



### Day 1: Fly to Germany

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Frankfurt.

### Day 2: Darmstadt | Heidelberg

**Arrive in Frankfurt:** Welcome to Frankfurt, the financial hub of Germany.

**Travel through Darmstadt:** As you make your way to Heidelberg, travel through the city of Darmstadt. Home to many technology companies and research institutes, Darmstadt has dubbed itself the “city of science.” It’s well known as a high-tech center with industries including spacecraft operations, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, information technology, biotechnology, and telecommunications.

**Photo stop at Hundertwasser’s Waldspirale:** Make sure to have your camera ready for a photo stop at Hundertwasser’s Waldspirale, a residential building complex designed by Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Completed in 2000, the colorful U-shaped building features more than 1,000 windows (no two are alike), rounded corners, and gilded onion domes. From here, continue on to Heidelberg where you will stay for the evening.

**Dinner:** Reflect on the day’s activities over dinner with your group.

### Day 3: Oberhausen-Rheinhausen | Heidelberg

**Sightseeing tour of Heidelberg:** The majestic Old Bridge crosses into the heart of Heidelberg, a city set in the lush green foothills of the Neckar Valley. Travel along medieval streets lined with peaked red roofs on your sightseeing tour. Numerous Nobel Prize winners and philosophers studied here and established Heidelberg as Germany’s premier university city.

**Heidelberg Castle wine barrel:** Ride a funicular up to Heidelberg Castle and see the stunning views that inspired Goethe, as well as a statue dedicated to the poet in the gardens. You won’t be able to miss the wine barrel—it’s so large that a dance floor was once built on top of it.

**Solar Boat Cruise:** Enjoy a scenic cruise with the rest of your group.

### Day 4: Freiburg

**Innovation Academy:** Travel to Freiburg and spend the better half of your day in the Innovation Academy. There you can learn firsthand about the area’s many innovations in renewable energy, solar power, and ecological agriculture.

**Dinner:** Gather with your group for a delicious meal.

### Day 5: Freiburg

**Solar energy-focused tour of Freiburg:** As the sunniest city in Germany, Freiburg makes sense as a hub for solar energy. Freiburg prides itself on being an eco-city, and you’ll see why on this guided tour. In the late 1990s, a new neighborhood called Vauban was built on the site of a former French Army base. Built as a sustainable model district, Vauban uses solar energy to power many of its households. In 1992, the Freiburg city council adopted a resolution that it would only permit construction of low-energy buildings on municipal land.

**Lecture at the Innovation Academy:** A non-profit association that focuses on the issue of climate protection, the Innovation Academy addresses themes such as renewable energy, sustainable urban development, old building modernization, and mobility.

### Day 6: Lucerne

**Transfer to Lucerne:** Arrive in Lucerne, a city known for its stunning natural setting and well-preserved medieval architecture.

**Green energy visit:** See sustainable energy in practice during a visit to either the Hofgut Sternen or Bioenergy Breitenau.

**Sightseeing tour of Lucerne:** The majestic Alps rise behind the shores of Lake Lucerne and provide the stunning backdrop to one of Switzerland’s most picturesque cities. You’ll see the moving Lion Monument known as Löwendenkmal, a sandstone statue commemorating the Swiss Guards slain in the 1792 Paris storming of the Tuileries. Follow Lucerne’s winding cobbled streets past fairy-tale houses to the Kapellbrücke, which dates back to medieval days. Stroll across Europe’s oldest wooden covered bridge and admire the colorful murals overhead.

**Dinner:** Tonight, enjoy a meal with your group.

### Day 7: Lucerne

**Guided tour of the Grimsel Power Plant:** Hydroelectric power plants, high voltage power lines, and high reservoir lake walls dominate the landscape on the northern side of the Grimsel Pass, where you will get an up-close view of Switzerland’s alternative power source. Your tour may take you through the impressive tunnel system to the Grimsel II power plant and the unique crystal cavern. After your tour, enjoy free time in Lucerne.

☞ **Swiss mountain:** Opt to join an excursion that takes you up a Swiss mountain. There, you’ll be rewarded with spectacular panoramic views of Lucerne. Those who do not join the excursion will have free time in Lucerne.

**Dinner:** Relax over a delicious meal with your group.

### Day 8: Lucerne

**Guided tour of the Entlebuch Biosphere:** Take an excursion to the town of Entlebuch and visit the Entlebuch Biosphere, a natural reserve at the foot of the Alps which includes the valley of the Little Emme River between Berne and Lucerne. In 2001, it was named the second UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Switzerland. After your visit, enjoy more free time in Lucerne, and then dinner with your group.

### Day 9: Zurich

**Transfer to Zurich:** Arrive in Switzerland’s largest city.

**Guided tour of Zurich:** Get to know Zurich, which is home to most of the country’s research and development centers along with numerous beautiful sites and attractions.

**Free time:** Take the last half of your day to explore Zurich at your own pace.

**Dinner:** Tonight, rejoin your group for a goodbye dinner.

### Day 10: Depart for home

Transfer to the Zurich Airport, where you’ll check in for your flight home.