

# Kaiserslautern USO Tours, Classes, & Orientations

## November 2012

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### **Amsterdam City Tour** **Saturday, November 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. Those wishing to visit the Anne Frank House can reserve tickets in advanced at <http://www.annefrank.org/content.asp?PID=754&LID=2>. When ordering tickets, indicate the 1-3 p.m. time slot. 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 (SUN)  
**Cost:** \$99 Adults, \$89 Children

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### **Bern, Switzerland** **Saturday, November 3**

Come with the USO to Bern, the romantic 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

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**Frankenstein Castle  
Halloween Festival for Adults  
Saturday, November 3**

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.** 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

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**Cologne City Tour  
Saturday, November 3**

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

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**Military Heritage Tour—  
Wewelsburg Castle (Himmler's SS Castle) and the Cult and Terror Center of  
the SS  
Saturday, November 3**

Join the USO for a tour to Wewelsburg Castle which Himmler intended to turn into an SS training post as well as a meeting place for the SS elite. The concentration camp here was a holding area for local people prior to being transported to the Buchenwald concentration camp. We'll see a film about Wewelsburg and the SS on the way to the castle. You'll have time to visit the main portion of the castle which has been rebuilt to look like it did during the SS occupation. After lunch (not included) at the Landgasthaus Ottens Hof, a meeting place for the SS, we'll visit the "parade ground" of the Niederhagen concentration camp and see the memorial. You'll then be guided through the *Documentation: Wewelsburg 1933-1945 Cult and Terror Center of the SS*. During the tour, you'll be provided with detailed information about the SS and about its presence in Wewelsburg. We will also visit the North Tower of Wewelsburg Castle where Himmler began the renovations that would turn it into an SS haven. If time permits, we will visit a small SS cemetery which is not widely known or advertised. This is a fairly new museum because the people of Wewelsburg have tried desperately to hide their past. This tour is not stroller friendly because of the number of spiral staircases involved. Bring euro for souvenirs and lunch. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, entrance fees, and USO military history tour guide.

**Transportation:** German bus  
**Depart:** Vogelweh 0600  
**Return:** Approximately 2130  
**Cost:** \$79

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**Mosel Dinner and Wine Tasting  
Bernkastel-Kues City Orientation  
Saturday, November 3**

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

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**Paris Dinner, City Tour, and Evening Boat Cruise  
Saturday, November 3**

*Bonjour!* 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:** \$139

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**Learn to Ride the German Train—  
DB Orientation and Trip to Trier  
Friday, November 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 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, such as 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 train transportation, train orientation, city tour, and USO tour guide.

**Transportation:** German train  
**Depart:** Meet at the Kaiserslautern HBF at 0800  
**Return:** Approximately 1900

**Cost:** \$35 Adults, \$29 Children

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**Brussels, Belgium, City Tour  
Saturday, November 10**

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. 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

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**Learn to Ride the German Train—  
DB Orientation and Trip to Heidelberg  
Saturday, November 10**

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 ride and walk 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 and tram ride to the castle are 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

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**Luxembourg City, Auchan Mall, and the American Military Cemetery**

## **Saturday, November 10**

Luxembourg City, the capital of the Grand Duchy, will be delighted to welcome you! The “biggest little city” or the “smallest cosmopolitan city” presents itself at first glance as a dynamic, progressive, and modern city. Luxembourg is the banking center for Europe. Yet, Luxembourg has a lot more to offer than merely financial bastions. Being situated between the dominant countries in Europe, Luxembourg has been on the crossroads of power and trade, and was therefore for centuries the pawn of power play, overrun and ruled by foreign powers. Left are the relics and ruins of centuries of a power struggle which had all countries in Europe involved. In the center of Luxembourg there is a natural ravine, and in the casemates inside the rocks people sought shelter from cannon or gun fire, and even from bombing in the two world wars. Because of this natural phenomenon, Luxembourg has been called the “Gibraltar of the North” and has been adopted into the UNESCO World Heritage Program. We will start our Luxembourg tour with a visit to the U.S. Military Cemetery where General Patton is buried, followed by a city tour where we will have a short windshield tour, and then a walking tour. We will visit the ravine and the casemates, we will go inside the stunning cathedral, walk over Place Guillaume where the market is held, stop in front of the Ducal Palace and Parliament, march on to the Theater Square, and to the Place d’Armes. There will be free time for lunch, shopping, or a visit to one of the many museums. Before our return travel, we’ll stop at a Luxembourg Shopping Mall. Bring euro for food, souvenirs, or shopping. Wear adequate clothing and good walking shoes. Because of narrow streets and alleys and cobblestones, this tour is not stroller friendly. 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.

**Transportation:** German bus

**Depart:** Vogelweh Bowling Center 0700

**Return:** Approximately 2000

**Cost:** \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

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### **Military Heritage Tour— Veterans Day Special Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge The Band of Brothers Saturday, November 10**

Join us for this special Veterans Day tour to Bastogne. Our tour takes us to the area around and in the city of Bastogne where thousands of brave men from the 101st Airborne, 10th Armored Division, and other units fought against all odds to hold the city. We’ll start at the American Cemetery in Luxembourg where General Patton is buried. During our visit, we’ll experience the special Veterans Day ceremonies commemorating the brave men who fought. We’ll then travel to Bastogne to the newly opened museum dedicated to the 101st Airborne, considered to be one of the best museums in Belgium. Next, we’ll visit the Nuts Cave, General McAuliffe’s command post, the site of the most famous reply to a surrender request in history—“Nuts!” The drop zone for the “Filthy 13”

will be pointed out as well as the landing zone where gliders brought much needed supplies into Bastogne. Our tour continues with a visit to the Mardasson Memorial, dedicated to all the brave individuals who fought in the battle. Here you'll see the Landing Eagle Memorial dedicated to the men of the 101st Airborne. If both time and daylight permit, we'll visit the Easy Company Memorial and foxholes. We'll end the day in Bastogne with free time to sightsee, shop, and for dinner (not included). You'll see Mc Auliffe Square and have an opportunity to visit the memorial dedicated to General Patton and the plaque dedicated to the Belgian nurse Renee Lemarie. Please bring something for lunch because our schedule does not permit time to stop. Also remember to wear comfortable walking shoes and don't forget to bring euro for dinner and souvenirs. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes transportation, entry fees, and an experienced USO military history tour guide.

**Transportation:** German bus  
**Depart:** Vogelweh Bowling Center 0730  
**Return:** Approximately 2230  
**Cost:** \$69

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**Munich City Tour**  
**Dachau Concentration Camp**  
**Saturday, November 10**

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. On our 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

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**Veterans Day Special—**  
**Mainz and the Kupferberg Champagne Cellars**  
**Sunday, 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:** \$69

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**Learn to Ride the German Trains—  
DB Orientation and Trip to Speyer and Visit Sea Life, the Technical  
Museum, or IMAX Movie  
Monday, November 12**

Come with the USO on this great family outing and learn all about German trains. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the rail system, and take a trip to the city of Speyer and return. Learn about the many specials the DB offers, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, city specials, and more. Speyer is a historic yet dynamic city near the German Wine Road, and its history spans more than 2000 years. Speyer's beautiful Salian cathedral is one of Germany's outstanding landmarks. Almost 1,000 years old, the impressive cathedral is the final resting place of eight German emperors and kings. You'll have time for lunch and some shopping before we return via train to Kaiserslautern. There will be sufficient time to visit one of the museums or IMAX movies that is included in the tour price. The Sea Life Aquarium Museum features the life of water animals in simulated natural habitats—rivers, lakes, and oceans. If you chose to visit the Speyer Technical Museum, you can see more than 3,000 exhibits that include 70 aircraft, 20 locomotives, 50 vintage cars, and 40 fire engines. You can climb the stairs to enter a Boeing 747 and slide down the 54 meter tube slide! If you are an IMAX movie fan, you can watch one of the movies (in German). Bring euro for shopping and lunch. Group size is limited so sign up early. Also, traveling with large baby strollers on German trains is not easy, especially if train transfers are involved. Price includes train

tickets, one museum (Sea Life or Technical Museum) or IMAX entrance, and a USO escort.

**Transportation:** German train

**Depart:** Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0800

**Return:** Approximately 1730

**Cost:** \$35 Adults, \$29 Children

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### **A Day in Paris—**

#### **Travel to Paris in 2 Hours and 28 Minutes**

**Monday, November 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. Please note train tickets are nonrefundable beyond the USO cancellation date.

**Transportation:** High Speed Train

**Depart:** Meet at Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0645

**Return:** Approximately 2135

**Cost:** \$199

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### **German Baking Class**

#### **Christmas Cookies**

**Tuesday, November 13**

Ever wondered how those wonderful German Christmas cookies are made? Well, now is your chance to learn. During a three-hour session, we’ll teach you how to prepare a variety of popular German Christmas cookies. We’ll taste what we create, but please bring small containers to take home any leftovers, a coffee cup, and your appetite. The USO will supply all the ingredients. Recipes are planned in advance and can be viewed

on the Facebook group, KMC USO German Cooking and Baking. Bring your camera if you would like to take pictures of the wonderful specialties. Participation is limited so sign up now for this special USO class. This class is for adults only; please no children under 12.

**Time:** 0900-1200

**Place:** Vogelweh Chapel Kitchen

**Cost:** \$25

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**German II Course  
Evening Class  
Starts Wednesday, November 14**

This is the continuation of our German I course and is for those people who are already able to speak some German. We'll continue our lessons in grammar, vocabulary, and conversation. Classes meet Monday and Wednesday evenings for four weeks. The same textbook used for the USO German I class is also used for the German II course. Sign up now since class size is limited. This class is geared to adult students; please, no children under 11.

**Dates:** NOV 14, 19, 26, 28, DEC 3, 5, 10, 12 (No Class on Nov 21)

**Times:** 1830-2030

**Place:** Landstuhl Education Center bldg. 3701, room 203

**Cost:** \$55 without book, \$65 including book

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**Black Forest Cuckoo Clock Shopping and Museum  
Saturday, November 17**

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

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**Brugge, Belgium**

## **Saturday, November 17**

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

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## **Innsbruck, Austria**

### **City Tour and Crystal Shopping**

#### **Saturday, November 17**

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. 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

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## **Rothenburg Medieval City**

### **Saturday, November 17**

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:** \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

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**Strasbourg, France, City Tour**  
**Saturday, November 17**

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. We recommend U.S. (blue), EC, or Canadian passports. 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

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**An Evening at the Theater—**  
**Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"**  
**Sunday, November 18**

Looking for a change from all those Christmas videos you've lined up for the season? Make a new Christmas memory with the USO and this special evening at the Saarbrücken Theater. We'll travel by deluxe motor coach to Saarbrücken for an English language performance of Charles Dickens' “A Christmas Carol,” the renowned story of Scrooge who is pursued in his dreams by the spirits of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Future. He witnesses the touching Christmas celebration by his employee

Bob Cratchit and Bob's family before the spirit of Christmas Future forces Scrooge to preview his own imminent death—an event which changes his whole outlook on life. We arrive prior to the show and have time to visit the central market square “St. Johanner Markt” that is decorated for Christmas. Numerous little huts selling all sorts of Christmas items, ranging from original Christmas decorations through tasty cakes and cookies to mulled wine, put you in a jovial mood. The winding streets and cozy pubs and restaurants clustering around the “St. Johanner Markt” will enhance the festive atmosphere and invite you to eat prior to the performance. Tour price includes transportation, tickets, and USO escort.

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

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**German Cooking Class  
Holiday Menu  
Tuesday, November 20**

Do you enjoy German food? Would you like to learn how to prepare a typical German Holiday menu? Then sign up for this USO class. We'll teach you how in a three-hour session, where we'll prepare an appetizer, a main dish, a side dish, and a dessert appropriate to serve your holiday guests. We'll taste the dishes, so bring your appetite. **Please bring utensils and enough small containers to eat out of (one for each dish)** and to take home any leftovers. USO will supply all the ingredients. We usually don't repeat recipes for two years, so even if you've been before, we're always trying something new. Menus are planned in advance and can be viewed on the Facebook group, KMC USO German Cooking and Baking. Bring your camera if you would like to take pictures of the wonderful specialties. Participation is limited, so sign up now for this USO class. This class is for adults only; please, no children under 12.

**Time:** 0900-1200  
**Place:** Vogelweh Chapel kitchen  
**Cost:** \$25

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**Thanksgiving Special—  
Three Nights in London  
Wednesday-Monday, November 21-26**

Why not spend this Thanksgiving in London? Imagine, three nights in London. That's what you'll have on this special trip to England's capital—one of the world's most interesting and versatile cities. If you're a shopper, a theater goer, a museum enthusiast, history buff, or even a lover of all types of cuisine, London is for you. Included in this tour are three nights in a centrally-located, 5-star hotel featuring spacious rooms, swimming pool, spa, and a complete gym. It's located within walking distance of the British Museum and the Covent Garden shopping and pub area, and is also convenient to

an Underground “Tube” Station which means that all of the city is at your beck and call. The hotel offers an extensive continental breakfast buffet which is included in the price of the tour (other meals are not included). During our four days in the London area, we’ll see such picture postcard sights as Tower Bridge, the Houses of Parliament with Big Ben, Westminster Abby, Buckingham Palace and changing of the Guard, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Hyde Park, the new London Eye, and all those places you learned about in history class. Our tour also includes admission to the Tower of London, St. Paul’s Cathedral, and Windsor Castle. The great thing about having three full days and three nights in the city is the free time you’ll have to pursue your own interests. You can take a boat ride along the Thames to Greenwich; visit Kensington Palace where Princess Diana lived or Henry VIII’s Hampton Court; take in the British Museum, Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum and London Planetarium, or the Royal Botanic Gardens; if you’re into walking, take the Jack the Ripper Walk or the Dickens’ London Walk, or many other guided walks offered by several London companies; visit Churchill’s Cabinet War Rooms, the London Zoo, or the original Hard Rock Café, or see plays at London’s West End theaters (the equivalent of New York’s Broadway) where you can often get half-price tickets at the TKTS “half-price” ticket booth the day of show. For those of you who love shopping, our hotel is located within walking distance of the famed Oxford Street shopping district. There’s also the world famous Harrods Department Store and lots of weekend markets throughout the city featuring all kinds of antiques, jewelry, leather goods, china, and anything else you might be looking for. If great cuisine is your passion, you won’t be disappointed in London. There’s just about any type of food you can think of including England’s famous “fish and chips,” gourmet British cuisine (yes, there really is), Indian, French, you name it, they’ve got it. Really, this is a city with something for everyone. Please bring passport or travel papers, euro for meals en route and British pounds. U.S. (Blue), EC, or Canadian passports are required. Travel documents are the responsibility of the customer. Tour price includes bus transportation, three overnights in a 5-star hotel, three breakfasts, London city tour, admission to St Paul’s Cathedral, the Tower of London and Windsor Castle, and two USO tour guides.

**Transportation:** German bus

**Depart:** Vogelweh Bowling Center 2100 (WED)

**Return:** Approximately 0400 (MON)

**Cost:** \$669 Adults, \$639 Children when sharing room with parent, per person (based on double occupancy). No optional tour expenses.

**Single Supplement:** \$200

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### **Medieval Thanksgiving Dinner at Cochem Castle Thursday, November 22**

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 1030

**Return:** Approximately 0030 (SUN)

**Cost:** \$99

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### **Valkenburg Caves Christmas Market Friday, November 23**

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

**Transportation:** German bus

**Depart:** Vogelweh Bowling Center 0700

**Return:** Approximately 2200

**Cost:** \$69 Adults, \$59 Children

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### **Bavarian Fairy Tale Castles— Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein**

## **Saturday, November 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 the castles Neuschwanstein and Linderhof. 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

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## **Europa Park at Christmas**

### **Saturday, November 24**

Don't miss this chance to visit Europa Park, an amusement park located in Rust/Baden, as it kicks off the winter and Christmas season. White Christmas trees, sparkling lights, and a fanstastic winter show program herald the cold time of the year. Along with some of the regular attractions, you'll find special winter attractions such as the Children's Ski School and snow tubing. The park is divided into different sections representing different European cultures. There are Italian, French, Dutch, Spanish, Scandinavian, Greece, and Russian sections, and much more. The park's more than 30 restaurants all make this an excellent family tour. Bring euro for shopping and meals, and don't forget to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring your camera. Tour price includes transportation, entry fee, and USO tour guide.

**Transportation:** German bus

**Depart:** Vogelweh Bowling Center 0600

**Return:** Approximately 2200

**Cost:** \$89 Adults, \$69 Children ages 4-11, \$29 Children age 3 and under

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## **Paris Dinner, City Tour, and Evening Boat Cruise**

### **Saturday, November 24**

*Bonjour!* 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:** \$139

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**Learn to Ride the German Train—  
DB Orientation and Trip to Wissembourg, France  
Tuesday, November 27**

Learn everything you always wanted to know about German trains but were afraid to ask on our hands-on train orientation. Tour the Kaiserslautern train station, receive an overview briefing on the train system, buy your own ticket, and take a trip to the French town of Wissembourg and return. You'll be accompanied by a USO escort, but you will do the work and gain firsthand experience purchasing tickets and riding the trains. Learn about the many specials the German Rail (DB) offers, for example: weekend tickets, family tickets, city specials and more. On this orientation tour, we'll travel by train to the Alsatian town of Wissembourg in France. 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 Strasbourg). 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 Kaiserslautern HBF main lobby 0800  
**Return:** Approximately 1700  
**Cost:** \$29 Adults, \$25 Children

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**German Baking Class  
Christmas Cookies  
Tuesday, November 27**

Ever wondered how those wonderful German Christmas cookies are made? Well, now is your chance to learn. During a three-hour session, we'll teach you how to prepare a

variety of popular German Christmas cookies. We'll taste what we create, but please bring small containers to take home any leftovers, a coffee cup, and your appetite. The USO will supply all the ingredients. Recipes are planned in advance and can be viewed on the Facebook group, KMC USO German Cooking and Baking. Bring your camera if you would like to take pictures of the wonderful specialties. Participation is limited so sign up now for this special USO class. This class is for adults only; please no children under 12.

**Time:** 0900-1200

**Place:** Vogelweh Chapel Kitchen

**Cost:** \$25