

12 Days - Switzerland - Germany - Austria Prague Central Europe including the Passion Play Oberammergau

May 25 to June 5, 2020

2 Days - Berlin Optional Extension – June 5 to 7, 2020

Day 1: Wednesday - May 25, 2020 - Departure to Zurich, Switzerland

Depart the USA. Board your international flight to Switzerland and enjoy dinner and entertainment aboard the airplane.



Day 2: Thursday - May 26

Arrival Zurich

Upon arrival at **Zurich** International Airport, we are met by our tour guide, who will accompany us throughout. We start our Europe journey exploring **Zurich** on a guided walking tour through the Old Town. We visit the **Fraumuenster Abbey** with its stunning stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall. Our city tour also includes **St. Peter's Church** with the largest church clock in Europe. Check-in to the hotel. (D)

Day 3:

Zurich - Rhine Falls - Lake Constance

Following breakfast, we visit the stunning **Rhine Falls (Rheinfall)**, Europe's largest. We then continue our trip along the **Rhine River** and the foothills of the Alps through the breathtaking scenery to the **Reichenau Island** (World Heritage Site). Here, we visit the **Benedictine Abbey of Reichenau**, founded by monks from St. Gallen. Today, the island is known and also famous for its vegetable farms, architecture and the wineries. Then onward to enjoy some free time and the beauty of **Lake Constance**, the largest in Germany and the third largest lake in Europe. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Day 4:

Upper Bavaria

After breakfast, we board our coach and drive through the beautiful landscape of the Bavarian countryside to visit one of most famous, delightful fairy tale castles and surely the crown of the Bavarian castles - **Neuschwanstein Castle**, built by King Ludwig II. We also visit the **Wieskirche** (Church in the meadows) where rococo art reached a unique perfection. This masterpiece, created by the brothers Dominikus and Johann Baptist Zimmermann of Wessobrunn, was given international recognition as a cultural site on the World Heritage List. Dinner and overnight in Upper Bavaria. (B, D)



Day 5:

Oberammergau

This morning, we drive to the scenic landscape to **Oberammergau**. World-renowned, this quaint Bavarian town is the site of the extravagant Passion Play – performed every ten years. Take part in this once lifetime experience. It begins in the afternoon and involves almost all residents of the village. The play has a running time of approx. five hours with a three-hour interval. Dinner and overnight in the **Oberammergau** area. (B, D)



Day 6:

Munich - Dachau

This morning, we continue on to **Munich**, the Bavarian capital. Upon arrival at **Munich** International airport, we are met by our tour guide who will accompany us throughout. Our journey starts with a visit to the **Dachau Concentration Camp**. We tour the ground with a museum, its reconstructed barracks and crematorium where the holocaust is documented. Then on to a briefing sightseeing tour which leads us to the major and most beautiful sights of Munich, such as King's Square with its three temple buildings in the classical Greek style, the Pinakotheken Art Museums, the Hall of Generals, the Angel of Peace monument, Maximilianeum (Bavarian state parliament), the Royal Palace, the traditional Viktualienmarkt, an open air food market with colorful outdoor stalls, Karl Square (called "Stachus") and the medieval city gates, Palace of Nymphenburg - former summer residence of the Bavarian kings, the Rathaus and its famous Glockenspiel. We continue on to Upper Bavaria for dinner and overnight. (D)



Day 7:

Salzburg

Following breakfast, we cross the German-Austrian border and drive to **Salzburg**, one of the most beautiful and historical cities in Europe and birthplace of Mozart. Our **sightseeing tour** highlights the Hohensalzburg Fortress, the **birth house** of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the impressive Salzburg Cathedral, a major theatrical venue during the Salzburg Festival. The tour continues with a visit to **Mirabell Palace** with its marvelous gardens full of fountains and sculptures. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Day 8: Salzburg - Vienna

This morning, we continue on our journey eastward to visit **Melk**, the baroque Abbey and a spiritual and cultural center in Austria. We tour the **Benedictine Monastery** with its famous Library and the Marble Hall. Next, we enjoy a **Danube cruise** along the Wachau, one of the most beautiful stretches of the Danube Valley. Afterwards, we travel along the Austrian Alps to **Vienna** for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 9: Vienna

Our **sightseeing tour** of the Austrian capital and along the famous Ringstrasse is a journey back into Habsburg times with its aristocratic palaces, baroque churches and the Hofburg Palace (home of the Habsburg Emperors. We also visit and tour **St. Stephen Cathedral**. This evening we enjoy a wonderful dinner in a **Heurigenlokal**, which offers typical local wines, food sometimes even music. Dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**



Day 10: Vienna - Prague

After breakfast, we cross the Austrian-Czech border and drive via Jihlava to **Prague**. We tour the **Jewish Prague** with Jewish city hall. The Altneschul is the oldest existing synagogue in Europe, Maisel Synagogue which is the "Jewish museum", and also known as the **old Jewish Cemetery**. We celebrate dinner in a Bohemian brewery restaurant. **(B, D)**

Note: Due to Shabbat there are no interior visits possible.



Day 11: Prague

We discover the city on a tour of the largest ancient castle in the world "**Hradschin**" The **St. Vitus Cathedral** is an excellent example of gothic architecture and is the largest and most important church in the country. We also visit the **Infant Jesus of Prague**. We cross the old stoned **Charles Bridge** for the Old City or take the coach down to the Old City. Next, we explore the Old City on a walking tour highlighting Wenzel Square and the Old Town Hall with its astronomical clock. Remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the cobblestoned streets of the old city on own. Tonight, we enjoy a **farewell dinner cruise** on the Vltava River. Dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**



Day 12: Sunday - June 5 Departure

We are transferred to the airport for our flight to USA. Arrive back home.

Extension tour: BERLIN

Day 12: Sunday - June 5 Berlin

Following breakfast, we are transferred to the Prague main station. We take the train to **Berlin** (duration approx. 4 hours). We will begin our journey in this fascinating capital with a brief **driving city tour** including the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church- the symbolic center of West Berlin and anti-war memorial to peace and reconciliation, the Berliner Dom (**Evangelical Cathedral**) **Berlin's largest and most prominent Protestant church**, driving pass Checkpoint Charlie, the border crossing of Cold-War days and a stop to walk through the world-famous Brandenburg Gate. Dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**



Day 13: Potsdam - Berlin

This morning, we drive to **Potsdam** passing the **Glieneker Bridge** or "**Bridge of Spies.**" **It was here** that the U.S. and the Soviet Union exchanged captured spies during the Cold War. In Potsdam meander through the quaint streets of the "**Holländisches Viertel**" (Dutch Quarter) or the Russian colony "Alexandrowka" and experience a time long past. We then continue on to **Sanssouci Palace**, the summer residence of the Prussian Kings often referred to as the Prussian "Versailles." Spend time walking through the magnificent gardens or visit the palace. The Prussian King Frederick II, known as "the Great" is one of the most multifaceted figures in European history. We return to Berlin and remainder of the day is at leisure. **(B, D)**



Day 14: Tuesday - June 7 Departure

Transfer to the airport for your flight home to the USA. Arrive back home.

All sites listed in the itinerary will be covered but the sequence and days may be altered to adjust to religious holidays, special closings of sites, air schedules, etc. This tour is not recommended for those who have mobility limitations since it includes walking on uneven

B=Breakfast, D=Dinner