

# Venice to the Alps

**ITINERARY NIGHTS:** Venice (2), Salzburg (2), Garmisch (1), Lucerne (2), Lake Como Area (1)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Venice Walking Tour • Venice City Tour • Doges' Palace • Murano Glass Blowing Demonstration • Salzburg City Tour • Mozart's Birthplace • Salt Mines Tour • Salzburg Walking Tour • Dachau Tour • Liechtenstein • Lucerne Walking Tour



**DAY 1** Overnight flight to Italy.

**DAY 2 VENICE** *Benvenuto in Italia!* Your TSA Tours representative will greet you at the airport, then transfer the group to Venice, city of lagoons and luminous light. Later a **walking tour** among the churches, cafés, palaces, and pigeons of the Piazza San Marco sets the tone for enchantment.

**DAY 3 VENICE** This morning's guided **Venice City Tour** takes you past the city's palazzos, along the Grand Canal, across the Rialto Bridge, and back to the Piazza to visit the pink marble **Doges' Palace** with its many art treasures. Also featured is a visit to see traditional Venetian glass blowers at work producing the famous Murano crystal. The afternoon is free.

**DAY 4 SALZBURG** Journey through the Alps to Austria, and arrive in a beautiful city set in a steep valley with a majestic castle looming above. A guided **Salzburg City Tour** takes you to see Hohensalzburg Fortress, Schloss Mirabell, St Peter's Abbey, and for a visit inside **Mozart's Birthplace**, featuring memorabilia that includes the child prodigy's first violin.

**OPTIONS:** Mt. Pilatus

**DAY 5 SALZBURG** Venture to one of Austria's famous **salt mines**. From the days of the Celts to the Salzburg

Archbishops, salt brought riches and prosperity. A visit to the salt mines is a journey to the time when salt was still called "White Gold." Dress in miners' clothes and dive into this mysterious underground world. Descend into the mines by sliding down a chute. Explore the fascinating maze of underground tunnels on foot and by narrow gauge railway. Thunder with the mine car through the deepest tunnels and plummet on the polished parallel slides into the heart of the mountain. Glide on a raft along the subterranean salt lake and hear the fascinating story of the "Man in the salt." Through narrow tunnels and cavernous chambers, past glistening rock formations mutely bearing their centuries-old mysteries, the visitor's route eventually reaches the underground salt lake. The fascinating play of sound and light during the raft ride across the lake accentuates the unique enchantment of this world below ground. Return to Salzburg for a **walking tour**, strolling along the atmospheric old streets past Baroque churches and sculptured fountains.

**DAY 6 GARMISCH** Travel to the sunny Bavarian area of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, host to the 1936 Winter Olympics as well as to Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze. Stop for a guided tour of the **Dachau** Concentration Camp Memorial. Dachau was not one of the foremost extermination camps, but a detention camp and a research center for the Auschwitz experiments. Although they were never used at Dachau, you will see the gas showers, the crematorium and the barracks. In the museum, the horrors of the Holocaust are documented through photos and artifacts, such as uniforms and prisoner insignia. For those who wish, there are chapels and a Synagogue on the grounds. Arrive in an alpine resort that still retains the charm of an ancient village. Traffic comes to halt each evening for the Return of the Herds, and picturesque old peasants' houses can be seen on Frühlingstrasse.

**DAY 7 LUCERNE** Transfer to Switzerland through **Liechtenstein**, one of the smallest nations in the world. Arrive in the lovely lakeside town of Lu-



cerne, nestled in the Swiss Alps. A **Lucerne Walking Tour** takes you over the Mill Bridge (Spreuerbrücke) and the Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke) with its painted roof and octagonal water tower. See the Old Town Hall (Altes Rathaus), the medieval town ramparts, and other highlights.

**DAY 8 LUCERNE** Today is free for discovery. **Option:** An excursion to Mount Pilatus, the mountain of Lucerne, is an absolute must. Mt Pilatus (7,000 feet) with the steepest cog railway in the world (48% gradient) and is magnificent view of the Alps, six lakes and the city of Lucerne is an unforgettable experience. The Pilatus cogwheel railway's Alpnachstad station is on the main line between Lucerne and Interlaken, making Pilatus an easy stopover on a trip from Lucerne. A panoramic restaurant at the top of the mountain provides you with a fantastic view of the alpine world surrounding you.

**DAY 9 LAKE COMO AREA** Travel to the Lombardy Lakes region of Italy. Spend your last day enjoying its unique combination of lush Mediterranean foliage and snowy alpine peaks.

**DAY 10 DEPART** Transfer to the Milan airport and board your flight home, with magnificent memories of all you've seen, from Venice to the Alps.

*For more information, please contact:*

