

# Overseas RV Camping Caravans

**Jim & Sally Elmlinger, Caravan Travel Consultants**  
**1135 N. Fairview St., Burbank, CA 91505-2328**

Phone / Fax (818) 845-2263 / Cellular (818) 515-2263 [ONLY while traveling in USA]

Email: [jim@occsrv.com](mailto:jim@occsrv.com)

Website: [occsrv.com](http://occsrv.com)

## ITINERARY FOR THE ITALY, ALPS & THE MEDITERRANEAN CARAVAN IN THE SPRING OF 2010

**1** Sunday, April 4

Travel (Fly) to Munich D

**DAY #** Travel Day YOUR CITY USA-CDN / MUNICH D

Leave the USA and fly to GERMANY from airport of your choice. Arrive next day (AM) in MUNICH. You may also want to consider leaving home earlier and doing some sightseeing on your own or if you are a member of the International Caravanning Association (ICA) connecting up with one of their outings. Either of these options are available to you before the start of our caravan or once it has ended.

**2** Monday, April 5

**DAY #** Stay Over MUNICH D (Hotel)

Sally and I will be there to meet you once you arrive in Munich, so please plan your flight so that you arrive as early as possible at the MUNICH airport. You will take a shuttle to the nearby hotel where you will spend the night. Once you check into the hotel you will have free time to rest up after your flight or you can begin exploring by taking the S-Bahn (train) into Munich. We will all meet for a hosted group welcome and get aquatinted dinner that evening.

**3** Tuesday, April 6

46 Km / 29 M

RV pick up after 2 PM

**DAY #** Travel Day MUNICH D

After a good night's sleep, we will be picked up, as a group, at our hotel and transferred to the motorhome rental agency, some distance away. We will get checked out on our motorhomes before continuing onto the 1st night's campground (CG), also some distance away on the outskirts of Munich. From there we will "carpool" / caravan to a nearby "Real Warehauser" store (formerly WalMart) to buy provisions and then settle in before beginning our adventure.

**3** Tuesday, April 6

**DAY #** Stay Over MUNICH D

Free day. Take the subway into MUNCHEN. Enjoy the famous Hofbrahaus (beer hall) for lunch. Visit downtown MUNCHEN's churches, museums, stores, Viktualien Markt (outdoor food market) and Rathaus (town hall) on Marienplatz to watch a glockenspiel and clock with very animated mechanical figures that perform twice daily. Also, nearby at Dachau is the WW II concentration camp museum, which you can either drive or take the S-Bahn (train) to in lieu of visiting Munich.

**4****Wednesday, April 7**

400 Km / 248 M

**DAY # Travel Day MUNICH D / LANA I**

In the morning drive through the picturesque German countryside and its villages. Stop at Priein am Chiemsee and take a boat to Herrenchiemsee, one of Ludwig II's very ornate castles on an island. In the afternoon take the motorway down through Austria and the Alps at Brenner Pass at the Austrian / Italy border into the Trentino-Alto Aidge Region and the Dolomite Mountains continuing on to Lana, Italy, just a few km west of Bolzano. Note, many of the towns in northwest Italy have both Italian and German names as prior to the end of WW I this area was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and a large percentage of the populace still speak only German.

**5****Thursday, April 8****DAY # Stay Over LANA I (BOLZANO I)**

Day visit, via public transportation (train), the use of which will be typical throughout this caravan, to the sights of Bolzano (Bozen) where you can visit the original "Otzi the Ice Man" on display at the South Tirol Museum of Archeology. There also are cable cars to the Oberbozen here, as well as shops and other interesting sights.

**6****Friday, April 9**

186 Km / 115 M

**DAY # Travel Day LANA I / VERONA I**

We begin the morning wandering the back roads through the mountain passes, the apple orchards and vineyards and then on to Verona. If you get in early enough you may want to begin your exploration of Verona.

**7****Saturday, April 10****DAY # Stay Over VERONA I**

We will venture into Verona via public transportation (bus) from our nearby campsite. Most all sights are in the charming old town area and are accessible via a self-guided walking tour. The sights range from the 1st century Roman arena (coliseum), to a Duomo (historic church), old medieval castles that are now museums and "Juliette's Balcony" on the 13th century house once owned by Dal Cappello (Capulet) family.

**8****Sunday, April 11**

173 Km / 107 M

**DAY # Travel Day VERONA I / PUNTA SABBIONI I (VENICE)**

We head for Venice (Venezia) enjoy the picturesque Italian countryside.

**9****Monday, April 12****DAY # Stay Over PUNTA SABBIONI I (VENICE)**

We will access Venice from our campground via public transportation (40 min boat ride). The boat docks near St. Mark's square where you will find the Doge's Palace, Clock Tower, St. Mark's Basilica, Correr Museum and the pigeons. From there you can either walk or take a "Vaporetto" (motorized canal boat) to visit the National Archaeological Museum and Monumental Rooms of Marciana National Library within the museum, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Gallerie Accademia (\*See Reservation Info.) and Scuola San Rocco. Remember, you can not get lost in Venice, as you are on an island, so explore.

**10****Tuesday, April 13****DAY # Stay Over PUNTA SABBIONI I (VENICE)**

Continue with activities listed from the previous day.

**11** Wednesday, April 14 360 Km / 223 M

**DAY # Travel Day PUNTA SABBIONI I (VENICE) / FLORENCE**

Before we begin our drive south along the coastline of the Adriatic Sea we will go inland a ways to the sights of Padova (Padua). From there we return to the coast passing through Chioggia, which is described as a smaller, less touristy version of Venice. Ravenna is a must stop to see its 1,500 year old churches and their West Byzantine mosaics. Then we leave the coast as we head inland to Florence where we camp in a campground situated on a hill in an olive grove, just below Michelangelo Piazza that overlooks Florence and across the river from the historic downtown area.

**12** Thursday, April 15

**DAY # Stay Over FLORENCE I**

Again public transportation is the best way to get around the city. Michelangelo's David is housed in the Accademia Galleria (\*See Reservation Info.) along with numerous other sculptures and famous paintings. The Uffizi Gallery (\*See Reservation Info.) houses some of the most famous paintings and sculptures in the world. You can also visit the Santa Maria del Fiore (Duomo) and Duomo museum, the Orsanmichele Church, the Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens, The Palatine Gallery.

**13** Friday, April 16

**DAY # Stay Over FLORENCE I**

Continue with activities listed from the previous day.

**14** Saturday, April 17 96 Km / 60 M

**DAY # Travel Day FLORENCE I / SAN GIMIGNANO I**

We drive through the heart of Tuscany today. The "castles" that you will see dotting the countryside are not "castles" at all, but medieval walled towns. We will stay just outside one of these wonderful medieval walled towns tonight and you can spend most of the day exploring it.

**15** Sunday, April 18 240 Km / 149 M

**DAY # Travel Day SAN GIMIGNANO I / ROME I**

We continue south, leaving Tuscany, to the hill country towns of Montepulciano (noted for its vino), Orvieto (Cathedral) and the ancient little village of Civita di Bagnoregio (walled medieval town).

**16** Monday, April 19

**DAY # Stay Over ROME I**

Ah, Rome, where should we begin? We will take the train into Rome via a free shuttle bus from our CG to the local train station. The information that we provide you will group the sights within a given area and you can decide, which of those you want to see. For now we will just give you a "laundry list" of sights available: The Colosseum; Palatine Hill; Imperial Palace; Circus Maximus; Iron Age Huts of Romulus and Remus; The Vatican; St. Peter's Basilica; Vatican Museum & Sistine Chapel (\*See Reservation Info.); The Forum; Arch of Titus; Basilica of Constantine; Temple of Julius Caesar; The Temple of Vesta; The Curia (Senate House); Temple of Saturn; Pantheon; Borghese Gallery (\*See Reservation Info.).

**17** Tuesday, April 20

**DAY # Stay Over ROME I**

Continue with activities listed from the previous day.

**18** Wednesday, April 21

**DAY # Stay Over ROME I**

Continue with activities listed from the previous day.

**19****Thursday, April 22**

237 Km / 147 M

**DAY # Day Trip ROME I (Day trip to Ercolano/Herculaneum)**

Day trip, via motorhome carpool, to Ercolano and the ruins of Herculaneum (smaller, less crowded version of Pompeii). Herculaneum is a small and in some ways a better preserved version of Pompeii. Its buildings were encapsulated by the volcanic mud and rock flow from the 79 AD Mt. Vesuvius eruption, thus preserving everything as it was, including carbonizing many of the original wood members. A number of the frescos and mosaics are also well preserved. Much of Herculaneum still remains buried under the town of Ercolano, which is a suburb of Naples.

**20****Friday, April 23**

394 Km / 244 M

**DAY # Travel Day ROME I / PISA I**

We will be traveling the Mediterranean coastline through Tuscany, plan on a picnic today. The village of Tarquinia has a UNESCO World Heritage site with 200 paintings in its Etruscan Necropolis that date from the 7th century BC. Be sure and walk into Pisa after you arrive and take advantage of the good soft light of the late afternoon sun for your photographs. Explore Pisa by walking from the campground (≈1 km). Visit the Piazza dei Miracoli, a UNESCO World Heritage site with its Duomo, Baptistery (the largest in Italy) and Camposanto Cemetery. Plus, the world famous leaning tower of Pisa. Have dinner in town and enjoy the evening.

**21****Saturday, April 24**

116 Km / 72 M

**DAY # Travel Day PISA I / CINQUE TERRE I**

Spend the morning in Pisa, before continuing on to Cinque Terre. Stop at the City of Lucca and walk all or part of its 2.5 mile rampart wall and get the feel of this ancient structure, parts of which date back 2,000 years to Roman origin. Arrive at Deiva Marina, which is a very short distance from the 5 Cities area (Cinque Terre), and begin to explore the area.

**22****Sunday, April 25****DAY # Stay Over CINQUE TERRE I**

Cinque Terre or the Five Villages area (Riomaggiore, Manarolo, Corniglia, Vernazza & Monterosso al Mare) borders the Cinque Terre National Park with many miles of hiking trails (a fee is charged to access them) and the area has some of the most pristine beaches along the Mediterranean coast. The best way to see the area is by the hourly local trains (they are very reasonably priced) or hike. Two of the villages are only a 15 minute walk apart along the "Amore Path". Each of the villages has its own unique personality and charm.

**23****Monday, April 26****DAY # Stay Over CINQUE TERRE I**

FREE DAY or continue with activities listed from the previous day.

**24****Tuesday, April 27**

325 Km / 202 M

**DAY # Travel Day CINQUE TERRE I / MILAN I**

We will take the motorways & back roads to the Parma / Piacenza area where, amongst other things there are 19 castles (The Castles of the Duchy of Parma and Piacenza). The Castle of Torrechiara exists almost unchanged from the 15th century. There are other castle visits to choose from as we make our way to Milan (we have chosen 5 different castles for possible visitation). The city of Parma itself was founded in 183 BC as a Roman colony. Parma is also the home of "(Prosciutto) Parma hams." Once we are "castled out" we will head on to Milan.

**25 Wednesday, April 28****DAY # Stay Over MILAN I**

Milan has a great subway system and we will use it along with other public transportation (bus). Visit the Duomo, with its treasury, Paleo-Christian Baptistery and museum, and the famous La Scala Opera House and Museum. The Pinacoteca Ambrosiana was built in 1648 AD to house Cardinal Federico Borromeo's painting collection. Today it displays Leonardo Da Vinci's "Portrait of a Musician" as well as a copy of his Codex Atlanticus (collected writings), plus works by Botticelli and Caravaggio. The Brera Art Gallery has Raphael's "Wedding of the Madonna," Piero della Francesca's "Madonna and Child with Four Angels" and Caravaggio's "Supper at Emmaus," plus many more outstanding works. Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" fresco is in the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie (\*See Reservation Info.) A 3 hour Autostradale city bus tour (€50) is another option and the tour includes a number of the places listed above, including "The Last Supper" fresco.

**26 Thursday, April 29**

196 Km / 122 M

**DAY # Travel Day MILAN I / SUSTEN CH (ZERMATT)**

We venture into Switzerland with the scenic drive over the Simplon Pass through the Italian/Swiss Alps.

**27 Friday, April 30****DAY # Stay Over SUSTEN CH (ZERMATT)**

Drive to Tasch, through the nearby village of Visp, then take the narrow-gauge train to Zermatt nestled in a snug little valley below the famous Matterhorn and, weather permitting, you may get to see the Matterhorn. There is also the village of LEUK nearby that was inhabited as far back as 2,400 BC and the site of many Roman artifacts.

**28 Saturday, May 1**

199 Km / 123 M

**DAY # Travel Day SUSTEN CH / CHUR CH**

Today we will head northeast through the Swiss Alps, taking the Fruka "car train" between Oberwald to Realp (15 min ride) ending up around Chur, Switzerland. If for some reason you have not yet gotten your fill of the Alps and are up for unique adventure and a hoot, stop in Oberwald and take the 2 hr ride, plus the shuttle bus trip back, on the Furka cogwheel steam Railway up the mountains.

**29 Sunday, May 2**

195 Km / 121 M

**DAY # Travel Day CHUR CH / SCHWANGAU D**

Scenic drive through alpen country via LIECHTENSTEIN, souvenirs in VADUZ (to prove you have been to LI) continuing on through mountain passes to Schwangau, D. Once you arrive in Schwangau visit the Neuschwanstein Castle (a Ludwig II castle) in the late afternoon when it is less crowded. You may also want to drive by the castle tonight to see it illuminated.

**30 Monday, May 3**

58 Km / 36 M

**DAY # Travel Day SCHWANGAU D / OBERAMMERGAU D**

Scenic drive to Oberammergau stopping at the newly restored "Church in the Meadow" in Wies, probably one of Germany's finest Rococo-style churches. Then on to Rottenbuch to visit a church, which is very nondescript from the outside and even hard to recognize as a church, but the inside may be one of the most beautiful you will ever see. Travel to Linderhof and visit King Ludwig II's hunting lodge, plan a picnic in the area. Then stop in Ettal at the Benedictine Abby. Spend the rest of the day exploring the beauty of this scenic area.

**31** Tuesday, May 4

375 Km / 233 M

**DAY # Travel Day OBERAMMERGAU D / BRUCK at the GROß**

We are off to Bruck at the Großglockner, as we head down through Innsbruck, A, dipping down into Italy briefly before heading east toward Leinz, A. We will then turn north through the Austrian Alps & the Hohe Tauern National Park on the Großglockner Straße. Watch for the turn off for the glacier. Have a picnic lunch in the Alps along the way (even if it has to be inside your RV, as it still may be on the “cool” side at this time of year). Stop at the summit. Then down into Bruck.

**32** Wednesday, May 5

**DAY # Stay Over BRUCK at the GROßGLOCKNER A**

Free Day to explore the area. You may want to look in to the activities the campground has available.

**33** Thursday, May 6

**DAY # Stay Over BRUCK at the GROßGLOCKNER A**

Explore the ZELL AM SEE Alpine Region, Visit Kaprum Castle. Go to the Jausentation Unteraigen guest house, as the best Schnapps in the country is brewed in a small stone room called the Schnapsbrennereil and if a family member is available they may explain the process.

**34** Friday, May 7

95 Km / 59 M

**DAY # Travel Day BRUCK A / SALZBURG A**

Visit nearby sights along the way to Germany. In the BERCHTESGADEN area you can tour Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest (weather permitting), tour a salt mine or visit nearby KONIGSEE where you can take a boat tour on this beautiful lake. Possibly stroll through the village of BERCHTESGADEN or take scenic drives in the alpen Overlap region surrounding the village.

**35** Saturday, May 8

**DAY # Stay Over SALZBURG A**

Free day or begin your sightseeing in SALZBURG today. Take the bus into the city or you may want to book a tour from the campground, such as the Sound of Music. In SALZBURG there is schloß Hellbrunn, Festung Hohensalzburg (castle that has never been destroyed), Mozart’s birthplace, the domplatz and museums . There is a lot to do and see in Salzburg and the surrounding area. The CG owners have a great restaurant!

**36** Sunday, May 9

**DAY # Stay Over SALZBURG A**

Free day. I am sure we can find something for us all to do today.

**37** Monday, May 10

158 Km / 98 M

**DAY # Travel Day SALZBURG A / MUNICH D**

Head back to Munich wrapping up our adventures with a few more sights along the way. On your way visit nearby OBERNDORF in Austria to see the memorial chapel where Silent Night was first performed in 1818. Then on to the village of ALTOTTING in Germany to visit a pilgrimage chapel with the historic Black Madonna; visit the Panorama, a 360 degree indoor scene that puts you in the middle of the arena wher Christ was being crucified—quite an experience. Once you arrive at the campground begin packing for returning your motorhome tomorrow morning and transferring to hotel near the Muenchen Airport.

**38****Tuesday, May 11****RV drop of in early AM****DAY # Travel Day MUNICH D (Hotel)**

Leave the campground by 9 AM heading for the motorhome rental agency and check in your motorhome. Transportation from the rental agency back to the hotel near the Munchen Airport will be provided for the group. The rest of the day you are free until we meet for a hosted group farewell dinner in the early evening.

**39****Wednesday, May 12****Travel (Fly) to North America****DAY # Travel Day MUNICH D / YOUR CITY USA-CDN**

Take the shuttle from the hotel to the airport. Fly to your city, USA / CDN with GREAT and WONDERFUL memories to last a lifetime!

**CARAVAN “KITTY” FEE & OTHER INFO:**

**KITTY FEE:** There will not be any “kitty” fee for this caravan and any “group” activities and/or meals, other than those listed in the caravan fee, will be by the participant's choice and any associated costs will be born by each individual or couple.

**CARAVAN FEE:** Includes ONLY the following items; Hotel room 1 night each @ arrival (D-2) and departure (D-39), welcome (D-2) and farewell (D-39) dinners, excluding any alcohol beverages, transportation to and from the Munchen Airport hotel and the rental agency (D-3 & D-39). The balance of the fee covers the caravan program operation costs.

**NOTE:** Alcoholic beverages are not included in any of the hosted meals or functions, but may be purchased separately at the individual's own expense.

**\*RESERVATIONS:** The venues and/or attractions so marked in the above itinerary all **REQUIRE** an advance reservation if you desire to view these exhibits. We **HIGHLY** recommend that you make these reservations well in advance (the sooner the better), if you really want to visit these venues, and this can be done via the Internet or your travel agent. We personally use [www.tickitaly.com](http://www.tickitaly.com), but there are many other online agencies to choose from.

**NOTE:** If any tours are not self-guided then remember to ask for an English speaking one. Remember to look carefully at all of what you want to do when we are in a city where reserved attraction(s) occur and you may want to spread out your “reserved” event(s) over the different days and “fill in” the balance of a day with the “lesser” events, so you do not run yourself ragged trying to get from one reserved event to the next.