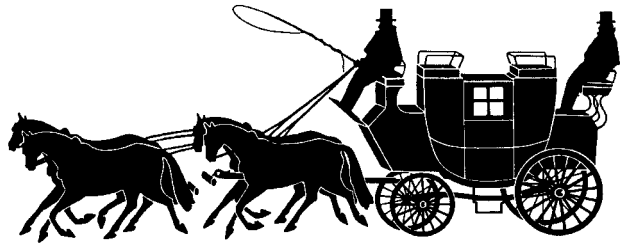


COACHING IN BAVARIA

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- 10.1 -

Tour #10: Goethe's Italian Journey

Across the alps in a horse-draw carriage

14 days, 15 nights

Itinerary:

German kings and emperors travelled the Brenner Pass more than 60 times in the course of history. Virtually every journey to Rome for the coronation of an emperor led through this mountain pass. Successful as well as fruitless military campaigns into Italy; empresses and queens escorted by cavalry to their unknown betrothed princes and kings; these and much more all part of the history of the most famous passage through the Alps for thousands of years: the 4,600 foot high Brenner Pass. Travelling in a 19th century mail coach with a team of 4 or 5 handsome horses is a grand adventure, a journey through the wonderland of Bavaria and Tyrol; villages, castles, mail relay stations and historical inns await you. Tyrolian and northern Italian gaiety, sumptuous meals and tempting wines all add to the pleasure. You will be following the same trail that gave *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* his greatest insights and inspiration. Goethe's Italian journey lasted more than 2 years and changed his whole life. As one biographer puts it, he "absorbed the calm strength of antiquity". This genius' spirit will accompany you as you ride in your comfortably gracious carriage. You will travel through the wonderland of Bavaria and Tyrol; through Mittenwald (which Goethe describes as a "living picture"); on to Innsbruck; over the Brenner Pass and then through the luxuriant orchards and vineyards of Bozen/Bolzano. After an overnight stay at the *Hostelry* (where Goethe also slept) your coach will sweep down the southern slopes to the health resort town of Torbole where Goethe savored the salubrious climate and lingered long enough to write his famous play *IPHIGENIE*. By the time you reach Verona, you will have taken part in a once-in-a-lifetime adventure and historical experience. En route, your coachman /guide expertly handles his team of spirited horses and you, too, will have your turn at the reins, if you like. Travelling only a few miles a day, you will have plenty of free time to study the old cities, storybook castles, ancient monasteries. Enjoy the hospitality of quaint inns with colorful local entertainment and specialty cuisine. This remarkable form of travel is available to only a very few since passenger accommodations are limited. Therefore, early reservations are strongly recommended.



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Itinerary:

Day 1: Friday MUNICH

On arrival in Munich, you will be met at the airport, train station or your hotel and be transferred to a hotel in Munich, where rooms have been reserved for you. At the hotel, you will meet the other passengers and your Coachman during a Welcome Cocktail and dinner party. During the course of the evening, you will be briefed on what the days ahead hold in store.

Day 2, Saturday MUNICH / BAD TÖLZ-Wackersberg

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, board the stagecoach and depart for Munich's City Hall where the citizens of Munich will bid you goodbye and ask you to convey their greetings to Munich's sister city, Verona. In the early afternoon, either you will enjoy a picnic lunch or stop at the *Aumeister Inn*. After lunch, continue along the Isar River to Lenggries, an old rafter's village, with overnight accommodations in the *Guesthouse Alpenrose*. Dinner this evening includes entertainment by local Bavarian folklore groups.

Day 3, Sunday BAD TÖLZ / MITTENWALD

After breakfast, continue along the Isar, through the Jachen Valley, arriving in Jachenau in time for lunch at the *OldMail Inn*. Following lunch, continue south of Walchensee via Wallgau to Mittenwald. Accommodations and dinner will be provided at the *Post Guesthouse*. Mittenwald is well-known for its master violin makers and fine wood carvings.

Day 4, Monday MITTENWALD / OBERPETTNAU

After breakfast at the guesthouse, depart by coach into the mountains. Arrive at the Bavarian/Tyrolian frontier check point, Leutasch/Schanz. Lunch will be at the Café Monika in Leutasch. After lunch, continue via Buchen down Telfser Berg to the Inn Valley; a really exciting leg of the journey. In the late afternoon, arrive at Oberpettnau and the impressive *Guesthouse Oettl*, the oldest mail-relay station in the Tyrol. Enjoy Tyrolian specialties at dinner and enjoy entertainment by the village's brass band.

Day 5, Tuesday OBERPETTNAU / INNSBRUCK

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the guesthouse and depart by coach at about 10 a.m. Drive north of the Inn River via Zirl and Kranebitten to Innsbruck, arriving shortly before noon. Lunch will be at the *Goldener Adler*, where Goethe stopped some 200 years ago, or at the *Hotel Sailer*. The afternoon will be spent at leisure with the chance to visit a private carriage museum. Dinner will be at the *Hotel Sailer/Goldener Adler*. Overnight accommodations will be at the *Goldener Adler*.

Day 6, Wednesday INNSBRUCK / STAFFLACH AM BRENNER

Have a breakfast at the hotel. The morning is free for further exploration. Around noon, depart via the Old Brenner Road for Matri. Light lunch will be provided en route. Arrive at Stafflach am Brenner, the last village before crossing the border into northern Italy. Accommodations will be provided in a former relaystation. Enjoy an excursion into the upland.



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Day 7, Thursday STAFFLACH AM BRENNER / MAULS

After an early breakfast, reboard your coach and continue the ascent to the Old Brenner Pass. Continue via the town of Gossensass to Sterzing/Vitipeno. Accommodations will be provided at Mauls, a historic guest house. Dinner this evening will be at the hotel.

Day 8, Friday MAULS / BRIXEN BRESSANONE

Breakfast is at the hotel. The coach leaves at 9 am. After lunch, continue on to Brixen/Bressanone, arriving in mid-afternoon. A welcoming drink will be served at the *Goldenes Lamm*, where Goethe changed horses, followed by a drive through the narrow streets of the old city to the cathedral. There, you will be met by the Lord Mayor or his deputy at the City Hall. Accommodations will be at the *Hotel Elephant* or *Jarolim*. This evening, dinner will be at the *Elephant*. A typically Tyrolean dinner will be served.

Day 9, Saturday BRIXEN BRESSANONE / ATZWANG/CAMPO D'AZZO

After breakfast, depart Bressanone via the old stone town of Klausen/Chiusa. Stop at the former Customs House of Kolmann just below the fortress Wolkenstein. Enjoy lunch at a former post station. Drive along with accommodations at the postal inn of Atzwang. Dinner this evening is in the inn.

Day 10, Sunday ATZWANG/CAMPO D'AZZO / BOZEN/ KURTATSCH

After breakfast at the hotel, drive through the lovely orchards and vineyards along the Adige embankment to the small fruit and wine-making town of Kurtatsch. After lunch, enjoy an excursion into the hills surrounding the town. Dinner as well as overnight accommodations will be at the inn.

Day 11, Monday KURTATSCH / TRIENT TRENTO

Enjoy breakfast at the Hotel before driving through vineyards and orchards along the banks of the Etsch River, following the Old Roman Road. Lunch is near Mezzocorona, your first major, purely Italian town on this trip. Continue via Zambana Vecchio to Trient/Trento. Dinner and overnight will be at the *Accademia Hotel*, renovated in the old style.

Day 12, Tuesday TRIENT TRENTO / MALCESINE

After breakfast, travel via the wine-making villages to Mori, arriving for lunch in the old town. Later, continue via Lago di Loppio across the San Giovanni Pass to Lake Garda and the town of Torbole. Visit the house in which Goethe wrote *IPHIGENIE*, then continue along the banks of Lake Garda to Malcesine for dinner and overnight. Goethe was nearly arrested and charged with espionage here for sketching a beautiful old castle.

Day 13, Wednesday MALCESINE

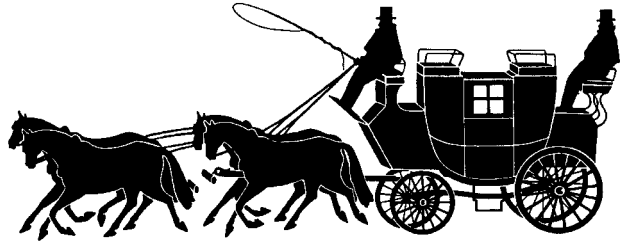
Enjoy a full day of leisure for individual pursuits.

Day 14, Thursday MALCESINE / PESCHIERA

Breakfast at the hotel, before leaving Malcesine along the eastern shore of the lake. Visit the Palace of San Vigilio, then pass through the town of Garda to Bardolino with a chance to taste wines in the *Enotheka*, a former post stable. After lunch, continue the drive to the old fortress of Peschiera on the Mincio River. Accommodations will be here, tonight. Late this afternoon visit the harbor and city. This evening you are invited to a gala dinner party at the *Restaurant Secolo* with representatives of the city. Local specialties, including seafood, will be highlighted.

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Day 15, Friday PESCHIERA / VERONA

This will be the last day of your journey by coach-and-four. Shortly after breakfast, depart Peschiera, driving via Sommacompagna to Verona. Ride into the old town to the *Hotel Bologna* or *Accademia*. This evening, enjoy cocktails and a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 16, Saturday VERONA

Goethe's Italian Journey ends after breakfast.



Included:

- 14 day mail-coach tour
- buffet breakfast daily
- 15 nights en route

Not included:

Lunch and dinner
Beverages with lunch and dinner
Transfers to and from the first hotel

An extension of the stay in Verona during the famous horse fair FieraCavalli ist possible; ask for details.