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Featuring the Oberammergau Passion Play

Travel Dates: September 5-14, 2020

(Price includes: Round trip airfare, \$590.26 US & Intl. departure taxes/fuel, and \$160 gratuities)

Tour Code: Wolfram20



THE PROMISE

In 1633 the Black Plague rampaged through Europe, killing thousands. For months, the small village of Oberammergau managed to keep the dreaded disease at bay, mainly because of its remote location in the Bavarian Alps. Eventually the epidemic struck the nearby town of Ettal. The people of Oberammergau, however, controlled the spread of the disease by keeping close watch and preventing strangers from entering their village. Alas, late one evening, a villager who had been away, homesick for his family, strolled back into the town unknowingly brought the plague to his people. Within a few months, 84 villagers had died.

In July of 1633 the survivors gathered and made a solemn oath to God: if He spared them from further deaths, they would perform every ten years a day-long play depicting Jesus’ death and Resurrection. According to the story passed down through the generations, God heard them and there were no more deaths. In 1634, the townspeople performed their **Passion Play** for the first time. Eventually their vow was adopted by their children and their descendants. To this day, the villagers of Oberammergau have kept their promise virtually unbroken.



DAY 1 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5: U.S.A. TO EUROPE

Today we board our afternoon flight to Europe during which we will sit back, relax and enjoy a sumptuous meal.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6: MUNICH: TYROLEAN VILLAGE

Upon arrival at Munich Airport we will be met by our deluxe motorcoach and meet our escort who will accompany us throughout the tour. Not far from the airport, we catch our first glimpse of the majestic Alps in the distance. A short, scenic drive brings us into the imposing mountains of the Kitzbuhel Alps. Our home base for the next week is a charming Alpine Village in Tyrol, Austria.

DAY 3 - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: TYROLEAN VILLAGE: EXCURSION TO SALZBURG & KITZBUHEL

After breakfast, we enjoy an excursion to Salzburg, the entrancing location of “Sound of Music” and Mozart’s home town. During a guided walking tour, we see the exquisite Domplatz, the lively Gettreidegasse shopping street, the Great Festival Hall, and the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. We also see the Abbey founded in 690 and the Hohensalzburg, Europe’s finest medieval fortress. On our journey back to our hotel we will stop at the famous town Kitzbuhel where a lot of high society people are residing. We stroll through the nice streets and have the opportunity to do some window shopping.

DAY 4 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: TYROLEAN VILLAGE: OPTION TO GROSSGLOCKNER (\$79 PP)

Today is at leisure in our Alpine Village or you can join the optional excursion on the High Alpine Road to the glacier-clad Grossglockner pass.

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: TYROLEAN VILLAGE: EXCURSION TO MUNICH

After breakfast today, we begin with a sightseeing excursion to Munich, the capital of Bavaria. We enjoy an orientation tour and some free time in the city centre with its Gothic City Hall with its famous Glockenspiel clock, the Residenz, Church of our Lady and the Olympic Grounds and much more. We return in the evening to our mountain home.

DAY 6 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: TYROLEAN VILLAGE: OPTION TO KING LUDWIG’S HERRENCHEMSEE CASTLE (\$89 PP)

For those who choose the optional excursion to Herrenchiemsee Castle today, we will take a day tour into Bavaria to visit the incredible castle on Herren Island (a replica of Versailles). Our excursion includes both the boat ride to the island and a guided tour of the castle. We return to our hotel this evening.



INCLUDED FEATURES:

- ◆ Round-trip transatlantic flights via regularly scheduled airlines with beverages and meals served per the airline schedule.
- ◆ Hotel accommodations in First Class or Superior Tourist rooms with private bath/shower. Oberammergau Area accommodations are in private homes, small Pensions, or guest houses.
- ◆ Meals include: daily continental breakfast, dinners nightly; in Oberammergau: breakfast, set menu for dinner.
- ◆ All transfers and touring by deluxe motor coach with English-speaking escort throughout.
- ◆ Sightseeing of all major points of interest listed in the itinerary , including entrance fees.
- ◆ All local taxes for included services; VAT tax; hotel services charges; baggage handling of one suitcase on tour.
- ◆ Guaranteed Tickets at the World Famous Passion Play in Oberammergau (386 Years of Grand Tradition).



DAY 7 - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: TYROLEAN VILLAGE – OBERAMMERGAU: PASSION PLAY PERFORMANCE

Oberammergau is not only known for its World Famous Passion Play, but also for its woodcarving craft and for its colorful and attractive frescos know as Lüftlmalereien. In the morning if time permits, we will explore the lovely village, the museum, the parish church and a woodcarving workshop. Then we take our seats at the Passion Play Theater for the early afternoon performance. All the actors, musicians, and singers as well as the backstage staff are either born in Oberammergau or been residents for more than 20 years. Between the different scenes of the life of Jesus Christ we can admire “living pictures” – scenes from the Bible presented as still life. After 2.5 hours it is time for

a dinner break, which is waiting for us in a local restaurant. After dinner, we have the opportunity to stroll around in the village and to do some shopping. Later this evening, the second part of the play starts and will end at approximately 11:00 pm. We go to our hotel in Oberammergau for overnight after the play.

DAY 8 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: OBERAMMERGAU – INNSBRUCK – TYROLEAN VILLAGE

This morning we drive from the Passion Play village to Tyrol’s Capital, Innsbruck, also called “Pearl of the Alps.” During the guided walking tour through the historic Old Town we see the fabled “Gold Roof” palace and impressive cathedral and many other sites. Finally we will continue our drive to our already well known Tyrolean village.

DAY 9 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: VENICE, ITALY

Today we say good-bye to the Tyrol and make our way for Venice, Italy. We have early morning departure as we drive over the Europa bridge and cross into Italy at the Brenner Pass. We continue through mountainous South Tyrol and the majestic Dolomite Alps via Padova to Venice. The city tour of Venice includes St. Mark’s Cathedral and Square, the Bridge of Sighs, and the Rialto Bridge. We have free time on our own this afternoon to ride in a gondola, watch Venetian glass or lace being made or to shop. Dinner on our own this evening. Overnight in Venice or Mestre area.



DAY 10 - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: VENICE AIRPORT, U.S.A.

We transfer this morning to Venice International Airport for our flight back to the U.S.A., the end of a wonderful Alpine Experience!

**While we do our very best at making sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control affect your program/itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your tour leader and tour guide.*