

KAISERSLAUTERN USO TOURS – OCTOBER 2009

Learn to Ride the German Trains— Hands-on DB Orientation and Trip to Neustadt on the German Wine Road and Deidesheim Friday, October 2

We are heading to wine country! From October 2-12, Neustadt on the German Wine Road celebrates the wine harvest. For the duration of the fest, a wine village, the *Haiselscher*, is set up immediately in front of the train station. There, you can try some of the traditional Palatinate specialties and even the wine (not included). On this German Rail orientation, you'll tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the train system, learn how to buy a ticket, and take a train ride to the towns of Neustadt and Deidesheim and return. Learn about the many specials the German Rail (DB) offers, for example, weekend tickets, family tickets, city specials, and more. To help you learn about changing trains and to introduce you to another delightful city on the German Wine Road, we will travel to Deidesheim. After you learn the ropes of riding the train, you may want to revisit Neustadt again before the festivities end on October 12. Tour price includes train transportation, train orientation, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German train
Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF 1000
Return: Approximately 1730
Cost: \$29

A Day in the Black Forest— Beekeeper, Woodcarver, Farm Estate, and Cuckoo Clock Shopping Saturday, October 3

Join us on a visit to one of the most beautiful areas in Germany—the Black Forest. On the way to the Triberg area, we'll meet Christina—our tour guide for the day—who will show us some of the real beauty of the Black Forest. We'll visit a beekeeper who will show and explain his craft and let us try his honey and honey schnapps. We'll continue to a woodcarver's workshop and learn about the trade that has made the Black Forest so famous. Next, we'll visit the 300-year-old farm estate Reinertonishof where the owner Frau Duffner will serve a traditional Black Forest lunch with cold cuts, cheese, and bread—all made on the farm. After lunch, we'll have a schnapps tasting of homemade schnapps (children can have ice cream). In the afternoon, we'll have some free time in Triberg where you can shop, explore the town, or visit Germany's tallest waterfall. If you plan to buy a clock, please don't forget to bring VAT forms. Note: This tour does involve some uphill walking. For those not wanting to walk, a shuttle service is available (not included). Tour price includes transportation, local tour guide, beekeeper, woodcarver, lunch at the farm with one non-alcoholic drink, schnapps tasting, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus
Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0630
Return: Approximately 2100
Cost: \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

Amsterdam City Tour Saturday, October 3

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

Brussels, Belgium, City Tour

Saturday, October 3

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

Lucerne, Switzerland, City Tour

Saturday, October 3

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, October 3

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

Chestnut Festival in Annweiler with Trifels and Berwartstein Castles Sunday, October 4

Come with the USO as we explore two exciting landmarks right in our own backyard—the Trifels Castle and Castle Berwartstein. In Annweiler, the charming town at the foot of the Trifels Castle, its citizens will be celebrating the chestnut. Locally harvested edible chestnuts are transformed into delicacies that you will be able to try: chestnut bread, chestnut soup, chestnut sausage, chestnut noodles, and honey, marmalade, and waffles with chestnut cream. There will even be chestnut beer and liquor to try. Other seasonal specialties of the region will be available to savor as well. Don't miss the traditional new wine and onion cake. Of course, you will be able to purchase fall crafts and decorations. The castle Trifels was first mentioned in the year 1081, and was one of the imperial castles of Frederick Barbarossa, and once secured the imperial properties in the Palatinate Forest. Visible from afar, the castle was a mighty landmark of the imperial power. It was the scene of many of the finest festivities of the times. One of the most important individuals of the Middle Ages was held prisoner in the Trifels Castle for almost one year. King Richard the Lion Heart of England was held in captivity by the Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI, until a ransom was paid for his release. After the festivities in Annweiler, we'll visit the castle Berwartstein, another stronghold of the Hohenstaufen dynasty. We'll see the underground tunnels and can climb the highest tower. Come hear the exciting history of this castle, which was once occupied by robber knights. Some even think the castle ghost, *The White Lady*, still haunts the passageways. Join us on this special tour. The walk to Trifels castle is long. Tour price includes bus transportation, entrance to both castles, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0800

Return: Approximately 1830

Cost: \$49 Adults, \$39 Children

German II Course Starts Monday, October 5

This is the continuation of our German I course and is for those people who are already able to speak some German. Classes meet Monday and Wednesday evenings for four weeks. The textbook used for German I is also used for the German II course. Sign up now since class size is limited. This tour is for adults only; please, no children under 11.

Dates: OCT 5, 7, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, NOV 2

Times: 1830-2030

Place: Landstuhl building to be determined

Cost: \$45 for students who have textbook; \$55 for students who need textbook

German Baking Class Tuesday, October 6

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

Nove, Italy, Shopping Express
Friday-Sunday, October 9-11

Shopping at bargain prices is on schedule in Nove! Join us for a shopping extravaganza. 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 your shopping time. The overnight bus ride and early morning breakfast (included) will give us an excellent position for an early start for the entire day of shopping. We'll visit Union (producer of the famous Capodimonte porcelain flowers), Ancora (known for its colorful pottery and chicken pitchers), and other shops in the area with interesting vegetable platters and more. We'll also go to La Ceramica VBC with its wonderful selection of well-presented merchandise. These factories produce ceramics and earthenware for leading retailers throughout the world—Tiffany's, Bloomingdale's, Williams-Sonoma Lenox, and more. U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports are required (check visa requirements for non-U.S. passport holders). Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Bring euro and US dollars (a few stores accept credit cards and personal checks). Tour price includes transportation, breakfast, and a USO tour guide. **Warning:** This tour is not recommended for children or non-shoppers.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 2000 (FRI)

Return: Approximately 0600 (SUN)

Cost: \$139

Learn to Ride the German Train—
DB Orientation and Trip to Heidelberg
Friday, October 9

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 beautiful and romantic city of Heidelberg 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. In Heidelberg, we'll begin 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 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, German train orientation, 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

A Day in the Alsace—
French Pottery and Wine Tasting
Soufflenheim and Wissembourg
Saturday, October 10

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

Bern, Switzerland

Saturday, October 10

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

Cochem Castle and Medieval Dinner

Saturday, October 10

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 water 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. Old "torture instruments" are displayed, and 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 dinner tour is not recommended for children under 11.**

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 1130

Return: Approximately 0030 (SUN)

Cost: \$99

Rothenburg Medieval City

Saturday, October 10

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

Ludwigsburg's Pumpkin Fest Sunday, October 11

If you have a soft spot for pumpkins, then the Pumpkin Exhibition (Kurbis Fest) at Ludwigsburg's Blühendes Barock Garden provides 500,000 of them. Believe it or not, there are more than 450 pumpkin varieties and you'll find them all here. The pumpkins form impressive displays, often depicting animals or other creations that are always a big hit with kids and adults. See pumpkin sculptures, pumpkin fountains, pumpkins big enough for Peter-Peter Pumpkin Eater's wife to live in. Enjoy strolling through the palace gardens with all the colors of autumn brightly displayed all around. Be sure to bring euro so you can try some pumpkin soup, pumpkin spaghetti, pumpkin wine, or any other variety of pumpkin delights for lunch. After strolling through the pumpkin exhibit, you may want to take the kids on a walk through the Fairy Tale Park. There are boat rides through the belly of Monstro the Whale where you can see Pinocchio as a puppet-boy. Perhaps you might want to take a train ride through the forest where Little Red Riding Hood met the Big Bad Wolf. You might even want to relax and watch fairy tale films presented in an open air theatre (all presented in German). Some rides cost a few euro, but most are included in the entrance fee. You may want to finish the day by making a pumpkin purchase, but remember there are many varieties, sizes, and shapes to choose from, so plan your time accordingly. Tour price include transportation, entrance to the garden, fest, and Fairy Tale Park, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0830

Return: Approximately 2100

Cost: \$49 Adults, \$39 Children

Rhine River Cruise— Burg Rheinstein, Rhein Cruise, Lunch, Wine Tasting, and Rudesheim am Rhein Shopping Sunday, October 11

Would you like to spend an enjoyable day along the Rhine River? Then come with the USO by bus to Burg Rheinstein, which was built in the 10th century, destroyed, and rebuilt many times. From there, you have a spectacular view of the Rhine valley. Then we will go to the picturesque little town of St. Goar where we will board a ship for a two-hour cruise on the most beautiful part of the Rhine. After the cruise, we'll enjoy a German lunch followed by a wine tasting (included). After lunch and wine tasting, we'll visit Rudesheim, a famous tourist town, where you'll have plenty of free time to shop, sightsee, or just enjoy the scenery. Be sure to bring euro for snacks, beverages during the lunch meal, and other purchases. **There is steep uphill walking to the castle.** Tour price includes transportation, entrance to the castle, river cruise, lunch, wine tasting, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0730

Return: Approximately 2000

Cost: \$89 Adults, \$79 Children

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

Monday, October 12

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

German Cooking Class

Tuesday, October 13

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 Idar-Oberstein on the German Gem Road

Wednesday, October 14

Learn about German trains with the USO on our train orientation. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the train system, and take a trip to the town of Idar-Oberstein and return. You’ll be accompanied by a USO escort, but you will do the work and 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 more. On this special day trip, we’ll travel to the twin cities of Idar and Oberstein on the German Gem Road. In addition to its gem mines and jewelry artists, Idar-Oberstein is famous for its “Church in the Rocks” or Felsenkirche which was built into a massive rock over 165 feet above the ground. Come and hear the legend of the chapel. During your free time, you can shop in the town, have lunch, and visit one of the museums (not included). Bring euro for shopping, lunch, and museum visits. Tour price includes train transportation, train orientation, gem demonstration, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German train

Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF 0830

Return: Approximately 1730

Cost: \$29

Luxembourg and Mettlach

Saturday, October 17

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, October 17

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, October 17

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

**Swiss Border Tour—
Island of Mainau, Stein am Rhein, Schaffhausen Waterfalls
Saturday, October 17**

This tour is fun for all: On this tour, we see gorgeous flowers, stately trees, a glassy lake, a charming medieval town, and a thundering waterfall. After a very good breakfast (included), we begin our tour with a visit of the flower island of Mainau. The island is on Lake Constance bordering on Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. This picturesque island boasts Germany's largest butterfly house, tropical and semi-tropical vegetation, such as bananas, palm trees, bamboo, citrus fruits, and a luxuriant profusion of flowers. We continue our journey by crossing the border into Switzerland where we visit Stein am Rhein. This small city, now a magnet for tourists, was once an important Roman river harbor and during the Middle Ages enjoyed great privileges as the seat of an influential monastery. We will stroll through the center of Stein am Rhein and you can admire (and photograph) the colorful facades painted to show stories and legends of a great past. We then travel along the Rhine River to Schaffhausen which is the location of the most powerful waterfalls in Europe. Above the fall, the river is more than 500 feet wide. Rounding a deep curve, it narrows around rocks before taking a 70-foot plunge into a river basin. At the waterfalls, we take a small boat and go to the middle of the waterfall where you can climb a rock for a view and pictures. On our return trip, we stop for dinner (not included). Be sure you bring a camera and euro for personal expenses. In Switzerland, euro are generally accepted. **Please bring your US (blue), Canadian, or EC passports—they are mandatory.** Tour price includes transportation, breakfast, Mainau entrance, boat ride, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0500

Return: Approximately 2330

Cost: \$99 Adults, \$89 Children

**An Evening at the Theater—
Frankfurt Theater presents *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Sunday, October 18**

Join the USO as we take you to Frankfurt for the English Theater's production of Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer Prize-winning play that explores the extremes of fantasy versus reality, the Old South versus the New South, and primitive desire versus civilized restraint. The play begins when faded Southern belle Blanche DuBois arrives in New Orleans to stay with her sister, Stella, and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley. She is immediately drawn into a battle of wills with Stanley for the heart and mind of Stella, and her self-deceptive illusions turn to madness when confronted with his savagery and the realities of life. 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: \$69

**Tongeren Antique and Flea Market
Sunday, October 18**

If you like antiques and the excitement of searching for them then this is the tour for you. Known as the oldest town in Belgium, Tongeren is also the home of Belgium's largest and most famous antique market. Held every Sunday morning, this is a fantastic place for browsers and shoppers. The merchants display their goods on the Veemarkt along the Leopoldwar and within the entire Eburon Hall. You'll have plenty of time to have breakfast at one of the local cafes before you hit the market where everything from ordinary household goods to rare works of art are on display. We'll stay in town until early afternoon, so you'll have plenty of time to bargain for your purchases and have lunch before we start our trip back home. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring euro (many vendors also take U.S. dollars) for shopping and meals. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400

Return: Approximately 1830

Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

**Learn to Ride the German Train—
DB Orientation and Trip to Wissembourg, France
Tuesday, October 20**

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

**Prague and Karlovy Vary
Overnight in a Downtown Hotel
Friday-Sunday, October 23-25**

Join the USO for its overnight tour to two of the most fascinating cities in Europe. We'll depart late Friday night and travel overnight via deluxe motor coach to arrive in Prague early Saturday morning. After breakfast, we'll begin our exciting day in Prague, Europe's golden city. It's a city filled with history, art and culture, a city of contrast and mystery. On the guided tour of the city, you'll see such sights as the Powder Tower, the old Town Square, and the Charles Bridge. You'll also have plenty of time for shopping or you may want to participate in one of the many tours offered by local experts—for instance, literary tours, architectural tours, the castle tour, and more. **Our accommodations will be in a comfortable 4-star hotel in the city's main shopping and entertainment district.** After an early morning breakfast at our hotel, we'll depart for Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) which is a world famous health resort and one of the most beautiful small towns in Eastern Europe. The town was founded by Charles IV in the mid-14th century after he discovered a hot spring while on a hunting trip in the Vary valley. This spring led to the town's first mineral bathhouse, which was the beginning of Karlovy Vary's growth and reputation. The town is also known as a shopping center and the capital of the Bohemian crystal and porcelain industry. We'll have a city orientation and free time for shopping, sightseeing, or just relaxing at one of the many restaurants and cafes. We'll depart Karlovy Vary late Sunday afternoon. **Please bring your U.S. (blue) or EC passports. They are mandatory.** Non-U.S. citizens should check with their consulate for visa requirements. Tour price includes transportation, one

overnight in a comfortable 4-star hotel in downtown center, breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings, city tour in Prague and orientation in Karlovy Vary, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 2330 (FRI)

Return: Approximately midnight (SUN)

Cost: \$259 Adults (per person based on double occupancy) \$249 Children

Single Supplement: \$60

**Bavarian Fairy Tale Castles—
Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein
Saturday, October 24**

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

**Frankenstein Castle
Halloween Festival for Adults
Saturday, October 24**

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 tour is not recommended for children The family day tour will take place on Sunday, November 8.** 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 1630

Return: Approximately 0100 (SUN)

Cost: \$79

**Metz City Tour and Flea Market
Saturday, October 24**

Come discover this beautiful French city with its cathedral famous for its stained glass windows, the oldest church in France, remnants of its former protective wall and more. But first, we'll stop at the flea market early so we can catch the best buys. The Metz Flea Market is one of the largest, most famous flea markets in France. Then, we'll have a city orientation downtown, plus you'll have free time to have lunch (try the region's most famous dish, quiche Lorraine), visit the local sights or the Art & History Museum with its rich collections, or go shopping at the large St. Jacques Mall or in the quaint pedestrian zone. 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 0600

Return: Approximately 1900

Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Strasbourg, France, City Tour

Saturday, October 24

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

German Cooking Class

Special Schnitzel Class

Tuesday, October 27

Do you enjoy German food? Would you like to learn how to prepare one of the most popular German dishes, the Schnitzel? In addition, you’ll learn the recipe for three delicious gravies to accompany your Schnitzel. We’ll teach you how to do all of this in a three-hour session. Please bring a plate, bowl, 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 Trains—

DB Orientation and Trip to Speyer

Thursday, October 29

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 city of Speyer and return. You’ll be accompanied by a USO escort, but you will do the work and gain first hand experience purchasing tickets and riding the trains. Come learn about the many specials the DB has to offer, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, city specials and much more. Speyer is a historic, yet dynamic city near the German Wine Road. The Speyer Cathedral is one of Germany’s outstanding landmarks. You’ll have time for lunch and some shopping before we return via train to Kaiserslautern. 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 and a USO escort.

Transportation: German rail

Depart: Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0800

Return: Approximately 1630

Cost: \$29

Brugge, Belgium
Saturday, October 31

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

Eisenach in Thüringen
Wartburg Castle and Bach House
Saturday, October 31

Follow in the footsteps of Martin Luther, Johann Sebastian Bach, and St. Elizabeth of Thüringen on this special USO tour to the city of Eisenach in the former East German State of Thüringen. We'll start the day with breakfast before heading to Eisenach. The city, birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach, is dominated by the mighty Wartburg castle. The Wartburg, a UNESCO world heritage site since 1999, invites its visitors to step back in time and trace over 900 years of German history and culture. As we visit the magnificently preserved castle, we will hear of courtly life in the Middle Ages, the life and works of St. Elizabeth of Thüringen and Martin Luther's sojourn at the Wartburg, during which he translated the New Testament into German. We will see the chamber where Martin Luther, Father of the Protestant Reformation, lived and worked from May 1521 till March 1522, disguised as Junker Jörg. This year is the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Elizabeth of Thüringen (in 1207), and the State of Thüringen is holding a special exhibit in the Wartburg Castle and in the city of Eisenach. Wartburg was also the venue for the Sängerkrieg, a medieval "Battle of the Bards," which inspired Richard Wagner's opera Tannhäuser. Its walls are adorned with romantic frescoes of the mid-19th century, and Bavaria's King Ludwig II was so impressed with the Wartburg's grand hall, he had a copy of it built in Neuschwanstein. A museum within the castle has an impressive collection of medieval art, much of which relates to the Reformation. On our guided town walk, we'll see other Luther and Elizabeth landmarks and the neighborhood where the musical Bach family lived. We'll have free time for lunch, shopping, and exploring before we have a late afternoon visit to the Bach Haus where we'll hear a sampling of his works on original instruments of Bach's time. Tour price includes breakfast, entrance to the Wartburg Castle, entrance to the Bach Haus, guided town walk, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0400

Return: Approximately 2230

Cost: \$89 Adults, \$79 Children

Innsbruck, Austria
City Tour and Crystal Shopping
Saturday, October 31

Join the USO on a trip to Innsbruck, Austria, the capital of Tyrol. 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. Enroute, we'll stop for 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 visit the old town, which remains as it was 400 years ago, and see such sites as the Golden Roof, Stadtturm, the ornately decorated Rococo Hebling House, St. Jacobs Cathedral, Hofburg Imperial Palace, Imperial Church, the tomb of Maximilian I, Triumphal Arch, and Anna Column. Also nearby is the two-stage cable car to the Hafelekar that rises to more than 7,500 feet and provides a breathtaking view of the Tyrolean Alps and Innsbruck. 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, city tour, and USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0100

Return: Approximately midnight

Cost: \$99 Adults, \$89 Children

Cologne City Tour Saturday, October 31

With a history of almost 2000 years, Cologne (Köln) is the one of the largest and oldest metropolitan cities of Germany. You will be awestruck by the majestic cathedral, one of the largest in Europe and the most important landmark of Cologne. The physical appearance of modern Cologne belies its ancient heritage. Allied bombing during World War II destroyed some 90 percent of the town; therefore, much of what you see was rebuilt in the 1950s and 1960s. Our expert guide will give you a tour of the city and relate to you the history and sights of Cologne's storied past dating back to the first century B.C. when the Romans founded Colonia Agrippensis. After our city tour, you'll have free time to stroll through the picturesque old town, take a walk along the Rhine River, or try a Kölsch (a light beer only made in Cologne). Don't forget that Cologne has fantastic shopping. The two classical shopping streets known by all Cologne visitors are the Hohe Strasse and the Schildergasse, Germany's first shopping streets only for pedestrians and completely without traffic. The many shops and two shopping malls offer clothing, shoes and jewelry, and much more. Whatever you do, expect to spend an unforgettable day full of exciting impressions. Bring euro for meals and purchases. Tour price includes transportation, city tour, and a USO tour guide.

Transportation: German bus

Depart: Vogelweh Bowling Center 0630

Return: Approximately 2200

Cost: \$59 Adults, \$49 Children

Mosel Dinner and Wine Tasting Bernkastel-Kues City Orientation Saturday, October 31

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