

Passion Play Tour – Oberammergau, Germany

June 12 - 19, 2020

\$4,295 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



Day by Day Itinerary

Friday, June 12 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this evening by scheduled service of Lufthansa German Airlines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Munich, Germany.

Saturday, June 13 – MUNICH / GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN (I,HD)

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 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.

Sunday, June 14 – GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN (Oberammergau Passion Play) (B,RD)

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. We'll set aside free time to wander Oberammergau's quaint downtown, an 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 2020, the village will perform the play for the 42nd time, maintaining the continuity of this unique, world-famous event.

Monday, June 15 – GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN (Zugspitze) (B)

As few resorts can match Garmisch-Partenkirchen's unique combination of traditional charm and modern amenities the morning is at leisure. Browse the delightful shops in search of that perfect gift, or relax with a horse-drawn carriage ride

while enjoying one of Bavaria's most beautiful mountain views. This afternoon, we'll travel to nearby Eibsee for a railway and cable car journey to the summit of the Zugspitze, almost 10,000 feet above sea level! Enjoy the magnificent panorama over the Alps and relax with a drink at the mountain cafe. The descent will take us by cable car to the town of Ehrwald, Austria, before returning to Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Tuesday, June 16 – GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN (Fairytale Bavaria) (B,L)

This morning we travel to the forests, meadows and peat bogs whose gentle undulations characterize the final slopes of the Ammergau Alps. Here we'll visit Linderhof Palace, perhaps the most interesting of the castles built towards the end of the 19th century by "Mad" King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Afterward, we'll travel to the village of Fussen where we'll stop for lunch and a photo opportunity of King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle. Set amidst magnificent mountain scenery, the castle 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. On the return journey to Garmisch, we'll stop in the village of Ettal to visit the Benedictine Abbey founded by Emperor Ludwig IV of Bavaria, where the monks have been preparing special liqueurs for centuries.

Wednesday, June 17 – GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN (Herrenchiemsee) (B)

A leisurely day on tour will take us through the Bavarian countryside where a combination of unspoiled beauty and charm, complete with quaint farmhouses, will lead us to the shores of Lake Chiemsee, one of the Bavarian Alps most beautiful lakes. We'll enjoy a short lake cruise to the wooded island of Herreninsel to visit Herrenchiemsee Castle. In 1873 King Ludwig II of Bavaria acquired the Herreninsel as the location for his Royal Palace, modeled after the Palace of



Versailles in Paris. The breathtaking interior is a work of pure extravagance in the French rococo style. The twenty state rooms open to visitors boast décor of the most exquisite quality. But the crowning glory is the huge Hall of Mirrors, an almost perfect copy of the original Galerie des Glaces in Versailles. Afterward, we'll also have an opportunity to stroll the spectacular gardens truly fit for a king.

Thursday, June 18 – GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN (Innsbruck & Wattens) (B,RD)

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. 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.

Friday, June 19 – GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN / 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 of our *Passion Play Tour - Oberammergau, Germany* vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

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



Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Lufthansa German Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Escort.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portorage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotel.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$520 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Escort, and Step-on Guides; travel insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

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: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

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 Association at 815-753-1512
or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation**

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

**Alumni Association
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115**