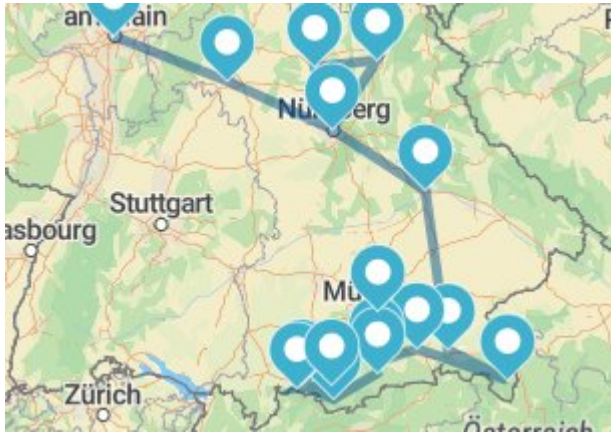


Travel to the spectacular heart of Germany, where nature and palaces will whisk you off into a magical world

Welcome to Germany's most visual tour in which you'll discover the most authentic part of the country, away from the sprawling metropolises. This is a destination famous for its cosmopolitan capital, but the region of Bavaria cherishes countless treasures... and we're going to let you into the secret! The incredible palaces are just some of these treasures. There are Baroque ones, such as the Würzburg Residence, where the interiors will captivate you even more than its exterior. Regensburg, Linderhof and, of course, Herrenchiemsee are also superb. The setting is idyllic, with the stunning backdrop of Lake Chiemsee. The lakes are another of the treasures on this tour. Besides sailing on the Chiemsee, you can enjoy the Königssee, considered one of the most beautiful lakes in the whole world. This will instantly become your happy place, where you'd tell your loved ones to look for you if one day you decided to take a break from it all. It's simply perfect. What's more, on this holiday you'll explore Bavaria's most picturesque villages, where façades are adorned with scenes from tales such as Snow White or Hansel and Gretel. And there's also a place for history on this tour. In addition to remembering the Nuremberg trials, you can visit the Eagle's Nest and the main architectural works built by the Nazis, such as the Kongresshalle and the Zeppelinfeld in Nuremberg.



Departures:

from January 2021 till December 2021

Destinations:

Frankfurt, Würzburg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Bayreuth, Regensburg, Prien am Chiemsee, Berchtesgaden Göttschen, Bad Aibling, Bad Tölz, Lenggries, Garmisch Partenkirchen, Schwangau, Füssen, Oberammergau and Munich.

Categories:

Family.

Day 1: City of origin - Frankfurt

Flight departure from the city of origin to Frankfurt. Arrival and rental car pick-up. Get ready to discover the best-kept secrets in the beautiful region of Bavaria! Start your journey on German soil after dropping off your bags at your central hotel and familiarising yourself with the area. Depending on the time of arrival in Frankfurt, we suggest starting off with a stroll around the old quarter. Get lost as many times as you want because all the roads will take you to Römerberg, the city's bustling main square. This is home to the Town Hall which in turn is the seat of Der Römer, aka the Lord Mayor. A few minutes from here, the Dom St. Bartholomäus cathedral stands alongside other lay buildings. The first things that will strike you is its colour, as it was built in red sandstone, and its gigantic 96-metre spire that commands incredible views of most of the city... but only for those brave enough to climb the stairs all the way up! From here you'll be able to admire the Frankfurt skyline like nowhere else. You'll see why they call it the city of skyscrapers. Once you've admired the panorama, head back down for a dose of culture. This is another of the city's strong points, as there are lots of museums and many of them are the best of their kind in Europe. The Jewish Museum of Frankfurt is remarkable, but the most outstanding is the Städel Museum, where you can admire works by some of history's most renowned artists. There's no shortage of Picassos, Renoirs or Rembrandts. If you're travelling with children, your luck is in as you won't have to make any excuse to visit even more museums, and particularly the Kinder Museum, a space designed to fascinate the little ones. If that isn't enough, the zoo is very close by, or you could drive out to Hanau. If you're a fan of the Brothers Grimm, we won't have to tell you that it's their birthplace. Hanau is half an hour from Frankfurt and offers an enjoyable activity to experience with the family: the Tale Route. You'll see flags identifying the places that inspired the Brothers Grimm to write tales such as Little Red Riding Hood or the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Obviously, you can't visit the city without eating a Frankfurter sausage. Although it sounds very touristy, it's practically mandatory. If it's not your cup of tea, you could plump for some hearty cured pork chops. And there are also two classic drinks: either a good German beer or an Apfelwein, a low-alcohol drink made from apples. You could always head to the Zeil for some retail therapy before dinner. Overnight stay in Frankfurt.

Day 2: Frankfurt - Würzburg - Nuremberg

If you left out anything yesterday, you'll have some time today before setting off for your first destination. If you managed to do everything, then congratulations... because here your self-drive tour in Germany really gets going. Before you hit the road, a couple of tips. Germany is one of the world's most bike-friendly countries, so don't be surprised if you come across a cyclist who doesn't even look before turning. Never take your eyes off the road and always respect the minimum safety distances when overtaking. What's more, the belief that there's no speed limit in Germany is false. It applies only to motorways and whenever there are no signs restricting it. On local roads and in urban areas, the limits are very strict and speed cameras are omnipresent. Anyway, that said, take the road to Würzburg, about an hour and a half away. Although the city does have other attractions, it's only worth going there to visit the Würzburg Residence. Considered the German Versailles, it's the finest Baroque palace in the country, with an exterior that will leave you speechless, but interiors that are even more spectacular. The zigzag staircase, decorated with statues on the railings and frescoes on the ceiling, is one of the most harmonious architectural ensembles in the world. It's not a visit to rush, as you'll want to explore every single corner of the palace. But in Würzburg there's more to see. It is a very youthful city, thanks to its lively student atmosphere, and exquisite from an architectural point of view. What's more, one of the country's best wines is grown and sold here, so take advantage and treat yourself. We'll then head back on the road for an hour to the history-rich Nuremberg. Things to do in the city vary greatly depending on the time of year, but there are several places that you can't miss, whichever the season. Its historic quarter, known as the Altstadt, is one of them. Among its streets and squares, you'll discover the beautiful Ehekarussell Brunnen fountain. And, of course, Nuremberg has a lot of history. Here the trial was held against 24 Nazi leaders and the Memorium Nürnberger Prozesse reminds us of what mistakes humankind should never commit again in the future. It can be visited all year round. If your trip is between the end of November and Christmas Eve, you can visit the city's famous Christmas market. People flock here from all over Germany to buy Christmas items and when it's cold, you can always warm up with a hot wine (in German, Glühwein) and some roasted sausages. Dark ale is also very typical of Nuremberg. Overnight stay in Nuremberg.

Day 3: Nuremberg - Bamberg - Bayreuth - Nuremberg

Just 50 minutes from Nuremberg is one of the most beautiful cities in the country. Bamberg is world-famous for its old town (Altstadt) and the maze of rivers and waterways that snake around the centre. You can start your visit in the Altstadt itself and then decide whether to continue here or set off for Bayreuth. The town centre will truly enchant you. One of its greatest attractions is the old Town Hall, which was built on the Regnitz in such a way that it seems to be an island in the middle of the canal. It's a great place to stroll around and all the main attractions are nearby. Also very close is the Cathedral, known as the Bamberger Dom, but its official (translated) name is the Imperial Cathedral of Saints Peter, Paul & George. Pretty impressive, we must say. It was built more than a thousand years ago, marking its first millennium of life back in 2012. The exterior is exquisite and the interior is stunning. Inside the temple, look for the knight mounted on horseback, which is one of the most representative symbols of the city. The Domplatz is also fascinating, but maybe less so than Klein-Venedig (Little Venice). This is the name of the district crossed by the river and other waterways. A stroll along the river followed by good beer in a bar may just be the best way to round off your visit. Forty-five minutes from here is Bayreuth, a name closely linked to Richard Wagner. August is the most interesting month of the year to visit the city, as it's time of the Bayreuth Festival. This is when the streets are flooded with people and art oozes out of every corner. If you're not there for the Festival, in the rest of the year you can visit the Festspielhaus (Festival Theatre) and Wagner's residence, which remains open to the public. The other great draw of the city is its architectural wealth. Part of this is due to the Neues Schloss, a meticulously-designed and harmonious palace that even houses two museums inside. The Bayreuth Faience - Rummel Collection, which features porcelain works, is definitely worth a visit. Another building that extols the beauty of Bayreuth is the Margrave Opera. It's a true Baroque jewel, perhaps the most stunning of all those still preserved today. If you get the chance, make sure you visit it before returning to Nuremberg. Depending on the time you have before dinner, you could always visit the Kongresshalle, one of the large-scale works of Nazi Germany that was designed to host political events with an audience of 50,000 people. Today, it is a museum and an interpretation centre. Nearby is the Zeppelinfeld, where several concerts are held over the summer months. Overnight stay in Nuremberg.

Day 4: Nuremberg - Regensburg

Say Auf Wiedersehen to Nuremberg because Regensburg is now awaiting you with open arms. This is one of the cities that suffered the least damage during World War II and its level of conservation is excellent. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city meets two basic characteristics: outstanding architecture and a bustling old quarter full of things to see and do. Amazingly, it boasts around 1,500 listed buildings. In this case, we recommend crossing the stone bridge to access the old quarter. The bridge itself is an authentic feat of engineering, especially when you realise that it was constructed in the Middle Ages. In summer, it's popular with cyclists and pedestrians alike. You'll know that you're reaching the end of the bridge when above you is a clock and below you is the Danube. In the distance, you'll see Dom St. Peter (St. Peter's Cathedral), an emblem for the citizens of Regensburg. It's the greatest specimen of the French variant of Gothic architecture that is found across Bavaria. Another landmark of the city is the Schloss Thurn und Taxis palace. It was the residence of the family that started the postal service business and worked well for them, because it allowed them to build a building that would have been difficult to afford today. Also very interesting is a visit to the Porta Praetoria arched gate. It's worth seeing because this Roman construction hasn't been conserved as a whole, but has been integrated into a modern building, in such a way that both coexist in perfect harmony. One couldn't live without the other today. The Herzogspark on the banks of the Danube also awaits you on this city tour. The park boasts majestic gardens that are delightful for a leisurely stroll. Enjoy the scents, the medieval heritage and the splash of colours that dot the almost two hectares of plants and flowers. Speaking of aromas, those which will remind you at lunch time to try out the local delicacy: the Wels. It's a very tasty catfish cooked in the traditional Bavarian style. During the day, and depending on opening hours, you can set aside some time to visit the local markets. Two of our favourites are the Fischmarkt and the Kohlenmarkt. You can also visit the old Coal Museum and the Salt Barn. And, finally, make sure you watch the sun go down behind the Goldene Turm (Golden Tower). A walk along both banks of the Danube is a magnificent idea to round off the day and have dinner before returning to the hotel. Overnight stay in Regensburg.

Day 5: Regensburg - Lake Chiem - Prien - Berchtesgaden

Today is when you'll spend most time in the car. In total, around 3½ hours on the road, but always with magnificent stops that will make your trip unforgettable. Off we go! We'll set out for Prien, following the A93 in the direction of Munich and then taking the Prien turnoff. (Note: Remember that you'll get to see Munich in the final days of the tour). Prien is one of the favourite holiday resorts for Germans, ideal for yachting and water sports. In fact, a stroll around the harbour is a must-do. In turn, it is the gateway to Lake Chiemsee and the island of Herrenchiemsee, two of the region's greatest treasures. When you step foot in the area, you'll instantly forget the two-hour drive. (Note: There's a ferry from the harbour (foot passengers only) which will take you to the island of Herrenchiemsee. Ferry trip not included). Herrenchiemsee is home to a fascinating palace. It's known as the Little Versailles,

although it has some details that make it truly unique. First and foremost, its setting. It is located on an island, surrounded by the lake. The unfinished palace was built by the iconic King Ludwig II of Bavaria, better known as Mad King Ludwig. Thanks to his taste for sumptuous luxury, we can enjoy this Bavarian treasure in the present day. However, this isn't the only island you can visit on the lake. Frauenchiemsee can also be reached by boat and, although smaller than the previous island, is the site of a Benedictine abbey and even a brewery. As for the lake itself, it is worth admiring from any point. Gstadt or Prien itself are two perfectly good places. Onward now to the southernmost part of the German Alps, the Berchtesgaden National Park. A natural site of overwhelming beauty in the heart of the Alps and just a few kilometres from the Austrian border. The last drive of the day will take you to Berchtesgaden, one of the most beautiful corners of Bavaria. It is nestled in the foothills of the Watzmann, the second highest mountain in the country, and surrounded by the National Park and the Königssee, one of the most spectacular lakes you'll ever see in your lifetime. Alpine views abound wherever you look, and if you have time, you can head to the Eagle's Nest, the gift Hitler gave to his minions on his 50th birthday. Overnight stay in Berchtesgaden.

Day 6: Berchtesgaden - Königssee - Berchtesgaden

If yesterday you had a great time at Lake Chiemsee, today you'll reach pure ecstasy at Lake Königssee. The Königssee is the highest lake in the whole of Germany and the water is suitable for human consumption. Even though its elongated form and its surroundings may suggest that it's a fjord, it definitely isn't. It's simply one of the most beautiful lakes in the country! To give you an idea, it is 8 kilometres long and a little more than 1 kilometre wide. There's a pre-paid car park to leave your car all day and enjoy the area in the healthiest and most natural way. Once there, you can take one of the boat trips on offer if you wish. Some will take you to the end of the lake and also to the St. Bartholomä am Königssee church, and others just to the church. As you'll be taking a boat, make sure you're wearing season-appropriate clothes, with waterproof or long-sleeved tops always being a good idea. Cameras or a fully-charged mobile with a spare battery source are musts. This is a place where you'll be unable to stop taking photos. Amazing ones are guaranteed wherever you are! But this isn't just a visual experience. Sounds will also play a major role today. We're not going to reveal anything else right now, so just keep in mind the following name: the Echo Wall. If you dare to embark on one of those trips and experience the lake from within, you can stop off at the St. Bartholomä am Königssee church. This is a unique opportunity to hop off the ferry and admire the sheer majesty of this location. The chapel is beautiful, without a doubt. But it's the surroundings, in the heart of the Alps and the Berchtesgaden National Park, that have simply no comparison. At the end of the lake, where the boat makes its last stop, there's a path that in just over fifteen minutes will take you to another lake. It's much smaller and has less wow factor, but the crystal-clear blue waters and the wooden huts from which Heidi could appear at any moment bestow a truly magical feeling to this place. If you're there in summer and are brave enough, you can also take a dip to cool down. If you're visiting the Obersee in any other season of the year, best not to try or else you'll end up as an ice cube. Keep an eye on time, as you'll have to queue up for the return ferry, which is often a long wait. When you're back on dry land, ask for the pathway in Schönau that leads to the viewing point... you won't want to go back down. But you'll have to, as it's time to return to Berchtesgaden where you still have things to see. To round off the day, we suggest a quick walk to admire the many façades that tell the story of the town. Overnight stay in Berchtesgaden.

Day 7: Berchtesgaden - Bad Aibling - Bad Tölz - Lenggries - Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Bid farewell to Berchtesgaden, as today you'll be heading west. And what better activity than relaxing in a spa after spending about an hour and a quarter in the car? The town of Bad Aibling is famous across the country for its spa. And it's not just any old spa. We're talking about more than 10,000 square metres of relaxation and wellness in a town where the tradition of healthcare dates back to more than 170 years. Make sure you enjoy its hot springs, saunas and massages. Interestingly enough, the German government recognises that its waters are a source of healing. If you'd also like to visit the town, then take note of our recommendations. Must-sees are Marienplatz, the central square, the Prantshausen castle, the Kurpark and the city museum. Back on the road, in forty-five minutes we'll reach our next destination: Bad Tölz, with a past also deeply ingrained in the spa culture. In fact, this is one of the main driving forces of the local economy. Although not the only one. Take advantage of your visit to Bad Tölz to stroll along Marktstraße, its main street. You'll have to park your car somewhere, as this is a pedestrian zone. But you won't regret it, as you'll be able to discover the best bars and restaurants in the city. You'll also have the chance to stop in front of each building and admire the inscriptions on each one. Make sure you walk along the River Isar and, if you are travelling as a family, visit one of the Europe's very best water parks. (Note: Both spa towns are known for their mud baths, as well as being the ideal starting points for hikes). And just a few miles away is Lenggries, a true outdoor sports paradise. Lenggries is a mountainous area ideal to cover on foot or by cable car. It's not suitable for anyone afraid of heights, but you will have access to endless views. If you prefer to keep your feet firmly on the ground, make sure you visit Sylvenstein Dam in the Isar Valley, where the set of floodgates store huge amounts of water throughout the year. In winter, Lenggries turns into a lively 18-piste ski resort worth spending a whole day at. The last stop of the day is Garmisch-Partenkirchen, which once hosted the Winter Olympics. Garmisch and Partenkirchen are divided by the train tracks and you have to use tunnels to cross from one side to the other. As in Lenggries, the primary source of income is tourism. Seasonal winter tourism, though, when the roofs are blanketed in snow and you can take advantage of the wonderful ski slopes. And it's also famous for the traditional New Year's Ski Jumping that takes place every year as part of the Four Hills Tournament. You might well have seen it on the TV after ringing in the New Year! In summer, the best thing is to enjoy the mountains for hiking and climbing. (Note: From Garmisch-Partenkirchen, you can take the train up to Zugspitze, the highest peak in Germany at 2,962 metres). Overnight stay in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Day 8: Garmisch-Partenkirchen - Schwangau - Füssen

Take advantage of the morning to explore Garmisch-Partenkirchen or take the cogwheel train up to Zugspitze, if you didn't have time yesterday. (Note: The Bayerische Zugspitzbahn is one of the few cogwheel trains to still operate in Germany. It's also the highest train in Germany, reaching up to 2,650 metres in height. Opened in 1930, it covers a distance of 19 kilometres, including a final stretch formed by the 4.5-km Zugspitze tunnel that climbs up to the Zugspitzplatt plateau, at 2,588 metres above sea level. From there, you have to take a cable car to reach the top of Zugspitze. The journey isn't included and takes over an hour). Back on the road. Get ready to explore the paradise of castles. We should thank King Ludwig II, also known as Mad King Ludwig, for his passion for castles, because this area wouldn't be the same without them. He turned an already beautiful landscape into a magical place, as if straight out of a fairy tale. The best examples are the castles of Neuschwanstein, which you'll access through the rugged Pöllat Gorge, and Hohenschwangau. Authentic Bavarian landmarks, when you're in front of them, you can picture Elsa from Frozen peeking out of a curtain or the reflection of Maleficent behind a window. Our advice is to visit both. Each one has its own charisma, so don't think it's enough just to see one and not the other... you'll end up regretting it! Seeing as you're in the area, pop over to the beautiful Lake Förggensee. It's also great for bathing and for water sports. One of the best ways to see the lake in all its splendour is from the Tegelberg cable car. From here, you'll also enjoy amazing views of Neuschwanstein Castle, even better than from the Marienbrücke bridge, and no doubt you'll end taking quite a few photos. The cable car will take you to

the area where dozens of paragliders and hang gliders take off on breezy days. Interestingly enough, in Schwangau there are outdoor heated pools where you can go for a swim, even though you'd probably never think of taking your coat off! What's more, the views are second to none. Füssen and Schwangau are also just 10 minutes away. In fact, many people choose to visit the castles of Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau from here. Both locations are very close, so you'll take almost the same time to visit them if you leave from one point or another. As for things to do here, make sure you take a stroll along its main street, the Reichenstraße. It is pedestrianised and full of life seven days a week. There are loads of shops and restaurants, as well as a great deal of history. It stands on the Roman Via Augusta and ends in the Ritterstraße square. You'll easily spot it because there's a huge statue of King St. Magnus. It's also worth checking out the Town Hall and admiring its balconies. And if you want to see even more castles, have a look at the Hohes Schloss in Füssen. Overnight stay in Füssen.

Day 9: Füssen - Linderhof - Oberammergau - Füssen

After a hearty breakfast, it's time to leave Füssen, the liveliest city in the Alps, and head for Linderhof. The main attraction here is its palace and again we should thank King Ludwig II for his obsession about perfection. This included his desire to build truly unique buildings or to sponsor artists such as Richard Wagner and become his main supporter. This fervour for beauty is reflected in and around the palace, with it widely considered to be a true gem of German architecture. With clear influences of the Palace of Versailles, it's the only one that Ludwig II saw completed before his death. When you go inside, don't even think about taking out your phone or camera as photographs are strictly forbidden. This means you should fully explore it, because all you'll be taking home are memories. When you finish inside, head back outside and wander around the gardens, the Venus Grotto or the Moorish Kiosk. It's a homage to the hedonism of sight. But set aside some of your visual curiosity for the fascinating next stop of Oberammergau, a laid-back and sedate town nestled in a valley at the foot of the Alps. In winter it's surrounded by snow-capped mountains, while throughout the rest of the year it veers between lush green and autumnal brown. But the kaleidoscope of colours is always perfect. Our tip is to leave your map in the car and simply wander around. This way, you'll discover each of the paintings that adorn most of the town's façades. You'll see depictions of biblical scenes, fairy tales such as Little Red Riding Hood or Hansel and Gretel, and one particular façade that we adore. It's known as Pilatushaus and is truly amazing because it is so meticulously designed that you'll think it's a work in three dimensions. As for what to take home... no doubt: wooden figurines. You'll see them in every shop window. They're true works of art and there must be a space in your home to decorate. (Note: If you have time, we recommend a brief stop in Ettal to admire its majestic monastery). Return to where we slept yesterday and overnight stay in Füssen.

Day 10: Füssen - Munich

Bid farewell to Füssen and say hello to Munich. It's the only major city along with Frankfurt that we'll visit on this tour, and we've designed an itinerary of all the must-dos in case your plane leaves early tomorrow. There's no better starting point than Marienplatz. This square contains three major sights: the buildings known as Neues Rathaus and Altes Rathaus and, of course, the Column of St. Mary. After this, and to get an overview of the city, there's no better location than the spire of St. Peterskirche. From here, you'll get a jaw-dropping view of Munich and some wonderful photos, especially on a clear day. If you like religious art, our suggestions include the Cathedral, St. Kajetan's and St. Michael's. If you're a real foodie, in Munich you can taste a wide variety of Weisswürste (white sausages cooked with a bit of Bavarian mustard) and beers. This city is one of the beer capitals of the world, hence the sheer popularity of the Oktoberfest. In Munich, there are beer halls with capacity for more than 5,000 people and, of course, much smaller ones. You choose the type of entertainment you want to accompany your drink or meal. If you're more into strolling around and admiring the best gardens in town, don't miss the Englischer Garten or the Olympiapark. It's a spectacular garden and so meticulously manicured. The River Eisbach flows very close to this park. Head over to the bridge and open your eyes wide. Oh yes. What you're seeing is real. There are people surfing! Munich has a very fun and adventurous side. Where else could you surf in the heart of the city? But don't put away your camera yet, because if you're a petrolhead, you've come to the right place. Head over to BMW Welt and delve into the history of this prestigious German car brand. It's right next to the factory, so you'll never have seen so many BMWs in your life. However, if cars aren't your thing and you were looking forward to reaching Munich to visit museums, then take note of these names: the Deutsches Museum, any of the Pinakotheks and the Glyptothek. As for dinner, and when you know the dates of your trip, find out the on-trend restaurants and book a table sooner rather than later. You won't be disappointed. A suggestion? Try to have lunch at the Hofbräuhaus and order a plate of ham hock (Schweinhaxe, in German) with a pitcher of beer. Overnight stay in Munich.

Day 11: Munich - City of origin

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin. Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Services included in the trip

- Return flight.
- Stay in selected hotel in Frankfurt.
- Selected meal plan in Frankfurt.
- Stay in selected hotel in Nuremberg.
- Selected meal plan in Nuremberg.
- Stay in selected hotel in Regensburg.
- Selected meal plan in Regensburg.
- Stay in selected hotel in Berchtesgaden Götschen.
- Selected meal plan in Berchtesgaden Götschen.
- Stay in selected hotel in Garmisch Partenkirchen.
- Selected meal plan in Garmisch Partenkirchen.
- Stay in selected hotel in Füssen.
- Selected meal plan in Füssen.
- Stay in selected hotel in Munich.
- Selected meal plan in Munich.
- Rent-a-car.

Services NOT included

- Accommodation taxes in Frankfurt direct payment in facility.
- Accommodation taxes in Munich direct payment in facility.
- Possible toll charges.

Important remarks

- - Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible..
- - - The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs..
- - - A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels..
- - - Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult..
- - - To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle..