Landmarks of Europe & the Passion Play

August 22- September 3, 2022

13 Days- 12 Nights

Oberammergau, a beautiful Bavarian town surrounded by majestic mountains and picturesque meadows. Known for woodcarving and its Bavarian themes painted along side many of the homes and buildings. What Oberammergau is most famous for is its performance of the Passion of the Christ every decade. In 1633 the Black Plague was sweeping through Europe. The villagers of Oberammergau vowed that if their town was spared, they would perform the Passion of Christ every 10 years. The town was spared, and they have been honoring this pledge from generation to generation.

Behold spectacular Alpine Vistas and enjoy a Once in a Decade performance of the famed Oberammergau Passion Play on this journey through Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Mon. August 22 – Depart for Germany
Board plane and depart the USA for Germany. Dinner and breakfast included during flight. (Meals: D, B)
Tue. August 23 – Würzburg - Marienberg Fortress
After arrival at Frankfurt Airport, we drive to Bamberg, the old imperial city declared a world cultural heritage site by UNESCO in 1993. En route, we stop in Würzburg, capital of Franconia, where we enjoy a spectacular view from Marienberg Fortress, the former stronghold of the Prince-Bishops of Würzburg. We drive the Franconian wine route and stop in the charming, delightful medieval town of Prichsenstadt before arrival at the hotel. We have time to sample the famous local Rauchbier (smoked beer) or meander the streets admiring the murals and medieval buildings. Hotel: Hotel Bamberger Hofbellevue, Bamberg Germany (Meals: D)

Wed. August 24 – Fichtel Mountains - Wenceslas Square
Our route takes us east today as we drive through the scenic Fichtel Mountains to Přežen (Pilsen). We take a break for lunch on own at the (Přežen Brewery and Restaurant) and experience an interesting, guided brewery tour. After a sample of the special Plzeň Urquell beer, we continue to Prague in time to stroll along Wenceslas Square and explore the Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí). Tonight, a special treat awaits—a Czech folklore show including dinner with Czech specialties. Hotel: Clarion Hotel Prague Old Town, Czechia (Meals: B, D)

Thu. August 25 – Hradčany Castle - St. Vitus Cathedral - Joseftown
This morning our local guide joins us on a walking tour through the castle grounds of Hradčany Castle, where the 30 Year Religious War started. We visit the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and stroll across the famous Charles Bridge to reach the Old Town Square and enjoy free time for lunch. Perhaps we have time to look for bargains in Bohemian crystal or garnet jewelry! In the afternoon, we walk through Joseftown (Josefov), the old Jewish quarter and tour one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries from the 11th century. This evening, we find our own “new” favorite restaurant and dinner on own. Return to the Clarion Hotel Pargue Old Town for the night (Meals: B)

Fri. August 26 – České Budějovice - Freistadt
Drive south today and stop in České Budějovice where we learn about the process of making the original "Budweiser" beer at the České Budějovice Brewery. Our next stop is in Český Krumlov, the "pearl" of the Czech Republic. Later, we transfer to the romantic, fortified town of Freistadt, the main town in the lower Mühlviertel in Upper Austria, and have free time to shop, or perhaps walk the ramparts to experience the ambience of this delightful medieval town. Dinner included this evening. Hotel: Best Western Plus Hotel Goldener Adler, Innsbruck Austria (Meals: B, D)

Sat. August 27 – Mühlviertel - Castle Clam
Travel through the scenic Mühlviertel (Mill Quarter) in Upper Austria and tour the hops farm of the Josef Reiter family. Next, we visit Klam, a market town, and tour Castle Clam, one of Austria’s best retained fortresses. Traveling along the Austrian Romantic Road, we stop in Steyr, known for its tractors and innovative firearms production. Later, arrive in Kremsmünster, where a delicious Austrian dinner awaits. Hotels: Hotel Schlair, Kremsmunster, Austria (Meals: B, D)

Sun. August 28 – Salzkammergut - Gmundener Keramik Factory - Schleedorf
Experience the beauty of the Salzkammergut, one of Austria's favorite vacation areas, as we drive to Gmunden to tour the famous Gmundener Keramik Factory. After free time to shop or walk along the lake promenade, drive to Mondsee for a picture stop at the striking St Michael’s Basilica (where Maria married Captain von Trapp in the Sound of Music film). Continue to Schleedorf and stop at a “Käserei” to sample local cheese and learn about cheese-making. Tonight, we attend the "Sound of Music" Show at the Sternbräu Restaurant. Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel Altstadt, Salzburg, Austria (Meals: B, D)

Mon. August 29 – Salzburg - St. Peter’s Cemetery
In the morning, we explore Salzburg, the town made famous by its native son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and as the setting for the Sound of Music film. Stroll through Old Salzburg, with picturesque Mirabell Garden to reach the Getreidegasse. Walk past Mozart's birth house to visit St. Peter’s Cemetery and see the catacombs. We have the remainder of the day to relax and enjoy this beautiful city, trying local pastries and coffee. This evening, we have dinner on our own. Return to Radisson Blu Hotel (Meals: B)
Tue. August 30 – Berchtesgaden - Schnaps Museum
Drive to nearby Berchtesgaden this morning and experience an excursion to the Kehlstein Mountain, site of the tea house built for Adolf Hitler by the Nazi Party, commonly known as the “Eagle’s Nest.” We admire the fantastic Alpine panorama and then drive to Schönau and relax during a cruise on the Königssee. In the afternoon, drive through the Alpine countryside following the Autobahn along the river Inn. We arrive at Hotel Plankenhof in Pill and tour the Schnaps Museum. After learning about the making of herbal medicine, transfer to our hotel, the Hotel-restaurant Sonnhof, Radfield Austria in time for dinner. (Meals: B, D)

Wed. August 31 – Innsbruck - Palace Neuschwanstein - Wieskirche
Explore the Olympic city of Innsbruck this morning and then drive over the Fernpass to Oberammergau. En route, we tour Palace Neuschwanstein, the fairytale castle built by the eccentric King Ludwig II of Bavaria. After a tour of the castle, we stop at the Wieskirche, the beautiful rococo “church in the meadow,” before arriving at our hotel in Oberammergau. (Meals: B, D)

Thur. September 1 – Oberammergau - Passion Play
Enjoy a relaxed morning in Oberammergau, admiring the bright frescoes that adorn many of the homes and businesses, and perhaps shopping for a souvenir woodcarving for which the village is famous. We have options to visit nearby attractions. This afternoon we attend Part I of the Passion Play; the legacy of a vow made by the Oberammergauers in 1633 to enact the Passion story. Due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War, the plague had taken its toll in lives. But many of the people were spared, and the following year, 1634, the first Passion Play was performed on a stage set up in the cemetery. After dinner we attend Part II. (Meals: B, L, D)

Fri. September 2 – Munich - Nymphenburg Palace
After breakfast, visit Munich and meet our guide for a panoramic city tour of Bavaria's fun-loving capital. We visit the grounds of Nymphenburg Palace—the birthplace of King Ludwig II—drive along the elegant Maximilian Street, pass by the colorful Viktualien Markt and see the Frauenkirche - Munich's landmark. We have some free time this afternoon before a farewell dinner at the Hofbrauhaus. (Meals: B, D) Hotel: Hilton Munich Airport

Sat. September 3 – Depart for Home
Our adventure comes to an end today. We return with memories of fabulous castles, magnificent alpine landscapes, historic, enchanting cities, a great taste for the European beers and Gemütlichkeit, and a wealth of new friends! "Auf Wiederseh'n!" (Meals: B, Lunch served in flight)

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: $ 6088.00 Member /$6133.00 Non-Member
SINGLE OCCUPANCY: $ 7112.00 Member /$7157.00 Non-Member
Payable in 8 equal installments

Tour Includes:
• Airfare in Coach Class
• Transfer to and from airport
• Hotel Accommodations for Eleven (11) Nights
• Entrance to Passion Play Part I and II as listed in the itinerary.
• 12 Breakfasts
• 1 Lunch
• 10 Dinners
• Baggage Handling, admissions, and guide services as stated in the itinerary.
• Includes Airline Baggage Allowance for one bag
• Does not include gratuities for driver and guide.

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