

BLACK FOREST

11th to 15th April



The Black Forest is an area of exquisite beauty and relaxing serenity that enjoys a culture and romance of legendary proportions. The source of such important rivers as the Neckar and the Danube, and countless lesser streams winding down to the Rhine, the Black Forest presents scenes of beauty and charm at every turn. Within the clear air of the pine-clad slopes, deep green meadows and crystal clear lakes, lie villages steeped in history and tradition where the local people will provide an unparalleled welcome. From cuckoo-clocks to wine villages, waterfalls, winding routes providing wonderful mountain views and beautifully preserved towns and cities, this tour delves right into the mystery and magic of this famous picture-book region.

Sunday 11th April Depart early morning for Dover and the ferry to Calais, from where we journey across France, making stops for refreshments, to our hotel at Oberharmersbach in the heart of the Black Forest.

Monday 12th April This morning we make the short journey to the Black Forest's only hand-blown glass factory, Dorotheenhütte, where we can see 2,000 years of glass history in their museum. See how the art of glass-making has evolved over the years, along with displays of tools and moulds. Watch the masters blowing glass and creating and grinding delicate crystal stemware by hand - each cut a carefully calculated combination of angle and pressure, and possibly have the opportunity to try glass blowing yourself! Dorotheenhütte's 'Glass Paradise' is appropriately named as it is truly a heaven for shoppers with shelves and display tables stocked full of finished vases, sets of stemware of all shapes and shades, figurines, candleholders, and anything else imaginable for home décor. Later we shall drive to Triberg, the undisputed capital of cuckoo-clock country, where we shall have time to explore the town and find some lunch. After lunch we leave Triberg, which allegedly has the 'World's Biggest Cuckoo Clock' and make the short journey to Schonach, which also claims to have the 'World's Biggest Cuckoo Clock' - you will have to make your own mind up as to which is the biggest!

Tuesday 13th April After breakfast we make our way to Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle in the Alsace region of France. Built in the 12th century, this castle has witnessed eight centuries of European



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conflicts and rivalries between lords, kings and emperors. Today it gives a remarkable picture of life in a 15th-century fortress in Alsace, with a large collection of weapons and furnishings from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, not to mention a magnificent view over the plain of Alsace, the Vosges, the Black Forest and, on a clear day, the Alps. Following our visit we shall take a drive through the vineyards of the Alsace.

Wednesday 14th April We shall spend today touring the Black Forest area, making a stop in the spa town of Freudenstadt, where there will be time to explore before joining the Black Forest High Road, from which we shall have magnificent views of the Black Forest valleys, the Rhine Valley and Alsace and the Vosges Mountains. We shall make a stop at Lake Mummelsee, situated at 3385ft (1032m) above sea level, one of the few cirque lakes in the Black Forest remaining from the ice age. As a result of its unusual location and the primeval vegetation which surrounds it, there are many tales and legends featuring water nymphs and an underwater king. We shall also make a stop in the floral and wine village of Sasbachwalden, which is characterised by its heritage-protected villagescape with half-timbered houses and the unique floral decoration.

Thursday 15th April Departing after breakfast we make our way back to Calais for the ferry to Dover and return to Oxted, arriving mid evening.

What's included:

Hotel Bären, Oberharmersbach

4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

All bedrooms have private facilities, TV & hairdryer.

This quaint family run hotel is located in the Harmersbach valley in the heart of the Black Forest.

Time to explore Triberg, Schonach, Freudenstadt & Sasbachwalden

Entry to glass museum

Demonstration of glass blowing

Entry to Haut Koenigsbourg

Drive through Alsace vineyards

Drive along the Black Forest High Road

Visit to Lake Mummelsee

COST: £360.00 per person

Single Room Supp: £40.00

Club Class Seat on Ferry: £27.50



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