

Tour de Europe 2020

Heidelberg to Milan

Pre start – Saturday 20th June—Layday Heidelberg (Ge)

Heidelberg is one of Germany's premier attractions. Located in the valley of the Neckar River, it is dominated by the 14th Century Castle. The old part of town (Altstadt) is home to Hauptstrasse, one of Germany's longest shopping malls at 1 km. Massive amounts of various eating facilities are located here. Close behind is the access to the castle via funicular railway, while an extension is the original wooden funicular to the viewing platform at the top of Königstuhl mountain.



Day 1 – Sunday 21st June—Heidelberg to Fussen – 332 Kms

Today we spend most of the day on the Romantic Road. This road goes from North of Nuremberg into the very South of Bavaria, ending at the 'Disneyland' castle at *Neuschwanstein*. This castle was built by 'Mad' Prince Ludwig in the 1860's and was reportedly the basis for the Disneyland castle in Anaheim, Los Angeles. Along the way there are a number of recommended visits. Both Porsche and Mercedes have museums at their plants in Stuttgart.

Day 2 – Monday 22nd June—Fussen Layday

Today is a day to explore the castle. A bus can be taken from near our hotel in *Fussen* which will take you to the foot of the castle driveway. From there you can walk or take a horse drawn carriage. The irony of the castle is that Prince Ludwig was lynched by his own subjects for wasting taxpayers money on the castle, yet later it turned out that he had used his own money.

Day 3 – Tuesday 23rd June—Fussen to Montreux – 488 Kms

We leave *Neuschwanstein* to head into Switzerland. Today is a day of driving and magnificent scenery. A good day to get going early and enjoy the many attractions on offer. First off is the Klausen pass, one of the famous driving roads in Europe. At the end of it is the small town of *Altdorf*, home to William Tell of the crossbow and apple. After *Altdorf* we take the Susten Pass, again with some magnificent scenery. Next on the list is *Interlaken*, where you can take a paddlewheel steamer on the Brienersee (about 1½ hours return from *Bonigen*) or a joy-flight over the Jungfrau. Our day ends at *Montreux*.



Day 4 – Wednesday 24th June—Montreux Layday

Montreux is a great place for a layday. From the Casino, Freddie Mercury Statue, Chateau Chillon (famous for 'The Man in the Iron Mask'), Rochers de Naye Rack Railway & a paddle steamer on Lake Geneva, there is a lot to do.

Day 5 – Thursday 25th July—Montreux to Valance – 295 Kms

We leave *Montreux* and circle around Lake Geneva before crossing into France. We pass *Chamberey* (worth a quick visit) where the liquor Chartreuse is made. Next is *Grenoble*, gateway to the Alps and a constant on the Tour de

France as well as the Monte Carlo Rally. After *Grenoble*, we travel through the Vercours Plateau with a highlight of the Gorges du Bourne. Our overnight stop is at the town of *Valence* in the Northern Rhone Valley wine area.

Day 6 – Friday 26th June—Valence to Millau – 260 kms

After leaving *Valence* we enter Provence towards the Massif Central. Some great driving roads through the Ardeche and the Chevennes National Park before reaching the Gorges du Tarn. We follow the D996 along the Tarn river until we turn onto the E75 and head towards *Millau*. Just before *Millau* is the fantastic new bridge that crosses the Tarn river gorge. Designed by English architect Norman Foster, it is the tallest bridge in the world and the deck is 270 metres above the ground and is 2.46 kms long.



Day 7 – Saturday 27th June—Millau to Avignon – 276 kms

We leave *Millau* and head south west towards the old town of *Carcassone*. *Carcassone* has been fortified since Roman times and is the largest medieval fortress in Europe. Masses of restaurants and shops abound within the walls. We leave *Carcassone* and next on the list is the Roman aqueduct of the Pont du Gard and the village of Remoullins. Finally we arrive in Avignon, known as ‘the

City of Popes’ due to its being the residence of the Popes during the 14th Century when they answered to the French King.



Day 8 – Sunday 28th June—Avignon Layday

Use the day to explore Avignon and the surrounding area. A special attraction is the renowned wine growing area of Chateauneuf Du Pape, 20kms north of Avignon. In addition, the month of July is the Avignon Festival of Modern Art,

so there is a lot to see.

Day 9 – Monday 29th June—Avignon to Monaco – 276 kms

We head east from Avignon towards the renowned market town of Apt. This town has a special award from the French tourist department for its market. After Apt we head into the Maritime Alps and into the spectacular scenery of the Gorges du Verdon. Our arrival at the Riviera is into Nice from where we drive on the Corniche into Monte Carlo and our hotel on the harbour.

Day 10 - Tuesday 30th June—Monaco layday

We now have a layday to explore the town of Monaco. Go to the casino and see if you can find 007 or down to the marina to check out your next superyacht.



Day 11 – Wednesday 1st July—Monaco to Pisa – 341 Kms

Today we follow the coastline from France into Italy. One of the attractions on the trip is the city of Genoa. Genoa is one of the worlds greatest maritime cities. Christopher Columbus was born here and it is the busiest port in the Mediterranean . Next is the overnight stop of Pisa, home to the famous leaning tower.

Day 12 – Thursday 2nd July—Pisa layday

The leaning tower is Italy’s most iconic

attraction. It symbolises Italy as does the Eiffel Tower for France. Interesting fact was that the white marble tower was leaning before it was completed. Other attractions in Pisa are the Square of Miracles and the Piazza dei Cavalieri.



Day 13 – Friday 3rd July—Pisa to Orvieto – 243 Kms

Leaving Pisa, we take to the back roads of Tuscany and Umbria. Winding through medieval villages and vineyards, the SR2 (State Route 2) was the main road from Rome to Florence before the A1 autoroute was built in the early 60's. It was also a main part of the Mille Miglia, a 1000 mile road race that ran from 1924 to 1957. The race was from Rome to Brescia and return. Overnight is in the town of Orvieto.

Day 14 – Saturday 4th July—Orvieto layday

Orvieto has existed from before the times of the Roman Empire. Originally built by the Etruscans, it is spectacularly placed and was valuable because it overlooked the main road north from Rome. The most renowned part of Orvieto is the Cathedral del Duomo. It contains a huge mural by Luca Signorelli, judged to be his finest work. The town was saved from demolition during WWII by a private and secret agreement between the local German and English commanders.



Day 15 – Sunday 5th July—Orvieto to Florence - 164 kms

We again take to the backroads to head north to Florence. Again we'll take to the SR2 heading north through Siena and Viterbo. North of Siena are some of the most spectacular landscapes in Italy as we approach Florence.

Day 16 – Monday 6th July—Florence Layday

Florence has a world wide reputation for the beauty of its architecture and the quality of its museums. One of these is the David Statue housed at the Accademia Museum. A fine example of architecture is the Ponte Vecchia, dating from c. 1345. The Uffizi Gallery also housed works by Botticelli and Da Vinci. The Hop-on, Hop-off bus can take you to all these places within the pedestrian zone.

Day 17 – Tuesday 7th July—Florence to Verona – 241 Kms

We keep heading north through the cities of Bologna and Modena. Modena is famous for its associations with the motoring industry, Ferrari and Maserati having factories in the area. Ferrari also has a museum close to the Maranello factory. An interesting fact is that the town of Bologna has recently disavowed inventing Bolognese Sauce.



Day 18 – Wednesday 8th July—Verona Layday

Verona was taken over by the Roman Empire in the First Century BC and many Roman-era ruins have been preserved, notably the Arena (which is in the same style as Rome's Colosseum). Most of the historical sights, however, date from the past 800 years. The famous Juliet's house is not actually historically correct and the balcony was added in 1936. Another worthwhile attraction is Castelvechio, dating from the



14th century.

Day 19 – Thursday 9th July—Verona to Milan – 169 kms

Our last day on the road takes us to Milan. Close to the shores of Lake Como, Milan has long had associations with tourism. Lake Como is also the third largest lake in Italy with many a magnificent landscape view.

Day 20—Friday 10th July—Milan Layday

Milan is associated with women's fashions around the world and fashion parades are held regularly. The shopping centre at Piazza del Duomo is the cultural centre of the city and has stores with massive amounts of top brands. The Piazza also gives access to the Doges palace and the restaurants of Via Dante. Our final night dinner will be held tonight.



Web: www.tourdeurope.com.au

E-mail: info@tourdeurope.com.au

