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DEAR SUBSCRIBER

August 30, 1995

The Old Philosopher

It's been a good summer for *Gemütlichkeit*. Since April, our direct mail advertising campaign has increased readership by nearly 30%. That means a substantial number of you are new to *Gemütlichkeit*. Many thanks and welcome.

I hope our veteran readers, a surprising number of which have been with us throughout the nine years of our existence, will forebear while I use this space to rattle on about our "philosophy."

Newsletters in general, and travel newsletters specifically, are a special breed. Unlike generic, broad-based publications such as *Travel & Leisure* or *Condé Nast Traveler*, they occupy a tiny niche and, compared to them, have a relatively small subscriber list. Because of that, they cost more. The excellent *Hideaway Report* is \$100 per year, *La Belle France* is \$85 and *The Italian Traveler* is \$55.

You probably subscribed because of a special interest in travel to the part of Europe we cover. And, like the majority of your fellow subscribers, you're probably an avid traveler who starts thinking about your next trip the day after you get home from the last one. We attract readers with those qualifications. Armchair travelers who take 10 minutes to flip through a travel magazine, stopping here and there to daydream over the inviting photographs, are often not satisfied with our bare bones, newsletter format. Our pages contain a minimum of syrupy "travel writing" and only an occasional photograph, never in color. What you will find, however, is firsthand, hard travel information about the part of the world we cover. The fact is, we are unique. Nobody

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GEMÜTLICHKEIT

The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria, Switzerland & the New Europe

THE GRAND TOUR Part 1

This first in our "Grand Tour" series wraps a meandering auto journey to small towns and country hotels around a three-night stay in Munich.

A "Grand Tour" is a concept we've been discussing at *Gemütlichkeit*

headquarters for some time. The idea was to design a three-week trip that would hit the high spots of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. It would start in Geneva and, after zig-zagging its way through the three countries, wind up in Berlin or Hamburg.

By Bob Bestor

It quickly became apparent, however, that such a journey would not only be physically impossi-

ble in the proposed time frame but would be counter to our philosophy of unhurried, unstructured travel.

Another negative was the three weeks. Most people are unable to get away from jobs and family responsibilities for that long. Two weeks is far more practical.

So we've retooled our idea and settled on a plan to publish a series of suggested 14-day "open jaw" (start in one city, end in another) tours that will take in many of *Gemütlichkeit's*

favorite cities, towns, villages, sights, hotels, restaurants and backroads.

This month is the first segment; the Grand Tour, Part 1. It begins in Zürich and ends in Frankfurt. *Gemütlichkeit* subscribers can fly to Zürich and return home from Frankfurt on **Swissair** using the special reduced fares available to them.

For the most part, we have suggested moderately priced hotels. For other lodging options we refer you to past issues of *Gemütlichkeit*, the appropriate *Michelin Red Guide* or to the tourist offices of the various towns.

There are also suggestions for things to see along the way. These are simply our personal favorites. For a comprehensive listing of sights consult the *Michelin Green Guides* for Switzerland and Germany.

The itinerary is rather detailed and you will no doubt wish to make adjustments to suit your own travel style. It can be followed as slavishly or as loosely as one pleases.

DAY ONE Wald-Schönengrund

Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Switzerland #1*

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EUROPE TRAVEL BRIEFING

Winter Air Fares

DER Tours has announced shoulder and low season air fares from most major U.S. cities to most major European cities. Sample fares:

	Frankfurt		London	
	SHD	LOW	SHD	LOW
Atlanta	559	448	504	426
Boston	525	414	426	354
Chicago	572	461	538	438
Dallas	605	494	538	482
Denver	639	528	604	482
Honolulu	970	842	871	793
Los Angeles	672	561	571	504
Miami	572	508	549	443
New York	525	414	438	349
San Francisco	672	561	571	504
Seattle	672	561	560	504
Washington	545	434	515	426

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DEAR SUBSCRIBER

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else does what we do.

Gemütlichkeit is a "how-to" reference for independent travelers. Note the emphasis on independent. If a **Globus** motorcoach tour of major European cities is in your future, this newsletter will be of little interest.

Reader surveys tell us the typical *Gemütlichkeit* subscriber travels to Europe with a spouse. Once there, most travel by automobile, a few by rail. Small, family-run hotels with traditional "old-world" charm are the lodgings of choice, as are simple, non-touristy restaurants frequented by locals and serving meals typical of the region.

At *Gemütlichkeit*, we view a European vacation as a getaway, a hideout, a respite from the pressures of jobs and everyday life; an interlude without schedules or ringing telephones. Our idea of travel is antithetical to a rigidly constructed minute-by-minute travel script.

Once upon a time, when I had a high-profile, high-pressure job, Liz and I took a spur-of-the-moment trip to Germany. Our total trip preparations consisted of purchasing plane tickets, reserving a rental car and tossing *Michelin Red Guides*, *Michelin Green Guides* and our collection of 1:200,000 scale *Die General Karten* (maps) into a suitcase. Only when we pulled off the road at a traffic roundabout leaving the Frankfurt Airport did we decide whether we would head north, south, east or west. Though this is a rather extreme example — even the most footloose traveler needs at least a skeletal trip outline — you get the idea. If, like *Playboy*, *Gemütlichkeit* has a philosophy, this is it: few reservations, no set-in-stone itinerary and the flexibility to allow extra time to enjoy unexpected discoveries along the way. Reservations, unfortunately, are often necessary, particularly in major cities and busy tourist destinations like Salzburg and Rothenburg o. d. Tauber.

For us, an ideal day in Europe involves an easy drive over backroads, stopping here and there for

a beer or a walk around a small village. In Switzerland and Germany, we use the *Michelin Red Guide* to locate lodgings for the night. When Michelin, through its use of symbols and red markings, makes our chosen hotel seem particularly inviting, we might call ahead around two or three o'clock for a reservation. If the hotel is booked we refer back to the guide. Sometimes we even have to change our destination town, but that is rarely a significant inconvenience. For hotels in Austria, a country for which there is no *Michelin Red Guide*, we use tourist office publications, the advice of the previous night's hotelier or perhaps a generic guidebook like Frommer's or Fodor's. We like to arrive at the hotel no later than four o'clock, then explore the town and decide where to have dinner. If the hotel's restaurant has a good reputation we might reserve a table upon check-in. At dinner we begin to discuss our alternatives for the next day which, if the hotel or the area is particularly attractive, might include staying right where we are. Otherwise the whole process starts all over again.

Based on the last two paragraphs, one might reasonably conclude we disdain trip planning. Not so. Poring over maps, reading guidebooks, rounding up free brochures from the various tourist offices, making rental car or rail arrangements, and performing all the other research chores attendant to a European vacation is an immensely enjoyable part of the journey. One of our major jobs is to help you plan your next trip.

For the most part we leave the descriptions and history of Europe's great buildings and works of art to others. Our account of which are the most important treasures in Vienna's **Hofberg**, for example, would be born of ignorance and a waste of time. We'll leave that to the scholars and such respected guidebooks as the *Blue Guides* and *Michelin's Green Guides*. That's not to say we'll never mention the Hofberg. We've written that we were wowed by its *Schatzkammer* (Imperial Treasury) and *Gemütlichkeit* also kept subscribers informed about the progress of repairs when the palace was closed following a fire in 1992.

What *Gemütlichkeit* does provide is up-to-date

advice — with a viewpoint — on travel to Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the "New Europe."

Bargains Ahead?


Mercifully, the dollar has strengthened this month to about 1.47 DM and 1.22 Sfr. But not soon enough, apparently, to save the tourist season in Switzerland. In an Associated Press story, Lorenz Schläfli of the Swiss Hotel Association characterizes the summer of 1995 as "catastrophic." In 1994, according to the AP, the number of Americans staying at Swiss hotels was fewer than 850,000, compared to 1.5 million in 1985, and hotels are disappearing at the rate of about 100 per year. Even at 1.22 Sfr. to the dollar, things are still pretty pricey in the country that many think is Europe's best. But empty hotel rooms, like empty airplane seats, spawn price cuts. There will be some good deals in the months ahead.

Wrapping Up

Longtime subscriber Bob Gillespie corrects our April 1995 issue as follows: "**Foies gras** - don't you mean *Fois gras* - no plural?, **ex-patriot** - don't you mean expatriate - perhaps he really is an expatriot in which case I don't want to meet him; and **MISTEAK**, don't you mean mistake?"

I'm blaming everything on PageMaker's sorry spellchecker. My Barron's *Food Lover's Companion* spells it *Fois gras* but M. Ravet's menu, from whence it came, says *Foies gras* — in several places. Ex-patriot, of course, should have been expatriate since the fellow in question still supports his country and is not a former member of the New England pro football aggregation. The MISTEAK headline over a paragraph acknowledging another of our corrigendums (what can I say?, good thesaurus, bad spellchecker) was a puny attempt at humor.

Several of you wrote and called to correct last month's gaffe in our Heidelberg story where we said Danube when we meant Rhine.

And, finally, note that among the attractions at this year's Oktoberfest are an "earthquake" and 47 shooting galleries. We Californians will feel right at home. 

Vol. 9, No. 8
August, 1995

GEMÜTLICHKEIT

The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria, Switzerland & the New Europe

Editor & Publisher: Robert H. Bestor, Jr.
Associate Editors: Elizabeth Schiller, Bruce Woelfel
Contributing Editors: C. Fischer, R. Holliday
Design & Composition: Paul T. Merschorf
Consulting Editor: Thomas P. Bestor
Subscription Dept: Andy Bestor, K. Steffans

Gemütlichkeit (ISSN 10431756) is published monthly by UpCountry Publishing, 2892 Chronicle Avenue, Hayward, CA 94542. TOLL FREE: 1-800/521-6722 or 510/538-0628. FAX: 510/582-8296. Subscriptions are \$67 per year for 12 issues. While every effort is made to provide correct information in this publication, the publishers can make no guarantees regarding accuracy. Second-class postage paid in Hayward, CA.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

Gemütlichkeit, 2892 Chronicle Ave., Hayward, CA 94542

HOTEL RESTAURANT RATING KEY

Rating Category	Scale	Hotel Rating Criteria	
Unacceptable	0 - 3	People/Service	30%
Adequate	4 - 7	Location/Setting	15%
Average	8 - 11	Guestrooms	30%
Above Average	12 - 15	Public rooms	5%
Excellent	16 - 20	Facilities/Restaurant	20%

Special Designations

G By virtue of location, decor, special charm, warmth of management, or combination thereof, an especially pleasant establishment.

\$ Offers significant value.

Restaurant Criteria

Food 65%
Service 20%
Atmosphere 15%

GRAND TOUR, Part 1

Continued from page 1

Activities: First stop after the long flight is a quiet hotel in the country approximately an hour's drive from the Zürich airport: the **Hotel Chäseren** in Wald-Schönengrund (map coordinates D-16), about 20 km southwest of St. Gallen.

Have dinner in the hotel's very good restaurant, perhaps starting with a bowl of *Appenzeller Käsesuppe*, a rich cheese soup, and get a good night's sleep.

Directions: From Kloten Airport follow the N1 Autobahn signs toward Winterthur and St. Gallen. Go about 40 km to the Wil exit and turn south on Red Road #16. In approximately 15 km turn left at Lichtensteig and proceed east on Red Road #8. Wald is approximately another 15 km. If you have come to Schönengrund, you have gone too far. The Chäseren is on the left above the road. The sign to it is very small. Drive up the hill through the pasture.

DAY TWO Appenzell

Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Switzerland #1*

Activities: Proceed to Appenzell by way of the village of Stein (map coord. C-17), stopping at the **Appenzeller Volkskunde Museum** to see Appenzell cheese being made the old way, over an open fire, and then go next door to the **Schaukäserei** (cheese factory) where the same process is done by modern methods. In Appenzell, we recommend any of the listed hotels (see page five), though the **Hotel Kaubad** is

located about 4 km southwest of the town.

Directions: Upon leaving the Chäseren, turn left and drive north-east about 6 km, and then onto the Yellow Road through Hundwil and to Stein; about another five km. After seeing the sights of Stein, go back the way you came about 2 km, then turn left to Appenzell, about seven km.

DAY THREE Appenzell

Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Switzerland #1*

Activities: Explore the town in the morning and then take the afternoon for an excursion to the **Säntis**, the region's highest peak (8,207 feet) and accessible via cable car. Drive west to Urnäsch and then south to the cable car station, a total of about 18 km.

GRAND TOUR

Schedule of Overnights

Day	Town
1	Wald-Schönengrund
2	Appenzell
3	Appenzell
4	Garmisch-Partenkirchen
5	Garmisch-Partenkirchen
6	Munich
7	Munich
8	Munich
9	Hohenau
10	Bamberg
11	Bamberg
12	Muggendorf
13	Marktheidenfeld

surprisingly interesting **Textile Museum** and the glorious **Library** of the Benedictine abbey.

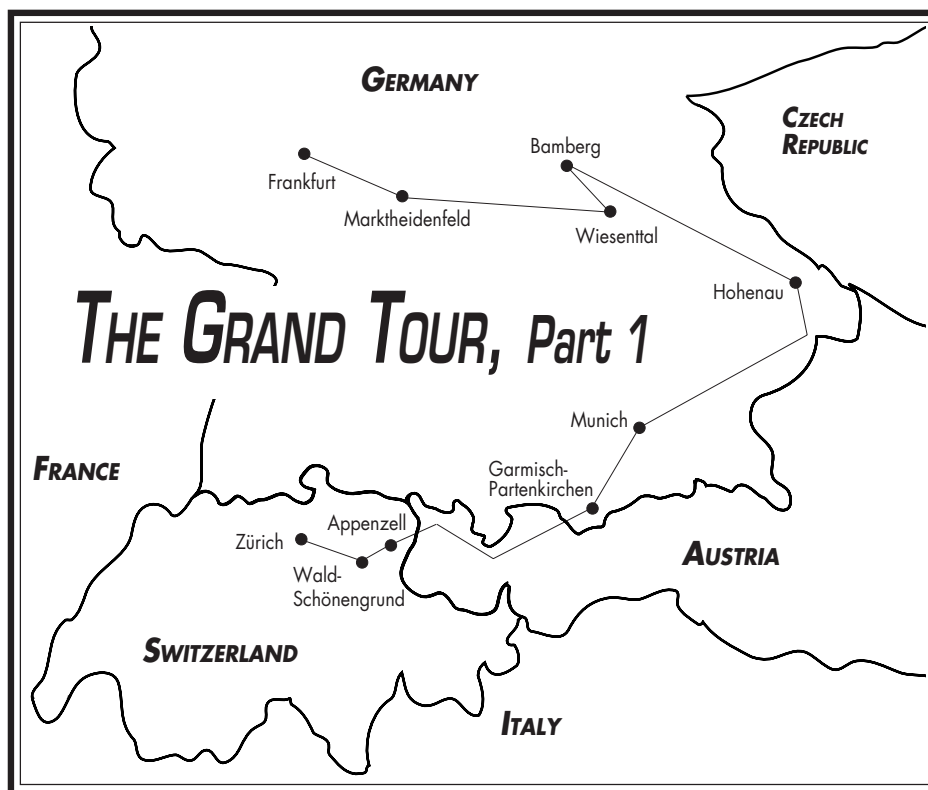
In Garmisch-Partenkirchen, we

especially recommend the cozy **Gasthof Fraundorfer** on the Partenkirchen side of town. Have dinner at the restaurant and enjoy the live music.

Directions: Drive the Red Road through Gais and Teufen into St. Gallen. After stopping there to see the town, we suggest taking **Auto-bahn N1** east toward **Bregenz**.

Follow the highway as it turns south and then exit at Lustenau (map coord. 52.5-5.5) in Austria and proceed east to Dornbirn on Red Road #208. From there take the Yellow Road east to Schwarzenberg and then south, joining Red Road #200, through Schröchen (map coord. 53.4-5.8). At Warth, join Red Road #198 through

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DAY FOUR Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Switzerland #1, Die Generalkarte Germany #25.*

Activities: Today's drive is a fairly long one, more than 150 km, and over some busy roads. But that still leaves enough time to stop, if you wish, in **St. Gallen** to see the old town, the

GRAND TOUR

Continued from page 3

Holzgau and Reutte (map coord. 52.6-6.3). At Reutte take Red Road #314 southeast for about 16 km toward Lermoos and then north on Red Road #187 across the border into Garmisch-Partenkirchen (map coord. 52.6-6.6).

DAY FIVE Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Germany #25*.

Activities: There is much to see in this region. On a clear day we recommend a ride to the top of the **Zugspitze**, Germany's highest mountain. Other attractive alternatives are visits to **Linderhof Castle** (map coord. 52.7-6.5); the village of Oberammergau, made famous by the **Passion Play** it puts on every 10 years (next performance AD 2000); and the **Wieskirche** (map coord. 52.8-6.4), a fabulous rococo church built in a meadow. These are immensely popular tourist attractions best visited during the low season.

Those who enjoy a walk in the forest should find their way to the **Graseck Cable Car** station at the end of Wildenauer Strasse, past the old **Olympic Ski Stadium**. Ride the cable car to the **Forsthaus Graseck** hotel and then take the footpath down which leads into the steep, narrow **Partnachklamm** gorge through which a fast river thunders and crashes. The path is directly along the torrent and one is likely to get a little wet. Once through the gorge it is only a short distance back to the lower cable car station where you started.

For other important sights in the region consult the *Michelin Green Guide for Germany*.

For dinner, the town's best restaurant is **Reindl's Partenkirchner Hof** at Bahnhofstrasse 15, phone 08821/580 25.

DAY SIX Munich

Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Germany #25 & #26*.

Activities: There is a choice of routes to Munich; either get on the Autobahn and be there in about an hour, or select our preferred scenic route over backroads which takes you

to Mittenwald, a quaint Bavarian village where fine violins are made.

Directions: From Garmisch-Partenkirchen head straight east on Red Road #2, then at Klais take the more scenic Yellow Road south into Mittenwald (map coord. 52.6-6.7). It's only about 20 km. After you've strolled the town, marveled at the painted houses, visited the **Violin Museum** and perhaps had lunch at the **Post Hotel** (Obermarkt 9) in the center of town, climb back in the car and head straight north on Red Road #2. The highway soon joins Red Road #11. Just after the town of Wallgau turn right on the yellow toll road that runs east for 14 kilometers before joining the **German Alpine Road** which continues along the

Yes, it's raucous and full of tourists but you should have one beer one time at the Hofbräuhaus. It was here that Hitler was acclaimed first chairman of the Nazi party.

south shore of the **Sylvenstein Stausee** (a reservoir, map coord. 52.7-6.9), then crosses it and joins Red Road #13. Continue east, now along the north shore. Soon the German Alpine Road turns left and north onto Red Road #307. You are now on map #26. Stay on #307, skirting the east shore of the **Tegernsee** (map coord. 52.9-7.1). At the top of the lake, join Red Road #318, which in a little over 20 km intersects Autobahn #8 into Munich.

DAYS SEVEN & EIGHT Munich

Suggested Map(s): *ADAC Stadtplan Munich*

Activities: This two-day itinerary allows enough time to see only a few of Munich's many attractions. Some of our favorites:

- **Deutsches Museum.** Terrific science and technology museum, considered one of the most important in the world. Allow at least half a day.

- **Nymphenberg Palace** and grounds. Don't miss the **Carriage Museum**, which displays at least one ornate coach of Ludwig II.

- **Botanical Gardens.** The tropical greenhouses are a different world.

- Take a walk through the **Englischer Garten**, pausing for refreshment in the open-air beer garden at the **Chinesischer Turm** (Chinese Tower).

- **Hofbräuhaus.** Yes, it's raucous and full of tourists but you should have one beer one time. It was here that Hitler was acclaimed first chairman of the Nazi party.

- **Asam Church.** Also known as Church of St. John of Nepomuk.

- Excursion to **Andechs** to sample this Benedictine abbey's great beer.

- Replenish your reading materials, maps and travel books at **Hugendubl** at Marienplatz 22.

- Purchase stylish, high-quality, high-priced traditional Bavarian lodenwear at **Frankonia Jagd**, Maximiliansplatz 10.

- Buy top-quality eiderdown comforters at one of the **Betten Rid** stores.

The best brewery restaurants are the **Augustiner Gastätten** at Neuhäuser Strasse 14 and **Spatenhaus** at Residenzstrasse 12. To step up to a more refined cuisine (and higher prices) try **Zum Bürgerhaus** at Pettenkofferstr. 1 or **Halali** at Schönfelderstrasse 22.

DAY NINE Hohenau

Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Germany #23 & #20*.

Activities: Today the drive is to the **Bavarian Forest** and an overnight at the charming **Romantik-Hotel Bierhütte** in Bierhütte, a wide spot in the road near Hohenau, a wider spot in the road. Reserve a table for dinner in the hotel's excellent restaurant.

Our route will take you through **Passau**, an interesting town of narrow streets set on the slender peninsula where the rivers Inn and Danube are joined. After exploring the old town, walk east along the Danube prome-

nade, where many passenger boats dock, to land's end where the rivers come together.

Directions: Leave Munich via Autobahn #92, proceeding northeast toward Deggendorf (map coord 54.1-3.5). In about 140 km the highway intersects Autobahn #3, where you turn southeast. At the Hengersberg exit (#111, map coord. 54.0-3.5) leave the Autobahn and follow the Red Road that runs along the north-west shore of the Danube into Passau.

When finished with your tour of the town, take Red Road #85, the **Bayerische Ostmarkstrasse**, straight north toward Schönberg. In about 30 km, just before Schönberg, turn right onto Red Road #12 in the direction of Grafenau (map coord. 54.1-3.8), then past Hohenau and on to Bierhütte (map coord. 54.1-3.9). The hotel is beside the road.

DAY TEN Bamberg
Suggested Map(s):
Die Generalkarte Germany #20 & #17

Activities: This will be the longest day in the car. The distance is about 200 miles. The longer, country route is to continue north on the **Bayerische Ostmarkstrasse**, all the way to Bayreuth where music lovers will enjoy a stop at Villa Wahnfried, the house where **Richard Wagner** lived the last 12 years of his life. Wagner and his wife, Cosima, the daughter of Franz Liszt, are buried behind the house. Anyone who enjoys Wagner at all will find it a moving experience to hear a recording of his music while

looking out upon his grave from the very room where he composed it.

Those tired of country driving, or who are anxious for all that awaits in Bamberg, can get there rather quickly via Autobahn (see below) past Regensburg and Nürnberg. This routing would allow a lunch stopover and

Directions: Leaving the hotel, return to Red Road #85 and drive north through Regen and into Cham. Those who don't mind taking all day to get to Bamberg, will be rewarded with some lovely views by detouring north at Regen, taking the scenic Yellow Road to Bodenmais (map coord 53.9-3.6), and from there

around behind the Grosser Arber, very near the Czech border, past Lam and Kötzing before returning to Red Road #85.

From Cham, take Red Road #22 — still the **Bayerische Ostmarkstrasse**, — through Rötzing and Weiden (map coord. 55.1-3.0), now on map #17. Stay on the same road into Bayreuth and then on to Bamberg. If you plan to visit the Wagner Museum at Bayreuth, allow a full day for this route.

Those who decide on the quicker route should go south from Red Road #85 at Regen via the Yellow Road to Deggendorf. From there it is a direct run of about two hours on the Autobahn into Bamberg, depending on traffic and the weight of your right foot.

DAY ELEVEN Bamberg

Activities: This is one of Germany's most beautiful towns. See it at twilight when the illumination of the buildings and statuary is just beginning to take effect. Magical. Up the hill from the river which so beautifully bisects the town, is the **Domplatz**

comprised of buildings representing 800 years of European architecture: Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. In the **Cathedral** are no less than seven pieces of what Michelin calls "masterpieces of German Gothic sculpture."

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SUGGESTED GRAND TOUR HOTELS

Hotel Chäseren, CH-9105 Wald-Schönengrund, Switzerland, phone 071/57 17 51, fax 071/57 17 59, singles 110 to 135 Sfr. (\$90-\$111), doubles 180 to 230 Sfr. (\$148-\$188). Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE: 13/20

Romantik-Hotel Säntis, Landsgemeindeplatz, CH-9050 Appenzell, Switzerland, phone 071/87 87 22, fax 071/87 48 42, singles 110 to 150 Sfr. (\$91-\$123), doubles 180 to 260 Sfr. (\$148-\$213). Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE: 15/20

Hotel Hecht, Hauptgasse 9, CH-9050 Appenzell, Switzerland, phone 071/87 10 26, fax 071/87 10 47, singles 95 to 130 Sfr. (\$78-\$107), doubles 150 to 200 Sfr. (\$123-\$164) Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE: 14/20 G

Hotel Kaubad, CH-9050 Appenzell, Switzerland, phone 071/87 48 44, fax 071/87 15 53, singles 85 to 95 Sfr. (\$58-\$65), doubles 130 to 160 Sfr. (\$107-\$131). Rating: AVERAGE 10/20

Gasthof Fraundorfer, Ludwigstrasse 24, D-82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, phone 08821/2176, fax 08821/701073, singles 60 to 95 DM (\$41-\$65), doubles 120 to 180 DM (\$82-\$122). Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE 13/20 G

Hotel Exquisit, Pettenkoflerstrasse 3, D-80336 Munich, Germany, phone 089/55 19 900, fax 089/55 19 94 99, singles 195 DM (\$133), doubles 280 DM (\$190). Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE 14/20

Hotel Adria, Liebigstrasse 8a, D-80538 Munich, Germany, phone 089/29 30 81, fax 089/22 70 15, singles 120 to 160 DM (\$82-\$109), doubles 170 to 210 DM (\$116-\$143). Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE 13/20 \$

Hotel Kraft, Schillerstrasse 49, D-80336 Munich 2, Germany, phone 089/59 48 23, fax 089/55 50 38 56, singles 145 to 175 DM (\$99-\$119), doubles 175 to 215 DM (\$119 to \$146). Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE 13/20 \$

Romantik Hotel Bierhütte, D-94545 Hohenau, Germany, phone 08558/3 15, fax 08558/23 87, singles 99 to 130 DM (\$67-\$88), doubles 150 to 210 DM (\$102-\$143). Rating: EXCELLENT: 16/20 G \$

Hotel Gasthof Wilde Rose, Kesslerstrasse 7, Bamberg D-96047, phone 0951/2 83 17, fax 0951/22 07 1, singles 90 DM (\$61), doubles 150 DM (\$102). Rating: AVERAGE 10/20

Hotel-Rest. St. Nepomuk, Obere Mühlbrücke 9, Bamberg D-96049, phone 0951/2 51 83, fax 0951/2 66 51, singles 130 to 175 (\$88-\$119), doubles 180 to 240 (\$122-\$163). Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE 15/20

Hotel Feiler, Oberer Markt 4 D-91346 Wiesenttal, Germany, phone 09196/9 29 50, fax 09196/362, singles 120 to 180 DM (\$82-\$122), doubles 180 to 230 DM (\$122-\$156). Rating: ABOVE AVERAGE 14/20 G

Hotel Anker, Obertorstrasse 6, D-97828 Marktheidenfeld, Germany, phone 09391/600 40, fax 0939/600 477, singles 98 to 140 DM (\$67-\$95), doubles 160 to 295 DM (\$109-\$201). Rating: EXCELLENT 16/20 G

time for a stroll around either town. Regensburg is much less well-known and visited than Nürnberg, but boasts one of Europe's best-preserved old towns, entirely undamaged by World War II.

GRAND TOUR

Continued from page 5

This is a town of 10 breweries, most notable of them being **Brauerei Schlenkerla** where the famous **Rauchbier** (smoky beer) is poured directly from small, dark barrels. Don't miss it.

DAY TWELVE Wiesental-Muggendorf
Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Germany #17*

Activities: The next stop is a drive of only 38 km, giving you time to further explore Bamberg this morning.

Main attractions this day are the drive over some unusual terrain and the charming, though rather eccentric, **Hotel Feiler**. Don't fail to dine in the hotel's outstanding restaurant which has been awarded a Michelin star and, if you are there in the right season, be sure to order one of the dishes featuring the several varieties of wild mushrooms handpicked in the forest nearby. Exquisite.

Directions: Leaving Bamberg, we recommend retracing your steps on Red Road #22 toward Bayreuth but turning right and south onto the scenic Yellow Road at Hollfeld. Pass through Waischenfeld (map coord. 55.2-6.7) and then intersect Red Road #470. Turn left and go through **Tüchersfeld**, a town with an extraordinary setting. Vertical rock pillars seem to grow straight up out of the town. Next is **Pottenstein**, where old buildings perch precariously on outcroppings of rock which overhang the town at a height of 100-200 feet. Then comes **Teufelshöhe**, a series of caves whose entrance is 40 or 50 feet above the roadway on your right. The guided tour takes about 45 minutes and requires warm clothing. At some point, you must turn around and go back the way you came. Stay on the Red Road, however, until you reach Muggendorf (map coord. 55.2-6.6) and the Hotel Feiler.

DAY THIRTEEN Markttheidenfeld
Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Germany #17 & #16*

Activities: Today is a pleasant drive past **Franconian vineyards** and farm country, through several interesting towns, finally ending up at a truly

excellent hotel, the **Anker** in Markttheidenfeld. The total distance is about 170 km (106 miles).

One of the suggested stops is **Iphofen**, a village of several very good restaurants, the best of which is **Zur Iphöfer Kammer** (Marktplatz 24, phone 09323/69 07). Another possibility is the **Romantik-Hotel Zehntkeller** (Bahnhofstrasse 12, phone 09323/3062, fax 09323/15 19). Much less expensive is the **Goldene Krone** (Marktplatz 2, phone 09323/33 30, fax 09323/63 41).

In **Marktbreit** you'll find several Renaissance buildings dating from the late 16th century and **Ochsenfurt** is a walled town whose **Rathaus** features a clock with mechanical figures that come to life when the clock strikes the hour. The stretch of road between these two towns is part of the Franconian wine route, the **Bocksbeutel Strasse**.

A ruined castle overlooks the town of **Wertheim**, where the Tauber and Main rivers meet.

Directions: Follow Red Road #470 west through Forcheim and on to Neustadt (map coord. 54/9-6.2). From there take Red Road #8 northwest. Soon you will be on map #16. Leave the main road, turning right into Iphofen. After lunch, follow the Yellow Road south through Willanzheim to Marktbreit (map coord. 55.-5.8). Then follow the Red Road west along the Main river to Ochsenfurt. * Next, take the Yellow Road southwest toward Grünsfeld (map coord. 55.0-5.5) passing through Unterwitthausen, finally connecting with Red Road #290. Take it north along the Tauber river to Wertheim, where it joins the Main. Then follow the Main to Markttheidenfeld.

* Those who wish to see **Würzburg** can choose that option by heading northwest from Ochsenfurt over the **Bocksbeutel Strasse** through the walled town of **Sommerhausen**.

DAY FOURTEEN Getaway Day
Suggested Map(s): *Die Generalkarte Germany #16 & #13*

Drive to the Frankfurt Airport via Autobahn route #3. It's about 86 km or 54 miles. Allow at least an hour.

READERS' FORUM

Austria, Germany Recommendations

I am in the process of planning my second trip to Europe in the last three years, and I wanted to pass on a few comments based on my 1993 trip.

I found your newsletter to be an invaluable source of information about Germany, Switzerland and Austria. I used your recommendations quite often planning my trip, and was never disappointed.

In particular, I found the **Hotel-Pension Heim** and the **Gasthof Hirsch**, both in Seeg, Germany, to be charming places and remarkable bargains. At the Hirsch we enjoyed not only good food and service, but also the company of friendly German travelers. The location of the Heim is lovely; I especially enjoyed the sound of cow bells in the morning from the meadow behind the inn. The quiet village of Seeg is a welcome relief from the tourist bustle of Füssen. Your recommendation of both these establishments is well deserved.

I found a couple of nice places through other sources I would recommend. In Munich we stayed at the **Hotel Uhland**, on Uhland Strasse, near the Theresienwiese, which would make it an ideal location for Oktoberfest, although we were there in the summer. It's a bit far from Marienplatz, but a subway station is within two blocks of the hotel, and we were easily able to walk there and back, even late at night. The hotel is moderately priced and very pleasant. It was nicely decorated with flowers outside, and there was on-site parking and a good breakfast. No one should go to Munich without seeing the **Deutsches Museum** (science and industry)!

We also found a lovely, small country inn 10 km outside of Salzburg: the **Gasthof Schön**, Fürstenbrunnerstrasse 50, in Fürstenbrunn, Austria. It's located in a quiet,

rural village and the view from our room was splendid. The room was quite inexpensive, and included a great breakfast. It is convenient to Salzburg, Hallein, and Berchtesgaden, all of which we visited. The tour of the salt mine in Hallein was certainly memorable. We had an excellent and inexpensive meal at the **Restaurant Schorn** in nearby St. Leonhard, a beautiful facility with a very pleasant outdoor cafe. No English was spoken at either the Schön or the Schorn, but we got by on my high school German. The mine tour was in German, but at major points there are recorded explanations in English, French and Italian. The town of Grödig, near St Leonhard, also had a number of interesting inns and restaurants.

I have relied heavily on information from *Gemütlichkeit* in planning our upcoming trip to Rothenburg, Heidelberg, the Rhine Valley, the Black Forest, Lugano, Zermatt and Montreux. Thanks again for all the help. I also enjoy reading about places I will not be able to visit in the near future.

Dan Matyola, Somerville, NJ

(Ed. Note: *Gemütlichkeit* gave the **Hotel Uhland** a favorable review in the January, 1992 issue.)

Air-Conditioning?

Your description of mid-priced hotels in Zürich in the February 1995 issue says nothing about air conditioning. I assume that none of these hotels have air conditioning. I, for one, will not stay at a non-air conditioned hotel (even in Switzerland).

I think it is deceptive to refrain from advising Americans when a hotel is NOT air conditioned. Americans expect air conditioning and should be warned when a hotel does not have it, regardless of local custom.

Dennis A. Bell, Chicago IL

(Ed. Note: According to the 1995 *Hotel Guide of the Swiss Hotel Association*, none of the hotels reviewed in February have air-conditioning in all rooms. The *Michelin Red Guide* indicates at least some rooms in the **Hotel Glockenhof** are air-conditioned. Even the great **Hotel**

Dolder Grand, arguably the city's finest, does not rate the "all rooms air-conditioned" symbol in the *Swiss Hotel Guide*.

Hotel air-conditioning in Germany, Austria and Switzerland is the exception rather than the rule. In general, one can expect AC in four and five-star hotels in major cities, though it is not one of the criteria by which the SHA awards its stars.

The general lack of air-conditioned hotel rooms is attributable to three factors: first, Europeans generally prefer their automobiles and hotel rooms without air-conditioning; second, many hotels were constructed before air-conditioning; and, finally, hot, muggy days are not nearly as common in Europe as in the U.S.

As to our failure to mention the presence or lack of air-conditioning, why don't we call it an "omission" rather than a deception?)

Happy Customer

The July 1995 issue of *Gemütlichkeit* was packed with useful and interesting information. I read the letter from cover to cover without an interruption.

The feature on Heidelberg whet our appetite and we will revisit this university city on our next trip — November 1995. Uncle John's report on Praha has assisted us in making the decision to visit the Czech Republic.

The lodging referrals in Dear Subscriber and Readers' Forum are helpful in planning future trips to *Gemütlichkeit* countries. Thanks again for an excellent July letter. Erskine Havens, Hendersonville TN

Pay Those Traffic Tickets

Referring to the article "Traffic Tickets by Mail", in the July 1995 issue of *Gemütlichkeit*, I strongly endorse your decision to pay it.

Several years ago, while living in London, I was lecturing at an institute on the outskirts of Zürich, and was in rather a hurry crossing town from the airport one late evening.

Some time later, I received a very official envelope from the Swiss Consulate containing the ticket and the photographs. These were not things of beauty, but from three angles, there was no denying my

profile. I decided to ignore it.

After some time, I entirely forgot the incident and made subsequent business visits to Switzerland.

However, one day, the passport control officer inserted my passport into the computer, and immediately decided that there were matters for needing a private conference in the inner Sanctum.

To make a long story short, it's much less expensive, and much less embarrassing, just to pay now, since I assume that the Germans have now become as *ordentlich* as the Swiss in these things!

Richard Davidson, Houston TX



EUROPE TRAVEL BRIEF

Continued from page 3

These fares do not include taxes (\$18 to \$52, depending on flights and destinations), are for midweek travel and carry other restrictions. In most cases mileage programs are credited. Shoulder season is September 16 to October 31 and low season is November 1 to March 31, 1996.

Flights are on **Air Canada, Air New Zealand, Air UK, British Airways, Delta, Iberia, LTU International, Lufthansa, Northwest/KLM, Olympic Airways, Royal Jordanian, TWA, United** and **USAir**.

Book through a travel agent or phone 800-521-6722.

Swiss Wine Train

Beginning September 24, a new "wine train" will chug its way through the vineyards of the beautiful wine-making region of Lavaux, overlooking Lake Geneva. The train will leave Vevey every hour for the eight-mile journey which will cost approximately \$8.50. Passengers will be able to disembark at stops along the way to visit wine cellars, a wine museum and other attractions. Through the end of this year, hotels in the Lavaux region are offering a one-night, 20% discount to anyone making a purchase at a local winery.

For more information contact: **Switzerland Tourism**, 222 N. Sepulveda Blvd., El Segundo CA 90245, phone 310-335-5980, fax 310-335-5982.

Continued on page 8...

TRAVEL BRIEFING

Continued from page 7

Chagall in Bern

The Bern Art Museum follows exhibitions of Paul Klee and Pablo Picasso with a showing of Marc Chagall's work. The exhibition runs December 16 through February 28, 1996.

Vacation Rental Resource

Subscriber Mary Ellen Hunter writes to us of her favorite vacation rental in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. She confirms it is cheaper to deal directly with the landlord and eliminate any middlemen.

"After an exchange of letters in English with several landlords we settled on **Landhaus Pirchner** and promptly fell in love with the place," she writes. "We stayed there three times; over Christmas in '81 for nine days, two summers later for five days and a couple of years ago in March when we ran into bad weather north of the Alps and headed for our home away from home in Garmisch knowing that if the Pirchners didn't have a vacancy they would find us a place for the last four days of our trip."

Ms Hunter laments the fact that rental brochures for individual German towns are no longer available through the **German Tourist Office**.

However...this just in!, the **German Tourist Office** has produced two excellent brochures in English for those considering a self-catering vacation in Germany and rental reservations can be made directly through the **German Hotel Reservation Service**.

Self-Catering in Germany, Summer and Winter

March '95- March '96, presents holiday villages, apartment hotels and holiday homes in 18 different regions. (Though this is by no means a complete listing, and *Gemütlichkeit* still recommends dealing, if possible, directly with the landlord, we consider this resource more direct and more reliable than the several commercial agencies in the U.S.) The booklet describes the accommodations in detail and there are color photographs, mostly of exteriors. For example, the **Haus Daniela** in Cochem on the Mosel is described as "quiet yet central, opposite the historic 'Reichburg,' 8 comfortable 2-room flats sleeping 2-4 (45 square meters), with pleasant country-style furnishings. 1 bed/sitting-room, 1 double bedroom, fully fitted kitchen, shower/WC, color TV, radio, loggia (except ground floor flat). Lift, solarium, washing machine and drier, table-tennis, children's cots, car-park, dogs welcome." One week prices for two persons range from 490 DM (\$333) to 770 DM (\$534), depending on the season. For three persons, the rate is from 588 DM (\$400) to 882 DM (\$600) and 672 DM (\$457) to 980 DM (\$667) for four persons. Stay for 14 days during the period January 7 to May 20, 1996, or October 28, 1995, to January 6, 1996, and pay for only 11 days. Thus a family of four could spend two weeks at Christmas on the Mosel for 1,056 DM (\$718). Some properties offer three days for the price of two and even two weeks for the price of one in the lowest season.

The second, and much thicker catalog, *Holidays in Germany*, covers hotels, inns and boarding houses in resort and vacation areas

offering special three and seven-day rates. Prices for these accommodations include breakfast — plus the option of other meals — and typical hotel services. The book lists hotels offering bed and breakfast for as little as 165 DM (\$112) per person for seven days. It contains color photos and descriptions of the regions and the various hotels. In Bavaria, for example, the booklet lists 34 establishments in 31 towns or villages. In Füssen, near the Royal Castles, the **Hotel Fürstenhof**, which *Gemütlichkeit* favorably reviewed in August 1992, has an off-season, seven-day rate of 350 DM (\$238) per person and 420 DM (\$286) in high season.

Rest assured all accommodations in both books have been inspected by regional tourist associations to insure a level of quality commensurate with price. German Hotel Reservation Service, Corneliusstrasse 34, D-60325 Frankfurt, phone 069/740767, fax 069/751056.

Hotel Deal for Seniors

InterCity Hotels of Germany currently offers senior citizen (65 and older) reduced rates and free local transportation vouchers.

At InterCity Hotels in Augsburg, Erfurt, Frankfurt, Freiburg, Hamburg, Kassel, Kiel, Magdeburg, Nürnberg, Rostock, Stuttgart, Ulm and Weimar the new rates for seniors are DM 68 (\$46) single occupancy and DM 130 (\$88) double, including buffet breakfast. And, since InterCity Hotels is a joint partnership of **Steigenberger** and **GermanRail**, included in the room price is a local transportation voucher valid for the duration of the guest's stay.

InterCity Hotels, all of which are located near rail-

way stations, is owned by GermanRail and operated by Steigenberger hotels.

For reservations phone 1-800-223-5652.

Oktoberfest Opens

The 162nd **Oktoberfest** opens noon Saturday, 16 September, when the Lord Mayor of Munich taps the first barrel of beer and makes the traditional announcement, *O' zapft is* (It is tapped)

For hotel accommodations during Oktoberfest fax 011 49 89/233 30 233.

The seven festival halls or beer tents — each operated by one of Munich's seven major breweries: **Augustinerbräu, Hackerbräu, Löwenbräu, Paulanerbräu, Pschorrbräu, Spatenbräu** and **Hofbräuhaus** — will be open for business from 9 a.m. Sundays and holidays, and 10 a.m. weekdays, until 10:45 p.m. Prices for a liter of beer are between 9.50 DM (\$6.46) and 10.40 DM (\$7.07). This year for the first time each of the tents will offer special facilities for disabled persons.

On the grounds will be six cafés; six roast chicken stands; 25 sausage halls, grilling stands, delicatessens and soup kitchens; five grilled fish stands; four hard liquor kiosks; one wheat beer "roundabout" and a champagne pavilion. In addition, there will be some 40 kiosks selling ice cream, juice, espresso, candy, tobacco and souvenirs.

Among the more than 100 fairgrounds and side-show attractions are a "wall of death," a marionette theater, a flea circus, a mouse circus, a hall of mirrors, an "earthquake" and 47 shooting galleries.

We're tapped out. 