

12 Days Oberammergau and Reformation Tour Berlin September 10 to 21, 2020

Day 1: Depart USA to Germany – September 10, 2020

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

Day 2: Arrival - Dachau concentration camp - Munich - Upper Bavaria

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 3: Passion Play Oberammergau – September 12, 2020

Today, we enjoy the world-renowned and quaint Bavarian town which 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. After a relaxed drive through the Bavarian countryside, we check-in to the hotel and still have enough time to explore the village on our own. Dinner and overnight in the **Oberammergau** area. (B, D)



Day 4: Neuschwanstein Castle - Wieskirche - Augsburg

After a late breakfast, we drive to nearby Fussen, located at the foot of the Alps and visit the famous castle of "Mad" King Ludwig, **Neuschwanstein Castle**. On our way to Augsburg, we stop at the **Church in the Meadows**, one of most famous samples for Rococo architecture. Dinner and overnight in Augsburg. (B, D)



Day 5: Augsburg - Rothenburg o.d. Tauber

This morning we tour **Augsburg**. Its magnificent Renaissance buildings - dated from the 15th and 16th centuries - give the city its unique character. Martin Luther stayed at the monastery of **St. Anna Church** in 1518, during his confrontation with Cardinal Cajetan. We also view the plaques which remind us of the Augsburg Confession at the **Fuggger House** and at the **Augsburg Cathedral**. Then on to the oldest social settlement in existence in the world "**The Fuggerei**", founded by Jacob Fuggger in 1521 as a residential settlement for Augsburg citizens in need. The annual (net) rent for an apartment in the Fuggerei still today is the nominal value of the Rhenish Guilder, at present 0.88 Euro together with prayers three times a day for the founder and his family. About 150 people live at present in the 140 apartments in 67 houses. Probably the most famous resident of the Fuggerei was the Master Mason Franz Mozart, the great-grandfather of the composer W. A. Mozart. In the afternoon travel the "Romantic Road" past quaint towns and villages before arriving in **Rothenburg o.d. Tauber**. Take a glimpse into the middle-ages, at perhaps the most famous town on the "Romantik Road", a nearly intact medieval walled-city without a single modern building within and tour the city to view the Rathaus, the Glockenspiel and St. Jakobkirche's famous altar carving by Tilman Riemenschneider and the Castle Gardens. Dinner and overnight in Rothenburg. (B, D)



Day 6: Rothenburg - Coburg - Erfurt

Leisure time to stroll the cobblestone lanes with their wonderful variety of shops. Kathe Wolfahrt's year-round Christmas Village is a must! Walk along the medieval walls that encircle the town, or just relax and enjoy this quaint town. Then on to **Coburg**. We visit the famous **Veste Coburg**, the fortress where Luther took refuge and lived during the Augsburg Confession. While visiting the castle we'll see the Luther Room, the art treasures in the various collections and the royal building with the Luther Chapel. A brief walking city tour plunges us into the history of this charming medieval city which also closely related with the British Royal Family. We continue on to **Erfurt** for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Day 7: Erfurt

Erfurt, the spiritual home of Martin Luther. It was here that Luther obtained a degree in 1502 and a 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 tour begins in the historical section of the city including St. Mary's Cathedral, where Luther was ordained as a priest, the Augustinian Monastery with a permanent exhibit depicting Luther's life as a monk in Erfurt, and to the church of St. Severus, where Luther preached his sermons. This evening is at leisure in the lovely restored market place to enjoy dinner at one of the local cafes and restaurants.

Overnight. (B)

Day 8: Eisenach

Following breakfast drive to **Eisenach** to visit **St. George's Church** where St. Elisabeth was married and J.S. Bach baptized. Then tour the **Luther House** where Luther lived as a student with the Cotta family from 1498-1501, and the Luther exhibition documenting his life and theologies. The next stop takes you to the magnificent **Wartburg Castle** and take a tour of the Palas (Great Hall), Art exhibition, the Elisabeth Hallway and the Luther Room where "Junker Jörg" (the Knight George) translated the New Testament into German. We return to Erfurt. Remainder of the day at leisure. This evening is at leisure in the lovely restored market place to enjoy dinner at one of the local cafes and restaurants. (B)

Day 9: Eisleben - Wittenberg

Following breakfast, we board the coach for a short drive to **Eisleben** and tour the **Luther Houses** where he was born in 1483 and died in 1546, and **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. Then on to Wittenberg for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Day 10: Wittenberg

This morning, we tour **Wittenberg**, the cradle of the German Reformation. The city is home to the most historic sights of Luther's life and work. The sightseeing tour begins at the inspiring **Castle Church**, and the historic "Theses Doors", the beautiful **Stadtkirche** with its marvelous Cranach Altarpiece. We also visit the **Luther Halle**, home to the largest collection of Reformation artifacts in the world. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Day 11: Berlin

We board the coach and drive to **Berlin**, the re-unified German capital. The panoramic sightseeing tour - highlights the city centers with the **Kaiser Wilhelm Church**, **Nikolai Quarter**, **Unter den Linden**, **Checkpoint Charlie** and the **Brandenburg Gate**, **Reichstag**, and **Charlottenburg Palace**. Several photo stops will be provided. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Day 12: Monday - September, 21

Departure

Transfer to Berlin airport and flight home to the USA. Arrive back home.

B=Breakfast, D=Dinner

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