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Austria, Germany & Switzerland

COMPILED BY CELIA WELTZ

I'm in Zermatt. What Should I Do?

Zermatt, Switzerland, sits along the Matterhorn River in the shadow of the Matterhorn, one of the world's most recognizable mountains. The small town in the southwest corner of the country is a bustling tourist stop, as hikers flock here year-round to get a peak at the iconic, craggy peak.

Zermatt Tourism helps tour operators plan a visit that includes mountain viewing, outdoor recreation, cultural activities and seasonal events. The DMO suggests the following options if visitors are short on time.

Two hours: Visitors can take the funicular railway to Saasgrub in the gentle valley of Saasdomen. Both areas offer scenic views and excellent hiking. They also offer a guided tour of the area and visit the Matterhorn Museum.

Half day: An excursion can be taken to the mountains at the summit of the Monte Rosa Territory to Zermatt guides who offer excellent views & helicopter rides around the Matterhorn also is an unforgettable experience.

One day: The national parks such as Saasgrub, Saasdomen, Val de Saas and Silvaplana offer a variety of well-developed nature systems. We can also visit the Swiss Alps and visit the Matterhorn to see the world's highest mountain.

For more information, contact Amanda Perry at +41 27 960 8111 or visit www.zermatt.ch.



Catch the Spirit of Austria

There is nothing high in the hills of the west Austrian state of Tyrol. This quiet village of about 100 households in the Tiroler Alps includes a collection of farms, orchards and a signature church steeple that dot the plateau above the town of Landeck.

Visitors who take a closer look can discover Tyrol's claim to fame: schnapps. Ample machines, worn wooden logs and ring sights produce glugs with an intense aroma and high sugar content that are used to make the area's renowned schnapps. More than 50 local distilleries produce some of the world's top flavored spirits, and guided tours with samples are available to show how the various distilleries are made.

Schnapps lovers also can visit the Alt Wiesen Schnapsbrennerei in Vörs. The old factory, which has been running under the leadership of five generations of the Fischer family, was established in 1875 and is considered one of the nation's best producers of brandies and liqueurs. Tours of the facility explain the schnapps-making process and the tradition of the distillery work.

To learn more about how to experience Austria's spirits, contact Maria Kroll-Greiner at the Austrian Tourist Office at +43 202 575 7720 or visit www.austria.info.

A Tour Fit for a King

Based in Munich, Appina Travel GmbH is a full service inbound receptive operator for groups traveling to Germany and throughout Europe. Its six-day Royal Bavarian Country tour covers many of the state's top attractions. Itinerary highlights include:



New Town Hall

A guide leads a tour of Munich's city center and gives narration on historical buildings such as Hofbräuhaus, Old Town Hall and New Town Hall, which is home to the Glockenspiel. This 1908 chiming clock recounts a royal wedding, jousting tournament and ritualistic dance through colorful characters.



Oberammergau

A trip to Lake Chiemsee involves a visit to King Ludwig II's opulent Herrenchiemsee Palace and lunch at a beer garden. Neuschwanstein Castle also is on the schedule as is a tour of Oberammergau to see master woodcarvers at work and colorful frescoes that depict historical, fairy-tale and religious scenes.