



LOUDOUN COUNTY SENIOR TRIPS PROGRAM



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 Hof Bellevue, 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 **Plzeň (Pilsen)**. We take a break for lunch on our own at the (**Plzeň 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 our own. Return to the Clarion Hotel Prague 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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