

## 9 Days Oberammergau and Reformation Tour + Berlin September 10 to 18, 2020

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

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 - Saturday

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 - Bamberg

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 Bamberg, we stop at the **Church in the Meadows**, one of most famous samples for Rococo architecture. Dinner and overnight in Bamberg. **B, D**



### Day 5: Bamberg - Naumburg Cathedral - Leipzig

This morning we tour **Bamberg** (UNESCO World Heritage Site) is an ancient center of imperial and episcopal power which just like Rome was built on seven hills. Dominated by its imperial cathedral, the town is a listed ensemble of medieval and baroque architecture. Bamberg's well-preserved old town comprises three historical centers - the episcopal town, the market gardener's town. With its four towers, the imperial cathedral of **St. Peter and St. George** is the most prominent building. Inside is the Bamberg Rider, the tomb of Henry II and Cunigunde - the only emperor and empress to be canonized in the Holy Roman Empire. It is also home to the only papal grave in Germany - that of Pope Clemence II. Other attractions in the old town include the town hall lapped by the River Regnitz, the rose garden with a view of the old quarter and beyond to St. Michael's abbey, the tanners' cottages by the old canal, the mill district and the fisherman's village "Little Venice". After lunch on our own, we continue on north to **Naumburg**. The late Romanesque and Early Gothic Cathedral of **SS. Peter and Paul** is one of **Europe's finest cathedrals**. The **twelve figures of founders**, masterpieces by some anonymous Naumburg masters, are world-famed. The best known pair is Uta and Ekkehard. Dinner and overnight in Leipzig. **B, D**



### Day 6: Leipzig - Dresden

In the morning we tour **Leipzig**, the city of Johann Sebastian Bach but also the cradle of the German peaceful revolution in 1989 which ended up in the re-unification of Eastern and Western Germany. We tour the city center highlighting **St. Thomas' Church** where Johann Sebastian Bach worked as choir master and music director and greatly influenced the music of the day; the "**Völkerschlachtdenkmal**" (Monument to the Battle of the Nations), the largest monument of its kind in Europe and one of Leipzig's most important landmarks; the old city hall) one of the most impressive examples of the Renaissance style in the city as well as **St. Nicholas Church**, one of Leipzig's oldest churches and starting point of the peaceful revolution. Then on to **Dresden** (a World Heritage Site) for a walking tour of its impressive historic center with its Castle and Castle Church, Theatre Square and the famous **Semper Opera**, the Semper Gallery and **Zwinger Palace** and Bruehl's Terrace. We visit the magnificent **Frauenkirche** "Church of Our Lady". This baroque cathedral was destroyed in the



firebombing of Dresden during World War II. It was reconstructed and completed in 2004 as a landmark symbol of reconciliation between former warring enemies. Dinner and overnight in Dresden area. **B, D**

**Day 7: 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. In the afternoon, we visit the **Pergamon Museum** including the 360° Panorama of the ancient metropolis by the artist Yadegar Asisi on Museum Island. Dinner and overnight in Berlin **B, D**



**Note:** During the current stage of renovations in the Pergamon Museum, the hall containing the Pergamon Altar will be closed to the public and **reopened in 2023**. The South Wing featuring the Market Gate of Miletus, the Ishtar Gate and Processional Way from Babylon, as well as the Museum of Islamic Art, remains unaffected and will be open to the public during this time.



**Day 8: Potsdam - Berlin**

This morning, we drive to **Potsdam** passing the **Glienecker 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. We return to Berlin and have leisure time to explore the city on our own or do some late souvenir shopping. **B, D**

**Day 9: Friday - September, 18 Departure**

Transfer to Berlin airport and flight home to the USA. **B**

\* Program changes possible for logistical reasons.

**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.