OBERAMMERGAU

2022

The Passion Play
and Regions of Bavaria/Germany

9 DAYS
FACT FILE

The History -
The townspeople of Oberammergau fulfil their vow to perform the Passion of Christ every ten years for the first time during Pentecost in 1634. Initially they erect a stage in the cemetery above the graves of the recent victims of the Black Death.

The Location -
In the small Bavarian village of Oberammergau in southern Germany.

The Play -
Five performances each week from May to October in two parts of a total of 6 hours with over half a million attending in the audience. The play is in German with an English handbook although most people know the story and can follow the scenes easily.

The Cast -
Approximately 2000 residents of the village who have to have been born in the village or have lived there for at least 20 years, comprising of actors, singers, instrumentalists and stage technicians.

The Theatre -
Graduated theatre seating with a capacity for an audience of 4,700

The Itinerary

DAY 1/ Sunday
U.S/ Munich Flight
Meet and check-in for the direct flight to Munich, Germany.

DAY 2/ Monday
Munich Arrival
On arrival, transfer by private coach south to the Oberammergau area and the hotel for room assignment and the evening meal.

Dinner & Overnight in the
Oberammergau Area
DAY 3 / Tuesday

Regions of Bavaria

After breakfast, by coach for the best part of the day visiting:

The Zugspitze
At 9,718 ft above sea level, it is the highest peak of the Wetterstein Mountains, as well as being the highest mountain in Germany. On the flanks of the Zugspitze are three glaciers, including the two largest in Germany. It has two toboggan runs, Germany’s highest church, an igloo village and excellent mountain restaurants. From the base of the mountain, ascend the summit by cable car. On a clear day, one can see over a thousand Bavarian, Austrian, Swiss and Italian mountain peaks at once. The mountain hosts cafés and a 360° Panorama restaurant. Descent from the mountain is by cogwheel train.

Neuschwanstein Castle
Seven weeks after the death of King Ludwig II in 1886, Neuschwanstein was opened to the public. The shy king had built the castle in order to withdraw from public life. A visit to this world famous King Ludwig Castle. Known for the elaborate construction and world-famous architecture, many believe this inspired Disney’s storybook castle.

Ettal Abbey
A Benedictine monastery with a community of more than 50 monks which was founded in 1330, by Emperor Ludwig in fulfilment of a vow, on return from his coronation in Rome.
Highlights of the visit are the Basilica, distillery and brewery.

Dinner & Overnight in the Oberammergau Area
After breakfast, a full day by coach.

The first ever historical note dates back to 1102, and refers to the area’s rich salt deposits. The ‘Eagle’s Nest’ (Kehlsteinhaus) was built as a teahouse for Adolf Hitler on Kehlstein Mountain at an elevation of 6,017 feet, and its unusual position made it a unique engineering feat.

The ‘Eagle’s Nest’
From Obersalzberg, change to a special bus for the journey up the 6.5 kilometres (4 miles) long road to Kehlsteinhaus - an amazing route. Upon arrival in the upper car park, a 124 metres (406 feet) long tunnel leads into the mountain. Once inside the mountain, a lift journey of less than a minute, goes directly up into the summit and the building complex, which includes a restaurant.

Berchtesgaden Village
In 1960, on the occasion of the 150th celebration of Berchtesgaden’s incorporation to Bavaria, the Bavarian government relinquished its control over the buildings to a Trust that ensures the proceeds are used for charitable purposes. The historic Berchtesgadener Hof Hotel hosted many famous visitors such as Neville Chamberlain and David Lloyd George. Spend some time in the village before returning to the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight in the Oberammergau Area
DAY 5/ Thursday

Leisure Day
A Free Day to go-as-you-please, visiting places of personal interest or just relaxing at the hotel.
Dinner & Overnight in the Oberammergau Area

DAY 6/ Friday

Regions of Bavaria
After breakfast, a full day by coach visiting:

Augsburg
Germany’s third oldest city, founded in 15 BC by the Romans, and named after the Roman emperor Augustus. The city played a leading role in the Reformation as the site of the 1530 Augsburg Confession and 1555 Peace of Augsburg.
Visits in the old town include, the medieval guild houses, the 11th-century St. Mary’s Cathedral, the onion-domed St. Ulrich and St. Afra Abbey.
A key Renaissance building is the Town Hall with its Golden Hall completed in 1624.

Ulm
Founded around 850, the city is situated on the River Danube, bordering Bavaria. The city is primarily known for having the Church with the tallest steeple in the world (530 ft), the Gothic Ulm Minster, and as the birthplace of Albert Einstein.
Visits include, the Minster where, from its steeple, there are impressive views of the city and, in clear weather, the Alps; The Town Hall has an early-Renaissance facade, murals and a 16th-century astronomical clock; The Fisherman’s Quarter is a charming selection of old buildings on the river Danube, including many small bridges, restaurants and shops.

Dinner & Overnight in the Oberammergau Area
The 42nd Oberammergau Passion Play was postponed due to the situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic. As the health of guests and participants is of highest priority, the decision was made to postpone the premiere which was planned for the 16th May 2020, until 2022. The premiere is now scheduled for May 14th, 2022.

The history of the Oberammergau Passion Play begins in 1633. In the midst of the Thirty Years’ War, after months of suffering and dying from the plague, the people of Oberammergau pledged to act out the play of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, once every 10 years.

At Whitsun in 1634, they fulfilled their promise for the first time. By the middle of the 18th century, spectators from all over Germany came to Oberammergau, attracted by the great power and atmosphere of the play. 2022 will see the 42nd instalment of the play that the citizens of Oberammergau have maintained through the centuries with unique continuity.

In a six-hour-performance, more than 2000 participants bring the story of Jesus of Nazareth to the impressive open-air stage of the Passion Play Theatre. Almost half of Oberammergau’s population will devotedly act out the story of the man whose tidings for more than 2000 years have brought hope and power of life to an incredible number of people.

On 26 July 2020, Christian Stückl, director of the Oberammergau Passion Play and of the Münchner Volkstheater, was awarded the Abraham Geiger Prize. The speech was given by the President of the Jewish Community of Munich and Upper Bavaria and former President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Dr. H. C. Charlotte Knobloch. Due to the Covid19 epidemic, the award ceremony during the Passion Play in Oberammergau had to be cancelled and was held as part of a matinee in the Münchner Volkstheater (Munich People’s Theatre).

Dr. Charlotte’s eulogy included: “Many centuries of history are connected with the Play, and this history is not always easy and free of pain. You worked with the material as carefully as possible and as consistently as necessary. You succeeded in showing the Jewishness in the Passion Play - without prejudice, without demonisation, without anti-Semitic undertones.”
DAY 7/ Saturday

The Passion Play

After breakfast, a few hours to relax at the hotel before lunch in the village.

Attend the afternoon performance in the special ‘open air’ Passion Play Theatre.

After the evening meal attend the 2nd half of the play.

Dinner & Overnight in the Oberammergau Area
The village, famous as the home of a long tradition of woodcarving, is where the Bavarian State Woodcarving School is located. Among the celebrated former students is the German artist Wolfram Aichele. His processional church staff depicting Christ on a donkey can be seen in the church of St Peter and St Paul. The streets of central Oberammergau are home to dozens of woodcarver shops, with pieces ranging from religious subjects, to toys, to humorous portraits.

Oberammergau is also famous for its “Lüftlmalerei,” or frescoes, of traditional Bavarian themes, fairy tales and religious scenes, found on many homes and buildings. The village is also known for its religious art.

A wooden statue of Our Lady of Good Voyage from Oberammergau stands in the Seaport Shrine in Boston, Massachusetts.
DAY 8/Sunday
Leisure & Free Time
A Free Day to perhaps visit a local church for Sunday worship or relax at the hotel.
Dinner & Overnight in the
Oberammergau Area

DAY 9/ Monday
Return Flight
Travel to Munich airport for the direct flight to the U.S.