

Day-to-Day Itinerary – Square Dance Tour

September 24 thru October 8, 2013

Breakfast included daily. Dinners included except Sep 28 & Oct 5.

Itinerary posted daily and is subject to change due to weather, scheduling, etc.

Square Dancing with Tom & Dan daily except when other activities are scheduled.

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Day 1: Tue, Sep 24 - Depart on an overnight flight to Munich.

Day 2: Wed, Sep 25 – Upon arrival to the [Munich](#) airport, we will meet at the information booth after going through customs. We will gather everyone together and meet our busses. Our busses have [Kreuz-Reisen](#) (Kreuz Tours) written on the side. Everyone's patience is greatly appreciated as it takes time to round up our folks arriving on different flights. After an approximate 1 ½ hour bus ride, we'll arrive at our new home in [Grassau](#). We will be staying in two hotels, the [Hotel Sperrer](#) & [Hotel Hansbaeck](#), both first class accommodations with elevators. Upon arrival a welcome drink awaits you at [Hotel Sperrer](#) where there we will do personal introductions as your luggage is taken to your room. After dinner we'll have a short evening of square dancing before retiring after a very long day.

Day 3: Thu, Sep 26 – **Morning free** after breakfast to explore the [Grassau area](#). After breakfast, there will be time to [exchange money](#), shop or just relax. [Grassau](#) has nearly anything you might need all within walking distance, to include two [banks](#), a post office, several places to get fresh bakery goods, coffee shops, several eateries & restaurants to include pizza, Oriental and Bavarian specialties, pharmacies, groceries, souvenirs, clothing stores, a [tourist information office](#), bus service, newspaper stands, medical services 24-7 and much more. This afternoon we'll take a short bus ride to the [Amerang Farmers' Museum](#). You'll see farm house build centuries ago and how people lived back then. For lunch there is a little restaurant there where you can get the best soup around. Dancing after dinner.

For those who like a little night life, there are a couple of bars in Grassau and the typical Gasthaus will usually stay open as long as drinks are being ordered. For the young at heart, there's an underground discotheque to the left of the [Hotel Hansbäck](#) - open on Friday and Saturday nights. The [Hotel Sperrer](#) has a card room and TV room downstairs with CNN in English. Both hotels have wireless pay Internet.

Day 4: Fri, 27 – This morning we take about a 45 minute drive to [Berchtesgaden](#), one of most the breathtaking alpine regions in the Bavarian Alps. We'll visit the Obersalzberg [Salt Mines](#). You'll dress in the traditional miner's outfits, straddle the open train cars and ride deep into the salt mountain. The tour includes several interesting displays of how the miners worked the salt mines years back. The fun part is experiencing the slides the miners took to get from one level to the next. If the weather permits we offer an [optional](#) tour to Hitler's [Eagle's Nest](#). Note: This tour is not included because the weather is so unpredictable and the tour could be closed if the mountain is clouded over or raining. On our return trip home, again weather and time permitting, we will take the scenic route through [Ramsau](#) and the [Magic Forest](#). This is one of the most beautiful and scenic drives in all of Europe. Square Dance after dinner.

Day 5: Sat, 28 – **Michaeli-Markt** – Today is [Michaeli-Markt](#), Grassau's annual street market day. Here's where Grassau blocks off the streets on the main drag, and transforms itself into a huge market place. Booths are set up through the main street. There will be a variety unique of things to buy, from tee shirts to socks, kitchen items to linens, Bavarian hats to CDs and souvenirs. You'll find all kinds of specialized food, beer gardens and local bands. There are also new farm machinery displays, animal auctions and rides for the children. This is a wonderful time to really get close and observe the locals. This all takes place in just one day and when evening comes, everything will be gone, not even one piece of trash. Tonight it's [Dinner on your own](#). There are lots of wonderful places to dine with your friends in Grassau. Here's a chance to try the open menu at the [Hotel Sperrer](#) or experience anyone of the village fine eateries. There's the [Hotel Hansbäck](#), and the [Gasthof zur Post](#), two [pizza places](#), a [steak house](#) and several others.

Day 6: Sun, 29 – Salzburg, the [City of Mozart](#). Late this morning we'll travel a short drive to [Salzburg](#), Austria. Our guide will meet us for a city walking tour. If you don't want to do the 1 ½ mile foot tour, you can stop off at the horse and buggies where you can do your own tour by coach or stroll the old part of the city on your own. You will see [Mozart's birthplace](#) house in the center of the old town. You'll find open-air markets, several [cathedrals](#) and music halls and sidewalk cafés. You can also take the [funicular](#) inclined railway (small discount for groups of 10 or more) to the impenetrable [Hohensalzburg Fortress](#) for a fantastic view of the city. There you will find a free museum, gift shop, a restaurant and medieval village and court yard. This is the largest fully-preserved fortress in Europe. The fortress was constructed in 1077 during a dispute with the Pope over who should be allowed to appoint the bishop. This evening is what everyone is waiting for, the [Mozart Dinner Concert](#), held in the atmospheric, baroque vaults of St Peter's Abbey, known as the [Stiftskeller St. Peter](#). Visitors can savor a fine three-course meal accompanied by the Mozart Ensemble which performs works composed by Salzburg's most famous son. The musicians are clad in historical costumes and the whole atmosphere transports you back to Mozart's times. While no doubt extremely touristy, the Mozart Dinner is a must for any visitor to Salzburg. This elegant restaurant and concert banquet hall is one of the oldest and renowned dinner concerts in all of Europe. Formal attire is not required. No square dancing tonight - it's classical. Late return.

Day 7: Mon, 30 – Neuschwanstein Castle - Today is the furthest bus excursion we take. It's about a 2 ½ hour bus ride to our first stop, the magnificent [Wies Church](#) or [Field Church](#). This elaborate [Pilgrimage Church](#) is isolated by its self in a meadow. Built in 1740, it is the most beautiful baroque church in Bavaria and probably in the world. It's famous for the miracle of tears seen on the face of the Scourged Saviour statue. After its discovery, there rapidly developed a pilgrimage of unexpected proportions. Also significant is the [Door to Eternity](#), or Heaven's Gate. The door is closed but calls to be opened for believers to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. It symbolizes one that [Jesus Christ](#) made himself: "I am the door; by me if anyone enter in, he shall be saved. Hopefully the door will appear to lean towards you as you move from either side of the church.

Later, not far from the [Field Church](#), we will visit the famous [Schloss Neuschwanstein](#). Translated into English, the [New Swan Stone Castle](#) is one of the most beautiful and well preserved castles in the world. Originally ordered to be built by [King Ludwig II](#), this is the epitome of neo-romantic style and is the most famous of all medieval castles. It's a fairy-tale fantasy come true. The famous German castle overlooks the picturesque [Hohenschwangau Castle](#) and the romantic [Alpsee Lake](#).

From here it's on to famous woodcarving and [Passion Play](#) village of [Oberammergau](#). This unique village is known for its religious airbrush paintings on the buildings, the flowers on the balconies all nestled in a little village with the Alps as a background. It's another painter's and photographer's dream come true. It's also the perfect place to send back home that cuckoo clock and other souvenirs. Most shops will ship your purchase home using your credit card. This evening will be hosted by the [Zugspitz-Promenaders Square Dance Club](#) for dinner and dance in the little town of [Spatzenhausen](#) before returning home. Dinner is included. Late return.

Day 8: Tue, Oct 1 – Morning free. This afternoon will take a 20 minute bus ride for a [boat cruise](#) on [Lake Chiemsee](#). It's a fun [boat ride](#) over to [Herrenchiemsee Island](#), the larger of two lake islands. Once on the island we will issue you your [King Ludwig's Chiemsee Castle](#) tour tickets, the time of your English tour and when you have to be back at the boat dock for your return. Your ticket is also good for a [Castle Museum](#) and a [Benedictine Cloister Museum](#) near the boat dock. The castle is about a ¾ mile easy walk from the boat dock. There are optional horse and buggy rides available to take you to the castle. The castle - really a palace, was designed after [the French Sun King, Louis XIV's Palace of Versailles near Paris](#). The tour takes us through only a portion of the inside which was completed. There is a place to have lunch at the castle or there's a restaurant and beer garden near the boat dock. After dinner we head for the [Town Hall](#) for a local [Heimatabend](#), a Bavarian Traditional [Schuhplattlers](#) Show. You will see the locals in their traditional Bavarian costumes and dance their [traditional dances](#). No squares tonight, 'cause there's gonna be live Oomph music.

Day 9: Wed, Oct 2 – This morning we head to [Munich](#) to take a closer look at the [Bavarian capital](#). We'll meet our local guide for a guided city bus tour where we will see places of interest like the [Nymphenburg Palace](#), [Olympic Stadium](#) and [Englischer Garten](#), the city's largest park which was laid out along the [Isar River](#) just after the French Revolution—in hopes that it would calm the population and keep it from storming the duke's palace. In the spring and

summer months it is a very popular public gathering place for [nudists](#). This time you'll have time on your own to visit to old part of Munich to include [Marienplatz](#) and the [Medieval Glockenspiel](#). You can choose to have lunch at the famous [Munich Hofbrauhaus](#) with all its Bavarian specialties (English menus are available). Close by are the downtown department stores, open air markets, beer gardens and famous cathedrals.

After the city tour we will end up at the original [Munich Oktoberfest](#). We suggest you make it first to the Ferris Wheel for a spectacular view of the city and over 14 huge beer tents, most over the size of a football field. Don't try to visit every beer tent. Ask if you can join someone at a table and enjoy the celebrations. Most places are reserved after 5 pm when it really gets packed. Take the time to see the sights, enjoy the Bavarian costumes and hear the songs and sounds of the biggest beer festival in the world.

This evening we will visit the [Munich Dip-n-Divers](#) square dance club, one of the oldest and largest clubs in Germany. Their members look forward to our visit and they are putting on a special dance sponsored by the Munich Dip-N-Divers in [Parsdorf](#). Before the dance we'll have dinner (included). Late return.

Day 10: Thu, Oct 3 – Today we travel through the alpine valleys to the beautiful little village of [Reit im Winkl](#) and the [Reit im Winkl Area](#). The Bavarian houses, flowers on the balconies, the village fountain coupled with mountains and waterfalls make this a painter's and photographer's paradise. For the shoppers, the prices are most reasonable compared to other cities. And for the guys, don't miss the [Schnapps Museum](#) where you can sample a variety of German schnapps. Afternoon free time, or if time permits - optional surprise mystery bus trip. After dinner we will visit the [Flying Dandelions](#) local Square Dance Club. Late return.

Day 11: Fri, Oct 4 – **German Holiday - Unification Day** - Today we head south into Austria for the [Tyrol City of Innsbruck](#). We'll do both a bus and walking [tour of the city](#). You'll see the [Olympic Stadium](#) from the mountain side and walk the old medieval down town pedestrian center and see the famous [Golden Roof](#). Upon our return, we'll stop in the medieval town of [Rattenberg am Inn](#), the smallest city on the Inn river and famous for [Swarovski Crystal](#).

Day 12: Sat, Oct 5 – This is a free day. This is a good time for shopping, exploring, hiking or just relaxing. This afternoon we will have a non-stop afternoon dance in the village [Town Hall](#). This evening we will have a free [Invitational Square & Round Dance](#) with staff callers, [Dan Nordbye & Tom Crisp](#) along with the [Munich Dip-n-Divers](#) caller [Toni Sedlmayr](#) and cuer [Klaus Voelkl](#).

Day 13: Sun, Oct 6 – This morning there will be a **Morning Revival Square Dance** from **9:00 -11:00** am in the **Town Hall**. For those who would like to attend church services, there is a Catholic Church Service in the village church - check the times. Other services might be available; however transportation could be a problem. This afternoon we'll take a local two-seater alpine ski lift to the [Grassauer Almen Wanderung](#) (Grassau Alpine Hiking trails), also known as the [Hochplatte](#) (High Plateau). If the weather is favorable we will see Hang-Gliders and Parachute Jumpers taking off from a favorite launching site. There's a [small restaurant](#) which serves the finest German dishes and pastries. Evening: [Dinner on your own](#). In addition to all the wonderful places to dine in Grassau, we might also suggest the beautiful Bavarian [Hotel Weßnerhof](#), about 1.5 mile easy flat walk from Grassau. They raise all their own beef and pork plus make their own schnapps. Their menu (also in English) is famous for Bavarian specialties. Also at the [Weßnerhof](#), there will be a free optional [Schnapps tasting tour](#) – not just for those wanting to try a variety of schnapps and liquors, but for anyone interested in learning how the German schnapps is produced. The schnapps will be available for sale in the hotel lobby. No dancing tonight – it's the callers' night off.

Day 14: Mon, Oct 7 – This is your last full day and a **free time** for last minute shopping and time to pack. (Note: Stores close at 12 Noon on Wednesdays) There will be a **Farewell Request Dance** from **12 – 2 pm** and if there is enough interest, **advance dancing** from **2 – 3 pm** in the [Town Hall](#). Please have your [checked baggage](#) in front of your door or in the hotel lobby to be loaded onto the busses before the banquet. Our **Special Farewell Banquet** will be at **6 pm**. Everyone will have a chance to tell their story about the experiences they had on the trip. There will be no dancing after banquet. You can chose to retire early or stay up party with your friends for the last evening.

Day 15: Tue, Oct 8 – Early morning departure for the Munich airport for flights back to the USA. As of 5/13/2011