

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Please review the enclosed USI Travel Insurance Services brochure and letter. This insurance is designed to protect you from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 15 days (Plus Option) or 21 days (Elite Option) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Waiver of the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion, to cover certain injuries and illnesses that would not otherwise be covered by the policy 2) Protection for Certain Terrorist Acts if you cancel your trip due to a terrorist incident occurring in any city on your trip itinerary, within 30 days before or after our scheduled departure date, 3) Cancel for Any Reason Coverage, if the Elite Option is purchased, and 4) Protection for Financial Default of an airline, cruise line, or tour operator. If you wish to take advantage of the special above provision, you must enroll within 15 days (21 days for the Elite Option) of the date your initial trip deposit is received. **Please Note:** Although purchasing the Travel Insurance is not mandatory for you to travel with our group, if you purchase insurance, it **must** be through USI Travel Insurance Services.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

**For more information contact the
NIU Alumni Relations Office at 815/753-1512.
To make your reservation visit
myniu.com and click on Travel.**

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

**Alumni Association
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-753-1512**



The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
& The Office of Alumni Relations

Present

Passion Play Tour Oberammergau, Germany

June 20 – 27, 2010

\$3,989 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago
(Based on estimated June 2010 airfare)



*This is an exclusive travel program presented by the
Northern Illinois University Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations*

Day by Day Itinerary

Sunday, June 20 – CHICAGO/EN ROUTE (I)
We will depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in the late afternoon by scheduled service of United Airlines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Munich, Germany.

Monday, June 21 – MUNICH/GARMISCH (I,D)
As the sun begins to rise on the German heartland we will arrive in Munich where we'll meet our Tour Escort who will accompany us on vacation. From Munich Airport we'll travel by autobahn across the Bavarian countryside, a combination of unspoiled beauty and charm, on our way to the best known resort in the Bavarian Alps, the twin villages of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Typical south German houses with ornately carved balconies line the streets running along the Alpine panorama characterized by rich customs and traditions, and impressive scenery. In spite of their urban flair, both Garmisch and Partenkirchen maintain the charm of ancient villages and to this day you may occasionally see residents in traditional dress and even be held up in traffic while the cattle are led from their mountain-grazing grounds through the streets of town.

As we'll soon find out, exploring Bavaria is a paradise as its towns and villages feature historic sights, providing endless possibilities for enjoyment.

Tuesday, June 22 – GARMISCH (Innsbruck & Wattens) (B)
We will begin our day by traveling to Innsbruck, the capital of the Austrian Tyrol, where we'll see the Wilten Basilica, one of the finest Rococo churches in the northern Tyrol, and the Triumphal Arch, which marks the beginning of the Maria-Theresien-Strasse. Once in the Old Town we'll see the 15th and 16th century houses, the Old Town Hall and Belfry, and the Little Golden Roof, a charming structure built by Friedrich the Penniless to end jokes about his poverty. Free time will also be set aside to explore the picturesque quarter enclosed by the ring of streets known as the Moat, now a pedestrian zone.

Afterward, we are headed to nearby Wattens, the home of Swarovski crystal, to visit the Kristallwelten, a truly fantastic journey that will take us past works in crystal by world-renowned artists and into the six "Chambers of Wonders". After experiencing the mystical areas created by André Heller and world-renowned artists, we'll

have time to browse the Crystal Shop where glittering spectrums of Swarovski products are on display, before our return to Garmisch.

Wednesday, June 23 – GARMISCH (Berchtesgaden, Koningsee & Ramsau) (B)
Today we will travel to the towering Alpine foothills of picturesque Berchtesgaden, where we'll see the historical town center that boasts decorated facades, churches and a Royal Palace. Then we'll continue to nearby Obersalzberg to board a postal bus for the breathtaking journey up the Kehlstein road, followed by a luxurious brass elevator ride up through the rock into Kehlsteinhaus, Eagle's Nest as named by the Allied Forces. The site combines a unique example of historic architecture and on a clear day there is a magnificent view of the surrounding Alps and a spectacular view of the lovely Koningsee.

Afterward, we'll descend to the shores of Lake Koningsee where the emerald-green hue of the shimmering water captures the heart of everyone who sees it. Here, we'll embark on a peaceful cruise of the lake and stop to visit the lakeside church of St. Bartholomew, a Catholic pilgrimage church, which can only be reached by water or following a long hike. On our return to Schonau, we'll board our waiting motor coach and travel to the enchanting Ramsau Valley where we'll stop to visit the small parish church and enjoy the spectacular mountain views, before our late afternoon return to Garmisch.

Thursday, June 24 – GARMISCH (Neuschwanstein, Wieskirche & Ettal) (B)
This morning we will travel to the forests, meadows and peat bogs whose gentle undulations characterize the final slopes of the Ammergau Alps. Here we'll visit Neuschwanstein Castle. Set amidst magnificent mountain scenery on the shores of Schwansee and built on the summit of a massive rock cliff, the castle offers wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. Although Neuschwanstein was built for the eccentric "Mad" King Ludwig II of Bavaria during the late 1800's, today it may be best known through its Walt Disney World replica.

Our next visit will take us to Wieskirche, better known as the Church in the Meadow. As we'll soon see, its exterior leaves visitors unprepared for the interior of gilded stucco, woodcarvings and vividly colored frescoes enhanced by the abundance of

light entering through its elaborately designed windows. As we make our way back to Garmisch, we'll also stop in the village of Ettal to visit the Baroque Benedictine Abbey founded by Emperor Ludwig IV of Bavaria, where the monks have been preparing their special liqueurs for centuries.

Friday, June 25 – GARMISCH (Oberammergau Passion Play) (B,L,D)

Today we travel to the Passion Play village of Oberammergau, situated in one of Bavaria's most beautiful areas, nestled in the wonderful landscape of the Ammergau Alps. Oberammergau is known not only for its passion play that takes place every ten years, but also for its wood carvings and the so-called Luftmalerei, the paintings that decorate many of the walls of the old houses. This morning, free time will be set aside to wander Oberammergau's quaint downtown on your own. Take the opportunity to visit the baroque Parish Church, to see the beautifully painted homes, many in fairytale design depicting scenes from Little Red Riding Hood and Hansel and Gretel, and to search out that special Bavarian woodcarving.

This afternoon we will attend Oberammergau's Passion Play, the history of which 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 ten years if they were spared from extinction. At Whitsun in 1634 they kept their promise for the first time. As early as the middle of the 18th century spectators came to Oberammergau from all parts of Germany, attracted by the great power and mystique of the play. In 2010, the village will perform the play for the 41st time, maintaining the continuity of this unique, world-famous event.

Saturday, June 26 – GARMISCH (B,D)

As few resorts can match Garmisch's unique combination of traditional charm and modern amenities the day is at leisure. Browse the delightful shops in search of that perfect gift, or relax with a horse-drawn carriage ride or a chair lift and cable car journey into the surrounding Alps while enjoying one of Bavaria's most beautiful mountain views.

Tonight we will end our vacation in grand style by dining in one of Garmisch's historic and traditional beer halls, complete with Bavarian entertainment.

Sunday, June 27 – GARMISCH/CHICAGO (B,I)

This morning the beauty of the distant Alps will slowly fade into the background as we return to Munich's Franz Josef Strauss Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories that will last a lifetime and to celebrate new friendships made along the way!

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

(I = In-flight meals, B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines (or other scheduled airlines). Meals and light beverages served in-flight according to airline schedules.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying European Tour Escort.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel in twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower.
- European-style buffet breakfast each morning and three evening dinners as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Reserved seating at the 41st Passion Play.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotel.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes, customs service charges, and fuel surcharges and security fees of \$260 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; laundry and cleaning; telephone calls; optional tours and excursions; tips to the motor coach driver, Tour Escort and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.