

ALPINE TRIP 2011

Fenelon Falls Curling Club

April 27 to May 14

April 27(Wednesday) We depart Pearson Airport on Lufthansa Flight 471 at 6:20 pm for Frankfurt, Germany. We will likely be on an Airbus A340. We will have full inflight services including dinner, complimentary drinks and breakfast before landing.

April 28 (Thursday) We arrive in Frankfurt at 8:20 am and fly 55 minutes to Munich at 10:00 am. Our luggage will be forwarded automatically. Our Bavarian driver, Heinz Daniel, will pick us up at the airport and we will take a “lively” German autobahn around the city of Munich . South of the city we will take a secondary route through pastoral Bavarian farmland and past traditional farmhouses to a popular lake called Tegernsee. We will have a complimentary lunch at a truly authentic Bavarian beer hall run by The Hofbrau brewing company . After lunch we will descend to the Inn River valley enroute to the **** Hotel Jaegerhof in a mountain village on Kolsassberg. You will marvel at the awesome panoramic view from the hotel. There are signed trails and paths through the woods for a bit of a walk-about before dinner. Dinner is at the hotel.

April 29 (Friday) After a leisurely and delicious buffet breakfast we will drive to Innsbruck, the “capitol” city of the Tyrol. A guided tour of the city is planned. You will have free time in this charming city followed by a group tour of the Grasmayr Bell Foundry. This family has been casting bells here for 14 generations and beautifully toned church bells are an earmark of the Tyrol . Heinz will drop off those interested in visiting the Swarovski Crystal Works. He will also probably pick them up again. Dinner is at the hotel.

April 30 (Saturday) Today we will cross back into the German state of Bavaria. We will ride a 40 person gondola to the top of the Karwendel Range and the second highest peak in Germany. Weather permitting, there is a breathtaking view of the Austrian Alps and a glimpse of the Zugspitze, Germany’s highest peak. After descending you will have free time in the beautiful Bavarian town of Mittenwald. Everyone has heard of Oberammergau but I believe that Mittenwald is even prettier and much more authentic. The luftmalerei (air painting) on the old Baroque buildings make a great” photo op” and you must visit the beautiful, pink Baroque church of Saints Peter and Paul. The town is surrounded by stunning Alpine peaks. Active members of the group can hike up to Lautersee to see a charming Alpine lake. Violins and cellos made in Mittenwald are second only in quality and reputation to those made by Stradivarius. Dinner is at the hotel.

May 1 (Sunday) This morning we set out for the town of Stresa in the Italian Lakes District. We will drive through Austria and Switzerland and through the San Bernadino Pass to reach the west side of Lago Maggiore. In the late afternoon we will check in to the beautiful ****Hotel La Palma. It is one of many “grand” hotels along the lakeshore promenade that have catered to vacationing European aristocracy for decades. We should

fit right in. Dinner is in the hotel. Dressy casual clothing is recommended in the dining room.

May 2 (Monday) After breakfast we will walk along the lake to the ferry landing and take a brief ride to Isola Bella (Beautiful Island) and see the palace and gardens of the wealthy banking family from Milan known as the Borromeos. We will have a guided tour of the fully furnished palace and later see what many consider to be the most beautiful Italianate gardens in Italy. The palace and gardens were designed to look like a large ship on the water. Some of you may have been here before. There are other islands to explore in the lake or you might want to consider a full day cruise to and from the Swiss side of Lago Maggiore. Another option is taking a short train ride from Stresa to Milan for the day. Dinner is at the hotel. We plan to have an evening with music and dancing in the dining room.

May 3 (Tuesday) Today we will drive along the shore of Lago Maggiore enroute to a unique mountain village in the Swiss canton of Ticino. People say that the best thing about this area is that you have Swiss efficiency and cleanliness but with Italian flair and cuisine. The village of Sonogno is isolated at the end of the Verzasca Valley. The hobbit-like buildings are made of local stone and a wool-crafters guild flourishes there today. We will meet up with our tour guide in Locarno and she will escort us into the valley. She has a hike planned along the river and those who are unable to walk for 2 hours may stay in the village. The route is flat but you must wear “sensible” shoes, not sandals. The scenery should be stunning. Time permitting, we will stop in the Swiss city of Locarno before returning to Stresa.

May 4 (Wednesday) This morning we leave Stresa and head for the Veneto region of Italy. We will stop in historic Verona for a lunch break and a stroll in the pedestrian zone. The Roman Coliseum here is in remarkable condition and music lovers from all over Europe travel here for the summer opera season. You might want to search out Juliet’s balcony, of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet fame. Our final stop is the town of Montegrotto Terme and a 4 night stay at The **** Hotel Marconi. The indoor and outdoor pool and spa facilities here are amazing. Montegrotto Terme is a thermal hot spring and the entire hotel is heated naturally. Dinner is at the hotel in a very traditional Italian dining room with white jacket service. That’s them, not us. However, dressy casual clothes are recommended. That’s us, not them.

May 5 (Thursday) This morning is free to enjoy the hotel’s many facilities. Late morning we will depart for our wine tasting experience in the nearby Eugenic Hills. The volcanic conditions that produce local hot springs also provide excellent soils and minerals for the production of quality wines. Dinner is at the hotel.

May 6 (Friday) Today will feature a train trip into Venice. We will arrange for a tour guide to acquaint you with this magnificent city(more info to follow). The afternoon will be free to explore Venice on your own and everyone can make their way back to Montegrotto Terme at their convenience. Anyone too nervous to do that can meet us at an appointed hour and we will lead you back to the hotel. Dinner is at the hotel for those

preferring to return early. Evenings in Venice are wonderful once the hordes of tourists have left for the day. You could book a Vivaldi concert or just hit the bars.

May 7 (Saturday) This is our last full day in The Veneto. You may want to book a spa treatment or just enjoy the pool facilities and the town of Montegrotto Terme. Now that you are familiar with Italian trains you might want to take a brief ride into the fascinating and historic city of Padua. The Saturday market in Padua would be in full swing. Dinner is at the hotel. Music to follow.

May 8 (Sunday) Today we have a long but scenic drive through the Italian and Austrian Alps as we make our way back to Austria. The “Four Nights in Nutsville” phase of our trip begins. That is because we are staying in the village of Nussdorf (Nutsville) on the shores of Attersee, Austria’s largest Alpine lake. I believe that the nuts refer to the trees in the area and not the inhabitants. If the group has bonded, as it usually does, it may refer to us. Our next four nights are at the ****Hotel Ragginger, a very traditional family-run inn. Dinner is at the hotel.

May 9 (Monday) The morning is free to explore Nussdorf on Attersee. We will depart late morning for the nearby town of Bad Ischl and a visit to Kaiservilla, the summer residence of the Habsburg family and set in the center of Austria’s lake district. You can enjoy lunch at the palace café and explore the magnificent parkland gardens after our guided tour. We will stop in the town and you can explore it at your leisure. Some of you may prefer a visit to the nearby Technical Auto Museum and its major collection of motorcycles. Heinz would be happy to take you there while the rest wander through Bad Ischl. Dinner is at our hotel.

May 10 (Tuesday) We set out this morning for the beautiful city of Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart. Since we can’t really do a “sing along” Mozart tour we will take the opportunity to do a “sing along” Sound of Music tour, the second most famous musical offering from Salzburg. Try to remember that this is a North American phenomenon and most European music fans have never heard of the movie or musical. We will visit sites from the movie and we have asked to have a very lighthearted approach to the day. Warm up your vocal cords even if you hate the music. We will have a brief orientation of the city of Salzburg and then you will have free time to explore your interests there. We will depart late afternoon for Attersee and dinner at the hotel.

May 11 (Wednesday) Today we cross into Bavaria for a morning visit to the Nazi Documentation Centre near Berchtesgaden. Weather permitting, we will drive to Hintersee, a beautiful Alpine lake, where we plan to have a picnic lunch. Hintersee is on the edge of The Maerchenwald (The Enchanted Forest) made famous by the Brothers Grim in their German fairy tales. Before returning to our hotel we will stop in the town of Berchtesgaden for a brief tour. Dinner is at the hotel.

May 12 (Thursday) Today we cross back into Bavaria and head for our final destination, the town of Eichstaett in the heart of The Altmuehl Valley Nature Park. We will stop for lunch along the way and check into Hotel Adler in mid afternoon. Rolf has

discovered that there is Naked Bowling in the nearby town of Erding. We will just humour him and pretend that we are interested. Dinner is at the hotel.

May 13 (Friday) This morning we travel to the city of Ingolstadt on the Danube River. We plan to tour the amazing Audi car factory in the morning. Europe's largest outlet mall is in Ingolstadt and we will give you free time there in the afternoon. Those not interested will be able to explore the town itself. Some of you may be interested in taking the train to Munich or Nuremberg for the day. It would be very easy to do. Dinner is at the hotel.

May 14 (Saturday) Today we set out for home from Munich airport at 11:10 am. We transfer in Frankfurt to flight number LH 470 departing at 1:55 pm. We arrive in Toronto at 4:30 pm.

Cost \$3950

The price includes:

Full service flights
Luxury tour bus
All hotels
All breakfasts
All dinners
Some lunches
All guided tours
All entry fees
All tips and taxes, including Heinz's tip
All wine tastings, etc
Champagne Welcome
All music

Deposit \$100
First installment of \$2500 due November 30, 2010
Final installment of \$1350 due January 31, 2011

All cheques are to be made out to Heritage Travel but should be mailed to us at

P.O. Box 1312,
Fenelon Falls, On K0M 1N0

Rolf and Diane Martens
Group Leaders