

KAISERSLAUTERN USO TOURS, CLASSES, AND ORIENTATIONS

NOVEMBER 2009

German Baking Class **Tuesday, November 3**

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 pastries. 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

Parents' Day Out **Kaiserslautern City and Market Day** **Tuesday, November 3**

Are you a parent of a little one, and haven't been able to get out and explore the surrounding area or visit the city of Kaiserslautern? Pack the diaper bag, bring your stroller, and, of course, your child, and join our USO tour guide on a tour of Kaiserslautern. The guide, who is also a recent mother, is anxious to share her expertise with you. We'll visit the city on market day, where you can purchase fresh local fruits and vegetables, or just take pictures of the beautiful seasonal displays. Our guide can give you tips on child-friendly places to eat, where to shop for children's clothing, and where the changing tables are. Join other parents and children for a nice day out and learn your way around Kaiserslautern. **This tour does not include transportation.** We'll meet in front of the Tourist Information Office next to the Kaiserslautern Fruchthalle. We recommend parking in the Pfalztheater Parking Garage (map provided upon request). Group size is limited, with a maximum of two children per adult, so sign up early. Tour price includes a USO tour escort.

Transportation: NA

Depart: Meet in front of Kaiserslautern City Tourist Information Office 0900

Return: Approximately 1300

Cost: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children

Paris 2 Overnights with Dinner and Museums **Friday-Monday, November 6-9**

This is the tour to Paris you have all been waiting for! Paris is inviting you to come for our two overnight, three-day visit. This extended weekend in Paris—the City of Lights—can be as leisurely or action-packed as you desire. We'll show you many of the popular sites during our guided tour of the city, but we'll also provide you with a two-day museum pass (included) that will give you access to more than 60 museums and monuments. Our itinerary will conveniently place you near museums and monuments, and the special passes will gain you preferred access to most of them. There will be time to visit the Louvre and Orsay museums, Napoleon's Tomb and the Army Museum, the Rodin Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arc du Triumph, and many more museums and monuments that house some of the treasures of the world. We will enjoy a delightful French dining experience served in a historic atmosphere in the Latin Quarter (included), and we will experience Paris by night on our evening boat cruise (included) on the Seine River. Our modern and comfortable hotel will provide you the perfect setting to rest and reenergize. Our USO guide can make ample suggestions for using your free time and maximizing your museum and monument passes. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, 5-course dinner, Seine River cruise, two-day museum pass, two overnights in a four star hotel (breakfast included), and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400 (FRI)

Return: Approximately 0100 (MON)

Cost: \$429 Adults, \$419 Children

Single Supplement: \$145

**Learn to Ride the German Trains—
DB Orientation and Evening Trip to Homburg in Saarland
American Traces in Homburg
Friday, November 6**

Come with the USO on our evening train orientation and tour to the nearby town of Homburg in Saarland. You'll receive a brief overview on the train system before boarding the train for our short trip to Homburg. We'll meet our local guide who will give us personal insight into the many interesting American Traces in Homburg. Come on this extraordinary discovery tour and hear about the glorious infantry regiment "Royal Deux-Ponts" that played a decisive role when George Washington eked out the independence of the USA in the siege and battle of Yorktown, Virginia. Did you know that the volunteers of this legendary regiment are still considered the "unsung heroes of the American Revolution"? We will have dinner (not included) in a building that was once the Headquarters of the U.S. Forces after Homburg's liberation in April 1945. We'll also see the building that was depicted on the front page of the *New York Times Magazine* at the end of World War II. Come hear more of the fascinating stories about American traces through the centuries, and discover hidden corners of this interesting city. Tour price includes round trip train transportation, brief train orientation, USO tour escorts,

and a local tour—American Traces in Homburg—with special guide. Space is limited so sign up now! (Note: Meeting point for this tour is Landstuhl train station)

Transportation: German rail

Depart: Meet in front of LANDSTUHL Train Station 1630

Return: Approximately 2245

Cost: \$29

Amsterdam City Tour Saturday, November 7

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

Bern, Switzerland Saturday, November 7

Come with the USO to Bern, the charming capital of Switzerland. 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. 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

Black Forest Cuckoo Clock Shopping and Museum
Saturday, November 7

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. 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

Brussels, Belgium, City Tour
Saturday, November 7

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

Frankenstein Castle

**Halloween Festival
Family Day
Sunday, November 8**

If you love to be frightened, then don't miss the annual Halloween festivities at Frankenstein Castle near Darmstadt. Of course, it really wouldn't be Halloween without a haunted castle. You'll be able to walk through the Frankenstein Castle and see all kinds of horrific monsters, vampires, werewolves, and ghosts. In each room of the castle ruins, there will be different scenes of the macabre. Be sure to bring a friend; after all, you never know what comes out after dark on Halloween. This day is especially designed for spooky family fun. Please note, though, that children under 6 years old are not recommended due to the scary nature of this event. No strollers please. Be sure to bring euro for food and drinks, and dress for the weather. Tour price includes transportation, haunted castle entrance, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 1300
Return: Approximately 1900
Cost: \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

**German Cooking Class
Tuesday, November 10**

Do you enjoy German food? Would you like to learn how to prepare typical German cuisine? Then sign up for this USO class. We'll teach you how in a three-hour session. Please bring a container, utensils, and your appetite. 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: \$25

**Veterans Day Special—
Mainz and the Kupferberg Champagne Cellars
Wednesday, November 11**

Mainz, the capital of the German state of Rhineland-Pfalz, is the home of Europe's first printing press and the famous Gutenberg Bible, which was printed in the 15th century. Strategically located at the junction of the Rhine and Main rivers, Mainz was the headquarters of the Roman envoy for the upper German territories, and home to church and political leaders over the centuries. Our guided tour of the city will include such sites as the Cathedral, St. Stephen's church with the unique Chagall stained glass windows, and the Gutenberg Museum, where an original Gutenberg Bible is on display. Also, the Fasching (Carnival) season officially begins on November 11 at 11:11 a.m. in Germany, and Mainz will be celebrating opening ceremonies. After free time for lunch (not

included), shopping, and exploring this beautiful city, we'll visit the world famous Kupferberg Sekt (Champagne) cellars. These are the deepest wine cellars in the world, originally built by the Romans in the first century A.D. A tasting of this excellent Champagne which has often been the top choice of Europe's royal courts is also included. This is a great opportunity to pick up your champagne for the holiday season. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, museum entrance, Champagne tasting, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0700
Return: Approximately 2000
Cost: \$59

**Chocolate, Baskets, and Shoes
Factory Outlet Shopping
Wednesday, November 11**

Don't miss this shopping adventure as we visit several factory outlets in the local area. What more can you ask for? A day out shopping for chocolate, shoes, and baskets to carry your purchases home in. The German Shoe Road is located in the scenic area around Dahn, with its unique sandstone formations and castle ruins. The small town of Hauenstein is full of shoe stores offering everything from dress, sport shoes, children's shoes, and sandals. Production at the chocolate factory will be in full swing for your Christmas treats. We can even watch the production. The basket factory in Dahn offers much more than baskets; you can decorate your home with the latest trends in seasonal articles, at very reasonable prices too. The basket factory accepts VAT forms for purchases over €50. Bring euro for shopping and lunch. Tour price includes transportation and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0900
Return: Approximately 1700
Cost: \$39

**Poland Shopping Express
Boleslawic, Poland
Friday-Sunday, November 13-15**

Now is the chance to shop in Poland for all those beautiful Polish designs you've been admiring in the local area. This is strictly a shopping tour, where you'll have plenty of time to shop, shop, and shop. Our experienced guide has a very effective itinerary that will maximize shopping time. The overnight bus ride will give us an excellent position for an early start for the entire day of shopping. You'll be able to shop for Polish pottery, as well as other Polish gift items. This tour is not recommended for children or non-shoppers, and there is no lunch break, so we recommend you bring snacks. Tour price includes transportation, border fee, breakfast, and USO tour guide. Please bring U.S.

(blue) or EC passports (they are mandatory). The tour guide will check passports. NOTE: Price applies only to one person occupying two seats. You may not put an extra person in that seat. Bring U.S. dollars or euro. Dinner stop will be in Germany, so bring euro for dinner.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 2000 (FRI)

Return: Approximately 0300 (SUN)

Cost: \$169 (guaranteed two seats)

**A Day in the Alsace—
French Pottery and Wine Tasting
Soufflenheim and Wissembourg
Saturday, November 14**

Join USO for a charming, colorful day with a typically French flair. We first visit Soufflenheim, the home of the beautiful hand made pottery for Backeoffe and kougelhopf, with plenty of opportunity to buy your own unique piece. We then move on to Wissembourg, gateway to the Alsace and home to the abbey of St. Peter and Paul. Here we will have lunch (not included) and wander around the charming half-timbered houses on the River Lauter. Take your time to sample the exquisite French pastries from one of the many patisseries. Finally, we move on to the famous Cleebourg Winery to sample Alsatian wine from the region and visit their “Cave Historique des Hospice,” the history of Alsatian vineyards. Here you can buy your own wine to take home. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. This tour is not recommended for children under 8. Tour price includes transportation, visit to pottery outlet, wine tasting, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0700

Return: Approximately 2000

Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

**Luxembourg and Mettlach
Saturday, November 14**

Mettlach is an idyllic small town near the loop of the Saar River. Surrounded by luscious forests, Mettlach is a well-known spa and health center but is mostly known as the administrative and production headquarters for Villeroy & Boch Company. Mettlach is paradise for lovers of elegant tableware. The main V&B store and the adjacent seconds outlet offer an ample selection of the entire china, glass, and silverware production. In the town, you also find outlets for gift items, textiles, a special Christmas store, and more. Just wear comfortable walking shoes, Mettlach is on a hill and we walk over cobblestones. In the afternoon, we go to the green heart of Europe: Luxembourg. We start out with a visit of the U.S. military cemetery where General Patton is buried. Luxembourg City, the capital of the Grand Duchy by the same name, is an eminent

symbiosis of a dynamic, modern metropolis and the charm of a quaint old town. A natural ravine is the main reason that Luxembourg has been adopted into the UNESCO World Heritage Program. Inside the rocks of this ravine, tunnels were dug in the 17th century for defense; they were used as shelter from bombardment during World War II. Now the ravine serves a more peaceful purpose: it is the favorite recreation area of the Luxemburgers who like to stroll along the small, tree-lined rivers Alzette and Petrusse enjoying a myriad of flowers and open air artwork in the summer. After a short windshield tour, we walk past all landmarks in the center of Luxembourg city followed by free time. Children are welcome, but the tour is not stroller friendly. Bring euro for food and personal expenses, and a VAT form for V&B or outlet purchases. Tour price includes transportation, Luxembourg city tour, Mettlach city orientation, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0700
Return: Approximately 2100
Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Munich City Tour
Dachau Concentration Camp
Saturday, November 14

Nestled in natural Bavarian settings, Munich is Deutschland at its picture-perfect best! Munich is 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. We'll take a walking tour of the old-city. We'll see the beautiful Residenz, Marienhof, Frauenkirche, Michaelskirche, Palace of Justice, the Viktualian Market, and more. Then you'll have free time to enjoy the city on your own, and maybe, have lunch (not included) at the world-famous Hofbrauhaus. Perhaps you'll want to do a bit of shopping or browse about the lovely city on your own. We'll end the day with a more sobering visit to the first Nazi concentration camp in Dachau. The camp stands today as a memorial to the horrors endured during World War II. **This tour is not recommended for young children because of the graphic nature involved with the Dachau portion of the trip and because of the ambitious tour through Munich.** Bring euro for meals, and wear comfortable shoes. Tour price includes transportation, Munich city tour, entrance to Dachau, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0300
Return: Approximately 2300
Cost: \$79

Paris Dinner, City Tour, and Evening Boat Cruise
Saturday, November 14

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 where you'll see those famous tourist attractions. 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 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. **Please, no children under eight years old.** 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

Reims Cathedral and Champagne Tour
Saturday, November 14

Reims is a 2000-year-old city, a stately metropolis along the Marne River with a rich historic past. The city is noted for its cathedral champagne cellars that are tunneled underneath the entire city. We will tour the cathedral, a fine example of high gothic style architecture which was the coronation cathedral for 25 French kings. French champagne has graced the tables of royalty and the rich and the famous of the world. After lunch (not included), we will tour the legendary, prestigious Pommery champagne cellars followed by a champagne tasting. You'll have an opportunity to purchase the bubbly stuff for that very special occasion. There will be free time to do your own exploration of the city, go to one of the great museums, or visit the schoolhouse where World War II was concluded. If you like, you can just go to one of the many good restaurants for a fine meal or try one of the delicious pastry shops. Tour price includes bus transportation, champagne factory tour and tasting, city tour, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0600

Return: Approximately 2200

Cost: \$69

An Evening at the Theater—
Frankfurt Theater presents *The Full Monty*
Sunday, November 15

Join the USO as we take you to Frankfurt for the English Theater's production of Terrence McNally and David Yazbek's musical comedy *The Full Monty*. Jobless? Broke? Men, you can strip! And strip they do. Desperate for money, six unemployed

steelworkers go to great lengths to make some cash and help out a friend in trouble. When the Chippendale revue at the local pub—whose dancers venture down to their G-strings—is a hit with the local women, the group decides to do their own strip-tease act. But in order to beat the professionals, they will have to go one further—by baring it all and showing the “full monty.” Will they? Won’t they? Can they keep their antics from their families? Can they draw a crowd? All will be revealed—or will it? We will arrive in Frankfurt before the performance in time for you to enjoy dinner (not included) at one of the many restaurants located near the theater. After the performance, we will depart for home. Tour price includes transportation, tickets to the play, and a USO escort.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 1300
Return: Approximately 2230
Cost: \$79

German I Course
Starts Monday, November 16

Are you new to Germany and want to communicate with the local folks? Let the USO help you with a special basic German course. This course for beginners teaches the basics of German language in an easy way by studying grammar, vocabulary, and having a lot of conversation. Class meets Monday and Wednesday evenings for four weeks. Class is geared toward adult students. Sign up now; class size is limited. Price includes book. This tour is for adults only; please, no children under 11.

Dates: NOV 16, 18, 23, 30. DEC 2, 7, 9, 14
Time: 1830-2030
Place: To be announced
Cost: \$55

German Cooking Class
Tuesday, November 17

Do you enjoy German food? Would you like to learn how to prepare typical German cuisine? Then sign up for this USO class. We’ll teach you how in a three-hour session. Please bring a container, utensils, and your appetite. 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: \$25

Learn to Ride the German Train—
DB Orientation and Trip to Trier
Thursday, November 19

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 historical city of Trier 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. Trier boasts a fantastic collection of Roman excavations. You will see sights such as the Porta Nigra and the Roman Baths. Along with the Roman ruins, you will also see the medieval relics in the popular pedestrian walkway area. After the city tour, you'll have plenty of free time for lunch or exploring the area on your own before we board our late afternoon train back to Kaiserslautern. Please do not bring large strollers; they are difficult to get on and off the train. Be sure to bring your cameras and euro for lunch and personal expenses. Price includes transportation, city tour, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German train

Depart: Meet at the Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0800

Return: Approximately 1900

Cost: \$35 Adults, \$29 Children

Brugge, Belgium
Saturday, November 21

Time has long stood still in medieval Brugge, a romantic city that went to sleep in the Middle Ages, leaving a perfectly preserved gem that is today among the loveliest places in Europe. On our journey from Germany through Belgium, we'll make a short breakfast stop (not included). After arriving in Brugge, we will tour the city, stroll through the lively markets, and have an opportunity for lunch at one of the many restaurants and cafes. Don't pass up this opportunity to visit a marvelous city that is often overlooked. We'll make a dinner stop (not included) en route home. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, and USO tour guide. **This tour includes a long bus ride, strenuous walking on cobblestone streets, is not stroller friendly, therefore it is not recommended for children under 6.**

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400

Return: Approximately midnight

Cost: \$79 Adults, \$75 Children

Mosel Dinner and Wine Tasting
Bernkastel-Kues City Orientation
Saturday, November 21

Join us on this popular tour that starts in the picturesque village of Bernkastel-Kues. Here you'll discover medieval half-timbered houses surrounded by vineyards and dominated

by the mighty 13th century castle Landshut. After our city orientation, you'll have time for shopping, exploring, and a light snack. But don't eat too much because early in the afternoon, we'll take you to a family-owned *Weingut* where you'll be served a traditional German meal and given a tour of the vineyards. The vintner will tell you all about the production and characteristics of his wine and entertain you with some fascinating local folklore, as we taste 13 of his wines (including an Eiswein or Beerenauslese—some of his best!). Also, the vintner accepts VAT forms, dollars, euro, and credit cards for the purchase of wine. Tour price includes transportation, city orientation, dinner, wine tasting, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0800
Return: Approximately 1930
Cost: \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

Rothenburg Medieval City Saturday, November 21

Come with us to visit the “Gem from the Middle Ages.” Rothenburg is one of the best preserved medieval cities in Germany. The old city walls are still standing and you can actually walk around part of the city on the city wall's walkway. There are wonderful museums like the Kriminalmuseum, where medieval torture instruments are displayed. See the Käthe Wohlfahrt Christmas Village with one of the world's largest selections of German Christmas decorations. There is also a doll and toy museum, and the city museum that was once a Dominican Priory. You can climb the old town tower in the original part of the city hall for a magnificent view over the city. You will have time to have lunch (not included) and explore on your own. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, entrance to St. James Church, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0700
Return: Approximately 2200
Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Strasbourg, France, City Tour Saturday, November 21

Curious about the French Alsace region, the region Louis XIV called “the beautiful garden”? Then you'll want to take this USO tour to Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace. We'll begin our day with a city tour, including the beautiful Gothic cathedral that took about 400 years to build, and the famous La Petite France section of the charming old city with its 16th and 17th century timbered houses lining the Ill River. After the city tour, you'll have free time to try one of the regional dishes, Flammekuche, at one of the quaint restaurants (not included), explore on your own, or shop in the large department stores and numerous shops. Don't forget to bring euro for shopping and lunch. Travel

documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, cathedral tour, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0630
Return: Approximately 2100
Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Bern, Switzerland
Onion Market
Monday, November 23

Don't miss the famous Onion Market in Bern, the romantic capital of Switzerland. This unique market has drawn people from all over Europe since 1860 who come here to sample the wonderful tasty specialties made with onions and cheese. This is a celebration of the palate and of the changing seasons. A beautiful city with its famous bear pit, clock tower, flowers, 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. 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

Thanksgiving in Rome, Italy
Wednesday-Monday, November 25-30

Celebrate Thanksgiving in one of the world's most historic and beautiful cities, Rome. With its religious influences and wonderful art, Rome offers a magical setting for a holiday season that you'll never forget. We'll leave Wednesday evening and arrive in the famous city of Florence early Thursday morning for breakfast (included). After breakfast, we'll have a walking tour of the city and some free time for you to shop for leather goods and special Italian souvenirs before continuing on to Rome. In Rome, we'll check into our 4-star hotel and enjoy a delicious dinner (included) in our hotel. A shuttle to Rome is available through the hotel if you would like to see the Eternal City at night. The next morning after breakfast, we'll start our tour of the Vatican museum, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica. After lunch (not included), we'll continue our guided tour through ancient Rome, visiting the Roman Forum and Coliseum. On Saturday, we will continue our sightseeing in Rome with the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Spanish steps, and

free time to shop at the Piazza Navona. Sunday morning, after breakfast in the hotel, we'll depart for Pisa to see the Piazza Dei Miracoli with its famous leaning tower. In the afternoon, we begin our return trip back to Germany, arriving back in Kaiserslautern early Monday morning. U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports are required. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Bring euro for personal expenses and non-included meals. Tour price includes transportation, 3 overnights with breakfast and one dinner (drinks not included), local tour guides for Rome, Vatican, and Florence, selected entrance fees, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 2000 (WED)

Return: Approximately 0430 (MON)

Cost: \$649 Adults, \$639 Children, based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$240

Medieval Thanksgiving Dinner at Cochem Castle

Thursday, November 26

Have a Thanksgiving you'll never forget—partake in a medieval feast at Cochem Castle with the USO. Step back into the age of royal courts and experience how feudal lords, ladies, and knights feasted. The USO will take you to a medieval banquet where you'll be entertained by minstrels while you eat. Prior to the eatery, we'll have a guided tour through the 1000-year-old Reichsburg (imperial castle) of Cochem situated on an imposing hilltop with a commanding view over the Mosel River. After the guided tour, you'll take part in an authentic medieval feast. The Lord of the Manor will welcome you with a goblet of Mosel wine and explain the medieval customs and table manners for the feast. Servants and maids in period costumes serve you lavishly and pass you a water basin in which to wash your hands so that you can eat with your fingers. Bread and lard make the rounds while a hot and spicy soup is steaming in the cookery pot. Huge drumsticks are served for the main course. Jesters in medieval outfits provide entertainment and authentic music. The evening climaxes with the traditional knighting ceremony. Even though you may have traveled all over the world and eaten in the most basic or most exclusive restaurants, this kind of feasting will be an experience you'll never forget. It is simply an adventure that must be experienced. Go on a journey back to the Middle Ages when the Lord of the Manor declared to his servants and maids: Let the banquet begin! The walk up to the castle is steep, so wear comfortable walking shoes. Be sure to bring euro for drinks and souvenirs. Tour price includes transportation, castle tour, dinner with two drinks, and USO tour guide. **This special dinner tour is not recommended for children under 6.**

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 1130

Return: Approximately 0030 (FRI)

Cost: \$99

Colmar and Riquewihr—Christmas in Alsace

Friday, November 27

South of Strasbourg between the wooded hills of the Vosges Mountains and the valley sprawling along the Rhine River, you'll find Colmar where you can stroll through one of Europe's largest pedestrian areas and admire the handcrafted historical elements on all historic buildings. Colmar boasts half-timbered houses, majestic churches, a quaint Tanners' Quarters, and an area called Petite Venise with its picturesque canals between geranium-covered terraces and balconies. This city provides a picture book setting for a traditional Alsatian Christmas market. Visit its Unterlinden Museum—now a World Heritage site—with its world-famous Issenheim Altar, the “Virgin in the Rose Bushes” in the Dominican Church, the Cathedral, or follow the footsteps of the native of Colmar, Auguste Bartholdi the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty. In the afternoon, we'll take you to Riquewihr, nestled amid the vineyards of the Alsatian Route du Vin (wine route) along the Vosges Mountains. In Riquewihr, there is a “Hansi” Museum. Hansi was a painter and etcher who created the endearing children in Alsatian costumes frolicking in a rural setting. Hansi items are sold in Colmar and Riquewihr. In both cities, there will be free time. Sample local specialties such as the delicious *flammekuche* and the *pain d'épice* which is the French gingerbread. Riquewihr's famous macaroons are sold all around town, and there is an opportunity to purchase some delicious Alsatian Riesling wine. We recommend US (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Bring euro for meals and personal expenses. Tour price includes transportation, city tour of Colmar, entrance to the Dominican Church, Riquewihr town orientation, and a USO tour guide

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0600

Return: Approximately 200

Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Spend a Day in Paris—

Do you have a Need for Speed?

Travel to Paris in 2 Hours and 28 Minutes

Friday, November 27

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

**Bavarian Fairy Tale Castles—
Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein
Saturday, November 28**

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 a breakfast stop (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 his castles. In the afternoon, 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. There will be free time for lunch (not included) and some souvenir shopping. We'll stop on our way home for dinner (not included). **Because of strenuous walking and an ambitious itinerary, this tour is not stroller-friendly.** Tour price includes transportation, 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

**Cologne City and Christmas Market
Saturday, November 28**

Enjoy the enticing smell of hot-spiced wine, roasted chestnuts, and gingerbread at the Cologne Christmas markets. There are five different markets taking place all within walking distance of each other. The markets are a mass of color and smells, incredible decorations, candles, lights, great food and drink, and Christmas carol singers. The traffic-free streets make a perfect setting for the Christmas markets, and on this tour, you can combine your shopping with a little sightseeing. The magnificent cathedral, the Old Town Hall, and the broad River Rhine flowing through the city will entice you. Come and join the fun. Price includes transportation, city orientation, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0630
Return: Approximately 2200
Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Lucerne, Switzerland, City Tour
Saturday, November 28

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

Paris Dinner, City Tour, and Evening Boat Cruise
Saturday, November 28

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 where you'll see those famous tourist attractions. 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 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. **Please, no children under eight years old.** 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

Heidelberg Castle and City Tour
Christmas Market
DB Train Orientation
Sunday, November 29

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