

KAISERSLAUTERN USO TOURS, CLASSES, AND ORIENTATIONS

DECEMBER 2009

German Baking Class Christmas Cookies Tuesday, December 1

Have you ever wondered how those beautiful German cakes are made? Well, now is your chance to learn. During a three-hour session, we'll teach you how to prepare, bake, and enjoy various German Christmas specialties. Please bring a container, fork, coffee cup, and your appetite. The USO will supply all the ingredients. Participation is limited so sign up now for this USO class. This tour is for adults only; please, no children under 12.

Time: 0900-1200

Place: Vogelweh Chapel kitchen

Cost: \$20

Learn to Ride the German Train— DB Orientation and Trip to Landau and Deidesheim Christmas Markets Friday, December 4

Learn all about riding trains in Germany on this USO orientation. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the train system, , and take a trip to the towns of Landau and Deidesheim and return. You'll be accompanied by a USO escort, who will show you how to buy a ticket and teach you the ins-and-outs of train travel. Learn about the many specials the German Rail (DB) offers, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, and city specials. This special trip will take you to two of the nicest Christmas markets in the southern Palatinate. Landau's special artisans market is named after Thomas Nast, famous caricaturist who was born in Landau in 1840. Although known as a political cartoonist, some of his most famous sketches are his Christmas drawings. The Deidesheim Christmas Market is one of the most popular in the region. You'll have time at both Christmas market to shop at the stands and taste some of the specialties before we return home by train. Price includes train tickets and a USO escort. Bring euro for shopping and lunch. Group size is limited so sign up early.

Transportation: German rail

Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 1130

Return: Approximately 2000

Cost: \$29

Amsterdam City Tour Saturday, December 5

Explore exciting, beautiful Holland with the USO. We arrive in the Netherlands early morning for breakfast (included). After breakfast, we'll visit a wooden-shoe maker and cheese farm where you can see how shoes and cheese are made. You can also sample and buy some of the cheese products, as well as shoes and other souvenirs. We'll then have a short orientation of downtown Amsterdam. From the Dam Square, you'll be able to visit Anne Frank's House, the famous Red Light District, the Royal Palace, or some of the many other downtown sights, museums, and shops. After the city orientation, you'll have a whole day to spend in this fascinating town. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Please bring euro. Dinner stop will be in Holland (not included). Tour price includes transportation, breakfast, shoe maker and cheese farm, city orientation, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0130

Return: Approximately 0100

Cost: \$99 Adults, \$89 Children

Bamberg—City of Bishops and Beer Bamberger Krippenweg (Nativity Scene Trail) and Medieval Christmas Market

Saturday, December 5

This Christmas, the USO has arranged a special tour for you: a tour to Bamberg, the city of bishops and beer. Every year during advent, Bamberg features a “Krippenweg”—a trail leading from nativity scene to nativity scene in more than 30 locations throughout the city. The magnificent Imperial Cathedral, neighborhood parish churches, as well as museums open their doors for visitors to see this beautiful and unique collection of crèches. The trail, which leads you over the city’s seven hills, has been a city tradition for over 20 years, but has historical roots dating back 400 years, when the Jesuits set up the first nativity scene in Bamberg. Experience this wonderful Christmas tradition, and see the nativity scenes displayed in the same churches that house some of the world’s most impressive works of art by medieval, renaissance, and baroque artists and sculptors. A special addition this weekend is a medieval Christmas market in the courtyard of the old palace. Bamberg’s history reaches back as far as 902, but it was raised to the status of a Bishopric in 1007 under Emperor Heinrich II. For a short time, Bamberg was even the capital of the Holy Roman Empire. In the 17th century, the most renowned architects of their day made their lasting impression on Bamberg, changing it into an unmistakably baroque city. Escaping substantial damage during the wars, Bamberg is blessed with the largest intact Old Town in Germany, which since 1993 has been a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Bamberg’s old town hall, perched on an island in the middle of the Regnitz River, is surrounded by the tanners’ houses along the old canal, the millers’ quarter, and the fishermen’s settlement known as Little Venice, and are all guaranteed to provide exceptional photo opportunities. During your free time, you can explore Bamberg’s old town with its interesting pubs and stores, which include over 20 antique dealers. Beer brewing in Bamberg began over 900 hundred years ago in the monasteries, and by the 12th century Bamberg was producing beer to send off to far-off countries as a valuable export. Try some of Bamberg’s world renowned “Rauch Bier” or smoked beer brewed at one of Bamberg’s nine remaining breweries (there were still 65 breweries in 1818), or try some Glühwein (mulled wine) at the local Christmas market. After free time for lunch and shopping, we will visit more of the sites along the Nativity Trail, before returning to Kaiserslautern. Tour includes transportation, city tour, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0600

Return: Approximately 2300

Cost: \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

Black Forest Cuckoo Clock Shopping and Museum

Saturday, December 5

Join us on a visit to one of the most beautiful areas in Germany—the Black Forest. On the way to Triberg, we’ll stop at two clock shops, one with a wide selection of grandfather clocks. Upon arriving in Triberg, you’ll have time for more shopping and lunch. If weather permits and it’s opened, you can also visit Germany’s highest waterfall in Triberg. Later in the afternoon, we’ll visit the local Triberg museum, one of the nicest museums in the Black Forest. Here, you can learn the history and story behind German clocks, as well as see some ultra-modern time measuring instruments, and other Black Forest traditions and customs. The museum offers one of the best time measuring collections in Europe. This will be a good opportunity to stock up on German Christmas gifts and decorations. If you are planning to buy a clock, please don’t forget to bring VAT forms and check out the back inside and outside cover of this *Kabel*. Tour price includes transportation, museum entrance, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0700

Return: Approximately 2030

Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Learn to Ride the German Train—

DB Orientation and Trip to Idar-Oberstein and Bad Münster Christmas Markets

Saturday, December 5

Learn all about riding trains in Germany on this USO orientation. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the train system, , and take a trip to the towns of Idar-Oberstein and Bad Münster and return. You’ll be accompanied by a USO escort, who will show you how to buy a ticket and teach you the ins-and-outs of train travel. Learn about the many specials the German Rail (DB) offers, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, and city specials. This special trip will take you to two of the more popular Christmas markets in the Nahe Region. As the Nahe River flows toward its confluence with the Rhine at Bingen, it becomes broad and grand, assuming a truly spectacular view around the little town bearing the somewhat clumsy name of Bad Münster am Stein-Ebernburg. Sitting beneath picturesque rock cliffs, the town has been a favorite subject with painters since the Romantic era. Nestled in the park of the Kurhaus, the Christmas market offers many hand crafted items, wursts, mulled wine, and the

ambience provided by the lights on the old trees in the park will surely become one of your favorite memories of the Christmas season in Germany. Idar-Oberstein is known as Germany's gem capital. Here you'll find shop after shop of jewelry, gems and precious stones along the old town's pedestrian walk. In addition to its gem mines and jewelry artists, Idar-Oberstein is famous for its "Church in the Rocks" or Felsenkirche (closed during the winter) which was built into a massive rock over 165 feet above the ground. Come and hear the legend of the chapel. You'll have time at both Christmas markets to shop at the stands and taste some of the specialties before we return home by train. Price includes train tickets, entrance to the markets, and a USO escort. Bring euro for shopping and lunch. Group size is limited so sign up early.

Transportation: German rail

Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0830

Return: Approximately 2030

Cost: \$29

Nürnberg and Rothenburg Christmas Markets

Saturday, December 5

Visit two of Germany's most famous Christmas markets on this tour. First, we'll travel to Nürnberg where Germany's oldest and most popular Christmas market takes place. The main marketplace with its "Beautiful Fountain" and Our Lady's Church provides the picturesque setting for the Christmas Market that will get you in the spirit with its gingerbread, delicious sausage and wafts of Glühwein. A few blocks from the market square, there is the famous Toy Museum. In the afternoon on our return home, we'll stop at Rothenburg, the "Gem from the Middle Ages." Although this is not the largest Christmas market in Germany, it is one of the finest. You will have the chance to shop at the famous Käthe Wohlfahrt stores and at the many smaller booths selling Christmas wares and foods. Bring good walking shoes and euro for shopping and meals. Tour price includes transportation and USO tour guide.

Transportation German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0600

Return: Approximately 2200

Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Local Christmas Markets

Speyer, Neuleiningen, and Freinsheim

Sunday, December 6

Tired of the crowds at those large, commercialized Christmas markets? Well, join us on our trip to three of the nicest traditional Christmas markets in the area. First, we'll visit Speyer, a city with more than 2000 years of history. Representatives from Speyer's international partner cities in Poland and France will present their wares this weekend. In the afternoon and evening, we'll visit the medieval towns of Freinsheim and Neuleiningen. Neuleiningen's castle, built in the Middle Ages, served as the largest fortress in this area, and the hilltop castle now overlooks the famous German Wine Road, known throughout the world for wonderful wines and beautiful scenery. On the German Wine Road, we'll visit the walled medieval town of Freinsheim, one of the most charming villages along the wine route. These are three Christmas markets you don't want to miss. Please bring shopping bags and euro. Tour price includes transportation, town orientations, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 1000

Return: Approximately 2130

Cost: \$49 Adults, \$39 Children

German Baking Class

Christmas Cookies

Tuesday, December 8

Have you ever wondered how those beautiful German cakes are made? Well, now is your chance to learn. During a three-hour session, we'll teach you how to prepare, bake, and enjoy various German Christmas specialties. Please bring a container, fork, coffee cup, and your appetite. The USO will supply all the ingredients. Participation is limited so sign up now for this USO class. This tour is for adults only; please, no children under 12.

Time: 0900-1200

Place: Vogelweh Chapel kitchen

Cost: \$20

**Learn to Ride the German Train—
DB Orientation and Trip to Mannheim Christmas Market
Wednesday, December 9**

Learn all about riding trains in Germany on this USO orientation. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the train system, and take a trip to Mannheim and return. You'll be accompanied by a USO escort, who will show you how to buy a ticket and teach you the ins-and-outs of train travel. Learn about the many specials the German Rail (DB) offers, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, and city specials. Mannheim is a city with cosmopolitan flair and great shopping opportunities. Mannheim has a wonderful Christmas market in a picturesque setting around the water tower. You'll have time to visit the market, have lunch, or do some shopping before we return via train to Kaiserslautern. Price includes train tickets and a USO escort. Bring euro for shopping and lunch. Group size is limited so sign up early.

Transportation: German rail
Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0800
Return: Approximately 1600
Cost: \$29

**Bad Wimpfen, Michelstadt, and Erbach
Christmas Markets and Medieval Towns
Saturday, December 12**

You don't want to miss this Christmas tour to three medieval towns that provide breathtaking backdrops for their enchanting Christmas markets. We'll begin the day in Bad Wimpfen, an imperial town of great importance throughout the Middle Ages. Experience the town in its Christmas splendor as we step back in time walking along the old town walls and through the gates, towers, and winding streets lined with half-timbered houses. Its famous "Blue Tower" dominates the town's skyline when viewed from the Neckar River Valley below. The Christmas market in Bad Wimpfen is known as the "Altdeutscher Weihnachts Markt" (Old German Traditional Christmas Market). With its 160 booths, the romantic atmosphere will invite you to try many of the Christmas delicacies. The Christmas markets in Michelstadt and Erbach are not quite as large (70 booths) and both provide wonderful settings. The Market Square of Michelstadt with its 15th century city hall is one of the most photographed sites in Germany. The Baroque Palace of Erbach and its adjoining medieval town are the ideal backdrops for the seasonal festivities. In Michelstadt, you can visit the crafts market in the old castle. You will find many reminders of the once important trade of this region of the Odenwald—ivory carving. In Bad Wimpfen, there are two unique museums—the Lucky Pig Museum and the German Guardian Angel Museum. Whether you are coming along to work on your Christmas shopping list, collect a few more Christmas mugs, take plenty of pictures, or learn about the history of these charming towns, you won't be disappointed. Tour price include bus transportation, town orientations, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0900
Return: Approximately 2200
Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

**Bavarian Fairy Tale Castles—
Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein
Saturday, December 12**

A fairy-tale-like wonder world, covered in a blanket of snow and all ready for Christmas, beckons you to this breathtaking Alpine scenery and famous castles of Germany. On this express tour, we'll pursue the traces of Ludwig II of Bavaria, the 19th century "Fairy Tale King" who built the lavish castles that are among the greatest tourist attractions in Germany. After breakfast (not included), we will tour Hohenschwangau where Ludwig spent several years of his childhood and where the ornate wall frescoes of Germanic legends stimulated his romantic dreams and his love for the Alps. He used the dramatic backdrop of this mountainous scenery for the castles Neuschwanstein and Linderhof. Next, we visit Neuschwanstein, King Ludwig's magnificent and most famous castle built in the style of a medieval Camelot and became the model for Walt Disney's Cinderella castle. Before we return, we will stop at a local Christmas market for shopping. **There is strenuous walking and an ambitious itinerary. This tour is not stroller-friendly.** Tour price includes transportation, breakfast, entrance fees to both castles, uphill transportation to Neuschwanstein, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center, 0300
Return: Approximately 0100 (SUN)
Cost: \$105 Adults, \$95 Children

Bern, Switzerland
Saturday, December 12

Visit Bern, the romantic capital of Switzerland, and witness a true winter wonderland. A beautiful city with its famous bear pit, clock tower, fountains, and quaint specialty shops, Bern is an unspoiled jewel of medieval architecture. During a guided tour through Bern's old town, you'll see the bear pit, cathedral, Houses of Parliament, prison tower, and famous Zytglocken clock tower. You'll have time to shop for Swiss chocolate, cheeses, watches, and other souvenirs on the six-kilometer long arched shopping promenade, the largest in Europe. Or visit the local Christmas markets on Münsterplatz and Waisenhausplatz where the spirit of the season fills the air. From Bern, we travel to the Emmental to visit a Swiss cheese factory in Affoltern where you can buy cheese and other Swiss specialties. U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports are required. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Please bring Swiss franc for meals and souvenirs. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400
Return: Approximately 2300
Cost: \$79 Adults, \$69 Children

CentrO. Mall Christmas Market
Saturday, December 12

Shop till you drop on this tour to CentrO. Mall, the largest mall in Europe, located in Oberhausen, north of Düsseldorf. CentrO. Mall houses more than 200 stores and boutiques and more than 20 restaurants, snack bars, and pubs, with authentic Irish, Louisiana-style, and Mexican foods. CentrO. Mall also has one of the most magnificent Christmas markets of the Ruhr area. More than 3,000,000 lights; 65,000 new Christmas decorations, and more than 4,000 crystals sparkle throughout the mall. Highlights of the Christmas market are some 135 huts with international goods. A glasblower- factory, CentrO-Winterworld with toboggan-run and jet ski-run, one of the biggest pyramid from the "Erzgebirge," distribution of presents by the Coca-Cola Santa Claus, and a 20-meter tall Christmas tree with more than 50,000 lights. Tour price includes transportation and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0600
Return: Approximately 2200
Cost: \$39

Learn to Ride the German Train—
Orientation and Trip to Trier Christmas Market
Saturday, December 12

Learn all about riding trains in Germany on this USO orientation. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the train system, , and take a trip to Mannheim and return. You'll be accompanied by a USO escort, who will show you how to buy a ticket and teach you the ins-and-outs of train travel. Learn about the many specials the German Rail (DB) offers, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, and city specials. Trier is known as Germany's oldest city with a number of Roman and Medieval sites to explore and great shopping opportunities. The enchanting Trier Christmas Market takes place on the medieval main market square and in front of the imposing backdrop of the Trier Cathedral. It's one of the loveliest Christmas markets in Germany. You'll have time to shop, stroll through the city, maybe visit a museum, and have lunch before we return via train to Kaiserslautern. Price includes train tickets and a USO escort. Bring euro for shopping and lunch. Group size is limited so sign up early.

Transportation: German train
Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0800
Return: Approximately 1900
Cost: \$29

Paris Dinner, City Tour, and Evening Boat Cruise
Saturday, December 12

Bonjour! We invite you to join us on this express trip to Paris—a city of such history, sights, and *Oui*, such excitement! See such major tourist attractions as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arch of Triumph, and much more as we spend the day sightseeing with time for shopping. We arrive mid-day and start out with a city tour. Paris's avenues, streets, and historic squares are dressed in their Christmas wonderland attire for your enjoyment. Enjoy the beauty of Paris's avenues, streets, and historic squares with their special Christmas decorations. After some free time, we go for a unique dining experience; we'll head over to the Latin Quarter in the evening for an authentic five-course meal served in a historic atmosphere. You'll also marvel at the *City of Lights* on an evening boat cruise on the Seine River. Be sure to bring your camera, spare batteries, and lots of film because we make photo stops whenever we can. Please bring euro for personal expenses, i.e., shopping and lunch. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, dinner, boat ride, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400
Return: Approximately 0430 (SUN)
Cost: \$129

**An Evening at the Theater—
Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"
Monday, December 14**

Looking for a change from all those Christmas videos you've lined up for the season? Make a new Christmas memory with the USO and this special evening at the Theater im Pfalzbau in Ludwigshafen. We'll travel by deluxe motor coach to Ludwigshafen for an English language performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," the renowned story of Scrooge who is pursued in his dreams by the spirits of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Future. He witnesses the touching Christmas celebration by his employee Bob Cratchit and Bob's family before the spirit of Christmas Future forces Scrooge to preview his own imminent death—an event which changes his whole outlook on life. This American Drama Group-Europe production has been entertaining audiences for years. We arrive prior to the show and have time to have a bite to eat at one of the restaurants in the area or just enjoy the festive atmosphere at the Christmas market near the theater area. Tour price includes transportation, tickets, and USO escort.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 1600
Return: Approximately 2330
Cost: \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

**Learn to Ride the German Train—
DB Orientation and Trip to Wissembourg, France
Tuesday, December 15**

Learn all about how the German train system works on this USO train orientation and tour. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive a briefing on the train system, and take a trip to the French town of Wissembourg and return. You'll be accompanied by a USO escort, but you can gain first hand experience purchasing tickets and riding the trains. Learn about the many specials the German Train (DB) offers, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, city specials and much more. On this orientation tour, we'll travel to the Alsatian town of Wissembourg. Although just across the German-French border, this town has a distinct French flair. See the half-timbered medieval houses perched along the Lauter River. We'll see the Church of St. Peter and Paul, the church of the former abbey, which is the second largest gothic church in the Alsace region (second only to Strassbourg). Try a Flammkuchen or some of the other local specialties before we return to Kaiserslautern. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes train transportation, train orientation, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German train
Depart: Meet at the Kaiserslautern HBF at 0800
Return: Approximately 1700
Cost: \$29 Adults, \$25 Children

**Valkenberg Caves Christmas Market
Tuesday, December 15**

This might be the Christmas market you will never forget. Under the Castle of Valkenberg near Maastricht in the Netherlands is the Velvet Cave, a labyrinth of passages more than a thousand years old and rediscovered in 1937. Once used as an escape route, the passages enabled the knights and their warriors to secretly vanish from the castle and attack the enemy from the back. During the German occupation and World War II, the cave served as shelter for Jewish people, locals, and American troops. Now, Christmas transforms this underground world with twinkling lights, magic illumination, and music. You can shop at stalls with quality Christmas gifts and watch demonstrations of Old Dutch handicrafts. Visit the garden in the heart of the cave to have a bite to eat and try the famous Glühwein and marvel at the chapel and its many impressive mural carvings, inscriptions, and sculptures. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Strollers are not recommended. Note: The cave stays a constant 12° Celsius (53.6° Fahrenheit) year-round. Tour price includes entrance to the market, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0700
Return: Approximately 2200
Cost: \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

**Spend a Day in Paris—
Do you have a Need for Speed?
Travel to Paris in 2 Hours and 28 Minutes
Friday, December 18**

How would you like to go to Paris for the day? Do you have a “Need for Speed”? Don’t like the five-hour bus ride, or tolls and high gas prices? We can’t beam you there, but we can do the next best thing. Zooming from Kaiserslautern to Paris in 2 hours and 28 minutes, we’ll travel at **speeds of up to 320 km (200 miles) per hour**. Join us for this unique experience. Spend the day in Paris, shopping, sightseeing, visiting a museum, or just hanging out watching people. Sound like a dream? If traveling on the autobahn isn’t fast enough for you, perhaps this train will be. It’s not only fast, but comfortable and energy efficient too. You’ll travel by train, with a USO tour guide, and upon arriving in Paris, our expert guide will direct you to some of the highlights of the city via public transportation, or if you choose you can plan your own agenda. Of course, we can’t see it all in nine hours, so make sure you set your priorities in advance. Space is limited, group size is small, so don’t hesitate and sign up now. Travel lightly, backpacks are recommended, as lockers are not always available. We don’t have a tour bus at our disposal so be prepared to walk and ride the Metro to our destinations. This tour is not stroller-friendly due to the stairs in the Metro and cobblestone streets. Not recommended for small children. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes round trip train transportation, tickets for public transportation within Paris, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: High Speed Train
Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0645
Return: Approximately 2135
Cost: \$199

**Brussels, Belgium, City Tour
Saturday, December 19**

Brussels—one of Europe’s capitals and an international city with flair. A city bustling with activity, beautiful shops, and a myriad of museums. That’s the Brussels you’ll see as we start our day with a city tour, during which you’ll see the beautiful main square, La Grand’Place, the famous statue Manneken-Pis, and much more. We’ll even stop at a Belgian lace shop for a demonstration after which you can buy some of the beautiful handmade lace. Next, you’ll have plenty of free time to have lunch (try a famous Belgian waffle for dessert), shop, explore the sights, or visit one of Brussels’ many museums, which includes an auto museum, a military museum, and several art and history museums. Be sure to bring euro for lunch and shopping. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Comfortable shoes are recommended for our walk through the cobblestone streets. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, and a USO tour guide. **Due to strenuous walking on cobblestone streets in crowded areas, this tour is not recommended for children under 6.**

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400
Return: Approximately midnight
Cost: \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

Heidelberg Castle and City Tour
Christmas Market
DB Train Orientation
Saturday, December 19

Come and join the USO on a DB train to the beautiful and romantic city of Heidelberg. We'll begin the day with a city tour through the old section of town and see the historic buildings and market areas. Then we'll walk up to the castle with its splendid gardens and wine cellar, which claims to have the largest wine cask in the world. After a castle tour, we'll break for lunch (not included) and free time to explore Heidelberg and its charming Christmas market—the Christkindl Markt—before catching our train back home. **Note: The walk to the castle is steep and made of cobblestone; it's not stroller friendly.** Tour price includes transportation, city and castle tour, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German rail
Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0700
Return: Approximately 1830
Cost: \$49 Adults, \$39 Children

Innsbruck Crystal Shopping
Munich Christmas Market
Saturday, December 19

Join the USO on a special trip to Innsbruck, Austria, the capital of Tyrol, and Munich, capital of Bavaria. Innsbruck is one of the most beautiful towns of its size anywhere in the world, owing much of its fame and charm to its unique setting. To the north, the steep sheer sides of the Alps rise like a shimmering blue and white wall, literally from the edge of the city, an impressive backdrop for the green domes and red roofs of the Baroque town tucked beneath. En route, we'll stop for a German breakfast (not included), and shortly before arriving in Innsbruck, you'll have a chance to visit a Swarovski crystal museum and factory outlet where you can buy crystal jewelry and figurines. On arrival in Innsbruck, we'll tour the old town, which remains as it was 400 years ago, and you'll have free time to visit the Christmas Market. On our return trip home, we'll stop in Munich. Nestled in natural Bavarian settings, Munich is Germany at its picture-perfect best. It's Germany's third largest city and is the heart of German technology; but at the same time, its traditional local costumes, music, dance, food, and festivals make Munich the stuff of guidebook cliché. This time of year, the entire city is decked out in its finest Christmas attire, giving the city a special charm not seen any other time of year. You'll have time to enjoy the city on your own, have dinner, or shop at the Christmas market. There is a boundless variety of things to see and do in Munich. Bring euro for shopping and lunch. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, entrance to the Swarovski Museum, Innsbruck city tour, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0100
Return: Approximately 0030 (SUN)
Cost: \$89 Adults, \$79 Children

Lucerne, Switzerland, City Tour
Saturday, December 19

Imagine sitting along the shores of a crystal clear lake, drinking coffee, with the snow-capped mountains in the background. This is the atmosphere of Lucerne, one of Switzerland's most beautiful cities. Come with us and enjoy the mountain air, great shopping, and Swiss hospitality. On the way to Switzerland, we'll stop for breakfast (not included). In beautiful Lucerne, we'll have a walking tour where we'll see such famous landmarks as the covered Mill Bridge. On a clear day, you can see the breathtaking Swiss Alps mountain range. You will have time to shop, sightsee, relax, and enjoy lunch (not included). Please bring your U.S. (blue), Canadian, or EC passports (they are mandatory). Also bring Swiss francs for shopping and lunch. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, boat ride, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400
Return: Approximately 2330
Cost: \$89 Adults, \$79 Children

Nürnberg and Rothenburg Christmas Markets

Saturday, December 19

Visit two of Germany's most famous Christmas markets on this tour. First, we'll travel to Nürnberg where Germany's oldest and most popular Christmas market takes place. The main marketplace with its "Beautiful Fountain" and Our Lady's Church provides the picturesque setting for the Christmas Market that will get you in the spirit with its gingerbread, delicious sausage and wafts of Glühwein. A few blocks from the market square, there is the famous Toy Museum. In the afternoon on our return home, we'll stop at Rothenburg, the "Gem from the Middle Ages." Although this is not the largest Christmas market in Germany, it is one of the finest. You will have the chance to shop at the famous Käthe Wohlfahrt stores and at the many smaller booths selling Christmas wares and foods. Bring good walking shoes and euro for shopping and meals. Tour price includes transportation and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0600
Return: Approximately 2200
Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Strasbourg, France Christmas Market Saturday, December 19

Experience the famous Alsatian Christmas market in Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace. We'll begin our day with a city orientation, where you'll see the beautiful Gothic cathedral that took about 400 years to build, and the famous La Petite France section of the old city. After the city orientation, you'll have free time to try one of the regional dishes, *Flammekuche*, at one of the colorful restaurants, explore on your own, shop in the large department stores and numerous shops, or visit the French Christmas market and experience the wonderful Alsatian celebration. The Christmas market in the center of town offers a great variety of goodies with a French flair. Please bring euro for shopping and lunch. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, city orientation, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0730
Return: Approximately 2000
Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

After Christmas Special— Black Forest Winter Wonderland at the Waterfall Saturday, December 26

Between Christmas and New Year's, Germany's largest waterfall in Triberg becomes the center of a spectacular light show. The ocean of lights surrounding the waterfalls with its 750,000 lights is one of the most spectacular Christmas shows in Germany. Upon arrival, you'll be able to enjoy music on two stages, local crafts, foods, and of course the traditional Glühwein. Enjoy a stroll through the city to the sound of live music and watch craftsmen exhibit the traditional art of wood carving and clock painting. You will of course have the opportunity to shop for cuckoo clocks and other Black Forest crafts. In the evening, the waterfall turns into a spectacular show of lights and performers creating a magical illumination you'll never forget. Please wear warm clothing, the events take place outdoors. Bring euro for meals and personal expenses. Also, most of the shops take VAT forms. Tour price includes transportation, waterfall entrance, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 1200
Return: Approximately midnight
Cost: \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

Learn to Ride the German Trains— DB Orientation and Trip to Speyer Christmas and New Year's Market and Visit Sea Life, the Technical Museum, or IMAX Movie Tuesday, December 29

Come with the USO on this great family outing and learn all about German trains. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the rail system, and take a trip to the city of Speyer and return. Learn about the many specials the DB offers, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, city specials, and more. Speyer is a historic yet

dynamic city near the German Wine Road, and its history spans more than 2000 years. Speyer's beautiful Salian cathedral is one of Germany's outstanding landmarks. Almost 1,000 years old, the impressive cathedral is the final resting place of eight German emperors and kings. You'll have time for lunch and some shopping before we return via train to Kaiserslautern. The Speyer Christmas and New Year's Market will still be going on and the city will be decorated with a festive flair. There will be sufficient time to visit one of the museums or IMAX movies that is included in the tour price. The Sea Life Aquarium Museum features the life of water animals in simulated natural habitats—rivers, lakes, and oceans. If you chose to visit the Speyer Technical Museum, you can see more than 3,000 exhibits that include 70 aircraft, 20 locomotives, 50 vintage cars, and 40 fire engines. You can climb the stairs to enter a Boeing 747 and slide down the 54 meter tube slide! If you are an IMAX movie fan, you can watch one of the movies (in German). Bring euro for shopping and lunch. Group size is limited so sign up early. Also, traveling with large baby strollers on German trains is not easy, especially if train transfers are involved. Price includes train tickets, one museum (Sea Life or Technical Museum) or IMAX entrance, and a USO escort.

Transportation: German train

Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0800

Return: Approximately 1730

Cost: \$35 Adults, \$29 Children

New Year's Special Two Overnights in Berlin Tuesday-Friday, Dec. 29-Jan. 1

Ring in 2010 at one of the largest New Year's Eve celebrations in the world! Our centrally located hotel will be in walking distance of the party street around the Victory Column and Brandenburg Gate. Berlin, the former divided city, and beautifully refurbished capital of Germany beckons to you to come with the USO on this special weekend. Throughout the centuries, Berlin has frequently been the focal point of historic events. During our two days in Berlin, you'll have guided tours to the most popular sights that you have heard about in the media and in history books: the Wall, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag Parliament Building, Potsdamer Platz, Unter den Linden, the Memorial Church, Tempelhof Airport, and the Kurfürstendamm shopping street. We'll depart Kaiserslautern late Tuesday evening and will arrive in Berlin early Wednesday morning. After breakfast en route, we'll begin our sightseeing tour of this extraordinary city. We'll visit the Checkpoint Charlie Museum and the Topography of Terror. We'll have free time for shopping and sightseeing on the former west side of Berlin, where you can visit one of Germany's largest department stores and zoos. In the evening, we will take you to the center of the former east Berlin, Alexander Platz, near Berlin's Old Town, the Nikolai Quarter, and the trendy Hackesche Höfe. Of course, there will be free time to visit some of the fascinating museums or do some individual exploration of this remarkable city for those who want to venture out on their own. Tour price includes transportation, two overnights in a centrally located hotel, breakfast en route and in hotel, city tour, Checkpoint Charlie Museum entrance, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 2300 (TUE)

Return: Approximately 2200 (FRI)

Cost: \$489 Adults, \$479 Children (based on double occupancy)

Single Supplement: \$150 (Must be paid at time of booking and will be refunded if share basis is possible)

Ring in the New Year in Paris! Paris for the New Year—2 Overnights Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 30- Jan. 1

Bonne année! We invite you to join us on this two-overnight trip to Paris—a city of history, sights, and excitement. See such major tourist attractions as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arch of Triumph, and much more as we spend our days sightseeing. Upon arrival in Paris, we will begin our sightseeing tour of this amazing city before checking in to our four star hotel. During the following two days in Paris, we'll enjoy breakfast in the hotel and continue our tour of the city. We'll have sufficient time to visit Montmartre, with its Sacré Coeur and Artist's Square. If you'd like, you can plan your own activities, for example, visiting a museum or two or just window shopping at Galeries Lafayette. We will have time to visit the area around Notre Dame Cathedral and the Latin Quarter. On New Year's Eve, we will go for a unique dining experience in the Latin Quarter to enjoy an authentic five-course meal served in an historic atmosphere. You'll also marvel at the City of Lights on an evening boat cruise on the Seine River. To complete the evening's festivities, you can go to the Champs Elysees or to the Eiffel Tower to celebrate the New Year with a bottle of champagne and the rest of those in Paris. Be sure to bring your camera and spare batteries because we make photo stops whenever we can. Please bring euro for personal expenses, i.e., snacks, additional meals, and souvenirs. Not recommended for children under 8. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel

documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, dinner, boat ride, two overnights with breakfast in a very comfortable hotel, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400 (WED)

Return: Approximately 2200 (FRI)

Cost: \$ 469 Adults, \$459 Children (based on double occupancy)

Single Supplement: \$145 (Single supplement must be paid at time of booking and will be refunded if share basis is possible.)