

Germany, Austria, and Switzerland-Road Trip

June-2008

We took a 8 day road trip this past June and had a really lovely time. (mom and 3 girls) We had a great time.

Day 1: Started from Paris and drove to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany. It is a medieval town that is known for being a Christmas town all year long. We stayed in an apartment at a lovely inn, Silence Burghotel and had a lovely English breakfast made to order. We went for an easy walking tour and shopped. We had a most enjoyable tour called the Night watchman Tour...girl's fav. We ate at a very old establishment and the food was excellent and the old German atmosphere was priceless, Altfrankische Weinstube am Klosterhof.

Day 2: We drove down the "Romantic Road" to Dinkelsbuhl and shopped. Adorable town. Drove on towards Munich and went to Dachau Concentration Camp. It was Monday and it was closed, but you could see the prison like setting. We drove to Salzburg and went on the old city tour and had dinner there. We stayed at the Marriott for 3 nights, which was out of the old town, but near the train station. I parked the car for a couple of days and took organized tours which picked up from the hotel.

Day 3: Sound of Music Tour with Bob's Tours. Great Tour. We shopped in old town afterward and went to the fortress.

Day 4: Drove 30 minutes to Berchtesgaden for the Eagles Nest tour and Bunkers Tour. This tour was great as well. Went to the Mozart Concert at the Stiftskeller St. Peter's. It was wonderful.

Day 5: Drove to Fussen, Germany (3-4 hours) through Bavaria, stopping at leisure and stayed on the lake in an apartment at the Seespitz. This was another beautiful getaway. The Seespitz had paddleboats for use on the lake. One the way we saw Hellbrunn Castle. The drive was really nice. (2 nights)

Day 6: Drove 15 minutes to Neuschwanstein Castle (Disney's Cinderella Castle is based on) and Hohenschwangau. All three of these Ludwig castles are worth seeing, all different. We went on the luge there. The kids love it.

Day 7-8: Drove to Grindelwald, Switzerland (4-5 hours) and the drive was really beautiful going past several Alpine lakes. We had a bad experience at our hotel here and we paid a lot of money. To make a long story short, Do not stay at the Hotel Hirschen. The owner said and I quote "You stupid idiot Americans"... I did not see a small sign that told us the check out hours were from 8-8 only. So, my good ole Texas Temper took charge....
2 nights-very expensive.

I would recommend staying in Lauterbrunnen, Swit. It is a little closer and the hotels are less expensive. There is Trundelbach Falls there and it is spectacular. The kids found it amazing as did I. We took a lovely alpine chair lift/hike/train to Junfrau, top of Europe and had a wonderful time.

Day 9: Drove back to Paris -7 hours