

2020
**PASSION
PLAY**
OBERAMMERGAU

 **Thomas Cook**
Tours

Oberammergau Passion Play

Choose from seven
tailored tours featuring
the Passion Play 2020

Share in the magnificence of this performance
with Thomas Cook Tours, the number one
Passion Play tour company



A Passion Play of life and death

A play of life and death, promised in a moment of mortal threat - so began the history of the Oberammergau Passion Play in 1633.

In the middle of the Thirty Years War, after months of suffering and death from the Plague, the residents of a small Bavarian village of Oberammergau, swore an oath to God. They pledged they would perform the "Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ" every ten years, if they could be spared any further deaths at the hands of the Plague. They say not a single person fell victim to the Plague after this time and keeping their promise, the people of Oberammergau performed the first play in 1634. This tradition has continued throughout the centuries, and the next performance takes place in 2020.



The Passion Play 2020 in Oberammergau

Preparations are already underway for the next Passion Play in the tiny Bavarian hamlet of Oberammergau. The performances in 2020 may seem distant, but the excitement is already building for the next production. Demand for tickets is sure to be high and space on tours at a premium. Thomas Cook Tours will be there, sharing in the magnificence of this performance with several itineraries that showcase the charm and beauty of central Europe.

Will you be there?

Passion Play preparation

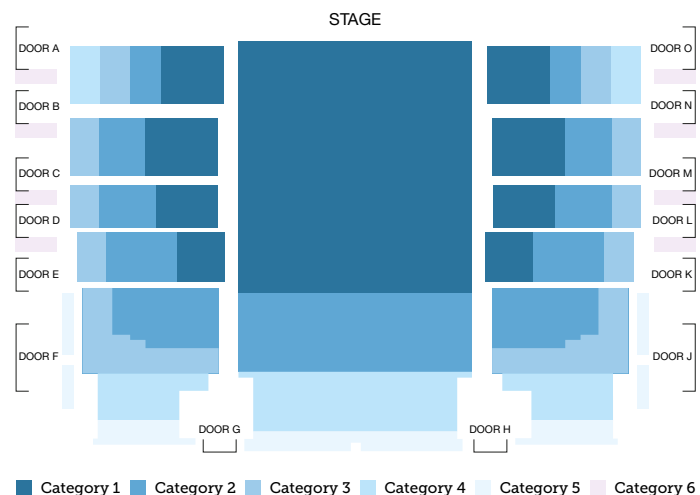
Planning has already commenced for the 2020 Passion Play, and the exact schedule has now been decided. In October 2018, the Passion Play vow, from the year 1633, will be renewed in a festive church service. At the same time, the main actors will be announced and introduced. Next to the big roles of Jesus, Mary, Peter, Judas, Pontius Pilate and Caiaphas, are 120 other key roles.

Altogether, more than 2,000 people from Oberammergau will be part of the Passion Play 2020. However, only residents born in Oberammergau can take part in the play, or adults if they have lived in the village for more than 20 years. There are also many children and animals involved in the performance too. From Ash Wednesday 2019 onwards, the participants follow the age old tradition where they have to stop cutting their hair and beards. The final preparation commences in November 2019 when rehearsals start, before the premiere on 16th May 2020. The final performance is on 4th October 2020.

Passion Play theatre

The first performance of the play took place in 1634 on a simple wooden stage in the village cemetery, above the graves of recent victims of the Plague. In the early 19th century the performance was moved to the theatre's current location, due to the growth in the number of visitors coming to see the play from around the world. The play now takes place in Oberammergau's large, open air, purpose built theatre with covered seating so performances can take place whatever the weather.

The auditorium seats around 4,500 people, with the comfortable seats set on an incline, providing everyone with a good view.



The Passion Play performance

- There are 5 performances each week between 16th May and 4th October 2020.
- The play begins at 2:30 PM; a dinner break is taken from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The play then continues from 8:00 to 10:30 PM.
- The play is performed exclusively in German.
- Playbooks with the script are available in German, Swedish, and English.

Oberammergau tickets

Tickets for the 2020 Passion Play are only available as part of an official package including accommodation. Our hotel(s) are typically located directly in Oberammergau, generally within walking distance of the Passion Play theatre. Early reservations are essential because the Passion Play is always a sell-out.



Join Thomas Cook Tours for the 2020 Passion Play

Join Thomas Cook Tours in 2020 and witness what is regarded as the most important Passion Play in the world.

Thomas Cook Tours has brought thousands of guests to Germany to enjoy this once-in-a-decade event. Building on years of experience, our team is hard at work finalising our tours showcasing the must-see European destinations and the epic Passion Play which depicts the life and death of Jesus.

The Passion Play with Thomas Cook Tours

- We are the #1 Passion Play tour company
- We had one of the largest allocations of tickets in 2010
- Our tours visit Oberammergau every year so we really know the village and its residents
- Our tours will feature hotels close to the Passion Play theatre
- Our seating options will be among the best available
- Our experience speaks for itself with years as a touring specialist
- We are one of the most trusted holiday companies with high levels of repeat customers
- Even with Thomas Cook Tours, tickets will be at a premium

Our 2020 Passion Play tours

We have a collection of existing and new Thomas Cook Tours, which combine the performance of the Passion Play and Oberammergau with some of our most popular tours. These showcase the highlights of the region, maximising your time away.

The Thomas Cook Tours difference

Travelling is such an enriching experience, and with Thomas Cook Tours, we strive to get you under the skin of your chosen destination, and here's how...

Looking after you every step of the way

Every Thomas Cook Tour is escorted by one of our experienced tour managers. They are part tour guide, part confidant, part concierge, and part friend. They are with you throughout your holiday with us. Drawing on their own rich backgrounds and extensive training, they enhance each journey. Whether it's with a bit of historical information, suggesting a special local restaurant or sharing a laugh, Thomas Cook Tours tour managers are at your service.

Unrivalled accommodation

Whether it's the amenities, the history, the view or the location, your predominantly 4 and 5 star accommodation often turn into highlights all of their own. We carefully select each hotel around your itinerary to ensure you experience the true essence of your destination.

Experience it your way

We recognise how individual all our customers are, and this year we have introduced more choice on tour, so you can tailor your holiday exactly the way you want it. You can choose the excursions you'd like to experience with our Choice on Tour and we have also included ample free time on tour so you can explore as much or as little as you like.

Private Door to Door transfers

At Thomas Cook Tours, we believe your holiday starts as soon as you leave your front door. So, when you book a flight inclusive holiday with us, you'll be able to start your holiday in style with our exclusive private airport door to door transfer service.



***DONT MISS
OUT...**

**ON THIS ONCE IN A
DECADE EXPERIENCE**

*Early booking is advised

Booking your place for Oberammergau

2020 may seem like a long way away, but to avoid disappointment with this once-in-a-decade event, we are encouraging you to book your place today. We're experiencing high demand for our tickets already and they are limited, and once they are gone, they are gone!

The easiest way to book your place is to call our dedicated sales team on 0800 804 8338. They can talk you through the itineraries and discuss your preferred departure dates. The rest is easy, and you can relax knowing that you won't miss out in 2020. Nearer the time, when flights become available, we will be back in touch to organise the most suitable flights for your requirements... and we can be as flexible as you need to be. We can organise flights from most of the UK's regional airports, with our preferred airline partners. We can advise you on the best airlines for each tour and the best routes, and you can choose who you'd prefer to travel with. We'll find the best price for you based on your chosen departure date and local airport. And don't forget, when you book your flights with us, we'll provide your private airport transfer too.

1. **Deposit:** To secure your place on one of our Oberammergau departures, we require a £400 per person non refundable deposit.
2. **Second deposit:** A second non refundable deposit of £1,000 per person will be required 12 months prior to your tour departing in 2020. Payment will be required between May – October 2019 depending on your tour departure.
3. **Final balance:** The final balance for your tour will be required 120 days prior to your departure.

*All other Thomas Cook Tours terms and conditions apply. Please go online for our current bookings terms and conditions.

Travel as a group

If you are travelling as part of a group with friends, family or a social group, we have a special Group Travel Team. They are available to make it as easy as possible to plan, promote and prepare for your group trip.

- If you are organising a group, please contact us to find out more about our FREE places that may be available depending on the size of your group.
- We can provide marketing support to help promote your group, just let our Group Travel Team know your plans.

Peace of mind

Every tour with Thomas Cook Tours is fully protected. If you book just the tour with us, you'll be covered by our ABTA protection. If you book a flight inclusive tour, you'll be covered by our ATOL protection. On every tour you'll be accompanied by one of our experienced, friendly tour managers. Not only are they chosen based on their own rich backgrounds and experience, but also on their natural caring nature and personality.

Office opening hours:

Mon-Sat: 9am-6pm, Sun: 10am-5pm

Public holidays: 10am-5pm

Thomas Cook Tours

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Contact us

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Group Bookings: **0800 804 8703**

Email: sales@thomascooktours.com

Web: www.thomascooktours.com



Alpine Explorer with the Oberammergau Passion Play

11 Day tour. Includes 18 meals and Category 1 Oberammergau Passion Play ticket





Breathtaking Alpine scenery awaits as you travel through Italy, Switzerland and Austria. From amazing railways to the dramatic Passion Play, experience wonders only found in the heart of Europe.

Planned tour itinerary

DAY 1 Stresa, Italy (Lago Maggiore) - Tour Begins

Your tour starts in Stresa (Lago Maggiore) where you can take some free time to explore this beautiful lakeside town. Your evening begins with a cocktail party in a wine shop before we cruise to our welcome dinner on Isola dei Pescatori, the most beautiful of the Borromean Islands.

DAY 2 Stresa (Lago Maggiore)

Today we make our way to an ancient village nestled in the mountains. Stop at a family farm to learn about the artisan cheeses they produce. Sample delicious creations and discover how to pair them with local wines. Return to Stresa for a free afternoon.

DAY 3 Stresa (Lago Maggiore) - Zermatt, Switzerland

Depart Lago Maggiore for a scenic drive into the heart of the mountains. The breath-taking views of the Italian and Swiss Alps are sure to leave a lasting impression. Upon arrival in Tasch, board a local train for the final stages of your journey to the Alpine village of Zermatt.

DAY 4 Zermatt - Choice on Tour

Today Zermatt is at your fingertips. It's your choice! Explore on foot during a guided walking tour. Or, explore Zermatt on your own before visiting the Matterhorn Museum to learn more about the triumph and tragedy of the first ascent of this imposing peak. The remainder of your day is at leisure.

DAY 5 Zermatt - Glacier Express Train - St. Moritz
 Traverse bridges and tunnels while aboard the world-renowned narrow gauge Glacier Express, the most charming express train in the world. Enjoy the natural beauty of this route through the heart of the Swiss Alps. Filled with forests, fragrant meadows, streams and deep valleys. Arrive in St. Moritz, the playground of the rich and famous. Tonight, relax during dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 6 St. Moritz - Innsbruck, Austria

Drive through the picturesque Engadine Valley to Innsbruck, the capital of the Austrian Tyrol. Here, join a local expert and explore the city's medieval pedestrian streets including Maria Theresian Strasse, the Hofburg and the Golden Roof.

DAY 7 Innsbruck - Salzburg - Innsbruck

Travel the Austrian countryside to Salzburg, one of Europe's most beautiful and romantic spots. Enjoy a leisurely walking tour of Salzburg's historic "Old Town" - The Altstadt. See highlights such as the Cathedral, Mozart's birthplace and Mirabell Gardens. Film buffs will be able to pick out locations from

"The Sound of Music." This evening, you'll take dinner at the centuries-old St. Peter's Restaurant, central Europe's oldest restaurant.

DAY 8 Innsbruck - Munich, Germany - Oberammergau

Today we head to the frontier of Germany, crossing the border into Bavaria. Soon we arrive in the Bavarian capital of Munich for a walking tour featuring the Marienplatz, the Glockenspiel and the Olympic Park. We'll then depart for the quaint village of Oberammergau, nestled in the Bavarian Alps.

DAY 9 Oberammergau - Passion Play

This afternoon, you'll experience a performance of the epic Passion Play. The original performance dates back to 1634. During the Thirty Year War, Oberammergau was spared the Black Plague and for this reason, the citizens vowed that every ten years they would give a play to honour the last days of the life of Christ. The performers are all native to the village. To lend authenticity to the performance, the cast start to grow their hair and beards more than a year in advance. Also, the intricate costumes are made locally by the villagers. During the break of the performance, join your fellow travellers for dinner before returning to the Passion Play's final performance.

DAY 10 Oberammergau - Linderhof Palace - Fussen - Hohenschwangau Castle - Munich Airport Area

Travel to nearby Linderhof Palace, one of the most artistic and stylistically complex ensembles of the 19th century. Visit the "Royal Villa", the only palace King Ludwig II of Bavaria was able to complete. Behind the Baroque façade is a Rococo world, rich in abundant ornamentation.. Next, enjoy free time exploring medieval Fussen, the Romantic town on the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. Later, visit the royal Bavarian castle Hohenschwangau, the childhood residence of King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Make a special picture stop at Neuschwanstein castle, Germany's most famous castle and the inspiration for the castle in Sleeping Beauty. This evening, gather with your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of a wonderful trip.

DAY 11 Munich Airport Area - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close today.

This is a provisional itinerary. Tour details currently subject to change.

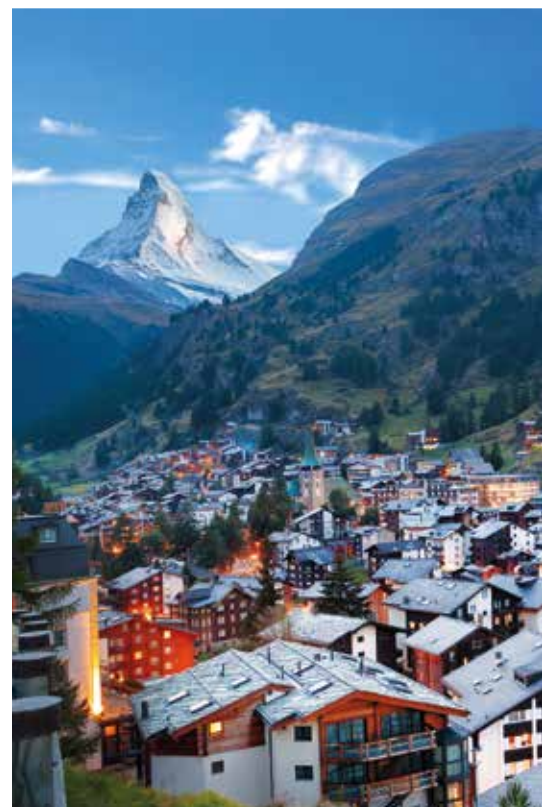


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Tour highlights include

- Journey aboard the famous Glacier Express
- Experience the Passion Play in Oberammergau
- Explore Salzburg on a walking tour
- Enjoy a two night stay in picturesque Lago Maggiore

Pricing Conditions: *Please call us or go online for our current pricing.



Austrian Delight with the Oberammergau Passion Play

9 Day tour. Includes 13 meals and Category 2 Oberammergau Passion Play ticket





Embrace the beauty of the Austrian Alps with quaint villages, pristine lakes and the fertile valleys of Innsbruck and Salzburg. Plus, enjoy two nights in the famous Bavarian village of Oberammergau, Germany, where you can experience the powerful Passion Play.

Planned tour itinerary

DAY 1 Innsbruck, Austria - Tour Begins

Your tour begins in Innsbruck. Here, modern architecture stands beside 800-year-old buildings and the Austrian Alps create a postcard perfect backdrop. This evening, you'll gather for a welcome dinner.

DAY 2 Innsbruck

Join a local guide for a panoramic city tour featuring Maria Theresienstrasse; the famous Golden Roof, built in 1500 by Archduke Friedrich IV; and the Hofburg, once the seat of Habsburg princes. The remainder of your day is at leisure to relax or explore Innsbruck.

DAY 3 Innsbruck - Bavaria, Germany - Innsbruck

Set off for the beautiful Bavarian Alps and find storybook settings comprised of charming villages and enchanting castles. Travel to nearby Linderhof Palace, one of the most artistic and stylistically complex ensembles of the 19th century. Visit the "Royal Villa", the only palace King Ludwig II of Bavaria was able to complete. Behind the Baroque façade is a Rococo world, rich in abundant ornamentation. Next, enjoy free time exploring medieval Füssen, the Romantic town on the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. Later, visit the royal Bavarian castle Hohenschwangau, the childhood residence of King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Before returning to Innsbruck, make a special picture stop at Neuschwanstein castle, Germany's most famous castle and the inspiration for the castle in Sleeping Beauty.

DAY 4 Innsbruck - Swarovski Crystal Worlds - Salzburg

Visit Swarovski Crystal Worlds, a fairy tale world of shimmering crystal amid the mystical mountains of Tirol. Spend time exploring a multi-sensory experience of crystal in all its facets including a magical menagerie of art installations, a museum and theme park. Later, travel through the Austrian countryside to the musical city of Salzburg. Beautiful gardens, old-world architecture and friendly locals paint Salzburg's delightful canvas. Home to Mozart, dotted with sights from the film The Sound of Music, and with an Old City that is a UNESCO World Heritage site, Salzburg truly has something for everyone. This evening, you'll gather for dinner with a Mozart concert at the centuries-old St. Peter's Restaurant, central Europe's oldest restaurant. It dates back to 803!

DAY 5 Salzburg

Begin your day with a leisurely-paced walking tour featuring Mirabell Gardens, famously featured during the song "Do Re Mi" from The Sound of Music; and Getreidegasse – a busy street in the Old Town section of Salzburg that also happens to be the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The

remainder of the day is at leisure. This afternoon, independently explore this beautiful baroque city on the banks of the Salzach River. Perhaps visit the city's amazing historic area, browse its wonderful shops or enjoy coffee at a local café while soaking in the charming atmosphere.

DAY 6 Salzburg

Enjoy a full day at leisure, exploring Salzburg's palaces, parks, museums, churches and natural charms. You may want to take the funicular to the 16th century Hohensalzburg Fortress, high above the rooftops of the historical district, tour Leopoldskron Palace, an original shooting location from "The Sound of Music" or visit the 17th century medieval bishops' Residenz Palace, home to some 180 rooms and courtyards where the prince archbishops of Salzburg held court.

DAY 7 Oberammergau - Passion Play

Travel to the picturesque village of Oberammergau. This afternoon, witness a performance of the epic Passion Play. The original performance dates back to 1634. During the Thirty Year War, Oberammergau was spared the Black Plague and for this reason, the citizens vowed that every ten years they would give a play to honour the last days of the life of Christ. The performers are all native to the village. To lend authenticity to the performance, the cast start to grow their hair and beards more than a year in advance. During the break of the performance, join your fellow travellers for dinner before returning to the Passion Play's final performance.

DAY 8 Oberammergau - Munich

This morning journey to the Bavarian capital of Munich – idyllically situated at the foot of the Alps. A locally guided panoramic tour showcases its unique blend of folkloric ambience and modern sophistication. Visit Olympic Park, site of the 1972 Olympic games and a stunning example of modern architecture. Next, marvel at the Baroque-influenced architecture of the city as you visit the Marienplatz – the heart of Munich and the most scenic square of the old town. Here, behold the Rathaus-Glockenspiel – an ornate clock comprised of 43 bells and 32 life-sized figures that depict medieval jousting and dancing – reflecting different pieces of Bavaria's history. Have leisure time to explore Munich's lovely historic centre, visit one of its many museums or discover more of the city's beauty on your own before gathering for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of an unforgettable journey.

DAY 9 Munich Airport Area - Tour Ends

Your tour ends today in Munich.

This is a provisional itinerary. Tour details currently subject to change.



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Tour highlights include

- Visit Linderhof Palace
- Discover the musical city of Salzburg
- Explore Munich, the Bavarian capital
- Experience the Passion Play in Oberammergau

Pricing Conditions: *Please call us or go online for our current pricing.



Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria with the Oberammergau Passion Play

9 Day tour. Includes 14 meals and Category 2 Oberammergau Passion Play ticket





Set out to experience Switzerland, Austria and the Oberammergau Passion Play. Your tour opens in Bern, the capital of Switzerland and a UNESCO World Heritage site nestled in the Swiss countryside.

Planned tour itinerary

DAY 1 Bern, Switzerland - Tour Begins

Your tour opens in Bern, the capital of Switzerland and a UNESCO World Heritage site nestled in the Swiss countryside. The cobbled Old Town section is so well preserved that residents who lived here 500 years ago would still find it familiar today. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner featuring local cuisine and traditional cheese fondue.

DAY 2 Bern

Explore Bern on a panoramic sightseeing tour featuring the Bundeshaus (the Swiss Parliament), the Bear Pit, the Rose Gardens and the gothic cathedral which dominates Old Town's skyline. Along the way, your Tour Manager will introduce you to both the language and culture of the region. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore independently or perhaps brave Europe's steepest funicular ride up Gurten Mountain.

DAY 3 Bern - Château de Chillon - Montreux - Train Ride

Travel along the shores of Lake Geneva to the legendary, medieval Château de Chillon. This princely residence faces the lake but puts forth the image of an imposing fortress from the mountains. Later, enjoy inspiring Alpine views with a ride on the GoldenPass Panoramic Train from Montreux to Gstaad. Discover the ambience of this world-famous Alpine ski resort with its numerous traditional wood chalets.

DAY 4 Bern - Lucerne - Bern

Set out for Lucerne, the "Swiss Paradise on the Lake." Enjoy a leisurely paced Altstadt (Old Town) walking tour, exploring the hidden treasures of the city. Lucerne has more than 800 years of history. Explore such medieval treasures as the covered Chapel Bridge (1833); the famous Water Tower which has served as a prison, watchtower and treasury; the Renaissance-style Town Hall; the baroque Jesuit Church; and the Lion Monument, carved from natural rock to commemorate the heroic Swiss Guard. This evening's dinner is included at one of Bern's great restaurants.

DAY 5 Bern - Innsbruck, Austria

En route to Innsbruck we make our way through Liechtenstein, the smallest and richest German-speaking country in the world and the only country to lie entirely within the Alps. Upon arrival in Innsbruck you have the choice of one of two leisurely walking tours: join a local guide as you discover the city's history, culture and popular attractions including Maria Theresien Strasse, the

Hofburg and the "Golden Roof"; or, you may embark on a tour focusing on Innsbruck's unique architectural structures including its famous ski jump.

DAY 6 Innsbruck - Salzburg - Innsbruck

Travel through the picturesque Austrian countryside to Salzburg. There, enjoy a leisurely paced walking tour featuring Mirabell Gardens (seen in the Sound of Music); the quaint Getreidegasse (birthplace of Mozart); and many other highlights of this beautiful city. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to independently explore and enjoy Salzburg's fabulous sights. Complete your day with a delightful dinner at the 1,200-year-old St. Peter's Restaurant, the oldest in Austria. It's still owned by the monks!

DAY 7 Innsbruck - Oberammergau, Germany - Passion Play

Cross the border into Bavaria, Germany to the quaint village of Oberammergau. This afternoon, witness a performance of the epic Passion Play. The original performance dates back to 1634. During the Thirty Year War, Oberammergau was spared the Black Plague and for this reason, the citizens vowed that every ten years they would give a play to honour the last days of the life of Christ. The performers are all native to the village. To lend authenticity to the performance, the cast start to grow their hair and beards more than a year in advance. During the break of the performance, join your fellow travellers for dinner before returning to the Passion Play's final performance.

DAY 8 Oberammergau - Linderhof Palace - Fussen - Hohenschwangau Castle - Munich Airport Area

Begin your day with a visit to Linderhof Palace, one of the most artistic and stylistically complex ensembles of the 19th century and the only palace King Ludwig II of Bavaria was able to complete. Behind the Baroque façade is a Rococo world, rich in abundant ornamentation, with many sculptural elements. Showing workmanship of an incomparable artistic quality. Next, enjoy free time to explore medieval Fussen, the Romantic town on the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. Later, visit the royal Bavarian castle Hohenschwangau, the childhood residence of King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Make a special picture stop at Neuschwanstein castle before gathering for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of a memorable trip.

DAY 9 Munich Airport Area - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close today.

This is a provisional itinerary. Tour details currently subject to change.



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Tour highlights include

- Travel to Bavaria and see the famous Neuschwanstein Castle
- Ride the GoldenPass panoramic train from Montreux to Gstaad
- Experience the famous Passion Play in Oberammergau
- Explore Salzburg's historic past and charming old town

Pricing Conditions: *Please call us or go online for our current pricing.



Exploring the Alpine Countries with the Oberammergau Passion Play

12 Day tour. Includes 19 meals and Category 1 Oberammergau Passion Play ticket





Discover storybook castles and glittering palaces amidst stunning Alpine vistas as you explore Austria, Germany and Switzerland and experience the epic Passion Play. You'll visit Vienna, cruise on the Danube, and take a train ride on the Matterhorn Gottard Bahn.

Planned tour itinerary

DAY 1 Vienna, Austria - Tour Begins

Yours tour begins in Vienna. This evening, you'll gather for a welcome dinner where you can sample regional wines and have a meal showcasing the local cuisine of the quaint wine making region of Grinzing.

DAY 2 Vienna

Come to know Vienna this morning during a locally guided tour that showcases its architectural character. Visit the incredible Schoenbrunn Palace and see the impressive St. Stephen's Cathedral. This afternoon enjoy some free time to explore the avenues of Vienna or visit one of its many museums.

DAY 3 Vienna - Salzburg

After a short journey through the countryside, enjoy a lovely cruise along the Danube, one of Europe's most important waterways. Later, make a stop at the Benedictine Melk Abbey before continuing to Salzburg, the "City of Music." Tonight, sit down for a Mozart dinner concert at the centuries-old St. Peter's Restaurant.

DAY 4 Salzburg

Discover the splendour of Salzburg on a leisurely paced walking tour of the Old Town. Some of the amazing sights you will see along the way include the Cathedral, Mozart's birthplace and Mirabell Gardens.

DAY 5 Salzburg - Munich, Germany - Oberammergau

Today we travel to Germany. In Munich, feel the energy of this lively city during a tour that highlights Olympic Park; the world-famous Glockenspiel; and Marienplatz, a beautiful square surrounded by shops, restaurants and cafés. Later in the day, arrive at your home for the next two nights — the quaint village of Oberammergau, renowned for woodcarvings and the Passion Play.

DAY 6 Oberammergau - Passion Play

This afternoon, witness a performance of the epic Passion Play. The original performance dates back to 1634. During the Thirty Year War, Oberammergau was spared the Black Plague and for this reason, the citizens vowed that every ten years they would give a play to honour the last days of the life of Christ. The performers of this event are all native to the village. To lend authenticity to the performance, the cast starts to grow their hair and beards more than a

year in advance.

DAY 7 Oberammergau - Black Forest

Today fairy tales become reality at a picture stop of Bavaria's most famous castle, King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein. Next you are off to the heart of the stunning Black Forest, a region famous for its artisans who create authentic cuckoo clocks, Hummels and wood carvings.

DAY 8 Black Forest - Zermatt, Switzerland

Welcome to Switzerland! Your first stop en route to Zermatt is at one of the most photographed castles in the world, the Château de Chillon, located on serene Lake Geneva. Later, enjoy a short train ride aboard the Matterhorn Gottard Bahn from Tasch to the relaxing pedestrian village of Zermatt in the Swiss Alps.

DAY 9 Zermatt - Choice on Tour

Today Zermatt is at your fingertips. It's your choice! Explore on foot during a guided walking tour. Or, experience Zermatt independently before visiting the Matterhorn Museum to learn more about the triumph and tragedy of the first ascent of this imposing peak. The remainder of your day is at leisure.

DAY 10 Zermatt - Grimsel Pass - Lucerne

Breathtaking views of glaciers, crystal clear rivers and snowcapped mountains will amaze you as you travel through the spectacular scenery of the Grimsel Pass. Your destination is Lucerne, the "Swiss Paradise on the Lake."

DAY 11 Lucerne

This morning, embark on a scenic walking tour of this picturesque place, including a stroll through its romantic Old Town. The remainder of the day is yours to explore all that Lucerne has to offer. Tonight, you'll come together for a farewell dinner featuring local specialties and toast to the end of a wonderful trip.

DAY 12 Lucerne - Tour Ends

Today, your tour will end in Lucerne.

This is a provisional itinerary. Tour details currently subject to change.



© Oberammergau and the Passion Play 2010

Tour highlights include

- Embark on a cruise along the Danube River
- Experience the Passion Play in Oberammergau
- Visit Vienna and its incredible Schoenbrunn Palace
- Make a stop at the impressive Benedictine Melk Abbey

Pricing Conditions: *Please call us or go online for our current pricing.



Imperial Cities with the Oberammergau Passion Play

10 Day tour. Includes 16 meals and Category 1 Oberammergau Passion Play ticket





Set out on an exciting cultural experience in the Imperial Cities of Central Europe featuring traditional entertainment, a scenic cruise along the Danube River and the stunning Passion Play.

Planned tour itinerary

DAY 1 Budapest, Hungary - Tour Begins

Your tour begins in Budapest, the "Queen of the Danube," truly one of the world's most beautiful cities. Have time at leisure to relax or explore before gathering for tonight's welcome dinner.

DAY 2 Budapest

Join a local expert who will tell you all about the city. Discover Matthias Church, site of many coronations of kings. Next, see the Fisherman's Bastion with its white walls, towers and arcades for spectacular views. Continue to historic Old Buda and Gellert Hill, followed by the Parliament. At Heroes Square, admire the imposing Millennium Monument, completed in 1904, which memorialises the 1,000th anniversary of Hungarian dominion.

DAY 3 Budapest - Bratislava, Slovakia - Vienna, Austria

This morning, journey to Bratislava, the former Imperial capital of the Hapsburg Empire. During your visit, get to know the city's multi-layered history on an expert-led tour. A scenic ride through the countryside takes you into the grand city of Vienna, the former capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Tonight, enjoy dinner featuring regional wines and a meal highlighting the local cuisine of the quaint wine making region of Grinzg.

DAY 4 Vienna

This morning, join a local resident for a visit to magnificent Schoenbrunn Palace, the summer retreat of the Habsburg dynasty for more than 200 years. Continue to Vienna's city centre. Along the way, you'll capture the stunning architecture, scenic parks and gothic spires that fill the city. This evening enjoy an unforgettable classical music concert featuring many fine melodies from the great composers — Mozart and Strauss.

DAY 5 Vienna - Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic - Prague

Depart Vienna, crossing the border into the Czech Republic. Continue to the fairy-tale town of Cesky Krumlov. During some free time explore the well-preserved streets lined with Baroque architecture. After arriving in Prague, find out why it is called the "Golden City" or "The City of 100 Spires." This evening, join your fellow travellers for dinner.

DAY 6 Prague

Your introduction to this fairy-tale city begins with a panoramic tour. Then explore the majestic Hradcany Castle, including the gothic St. Vitus Cathedral. Next, stroll down the quaint, colourful Golden Lane. Discover the lovely statue-lined Charles Bridge. This afternoon, it's your time to explore. Perhaps shop for famous Bohemian crystal or visit one of the city's many outstanding museums, such as the Lapidarium, home of stone sculptures dating from the 11th century to the present.

DAY 7 Prague - Oberammergau, Germany

Travel the Czech countryside to Bavaria, Germany and onto the picturesque village of Oberammergau, beautifully situated in the Bavarian Alps.

DAY 8 Oberammergau - Passion Play

This afternoon, witness a performance of the epic Passion Play. The original performance dates back to 1634. During the Thirty Year War, Oberammergau was spared the Black Plague and for this reason, the citizens vowed that every ten years they would give a play to honour the last days of the life of Christ. The performers are all native to the village. To lend authenticity to the performance, the cast start to grow their hair and beards more than a year in advance. During the break of the performance, join your fellow travellers for dinner before returning for the Passion Play's final performance.

DAY 9 Oberammergau - Munich - Munich Airport Area

Today we travel to Munich, the exciting capital of Bavaria. Feel the energy of this lively city during a tour that highlights Olympic Park; the world-famous Glockenspiel; and Marienplatz, a beautiful square surrounded by shops, restaurants and cafés. Enjoy free time to explore fascinating Munich before gathering with your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of your memorable trip.

DAY 10 Munich Airport Area - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to an end in Munich.

This is a provisional itinerary. Tour details currently subject to change.



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Tour highlights Include

- Enjoy a visit to the fairy-tale town of Cesky Krumlov
- Explore Prague's majestic Hradcany Castle
- Visit the magnificent Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna
- Discover Bratislava's history with a local expert
- Experience the epic Passion Play

Pricing Conditions: *Please call us or go online for our current pricing.



Germany's Cultural Cities & the Romantic Road with the Oberammergau Passion Play

12 Day tour. Includes 19 meals and Category 1 Oberammergau Passion Play ticket



This enchanting journey offers the best of Germany. Travel to some of the country's most iconic cities, through its stunning countryside and to the Oberammergau Passion Play.

Planned tour itinerary

DAY 1 Berlin, Germany - Tour Begins

Your tour starts in Berlin. This city blends a deep history, a modern flare and multi-cultural influences. Tonight, you'll gather for a welcome dinner.

DAY 2 Berlin

This morning enjoy a traditional city tour that features Charlottenburg Palace, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Schoenberg City Hall, Kurfuerstendamm, the Reichstag building and a stop at "Checkpoint Charlie," the best-known Berlin Wall crossing point between East and West Berlin during the Cold War. This afternoon you may choose to join an optional excursion outside the city to visit Potsdam and the famous Sanssouci Palace.

DAY 3 Berlin - Lübeck - Hamburg

Travel to Hamburg, "the Venice of the North," with winding canals and an impressive harbour that made it a centre for trade for centuries. En route, make a stop in the medieval Hanseatic League town of Lübeck, the famed birthplace of marzipan and a UNESCO World Heritage site; join a local guide for a tour of the town and have a chance to visit Café Nederegger to shop for the marzipan they have been making for 200 years. Arrive in Hamburg. Tonight, have dinner out on the town.

DAY 4 Hamburg

Come to know the city on a panoramic tour that showcases the Rathaus (Town Hall), the Alster, St. Michaelis church, the city centre, the beautiful Jungfernstieg promenade and, of course, the Port of Hamburg, dubbed the "gateway to the world." Later, you choose your cruise! Board a harbour boat for a narrated cruise around the massive Hamburg shipping port highlighting the key maritime sights. Or, embark on a relaxing boat cruise on Alster Lake to take in stunning views of the shoreline dotted with the homes of Hamburg's elite. Later, enjoy a walking tour of the Reeperbahn area, Hamburg's red light district, immortalised as the place where the Beatles cultivated their fame in the early 1960s. Join in the fun with your "singing and ukulele playing local Beatles expert" and travel down memory lane.

DAY 5 Hamburg - Bremen - Hamelin

Today's first stop is in Bremen, at the beginning of the Fairy Tale Road. Join a local guide for a walking tour of the quaint town featuring the musicians of Brothers Grimm fame, the Town Hall (UNESCO), and ending in the medieval Schnoor district. After free time for lunch, travel to Hamelin, made famous by the Pied Piper legend from the stories of the Brothers Grimm. Feel like you have stepped into a storybook when the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" plays delightful tunes while he leads you on a discovery walk through Hamelin with its charming Tudor-style architecture.

DAY 6 Hamelin - Trendelburg and Sababurg castles - Kassel - Marburg

This morning you are transported back to childhood as you come face to face with the real life places that inspired the fairy-tale classics. First, meet a local storyteller at the famed "Rapunzel's Castle" – Trendelburg. Continue on to Reinhardswald, home to Sleeping Beauty's castle – known as Sababurg. Have time to explore the enchanting grounds before traveling to Kassel, home to the Brothers Grimm Museum. At the museum, an expert will lead you on a tour through the interactive displays that bring you through the life of the Grimm Brothers. Journey to the medieval university town of Marburg with its endless alleys and stairways that lead to the castle perched above.

DAY 7 Marburg - Würzburg - Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Journey to the perfectly preserved medieval town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber, located in the middle of the famous Romantic Road and in the heart of the Franconia wine region. En route, make a stop in Würzburg, a Bavarian wine town known for its lavish Baroque and Rococo architecture. You will enjoy time to explore the town on your own before continuing to Rothenburg, located high on a plateau overlooking the Tauber River. Arrive at your city centre hotel, the perfect location to discover this captivating town. Take an evening stroll to a local restaurant where you'll enjoy a tasting of local wines followed by a traditional German dinner. Later, join a colourfully costumed local expert for the famous "Night Watchman" walking tour of the medieval town.

DAY 8 Rothenburg ob der Tauber

It's your choice! Join a walk to a local bakery to make "schneeball" pastries – snowballs – the local's favourite treat! Or, tour the Medieval Crime and Justice Museum. Later, we gather to spend time at the famous Käthe Wohlfahrt Christmas Museum where you will be treated to a private tour, enjoy an ornament-making demonstration, and shop for handmade Christmas ornaments. The remainder of the day is yours to do as you choose.

DAY 9 Rothenburg ob der Tauber - Neuschwanstein Castle - Oberammergau

Leave Rothenburg behind and make your way through mountains and along winding country roads for a tour inside the famous Neuschwanstein Castle. Built by the "crazy" King Ludwig II, it is the most photographed castle in Germany. Next, continue to the quaint, picturesque village of Oberammergau.

DAY 10 Oberammergau - Passion Play

This afternoon, witness a performance of the epic Passion Play. The original performance dates back to 1634. During the Thirty Year War, Oberammergau was spared the Black Plague and for this reason, the citizens vowed that every ten years they would give a play to honour the last days of the life of Christ. The performers are all native to the village. To lend authenticity to the performance, the cast start to grow their hair and beards more than a year in advance. During the break of the performance, join your fellow travellers for dinner before returning to Passion Play's final performance.

DAY 11 Oberammergau - Munich - Munich Airport Area

Today we travel to Munich, the exciting capital of Bavaria. Feel the energy of this lively city during a tour that highlights Olympic Park; the world-famous Glockenspiel; and Marienplatz, a beautiful square surrounded by shops, restaurants and cafés. Enjoy free time to explore fascinating Munich before gathering with your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of your memorable trip.

DAY 12 Munich Airport Area - Tour Ends

Your tour comes to a close today.

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Tour highlights include

- Tour Berlin and Munich's famed landmarks with a local guide
- Embark on a guided tour of Hamelin with a flute-playing "Pied Piper"
- Explore the Hanseatic town of Lübeck, famous for marzipan
- Join a local guide who leads you on a Beatles tour in Hamburg
- Experience the Passion Play in Oberammergau

Pricing Conditions: *Please call us or go online for our current pricing.



Classic Danube with the Oberammergau Passion Play

10 Day tour. Includes 24 meals and Category 1 Oberammergau Passion Play ticket





The Danube River carves its way through ten European countries. On this journey you'll sail past breathtaking scenery, pausing along the way in quaint villages and lively cities on a timeless trip down the Danube River, before witnessing the Passion Play in Oberammergau.

Planned tour itinerary

DAY 1 Budapest, Hungary - Board Cruise Ship

Unpack for a relaxing 7-night Danube River cruise aboard your Amadeus River Cruise ship. Your vessel offers modern technology, a panoramic deck, terrace café, panorama salon and bar, excellent cuisine, outstanding service and unlimited wine and beer with every dinner on board. After a welcome aboard cocktail reception and dinner, take in the essence of the region during an evening cruise to view Budapest's stunning night skyline. End the evening with a fun-filled folklore show.

DAY 2 Budapest

Embark on a tour of Budapest, Hungary's capital, featuring the historic Buda Castle area, Fisherman's Bastion and the 500-year-old St. Matthias Church. Enjoy views of the twin cities of Buda and Pest, nestled on opposing banks of the river.

DAY 3 Bratislava, Slovakia - Vienna, Austria

Tour Slovakia's remarkable capital, Bratislava, and discover the city's most celebrated sites including the 13th-century castle, Old Town, St. Martin's Cathedral, Michael's Gate, and the Archbishop's palace. This afternoon, sail towards Vienna, Austria's capital.

DAY 4 Vienna

Join a local expert exploring Vienna's Imperial architecture including the lavish Hofburg Palace, the impressive Vienna Opera House, the Ringstrasse, and the awe-inspiring St. Stephen's Cathedral. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Vienna's Baroque elegance, stroll along the Kärntner Strasse, or sample some of Vienna's famous pastries. You could opt to join an optional excursion to the Schönbrunn Palace, the summer retreat of the Hapsburg dynasty.

DAY 5 Emmersdorf - Wachau Valley

View the picturesque landscape as you cruise to the charming town of Emmersdorf. Relax and enjoy the scenery. This afternoon you continue cruising through the romantic Wachau Valley, dotted with magnificent castles and small riverside towns.

DAY 6 Linz - Passau, Germany

This morning, enjoy an included walking tour of the charming riverside town of Linz. Next, continue on to Passau which is set rests at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers. Enjoy a leisurely paced walking tour of this 2,000-year-old fairy-tale city, exploring the ornate Baroque architecture, the quaint cobblestone streets, and St. Stephan's Cathedral, home to Europe's largest church organ.

Tonight, you'll be invited to attend the Captain's Gala Dinner.

DAY 7 Passau - Disembark Ship - Munich - Oberammergau

Today, disembark your cruise ship and journey to Munich. Feel the energy of this lively and fascinating city during a tour that highlights the Olympic Park, the world-famous Glockenspiel and Marienplatz, a beautiful square surrounded by shops, restaurants and cafés. Next, depart for the quaint village of Oberammergau, nestled in the Bavarian Alps.

DAY 8 Oberammergau - Passion Play

This afternoon, witness a performance of the epic Passion Play. The original performance dates back to 1634. During the Thirty Year War, Oberammergau was spared the Black Plague and for this reason, the citizens vowed that every ten years they would give a play to honour the last days of the life of Christ. The performers are all native to the village. To lend authenticity to the performance, the cast start to grow their hair and beards more than a year in advance. During the break of the performance, join your fellow travellers for dinner before returning to the Passion Play's final performance.

DAY 9 Oberammergau - Linderhof Palace - Fussen - Hohenschwangau Castle - Munich Airport Area

Travel to nearby Linderhof Palace, one of the most artistic and stylistically complex ensembles of the 19th century. Visit the "Royal Villa", the only palace King Ludwig II of Bavaria was able to complete. Behind the Baroque façade is a Rococo world, rich in abundant ornamentation, with many sculptural elements. Showing workmanship of an incomparable artistic quality. Next, enjoy free time to explore medieval Fussen, the Romantic town on the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. Later, visit the royal Bavarian castle Hohenschwangau, the childhood residence of King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Make a special picture stop at Neuschwanstein castle, Germany's most famous castle and the inspiration for the castle in Sleeping Beauty. This evening, gather with your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of a wonderful trip.

DAY 10 Munich Airport Area - Tour Ends

Your tour ends today in Munich.

This is a provisional itinerary. Tour details currently subject to change.



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Tour highlights include

- Take a walking tour of Passau, a 2,000-year-old fairytale city
- Discover Slovakia's remarkable capital, Bratislava
- Board a cruise to view Budapest's stunning night skyline
- Explore Vienna's Imperial architecture
- Experience the Passion Play in Oberammergau

Pricing Conditions: *Please call us or go online for our current pricing.



Space is limited! Reserve your place today



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