

Passion Play Tour

Visit beautiful Germany and Austria



September 16th 2010 - 10 wonderful days / 9 exciting nights - Germany & Austria

Enjoy a leisurely pace as you journey through quaint villages and bustling cities set against an enchanting Alpine setting. Settle into the Bavarian capital of Munich, where a locally guided tour showcases the city's historic square, the Marienplatz, and the ringing of the Glockenspiel clock is an event not to be missed. In Innsbruck, discover its Imperial history on a panoramic tour that includes the famed "Golden Roof." Your Bavarian vacation concludes in Oberammergau, where you'll experience the world-famous Passion Play, enjoy a farewell dinner during a break in the performance, and overnight in the charming village.

Munich (In German it is referred to as München) the capital city of Bavaria and is located on the River Isar north of the Bavarian Alps. It is the third largest city in Germany, with approximately 1.35 million people. The city's motto is "München Mag Dich" ("Munich Likes You"). Its native name, München, is derived from the Old German word for Mönche, which means "Monks" in English. This is the reason for the monk on the city's coat-of-arms. Black and gold - the colours of the Holy Roman Empire - have been the city's official colors since the time of Ludwig the Bavarian.

Munich lies on the elevated plains of Upper Bavaria, about 50 km north of the northern edge of the Alps, at an altitude of about 520 meters. It is famous for its breweries and the Weißbier (or Weizenbier, wheat beer) is a specialty from Bavaria.

Highlights of your tour

Some of the many features on this tour are:

- Round trip air from Rapid City to Munich, Germany
- Munich - feel like a beer?
- Neuschwanstein - guided visit of King Ludwig's castle
- Innsbruck - lot's of delightful street side cafe's
- Glockenspiel
- Oberammergau
- Passion Play

Itinerary at a glance

Price: \$4,795 (pp based on double occupancy – no singles or triples)

Starts: Thursday September 16th 2010

Ends: Saturday September 25th 2010

What's included?

- Fully escorted
- Round trip air from Rapid City to Munich, Germany
- All accommodations & sightseeing where listed
- All meals where listed
- Visits including:
 - Munich
 - Neuschwanstein
 - Innsbruck
 - Oberammergau
 - Passion Play
- Baggage handling and taxes

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Depart Rapid City for the overnight journey to Munich. Once on board the transatlantic flight, sit back, relax, take in a movie and before you know it, we will be landing in Munich.

Overnight Transatlantic Flight – Meals included as per airline schedule.

Day 2: Munich, Germany

After our arrival, we pass through customs and immigration before continuing to our hotel in Munich. Early check-in may be available. Tonight, supper and entertainment will be at the world famous Hofbrauhaus. Here we will be treated to an evening of Bavarian entertainment and music.

Overnight Munich – Supper & Show included

Day 3: Munich – Eagle's Nest – Munich

Today after breakfast, we have a full day's touring of Berchtesgaden, Hitler's mountain retreat and the southern headquarters of the Nazi party on a coach trip from Munich. Eagle's Nest is a mountain top lodge built by the Nazis, and is a major drawcard for the region. Located at 6,148 feet (1,834 meters) on top of Mt Kehlstein, the lodge has some of Germany's most amazing views of the Alps mountain range. Ironically, Hitler suffered vertigo and rarely took pleasure in the views. Due to the World War II bombings by the Royal Air Force, there is little evidence left of Hitler and the Nazi party's presence, however Eagle's Nest still stands.

Overnight Munich – Breakfast Included

Day 4: Munich – Dachau – Munich

This morning we take a tour to Dachau Concentration Camp. Dachau was the most infamous of WWII concentration camps and represents a time in modern history that should never be forgotten. Your tour to Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial will be both moving and disturbing. Driving through the village of Dachau, we will reach the site of the former concentration camp. Built in 1933, Dachau was the first Nazi concentration camp and it is believed to have "processed" over 200,000 prisoners of World War II.

Overnight Munich – Breakfast & Supper included

Day 5: Munich

This morning we set off for a locally guided panoramic tour of Munich showcasing 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.

Overnight Munich – Breakfast included

Day 6: Munich - Innsbruck, Austria

This morning, travel to the enchanting “capital of the Alps” – Innsbruck. Here, modern architecture stands beside 800-year-old buildings and the Austrian Alps create a post-card perfect backdrop. Join a local guide for a panoramic tour of this Imperial city 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 in Innsbruck before returning to Munich for overnight.

Overnight Munich – Breakfast included

Day 7: Munich – Harburg and Rothenburg

Today we surround ourselves with castles and medieval villages as we travel along the “Romantic Road” during a full day escorted tour to Harburg and Rothenburg. There's free time at each stop, so there's plenty of time for lunch and exploring at your own leisurely pace. Our first stop is Harburg, one of the oldest, largest and best preserved castles of Southern Germany. It was an important military stronghold during the 11th and 12th centuries. Through the Swabian crater landscape passing Dinkelsbühl, you will arrive in Rothenburg, the most perfectly preserved medieval town in Europe. You will spend about 3 hours in Rothenburg, so there is plenty of time for sightseeing, lunch and shopping. A popular attraction is the Kathe Wolfahrt Christmas Store on Herrngasse, a large store open year round where you can purchase ornaments, nutcrackers, and other Christmas items. Many of the highlights in Rothenburg are centered around Marktplatz, such as the Town Hall with its Rothenburg History Museum, and St Jakob's Church, a Gothic building with soaring ceilings filled with light. We return to Munich via the Hallertau, the world's largest hop-growing area.

Overnight Munich – Breakfast

Day 8: Munich - Neuschwanstein Castle – Munich (by rail)

The enchanting old-world town of Fussen lies in the foot hills of the Alps, framed by one of the most breathtaking natural settings in the world. Traveling by rail on small group guided tour from Munich, you'll tour the ethereal Neuschwanstein Castle, be taken to the best vantage points; the lake, the postcard-perfect aerial view of the equally beautiful Hohenschwangau Castle and to the waterfall gorge. This glorious folly was built in the 19th century by the famed "mad" King Ludwig II, a man intoxicated by myth and who himself became a legend. The shimmering white towers of the castle among the clouds are instantly recognizable to many and the castle was the inspiration for Disney's Sleeping Beauty Castle, and is also famous as the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Castle. To visit it is to step inside a fairy tale. Your guide will tell the engaging story of King Ludwig's renowned and tragic reign, of his turbulent times, and of the obsession that drove him to build his fantasy castle in the mountains and ultimately destroyed him. We take an exclusive internal tour of the king's private chambers with a specialist castle guide.

Overnight Munich – Breakfast included

Day 9: Munich - Oberammergau Region

Leave Munich behind as we head for the quaint Bavarian village of Oberammergau. This afternoon, experience the world-famous Passion Play – a powerful once-in-a-decade event. The original performance dates back to 1634 when the villagers of Oberammergau vowed to perform a play depicting the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ every ten years if God would spare its residents from the clutches of the Bubonic Plague. No one died after that and a legend was born. The Passion Play has become an epic event. The 41st production, once again by natives of Oberammergau, takes the world by storm. During a break in the performance, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of an unforgettable Alpine journey.

Overnight Oberammergau Region Munich – Breakfast & Supper included

Day 10: Oberammergau Region – Return flight home

This morning after breakfast, it's time to head back to Munich airport for our return flight home.

Breakfast Included

How to book

- Deposit due of \$1,000 per person
- Further deposit of \$1,500 per person by March 14th 2010
- Balance due by July 1st 2010

What you'll need

- Passport is required for travelling to Munich, Germany
- Warm clothing - it can be cold at this time of year
- European currency - the Euro (€) or a widely accepted credit card - Mastercard or Visa
- Nearly all ATMs accept US Visa or MasterCard's - but don't forget your PIN!
- A visa is not required for US travelers to Europe
- We recommend taking out travel insurance for this trip

Weather

The weather in this part of Europe can be unpredictable; however it is not normally extremely cold. However be prepared for cold weather just in case and bring appropriate clothing. Check out weather.com for average temperatures.

Travel Advice

Please visit the travel advice section of this site for further information and government advisories and warnings.



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