dramatically above the 800-year-old city of **Innsbruck**. Sited atop a former 10th century fortification, this architectural triumph housed Archduke Ferdinand II, his secret wife Philippine Welser and a vast collection of art and weaponry for the last three decades of the 16th century. Pristine and regal, the monument is divided into a lower and upper castle. Beneath the latter the archduke built a massive banquet hall, complete with wooden inlaid ceiling and Tyrolean portraits. Known as the Spanish Hall, it remains one of the most significant examples of late Renaissance construction.

innsbruck.info

EAT Innsbruck's **Ottoburg** restaurant inhabits one of the region's oldest buildings, a Gothic residential tower dating to 1494. The award-winning **Europa Stüberl** offers a glimpse of traditional wooden Tyrolean Stuben, or parlors. Finally, for magnificent views over Innsbruck and its surrounding peaks, the **Grünwalderhof in Igls** seems straight off of a film set, and features fine Tyrolean cuisine.

ottoburg.at, gruenwalderhof.at, grandhoteleuropa.at



Pepper Filet Steak © Ottoburg



Presidential Suite © Adlers Hotel Innsbruck

STAY

Lodging options in Innsbruck range from traditional Alpine design to the elegant and modern. The city's most starred hotel is the **Grand Hotel Europa**, featuring direct underground access to the railway station. Another highlight is the modern **Adlers Hotel**, with fantastic views over Innsbruck and the Inn Valley — particularly on the upper floors. Looking for true Alpine flair? Just outside Innsbruck is the **Sporthotel Igls**, a chalet-style hotel with a pool and history going back to 1889.

grandhoteleuropa.at, deradler.com, sporthotel-igls.com



Castle Ambras © 2010 TVB Innsbruck

DO Start your exploration of **Castle Ambras** by roaming the pristine grounds. In the upper castle, dive into imperial history in the breathtaking Spanish Hall — its 27 full-figure portraits of Tyrolean rulers hark back to its late Renaissance heyday. The adjacent gallery boasts 200 portraits of the Habsburg family, from Titian, Lucas Cranach and Antonis Mor. The lower castle's rare Chamber of Art is the only one from the Mannerist era preserved at its original location.

schlossambras-innsbruck.at

Hohe Tauern National Park Austria

Stretching across three Austrian regions - Carinthia, Salzburgerland and East Tirol - the **Hohe Tauern National Park** is the largest of Austria's seven national parks, and the largest nature reserve in the Alps. It's also home to some of the planet's most remarkable natural phenomena: vast glaciers, the towering Großglockner peak and the unforgettable Krimml Waterfalls, Europe's tallest waterfalls. Start at the National Park Center Hohe Tauern in Mittersill - its state-of-the-art exhibitions are a great introduction. Continue via the Felbertauern Pass to Matrei in East Tirol for an overnight. This town lies in the heart of the park, with 150 of Austria's highest mountains just beyond the doorstep.

hohetauern.at



Alpine Ibexes © Grossglockner Hochalpenstrassen AG

STAY

Picturesque, set in the heart of the National Park Hohe Tauern and close to the Grossglockner High Alpine Road: Matrei in East Tirol makes for a perfect place to stay. The **Hotel Rauter** is a longstanding favorite there among locals and international travelers alike. The warm and cozy **Hotel Hinteregger**, meanwhile, boasts modern wooden architecture and a "car-free holiday" program.

hotel-rauter.at, hotelhinteregger.at

EAT

Dining in the National Park Hohe Tauern means merging outstanding local cuisine with sweeping views of the surrounding mountains. Make the short drive from Matrei to Kals, then up the mountain via cable car – this takes you to the award-winning **Adler Lounge**, where modern meets the imposing Grossglockner as a backdrop. The next day stop at the **Gasthaus Lukashansl**, a stately, 350-year-old inn on the Grossglockner High Alpine Road.

adlerlounge.at, wildpark-ferleiten.at



Hinteregger Hotel © Tourismusverband Matrei

Salzburgerland Austria

For the dedicated gastronome, the province of **Salzburgerland** can seem too good to be true: numerous regional specialties, over 200 top culinary addresses and a communal commitment to putting regional products front and center. Central to all this is the popular Via Culinaria. Choose from seven culinary pathways – for gourmets, fish fans, sweet tooths, beer enthusiasts, cheese fanatics, meat lovers and mountain huts aficionados – and carve out the most mouthwatering trek through Austria. The paths make for a great excuse to crisscross the city of Salzburg and Salzburgerland, and to explore unforgettable restaurants, pastry shops, cheese dairies, local inns and even fisheries. And the flexible design of these pathways allows you to weave in and out of non-culinary stops, too. Even the gastronome must pause now and then to digest.

via-culinaria.com, salzburgerland.com

EAT

With its Michelin star plus three toques, Salzburg's understated **Restaurant Esszimmer** isn't to be missed. Meanwhile, meat lovers and vegetarians alike will love a multi-course meal at Elixhausen's **Restaurant Gmachl**. No visit to the Salzburgerland is complete without a sweet treat, and the **Confiserie Braun** in Hallein is one of the sweetest addresses around, thanks to a century of perfection from the family responsible.

restaurant-esszimmer.jimdo.com, gmachl.com, confiserie-braun.at



Salzburger Nockerln © SalzburgerLand Tourismus

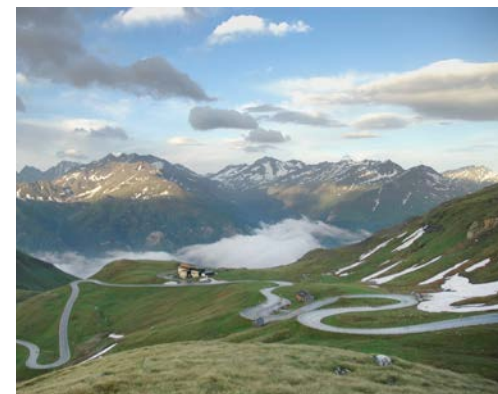
STAY

Döllerer's Geniesser Hotel, a romantic boutique hotel, complements your stay with wonderful food from its butchery and delicatessen store. The **Arthotel Blaue Gans** in the heart of the city of Salzburg is a lovely boutique hotel - wrapped in 600-year-old-walls. Just outside Salzburg, in Elixhausen, the **Romantik Hotel Gmachl** delivers not only a picturesque Alpine setting but a history of hospitality that's been in the family since 1334.

doellerer.at, hotel-blaue-gans-salzburg.at, gmachl.com



Arthotel Blaue Gans © Arthotel Blaue Gans



View from the Hochtor © Grossglockner Hochalpenstrassen AG

DO

From the quaint village of Heiligenblut, start your trek on the famed, 30-mile **Großglockner High Alpine Road**. At 12,460 feet, this winding asphalt ribbon epitomizes the Alpine driving experience. Lookout points abound, offering vistas onto blossoming meadows, dramatic cliffs and massive glaciers. At the foot of the Grossglockner, a 30-minute walk takes you right to the sprawling Pasterze glacier. Then, continue driving on the High Alpine Road towards Zell am See and Salzburg, occasionally stopping at the ancient trails and pre-Celtic artifacts you'll encounter along the way.

grossglockner.at



Doellerer Gourmet Store © Doellerer Genusswelten

DO

A favorite stop along the Via Culinaria is **Döllerer's World of Culinary Delights**, in Golling; it's run by the accomplished Döllerer family, whose ranks include Austria's top chef, a hotel manager, a sommelier, a designer and a master butcher. Enjoy dinner in the award-winning restaurant, and lunch at the cozy traditional tavern. Explore the Enoteca's terrific wine list. Ultimately, indulge at the butchery and delicatessen store, and don't forget to take a culinary sampler box (especially their famous home-made jams!) to bring those memories home.

doellerer.at

Munich

Germany

Munich is Germany's lifestyle capital and the gateway to the German Alps. Its modern, international airport offers direct flights from the US. After arrival, visitors can stop en route to the city center for a visit to BMW World, Factory and Museum. This futuristic temple to the beloved auto brand delivers a thorough education — and sells all manner of accessory products for any BMW enthusiast. One of the most beautiful places in all of Germany is the Marienplatz square. Home to the Old and New Town Halls, where the famous clocktower is located, it's the heart of Munich. A trip to the English Garden, between the Isar and the city center, makes for a perfect post-shopping reward. muenchen.de



Dallmayr Restaurant © 2014 Stefan Randlkofer

EAT For decades, the gourmet restaurant **Käfer-Schänke** has been a go-to spot for casual dining amidst sparkling elegance. The cuisine has an international flair, with the focus periodically shifting from country to country. Dine in style at **Restaurant Dallmayr** thanks to Michelin-starred chef Diethard Urbansky. Meals are served on the finest hand-painted Nymphenburg porcelain plates. You will rejoice in a world of delights that provide a unique experience for your palate. feinkost-kaefer.de, us.dallmayr.com



Sofitel Munich Bayerpost © Sofitel Munich Bayerpost

STAY The five-star, family-run **Hotel München Palace**, in the posh Bogenhausen quarter, merges contemporary style with classical design. **Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Kempinski** is centrally located, and spa guests enjoy a magnificent view of historic Munich from the sun terrace. Occupying Munich's former Bavarian Royal Post Office, the design hotel **Sofitel Munich Bayerpost** overlays modernity atop wonderful history. muenchenpalace.de, kempinski.com, sofitel-munich.com



BMW World © BMW AG

DO An hour from Munich is Ingolstadt, where the **Audi Forum** features all manner of automotive events and exhibitions. Audi is a member of the "German Big 3" luxury automakers, along with BMW and Mercedes-Benz, which are the three best-selling luxury automakers in the world. The city of **Ingolstadt** also features an array of stunning Gothic buildings, from the Herzogskasten — the Old Ducal Castle — to the New Castle. The Baroque palace Nymphenburg, former summer residence of the rulers of Bavaria of the House of Wittelsbach, is another architectural masterpiece. Muenchen.de



Wishing you a great journey through the Austrian, Swiss and German Alps!



austria.info



germany.travel



Switzerland.
get natural.
MySwitzerland.com