

LUTHER
TOURS



PASSION PLAY TOURS 2010

OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY & EXCITING DESTINATIONS BEYOND

Germany and the Lands of Luther, Switzerland and Austria
September 16-29, 2010*

Pastor Hosting from Woodbridge, VA

Founder of the Wittenberg English Ministry, Wittenberg, Germany

Join us on this unforgettable panoramic journey through Europe and experience the benefits and joys of traveling together in Christian fellowship.

14-Day Fully Escorted Deluxe Tour highlighting the “once-in-a-lifetime” experience to attend the 41st performance of the Passion Play 2010

Our tour includes visits to some of the most significant places in the life of **Martin Luther the great Reformer**. We visit the awe-inspiring **Castle Church**, with its historic “Theses Door” and the magnificent **Wartburg Castle**. Enjoy a leisurely boat ride with wine tasting on a **Rhine River Cruise**, and a picturesque drive through the **Black Forest**. We visit Munich, the fun-filled capital of Bavaria, stay overnight in the breathtaking **Bavarian Alps**, visit the castles of “Mad” King Ludwig- the famous **Neuschwanstein Castle** also know as “Sleeping Beauty’s Castle” and one of his actual residences, Linderhof Palace. Then we’re off to the breathtaking **Lake Region of Switzerland** and a visit to **Salzburg- the “City of Music and Mozart”**. Along the way, Pastor Loesch will accompany the group- sharing Bible stories and providing devotions.

Come to the PASSION PLAY... Stay for the Passion

ABOUT OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2010

The history of the Passion Play begins in 1633. During the Thirty Years’ War, after much suffering and also many deaths caused by the plague, the surviving population of Oberammergau vowed that they would perform the “play of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ” every 10 years if they were spared from extinction. At Whitsun in 1634 they kept their promise for the first time. In 2010 the village will perform the play for the 41st time. The play takes place out doors with the sky and mountains as the back drop. The play is world renown for the costumes and music presentation. More than 2,000 citizens make up the actors, singers, instrumentalists and stage technicians that bring the play to life. The play runs 5 hours, comprised of spoken dramatic text, musical and choral accompaniment. Your heart will be forever touched by this dramatic depiction of the Passion of Christ.

CHRISTIAN
TRAVEL
Planners



Tickets to the Oberammergau Passion Play 2010 are in high demand and are limited in quantity. This tour includes tickets to the performance of the Passion Play 2010.

We encourage anyone interested in joining this tour to send your Reservation Form & deposit today!

Itinerary

Day 1: Departure from Washington, DC to Berlin, Germany

Day 2: Berlin/Wittenberg (B)

After arriving in Berlin our group will be met by an English speaking European Tour Guide who will escort us to our deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach. We'll enjoy a driving sightseeing tour of the "new" capital of united Germany, exciting Berlin-highlighting the City Center with the Kaiser Wilhelm Church, Nikolai Quarter, Unter den Linden, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, and Charlottenburg Palace. Then it's a short drive south through the German countryside, past the remnants of the former East German border and into the "Lands of Luther", we arrive in Wittenberg, home to the most historic sights of Luther's life and work. We'll check in to our hotel located directly in the city center. This evening is at your leisure to enjoy an evening stroll through this quaint town and dine at one of the conveniently located restaurants or cafes. **Overnight Wittenberg**

Day 3: Wittenberg (B, D)

This morning we'll join a local guide for a sightseeing tour of this fascinating city beginning with the inspiring Castle Church, and the historic "Theses Door", the beautiful "Stadt Kirche" with its marvelous Cranach Altarpiece; then we visit the Lutherhalle, home to the largest collection of Reformation artifacts in the world. We'll walk through the historic places where Martin Luther and his fellow reformers lived, taught and preached. Our group will attend a very unique service of the Wittenberg English Ministry at one of the churches where Luther preached and afterwards our welcome to Germany dinner! This evening is at leisure to stroll this quaint town on our own. **Overnight Wittenberg**

Day 4: Quedlinburg/ Eisleben (B)

This morning we begin with a short drive to the medieval town of Quedlinburg in the Harz Mountains. Quedlinburg is surely one of the most beautiful towns in all of Europe. The town is still in its original condition with over 1,000 timber-framed buildings still existing today. We'll stroll through the maze of cobblestone streets up to the castle and church of St. Severatii where empress Theophano ruled over 1,000 years ago. Most interesting here are the world famous "Treasures of Theophano" including an alabaster urn said to be one of the urns used by Jesus during the miracle of Cana at Galilee. Afterwards we continue on to Eisleben to tour the houses where Luther was born in 1483, and where he died in 1546, St. Peter's Church where Luther was baptized, St. Andrews Church where Luther preached his last four sermons, and where his body was laid in state. We continue on to Erfurt for the night. Dinner will be on our own this evening at one of the local cafes or restaurants. **Overnight Erfurt**

Day 5: Eisenach / Wartburg Castle/ Erfurt (B)

Today we drive to nearby Eisenach and tour the magnificent Wartburg Castle, where Luther took refuge while he translated the New Testament into the German language. Afterwards, we'll board our motor coach and drive to the city center of Eisenach, for a city tour and to visit the Bach Museum. The museum houses an extensive collection of instruments from the 16th to 19th century and a permanent exhibition on the life and work of J. S. Bach. While visiting the museum we'll experience the live sound of a musical performance on historical instruments. We'll stop for lunch on our own in the lively market square before we return to Erfurt. It was here, in Erfurt, that Luther obtained his doctorate in the faculty of philosophy in 1505 and where he took the decisive step to turn to theology and the monastic life when he was caught in a violent thunderstorm nearby and took a vow to become a monk. Our walking city tour includes a visit to St. Mary's Cathedral where Luther was ordained as a priest, the Augustinian Monastery where Luther lived as a monk; and we'll stroll across the Medieval Kramer Bridge on which 33 dwellings are built. **Overnight Erfurt**

Day 6 – Mainz/ Rudesheim (B, D)

After breakfast, we drive to Mainz; the Roman relics give away the fact of its 2000 year heritage. We'll walk through the old town, with its magnificent baroque buildings; among the finest sights are the churches- the Romanesque St. Martin's Cathedral, the elegant, gothic hall church of St. Stephan with its world-famous Chagall windows and Eduard Kreyssig's huge neo-Renaissance cupola of Christchurch. Afterwards we continue on to the quaint and charming village of Rudesheim, which dates back to the pre-Roman era. We'll meet our local guide for our orientation tour of the city including it's history in wine-making, and then a relaxing sightseeing cruise along the Rhine River. Along the way, we'll enjoy a wine tasting as we cruise past some of the most

picturesque stretches of this majestic waterway. We'll sail past magnificent castles and the famous Loreley rock. Afterwards we'll have free time to explore this village on our own. You may choose to take a cable car up to the Niederwald Monument for a fabulous view, visit the local galleries or the Medieval Torture Museum (not for the faint of Heart!). Our group will enjoy dinner this evening at one of the local restaurants. **Overnight Rudesheim**

Day 7 – Worms / Heidelberg (B, D)

This morning we'll take a short drive to Worms, thought to be one of the oldest towns in Germany, where Luther was summoned in 1521 to appear before an Imperial Diet to justify his conduct. We'll visit the world's largest memorial to the Reformation and the Church of the Holy Trinity. There will be time for lunch on our own before we board the motorcoach and drive south to Heidelberg, a gorgeous town on the Neckar River, where romanticism is both past and present.

We'll meet a local guide for a walking tour of the Old Town, the famous Stone Bridge over the Neckar River, the Heidelberg Castle (where the Heidelberg Confession was written in 1653), the Castle Church, German Apothecary Museum, and the Church of the Holy Ghost. Next we travel through the story-book magical Black Forest region to the village of Triberg, the world capital for cuckoo-clocks. After checking into our hotel, our group will meet for dinner at a local restaurant including the local favorite Black Forest Cake. **Overnight Triberg or nearby**

Day 8 – Triberg/ Titisee (B)

Today we visit the cuckoo-clock factory and view the largest cuckoo clock in the world- be sure to bring your camera! We'll have time to shop before continuing on to view Germany's highest waterfalls. Foaming and thundering; the water masses of the Gutach River take a headlong plunge into a depth of 163 meters. You will enjoy a magnificent spectacle of nature following the course of the river over seven cascades. Our day will be filled with breathtaking visions as we continue our sightseeing to nearby Titisee. This beautiful lake setting with crystal-clear water and its "pedestrian only" waterfront promenade makes this one of the scenic highlights of the region. We'll enjoy a stroll along the waterfront promenade, one of the loveliest streets in the Southern Black Forest. There will be time to shop and enjoy some of the local specialties for lunch on our own at the cafes along the promenade.

Overnight Triberg or nearby

Day 9 - Lake Bodensee, Switzerland/ Island of Mainau (B)

An early morning departure as we travel east to Germany's largest lake and the third-largest lake in Europe. This picturesque lake is situated between Germany and Switzerland and includes countless parks, sumptuous gardens and is the natural habitat of rare animals and plants. We'll visit the Rhine Falls, Europe's largest waterfall and sight of the most spectacular natural beauty. Then continue our drive across the bridge that connects the mainland directly into paradise; and on to the Island of Mainau. We'll tour this floating Garden of Eden with its peaceful parks and beautiful flower gardens- it is truly a floral paradise. We'll drive to nearby Constance for the night. **Overnight Constance**

Day 10: Constance/ Liechtenstein/ Bavarian Castles (B, D)

This ancient city is located on the "Swiss" bank and straddles the Rhine River. Today we'll tour old town Constance and visit the cathedral. Afterwards we board our motor coach for a drive around the lake, through the island town of Lindau with its turret protected harbor and historic old town, until we reach Fussen, the highest town (800 to 1,200 m) located at the foot of the Alps. Along the way we'll stop at the tiny principality of Liechtenstein. In Fussen, we'll stop for a spectacular photo opportunity and to view the famous Neuschwanstein Castle of "Mad" King Ludwig and then we will visit one of King Ludwig's personal residences, Linderhof Palace- with its ornate suites and Venus Grotto. **Overnight Alps**

Day 11- Oberammergau Passion Play Performance (B, D)

Today we'll visit the quaint alpine village of Oberammergau with its famous painted houses and wood carving studios. After lunch, we walk to the Passion Play Theater, for one of the highlights of our pilgrimage- the Passion Play Performance. The performance begins at 2:30p includes a break for dinner at 5:00p, resumes at 8:00p until approx. 10:30pm. Our reserved seats for Passion Play are covered. However the stage is open and the performance takes place regardless of weather. **Overnight Alps**

Day 12- Salzburg, Austrian Alps (B)

After breakfast we'll board our motor coach for a drive through the magnificent Austrian Alps as we make our way to Salzburg "The City of Mozart". On our walking tour we will experience the wonderful medieval city center, see the Fortress on top of the hill, Mirabell Palace and visit Wolfgang Amadeus Museum. We'll have leisure time to shop and enjoy the city on our own before we continue on to the nearby Ammergauer Alps, region in Germany. This unspoiled area of lakes with crystal blue waters, canyons and waterfalls is the tranquil and peaceful location. Along the way, we'll stop to visit the "Wieskieche", the little church in the meadow.

A rococo gem almost in the middle of nowhere, this church was built to accommodate the stream of pilgrims coming to pay homage to the site where tears were seen on the figure of the Scourged Savior in 1738. **Overnight Alps**

Day 13 – Lake Chiemsee/ Herrenchiemsee Palace / Munich (B, D)

This morning after breakfast our group will depart for the picturesque lake-side town of Prien am Chiemsee. Here we'll board a sightseeing boat on Lake Chiemsee for our transfer to Herreninsel Island, where we can walk or take a horse-drawn carriage ride to King Ludwig II's Herrenchiemsee Palace and tour what is said to be a "Bavarian Versailles." Then we're off to Munich, the fun-filled capital of Bavaria. Our sightseeing tour will highlight the Old Pinakothek Museum, Olympia Tower and Stadium, BMW Tower, Nymphenburg Palace, Deutsches Museum, the Rathaus and its famous Glockenspiel. We'll have time to stroll the Marienplatz, with its numerous shops, visit the fresh produce & flower markets or visit the world-famous Hofbrauhaus complete with authentic Bavaria music and entertainment. And finally, our group will gather for our farewell dinner to share our memories of this great tour. **Overnight Munich or nearby**

Day 14 - Depart Munich airport for our return flight to the USA

B- Breakfast, D- Dinner

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Tour Package Includes

Professional Tour Manager w/ expertise in reformation history ~ Deluxe Air-Conditioned Motor coach ~ Professional Licensed Local City Guides ~ Group Transfers - including Airport Arrival & Departures ~ Baggage Handling - 1 Bag Each ~ First-class, European style hotels w/bath ~ Hotel Taxes ~ Breakfast Daily and 6 Dinners ~ All sightseeing/Entrance Fees as shown ~ **Passion Play Performance Tickets**

Tour Prices are Per Person Based on Double Occupancy

\$4390* Including Airfare from Washington DC; Plus \$425 Airlines Taxes & Fuel Charge
(Subject to change until ticketed, **Additional departure cities available- call for details.**)
\$3890* Land Tour Only (airfare not included)
\$725* Additional for Single Occupancy
\$340 Trip Cancellation Insurance

Tour Package Does Not Include

Meals and Beverages not shown in itinerary
Tour Gratuities- Tour Manager & Motor Coach Driver- €3-5 (Euro) p/person per day, Local City Guides- €2 (Euro) p/person
Passports and Visas fees

Deposit Requirements:

Mail or Fax a Completed LutherTours Reservation Form available online at www.luthertours.com
Along with a \$1350 per person Deposit to:

LutherTours

P.O. Box 15126, Newport Beach, CA 92659, Phone 1-949-548-8198 ; www.luthertours.com
Fax 1-949-548-8974 ,Toll Free 1-866-777-1517

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