

## 9 Days Oberammergau and Reformation Tour + Berlin May 21 to 29, 2020

### Day 1: Thursday, May 21

### Depart USA to Germany

Board an overseas flight to Germany. Enjoy dinner and entertainment aboard the airplane.



### Day 2:

### Arrival Munich

Upon arrival at **Munich airport** from Athens, we meet 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** of Munich 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 Pinako-theken 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. Time on our own to stroll the Marienplatz with its numerous shops, visit the fresh produce and flower markets and the world famous Hofbräuhaus restaurant complete with authentic Bavarian food, music and entertainment. Overnight in Munich. **D**

### Day 3: Saturday, May 23

### Passion Play Oberammergau

Today, we enjoy the world-renowned and quaint Bavarian town is the site of the extravagant Oberammergau **Passion Play** - performed every ten years. Take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. It begins in the afternoon and involves almost all residents of the village. The play has a running time of approximately five hours with a three-hour interval. After a relaxed drive through the Bavarian countryside, we 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 the most famous samples for Rococo architecture. Dinner and overnight in Augsburg. **B, D**



### Day 5:

### Augsburg - Coburg - Erfurt

This morning, we tour **Augsburg**. Its magnificent Renaissance buildings - dated from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 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 **Fugger House** and at the **Augsburg Cathedral**. 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. We continue on to Erfurt for dinner and overnight. **B, D**



### Day 6:

### Erfurt - Eisenach

**Erfurt** is 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. Your walking tour begins in the historical section of the city including **St. Mary's Cathedral**, where Luther was ordained as a priest, the **Church of St. Severus**, where Luther preached his sermons, the **Augustinian Monastery** with a permanent exhibit depicting Luther's life as a monk in Erfurt. This afternoon we tour **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 us to the magnificent **Wartburg Castle** to 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 for dinner and overnight. **B, D**



### Day 7:

### Eisleben - Wittenberg

After breakfast, we board the coach for a short drive to **Eisleben** and tour the **Luther Houses** where Martin Luther was born in 1483 and died in 1546. We then continue to **St. Peter's Church** where Luther was baptized and **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 8: Wittenberg - Berlin**

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 with 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. We board the coach and drive to **Berlin**, the re-unified German capital. our brief orientation tour takes us to the hotpots such as Kaiser Wilhelm Church, Unter den Linden, Checkpoint Charlie and the Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag and some more. If time allows several photo stops will be provided. Dinner and overnight. **B, D**



**Day 9: Friday, May 29 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 terrain.*