



Ed-Ventures presents

Oberammergau Tours

Life-Changing Travel Experiences

Itineraries
for the 2020
Passion
Play



320 Elton Hills Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 289-3332 • (800) 658-7128
Fax (507) 281-9747
www.ed-ventures.com
tours@ed-ventures.com

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends in Travel,

As my picture indicates, I have wholly embraced a bearded lifestyle. But when you grow out your facial hair once a decade because of a promise your great, great, great (and then some) great grandparents made to God, well – that’s a commitment! The men of Oberammergau have been doing just that, and joining the entire village in presenting the Passion Play in honor of the promises made to God in 1633 to spare the village from the ravages of the plague and the Thirty Years War.

So what can Ed-Ventures’ travelers expect from a 2020 visit to “The Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ”? It is a massive production of over 2000 actors, musicians, chorus members, ushers, stagehands and firemen. By law, all the participants are either born in Oberammergau, or have lived there for at least 20 years. It is a five hour performance, broken into two sections with a dinner break. It will be inspiring, uplifting, and one of your most cherished memories.

2020 will be our fifth cycle of bringing guests to the Passion Play, but our travelers regularly visit the charming village during their stays in Germany. The frescoed walls and rustic location make this a very enjoyable stop at any time. We have put together these sample itineraries for churches, travel agents and group leaders to consider for their groups. We can also create a custom program for you based on your own group needs.

It is time for you to contact us at 800-658-7128 to start scheduling and selling your custom group tour. Don’t wait too long, Passion Play tickets sell out quickly. The Passion Play will run from May to October 2020. We’d like Ed-Ventures to be the tour operator that brings you there.

Regards,

Paul Larsen
President
Ed-Ventures, Inc.

Be sure to check our website, www.ed-ventures.com, for even more itineraries!



ED - VENTURES WORLDWIDE GROUP TOURS

Itineraries that include The Passion Play in Oberammergau

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOURS	Page
Germany, Switzerland & Austria	4
Lutherland & the Passion Play	6
Central Europe & the Passion Play	8
Germany, Austria & the Passion Play	10
Pope Benedict's Bavaria	12
Eastern Europe	14
Switzerland & the Passion Play	16
Northern Italy, Salzburg & Switzerland	18

Unless specified otherwise, each of our tours includes:

- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- Professional tour director and local step-on guides
- Entrance fees to sightseeing and attractions
- Gratuities for meals and local guides (except tour director and coach driver)
- Luggage handling: one suitcase per person at hotels

Germany, Switzerland & Austria



Tour: PPGSA20

The majestic Alps are the backdrop to this delightful tour visiting both impressive cathedrals and charming mountain chapels as we work our way through four countries.

Day 1 • Departure

Our journey begins, as we board our international flight to Munich, Germany.

Day 2 • Salzburg Area, Austria

Upon arrival in Munich, we meet our guide and coach to begin our exciting alpine adventure. Our travels today take us first to **Altötting**, Bavaria's most commonly visited pilgrimage site. We see the **Black Madonna** in the chapel in the center of the village and explore some of the churches surrounding the square. We continue to **Oberndorf** where we see the "**Silent Night Chapel**." It was here that Fr. Josef Mohr and Franz Gruber performed their composition of this world famous hymn for the first time on Christmas Eve in 1818. We continue to Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart, and the city of "The Sound of Music." **B/D**

Day 3 • Salzburg Area

We rise early this morning and enjoy a locally-guided city tour of **Salzburg**, including the **Salzburg Cathedral**, **St. Peter's Church**, the **Mirabel Gardens**, Mozart's birth house,

and sights from "The Sound of Music." We then have the remainder of the day at leisure in the **Getreidegasse**, Salzburg's beautiful pedestrian shopping area. You might wish to take the funicular to the Salzburg fortress, which looks down over the beautiful old city. **B/D**

Day 4 • Salzburg Area

After breakfast we drive to nearby **Berchtesgaden**, one of the most scenic areas in Germany. We board a local coach and drive partway up the **Kehlstein** mountain to an elevator which takes us the rest of the way to **Hitler's Eagle's Nest**, the foreboding mountaintop retreat that Hitler used during WWII. In the evening we have the option to attend a musical performance in Salzburg, the city of Mozart. **B**

Day 5 • Oberammergau, Germany

After breakfast we drive through the Bavarian countryside to **Linderhof Castle**, one of the castles of King Ludwig II. Linderhof was the favorite of King Ludwig's three castles, tucked into an intimate setting in the woods. There are four pounds of gold leaf in every room and a beautiful collection

of vases. We take time to take a guided tour of the castle. We also visit the beautiful rococo cloister in Ettal. We drive to Oberammergau for overnight. **B/D**

Day 6 • Oberammergau

We enjoy a relaxed morning in **Oberammergau**, admiring the bright frescoes that adorn many of the homes and businesses, perhaps shopping for a souvenir woodcarving for which the village is famous. This afternoon we attend Part One of the **Passion Play**, the legacy of a vow made by the Oberammergauers in 1633 to enact the Passion story. Due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War, the plague had taken its toll in lives. But many of the people were spared, and the following year, 1634, the first Passion Play was performed on a stage set up in the cemetery. After dinner we attend Part Two. **B/L/D**

Day 7 • Sarnen am Sarnersee, Switzerland

As we continue southward today, we enter **Switzerland**, and soon notice the scenic splendor of perhaps the most beautiful country in the world. We make a stop in **Liechtenstein**, a postage stamp country. We continue on to **Einsiedeln** in the foothills of the Alps. Einsiedeln is another pilgrimage site. We then drive a short distance to our hotel in the mountains near Lucerne. **B/D**

Day 8 • Sarnen am Sarnersee

After breakfast we begin a wonderful day of sightseeing. We take a short drive over the Brunig Pass to the **Bernese Oberland**, the heart of the Swiss Alps. We take an excursion via cogwheel train from **Lauterbrunnen**, the "village of the waterfalls," to the **Kleine Scheidegg** for a panoramic view of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau Mountains! After time for lunch we continue our train ride down the other side of the mountain to **Grindelwald**, the "village of the glaciers!" **B/D**

Day 9 • Sarnen am Sarnersee

After breakfast we drive to **Lucerne** on the magnificent Vierwaldstättersee. We take time to cross the famous wooden **Chapel Bridge**, and stop to see the poignant **Lion Monument**, designed by the Danish sculptor Thorwaldsen, as a memorial to Swiss mercenaries that lost their lives defending the King of France. We enjoy some free time in Lucerne before driving to our hotel for a farewell dinner. Tonight we enjoy our dinner with some Swiss folklore entertainment. **B/D**

Day 10 • Return

Sadly our travels end today, as we transfer to the Zurich airport for our return flight. We take with us new friends and memories of ancient castles, opulent palaces, scenic alpine views, and of course, the inspiring memory of the Passion Play. **B**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Pilgrimage Site of Altötting
- ◆ Salzburg Cathedral
- ◆ Mirabel Gardens
- ◆ Mozart's Birth House
- ◆ Berchtesgaden
- ◆ Hitler's Eagle's Nest
- ◆ Linderhof Castle
- ◆ Free Time in Oberammergau
- ◆ Passion Play
- ◆ Liechtenstein
- ◆ Pilgrimage Site of Einsiedeln
- ◆ Bernese Oberland
- ◆ Cogwheel Train Ride
- ◆ Grindelwald
- ◆ Chapel Bridge in Lucerne
- ◆ Lion Monument



Lutherland & the Passion Play

Tour: PPREF20

It has been more than 500 years since Martin Luther's actions fueled the Reformation in Europe, yet his presence remains strong. We'll be visiting many of the German cities and villages where he lived and worked, as well as attending the Passion Play.

Day 1 • Depart

We depart the U.S. for Frankfurt via scheduled air.

Day 2 • Erfurt, Germany

Upon morning arrival in Frankfurt we meet our driver and travel to Erfurt in the former Eastern Zone. En route we visit **Wartburg**, where Luther found refuge and where he translated the New Testament into German. **D**

Day 3 • Erfurt

Today's sightseeing includes the **Augustinian Monastery**, where Luther studied for the priesthood, the city center, with the famous **Krämer Bridge**, and St. Mary's Cathedral, site of Luther's ordination. We have some free time to explore this significant city. **B/D**

Day 4 • Leipzig

We drive first to Wittenberg, where Martin Luther served as a professor of theology. Among the sights visited will be the **Castle church** where Luther posted his 95 theses. We also visit the **Luther Home**, where Luther and Catherine raised their children, and the city church. We then continue to Leipzig. **B/D**

Day 5 • Leipzig

In the morning we make an excursion to **Eisleben**, where Luther was born and also the house where he died. After lunch, we return to Leipzig, for a city tour, including the **St. Thomas Church** where J.S. Bach served as music director. We also see the church where the Freedom March started, that was influential in bringing down the Berlin wall. **B/D**

Day 6 • Munich

We drive south to Munich, capital city of the state of Bavaria. En route we enjoy beautiful scenery and a lunch stop in the lovely old city of Nürnberg. In Luther's time, this was "Germany's eye and ear", an early media center for the Reformation with over 20 working printing presses. **B/D**

Day 7 • Munich

This morning a local guide leads us on a tour of Munich that includes the **Olympic Stadium**, the grounds of **Nymphenburg Palace**, and the many historical buildings in the city center. We see the **Glockenspiel** on the new city hall at Marienplatz. We have a little free time in the pedestrian zone before going to one of the beer gardens in Munich for dinner. **B**

Day 8 • Oberammergau

We drive south into Upper Bavaria and Oberammergau today. En route we visit the rococo palace **Linderhof**, the favorite residence of the eccentric Bavarian King Ludwig II. **B/D**

Day 9 • Oberammergau

We enjoy a relaxed morning in **Oberammergau**, admiring the bright frescoes that adorn many of the homes and businesses, perhaps shopping for a souvenir woodcarving for which the village is famous. We might choose to take the regional bus to nearby Ettal for a visit to the impressive Benedictine abbey. During WW II, the Protestant theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the Jesuit Priest, Rupert Mayer, both active in the resistance against the Nazi regime and later martyred, were given refuge here. This afternoon we attend Part One of the **Passion Play**, the legacy of a vow made by the Oberammergauers in 1633 to enact the Passion story. Due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War, the plague had taken its toll in lives. But many of the people were spared, and the following year, 1634, the first Passion Play was performed on a stage set up in the cemetery. After dinner we attend Part Two. **B/L/D**

Day 10 • Sarnen am Sarnersee, Switzerland

We drive through Austria today, pausing for an extended lunch stop in **Liechtenstein**. We then enter Switzerland, stopping in Lucerne to see the **Lion Monument** and the famed wooden **Chapel Bridge**. We overnight in the alps near Lucerne. **B/D**

Day 11 • Sarnen am Sarnersee

We drive to **Lauterbrunnen** where we board a train to the Kleine Scheidegg. In the afternoon we stop in Brienz at a wood-carving factory before returning to Sarnen. **B/D**

Day 12 • Return

It is now time to drive to the airport in Zürich for our return flight home. Our tour has been relaxing, yet filled with memories. We have enjoyed the hospitality of Bavaria, the castle of King Ludwig, the spectacular Alps, one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the world, and the spectacular Passion Play. We take home with us memories of friends on the tour and of experiences to be recounted again and again. Welcome home! **B**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Wartburg Castle
- ◆ Augustinian Monastery
- ◆ Krämer Bridge
- ◆ Castle Church in Wittenberg
- ◆ Luther Home
- ◆ Luther's Birth House
- ◆ St. Thomas Church
- ◆ Lovely Old City of Nürnberg
- ◆ Olympic Stadium
- ◆ Nymphenburg Palace grounds
- ◆ Glockenspiel in Munich
- ◆ Munich Beer Garden Dinner
- ◆ Palace Linderhof
- ◆ Free Time in Oberammergau
- ◆ Passion Play
- ◆ Wooden Chapel Bridge
- ◆ Train to Kleine Scheidegg
- ◆ Brienz Wood-carving Factory

Central Europe & the Passion Play



Tour: PPCE20

This region has a long and rich history that stretches from outposts in Roman times through the seats of kings and emperors. Let Ed-Ventures be your guide to these unique and intertwined destinations.

Day 1 • Depart USA

We begin our journey with a flight to Prague.

Day 2 • Prague, Czech Republic

Upon arrival, we meet our guide for a tour of the ancient **Jewish Quarter (Josefov)**. We visit one of the synagogues and the Jewish Cemetery, a most astonishing sight, with gravestones almost piled on top of each other! We tour the **State Jewish Museum** which houses treasures and artifacts from the ghetto. At **Ceremony Hall** we see a moving exhibition of drawings by the children who were held at the Terezin Concentration Camp. **D**

Day 3 • Prague

Today discover why **Prague** has become the most popular destination in Europe. Our sightseeing begins with the **Hradcany** (Castle District) where we visit the **Royal Palace** and **St. Vitus Cathedral** as well as enjoy an impressive view over the city. From here we walk down to the historic **Charles Bridge** and cross the Moldau River to the Old Town Square and its renowned **Astronomical Clock**. We have free time to explore on our own and walk to **Wenceslas Square**,

enjoying Prague's liveliest street scene along the way. Dinner this evening is on our own. **B**

Day 4 • Bratislava, Slovakia

We work our way across the Czech Republic and into the Slovak Republic to reach Bratislava, its capital. Upon our arrival in Bratislava we check into our hotel and then meet our local guide who takes us on a walking tour of the Old Town - **Staré Mesto** - the city's historical heart. **B/D**

Day 5 • Budapest, Hungary

This morning's drive takes us along the famous Danube Bend. We stop in **Esztergom** to admire the largest **Hungarian Basilica** and enjoy the splendid view across the Danube plain. We stop in the picturesque artist village, **Szentendre**, for an opportunity to purchase that special souvenir, Herend porcelain, Hungarian embroidery or paprika—or to visit one of the many art galleries. In the evening we have a special Hungarian dinner accompanied by Gypsy music at a restaurant in **Budapest**. **B/D**

Day 6 • Budapest

Today we meet a local guide who takes us on a city tour to acquaint us with many of Budapest's famous sights: **Gellert Hill** with the **Citadel**, the former fortress built by the Habsburgs in the 19th century, **Fisherman's Bastion** dominated by **St. Matthias Church** in the Castle district, and the old town **Buda**, along with the more fashionable **Pest**, where we find many shops and grand boulevards. We have an afternoon free before dinner on our own tonight. **B**

Day 7 • Vienna

We drive to **Vienna** today. Upon arrival we have a city tour which acquaints us with the major sights of the city, **Belvedere Palace**, the elegant **Kärntner Ring**, **St. Stefan's Cathedral**, the **Lippizaner Museum** and more. In the afternoon, we visit **Schönbrunn Palace**. This evening we experience some of the special music Vienna has to offer. We drive to **Grinzing**, an "artists' quarter," where we enjoy a "**Heuriger**," a celebration of the new wine. **B/D**

Day 8 • Vienna, Austria

Our day is free in the pedestrian zone of Vienna, where we can shop, have coffee and a piece of Sacher Torte, or visit a museum of choice. **B**

Day 9 • Salzburg

We drive westward today with a stop in **Melk** to see the beautiful monastery there. We continue on to Salzburg for overnight. **B/D**

Day 10 • Oberammergau, Germany

We start the day with a walking tour of **Salzburg**. We see the beautiful **Mirabel Gardens**, the **Salzburg Cathedral**, the **Church of St. Peter**, the **Mozart monument** and more. We have time to visit the **Getreidegasse** (the Salzburg pedestrian zone) and more. We then drive to **Oberammergau** and visit **Linderhof Castle** before checking into our hotel. The evening is free to wander in this beautiful village. **B/D**

Day 11 • Oberammergau

We enjoy a relaxed morning in **Oberammergau**, admiring the bright frescoes that adorn many of the homes and businesses, perhaps shopping for a souvenir woodcarving for which the village is famous. This afternoon we attend Part One of the **Passion Play**, the legacy of a vow made by the Oberammergauers in 1633 to enact the Passion story. Due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War, the plague had taken its toll in lives. But many of the people were spared, and the following year, 1634, the first Passion Play was performed on a stage set up in the cemetery. After dinner we attend Part Two. **B/L/D**

Day 12 • Munich

We depart this morning for **Munich**. After a short city tour, which will include the **Olympic Grounds**, the **Glockenspiel** on the new city hall, the grounds of Nymphenburg Castle and more, we check into our hotel. This evening we enjoy a folklore evening and meal at the famous **Hofbräuhaus**. **B/D**

Day 13 • Return

We transfer to the Munich airport for our return flight.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Prague Jewish Quarter
- ◆ Hradcany Castle District
- ◆ St. Vitus Cathedral
- ◆ Charles Bridge
- ◆ Astronomical Clock
- ◆ Walking Tour of Staré Mesto
- ◆ Drive Along Danube Bend
- ◆ Hungarian Basilica
- ◆ Artist Village of Szentendre
- ◆ Gellert Hill with the Citadel
- ◆ Belvedere Palace
- ◆ Lippizaner Museum
- ◆ Schönbrunn Palace
- ◆ Artist Quarter of Grinzing
- ◆ Melk Monastery
- ◆ Mirabel Gardens
- ◆ Linderhof Castle
- ◆ Free Time in Oberammergau
- ◆ Passion Play
- ◆ Grounds of Nymphenburg Castle
- ◆ Dinner at Hofbräuhaus



Germany, Austria & the Passion Play

Tour: PPGA20

Romantic castles, a Rhine river trip, the flower island in Lake Constance and soaring Alps all set the stage for this delightful tour. Our visit to the Oberammergau Passion Play is truly the icing on the cake. We love to do this tour, even in the “off” years.

Day 1 • Depart USA

We begin our journey with a flight to Frankfurt.

Day 2 • Rüdesheim, Germany

Upon arrival in Frankfurt, we drive to **Rüdesheim** on the Rhine. You soon see that this is a major wine-producing region, particularly known for their Reislings. Rüdesheim is towered over by a Medieval castle housing a lovely wine museum, for anyone who would like to stretch their legs on the climb up the hill. We enjoy a wine tasting welcome party upon arrival. **D**

Day 3 • Rüdesheim

We walk to the river this morning and board a ship for an excursion along the most beautiful section of the Rhine. After passing the famous **Lorelei Rock**, we disembark at **St. Goarshausen**, have lunch, and drive further along the Rhine to the **Marksburg Castle**. After dinner, we might like to stroll through the Drosselgasse, a small lane filled with wine bars and live music. **B/D**

Day 4 • Meersburg

We take a picturesque drive south today along the Rhine to the **Black Forest**. We have lunch in **Gutach**, while visiting a fabulous **Open Air Farm Museum**. We continue on toward Meersburg on **Lake Constance** for our overnight. Meersburg retains its medieval roots, with a lower city along the water once inhabited by the merchants and tradespeople, and the fortified upper city for the gentile classes. **B/D**

Day 5 • Innsbruck, Austria

We venture out to the **Island of Mainau**, located in the middle of Lake Constance. It is known as the “flower island” due to its beautiful gardens. Later we drive through the tiny principality of Liechtenstein to **Innsbruck**. **B/D**

Day 6 • Oberammergau, Germany

This morning we have a tour of Innsbruck, including the **Wilten Basilica**, the **Golden Roof** and **Court Church**. We drive to **Bavaria**, where we visit **Linderhof Castle**, the glitziest of King Ludwig II's castles. We overnight in Oberammergau. **B/D**

Day 7 • Oberammergau

We enjoy a relaxed morning in **Oberammergau**, admiring the bright frescoes that adorn many of the homes and businesses, perhaps shopping for a souvenir woodcarving for which the village is famous. We might choose to take the regional bus to nearby Ettal for a visit to the impressive Benedictine abbey. During WW II, the Protestant theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the Jesuit Priest, Rupert Mayer, both active in the resistance against the Nazi regime and later martyred, were given refuge here. This afternoon we attend Part One of the **Passion Play**, the legacy of a vow made by the Oberammergauers in 1633 to enact the Passion story. Due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War, the plague had taken its toll in lives. But many of the people were spared, and the following year, 1634, the first Passion Play was performed on a stage set up in the cemetery. After dinner we attend Part Two. **B/L/D**

Day 8 • Salzburg, Austria

We have a beautiful drive through the alpine region to **Berchtesgaden** today. Near the site of the former Nazi mountain retreat, **Obersalzberg**, we board a smaller bus and traverse narrow roads up the Kehlstein Mountain. Our trip continues with a walk through a tunnel into the mountain and ends with an elevator ride to the summit. We arrive in the tea house known as the “**Eagle’s Nest**,” which was presented as a birthday gift to Adolf Hitler in 1933. The view on a clear day is magnificent! Listen for the hills to come alive “with the sound of music” as we continue on to Salzburg for our overnight. **B/D**

Day 9 • Salzburg

A morning walking tour of **Salzburg** introduces us to this city. We visit the **Salzburg Cathedral**, the **Getreidegasse** (pedestrian zone), the **market area**, the **Peter’s Church** and more. We enjoy a musical performance this evening. **B/D**

Day 10 • Munich, Germany

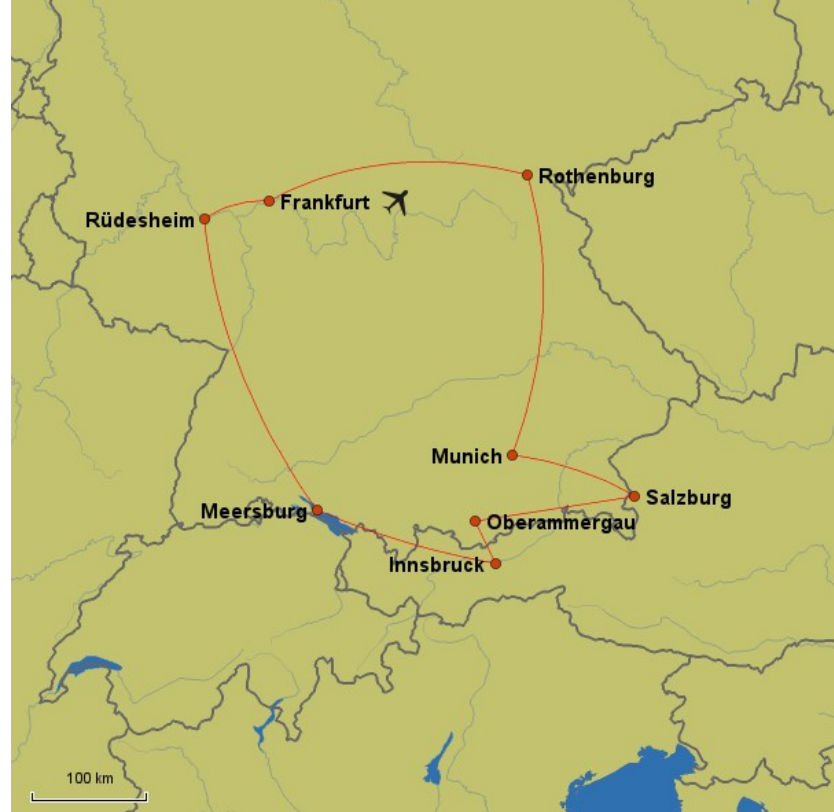
We drive to **Munich** today, where we have a short orientation tour of the city, including the **Olympic grounds**, the **Glockenspiel**, the grounds of Nymphenburg Castle, and the pedestrian zone. We will visit the famous **Hofbräuhaus** in the evening where you can choose from the menu. **B**

Day 11 • Rothenburg

We drive along portions of the Romantic Road en route to **Rothenburg** on the Tauber River. Upon arrival we take a short walking tour of this medieval walled city. We enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel this evening. **B/D**

Day 12 • Return

We transfer to Frankfurt for our return flight. **B**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Rüdesheim Wine-producing Region
- ◆ Cruise Along the Rhine
- ◆ Marksburg Castle
- ◆ Black Forest
- ◆ Meersburg on Lake Constance
- ◆ Beautiful Gardens on the Island of Mainau
- ◆ Tiny Principality of Liechtenstein
- ◆ Linderhof Castle
- ◆ Free Time in Oberammergau
- ◆ Passion Play
- ◆ Hitler’s Eagles’ Nest
- ◆ Salzburg Cathedral
- ◆ Munich Olympic Grounds
- ◆ Munich Glockenspiel
- ◆ Grounds of Nymphenburg Castle
- ◆ Medieval Walled City of Rothenburg



Pope Benedict's *Bavaria*

Tour: PBPB20

Pope Benedict XVI shocked the world when he announced his retirement in 2013. This tour will take us into many of the places associated with the German-born Pope Emeritus, once the Archbishop of Munich.

Day 1 • Departure

Our journey begins as we board our international flight to Munich, Germany.

Day 2 • Freising, Germany

Upon arrival in **Munich**, we meet our tour director and motor coach and drive to nearby **Freising**, where we have a locally guided tour. It was in Freising at the **School of Philosophy and Theology** that Pope Benedict studied and later taught. He received his priestly ordination here in 1951 in the **Cathedral of St. Mary**. In 1977 Pope Paul VII named the then Josef Ratzinger Archbishop of Munich and Freising. Our tour ends at the **Weihenstephan Monastery Brewery**, a hilltop site with a magnificent view of Freising and the surrounding countryside. This brewery, now owned and operated by the state of Bavaria, was founded in 1040 A.D. and is said to be the oldest continuously operating brewery in the world. After checking into our hotel, we have the rest of the day to relax from our long flight. **D**

Day 3 • Freising

A drive northward along the Autobahn brings us to **Regensburg** on the Danube River, where we spend the morning learning about this ancient city and diocesan center. The Celts and then the Romans built settlements here, the Romans arriving in 70 A.D. Still surviving is **Porta Pretoria**, constructed in 179 A.D. **Regensburg's**

Stone Bridge spans the Danube and dates from the early 12th century. Pope Benedict held the Chair of dogmatics and history of dogma at the **University of Regensburg**, where he also served as Vice-President. On our return to Freising this afternoon we stop in **Ingolstadt** for an assembly-line tour of the **Audi factory** and a visit to its museum. **B/D**

Day 4 • Salzburg, Austria

We depart for Salzburg this morning with a full-day of sightseeing en route. First we visit **Altötting**, Bavaria's most visited pilgrimage site and one of the stops during Pope Benedict's 2006 tour. The Ratzinger family made pilgrimages to this place when Josef was a boy. Here we see the **Black Madonna** in the chapel on the main square, a place of healing. Our next stop is in nearby **Marktl**, where the Holy Father was born on June 29, 1927. We see his birthplace and the **font used for his baptism**, now located in the town museum. We also pay a visit to the village of **Traunstein** where Josef Ratzinger spent his childhood. From here it's just a short drive to **Salzburg**, the birthplace of Mozart and film site of "The Sound of Music." **B/D**

Day 5 • Salzburg

A morning walking tour acquaints us with this lovely city, which for centuries was ruled by local "Prince-Bishops" who enjoyed independence from the Austrian Empire. The salt trade brought

enormous wealth to the city, still very evident today. Our tour includes the **Mirabell Garden**, the magnificent **Salzburg Cathedral**, **Mozart's birth house**, and the *Getreidegasse*, the narrow, bustling shopping street. In the afternoon we take an excursion to **Berchtesgaden**, Germany. Near the site of the former Nazi mountain retreat, **Obersalzberg**, we board a smaller bus and traverse narrow roads up the Kehlstein Mountain. Our trip continues with a walk through a tunnel into the mountain and ends with an elevator ride to the summit. We arrive in the tea house known as the **"Eagle's Nest,"** which was presented as a birthday gift to Adolf Hitler in 1933. The view on a clear day is magnificent! After returning to Salzburg, we enjoy the **"Sound of Salzburg" Dinner Concert**, which includes songs from "The Sound of Music." **B/D**

Day 6 • Oberammergau, Germany

Today we enjoy scenic views of Bavarian and Austrian alpine landscapes on our drive to Oberammergau. Our route takes us along the shores of the beautiful Plansee. We arrive at **Neuschwanstein** for a tour of the fairy-tale castle built by the eccentric King Ludwig II and completed in 1886. Its design was copied by Walt Disney for his Magic Kingdom. Before arriving in Oberammergau, we visit the *Wieskirche* (Church of the Meadow), one of the finest examples of Rococo architecture in Germany. **B/D**

Day 7 • Oberammergau

We enjoy a relaxed morning in **Oberammergau**, admiring the bright frescoes that adorn many of the homes and businesses, perhaps shopping for a souvenir woodcarving for which the village is famous. We might choose to take the regional bus to nearby Ettal for a visit to the impressive Benedictine abbey. During WW II, the Protestant theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the Jesuit Priest, Rupert Mayer, both active in the resistance against the Nazi regime and later martyred, were given refuge here. This afternoon we attend Part One of the **Passion Play**, the legacy of a vow made by the Oberammergauers in 1633 to enact the Passion story. Due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War, the plague had taken its toll in lives. But many of the people were spared, and the following year, 1634, the first Passion Play was performed on a stage set up in the cemetery. After dinner we attend Part Two. **B/D**

Day 8 • Munich

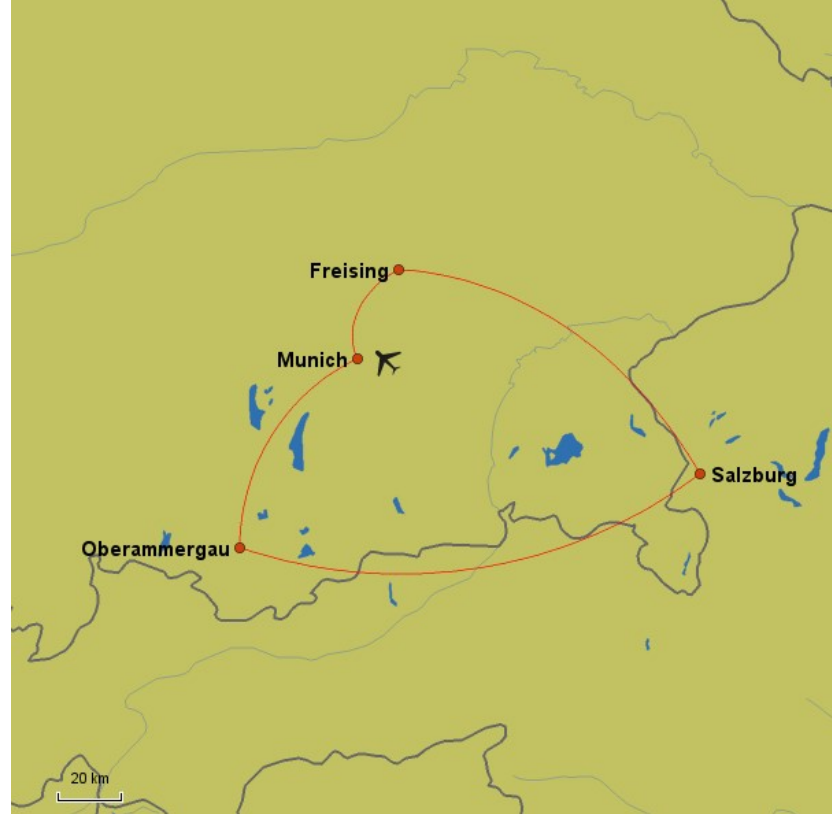
This morning we set out for Munich, the capital of Bavaria and one of Germany's most popular cities. En route we visit **Benediktbeuren**, the oldest monastery in Bavaria with over 1250 years of history. The emperor Charlemagne visited here in 800 A.D., bringing relics as gifts. The monastery was founded by Benedictines, but is now staffed by the Salisians of Don Bosco. Upon arrival in **Munich** we take a city tour which includes sites associated with the Pope as well the famous *Glockenspiel* at Marienplatz, **Nymphenburg Palace**, and the *Viktualienmarkt* (food market). This evening we enjoy a buffet dinner and traditional Bavarian entertainment at the world-famous *Hofbräuhaus*. **B/D**

Day 9 • Munich

Our final day is at leisure to enjoy individual interests in this lively city – shopping in the mile-long pedestrian zone, eating a traditional Munich white sausage with sweet mustard, visiting one of Munich fine museums (*Alte and Neue Pinakothek, Deutsches Museum, BMW Museum*), strolling through the Olympic grounds with their distinctive architectural style or riding to the top of the Olympic tower for a grand view of the area, or touring the Royal Apartments at the *Residenz* and viewing the crown jewels in its treasury. The motor coach is available this afternoon for an excursion to nearby Dachau to visit the concentration camp memorial – a vivid reminder of the terror of the Nazi era. At a farewell dinner this evening we celebrate our shared experiences. **B/D**

Day 10 • Return

Our tour comes to an end as we transfer to the Munich airport and board our homebound flight. We return home with many treasures gathered on this journey of faith. *Auf Wiedersehen!* **B**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ♦ School of Philosophy and Theology
- ♦ Weihenstephan Monastery Brewery
- ♦ Regensburg's Stone Bridge
- ♦ Audi Factory Tour
- ♦ Altötting Pilgrimage Site
- ♦ Black Madonna
- ♦ Baptism Site of Pope Benedict
- ♦ Mirabel Garden
- ♦ Hitler's Eagle's Nest
- ♦ "Sound of Salzburg" Dinner Concert
- ♦ Neuschwanstein
- ♦ Wieskirch
- ♦ Free Time in Oberammergau
- ♦ Passion Play
- ♦ Benediktbeuren Monastery
- ♦ Nymphenburg Palace
- ♦ Dinner at Hofbräuhaus

Eastern Europe



Tour: PPEE20

This tour explores the highlights of Poland, including many of the churches and cathedrals which are cultural treasures and world heritage sites. We also see some of Germany's smaller treasures, each with its own stories to tell.

Day 1 • Depart USA

We depart to **Warsaw**, Poland.

Day 2 • Warsaw, Poland

Upon arrival in Warsaw, we meet our tour director and transfer into the city for a short orientation tour and a visit to the **Royal Castle**. We have time until dinner to relax from our long trip. This evening we experience a welcome dinner in the Old Town. **D**

Day 3 • Warsaw

A full day of sightseeing awaits us, including the very best of Warsaw: the enchanting **Old Town**, painstakingly rebuilt from the ground up after WW II, the historic **Jewish Ghetto**, the busy downtown, and the elegant **Royal Route** with the Palace on the Water in the **Lazienki Gardens**. This afternoon we are invited to a complimentary snack in the famous **Blikle Café**. Other stops include the observation deck of the huge socialist Palace of Culture, and one of the newest historical museums in Poland, the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising. We also have some free time in the Old Town. Dinner this evening is at our hotel. **B/D**

Day 4 • Krakow

This morning we'll head south to Częstochowa to the culturally important **Paulite Monastery** and the painting of the Black Madonna. After lunch on your own, we continue to Krakow, where you discover why the city has been included by UNESCO as one of the great historic cities of the world. After a scrumptious dinner, we are treated to a **horse-drawn carriage** ride through the town. **B/D**

Day 5 • Krakow

This morning we visit the legendary **Wawel Castle** with the Royal Apartments, the Cathedral, and the Belfry. Today we also see the world's largest wooden altar (carved by Wit Stwosz in 1477-1489) open its wings in the Church of the Virgin Mary. We won't want to miss this magical moment. This afternoon, we venture out to the **Wieliczka Salt Mines** with their medieval galleries and halls carved out of rock and salt deposits. After a stop at a **Vodka distillery**, we return to Krakow for dinner on our own. **B**

Day 6 • Wroclaw

We start early today for Wroclaw arriving in time for lunch at a local restaurant. Then a local guide joins us for a walking tour of the city. We explore the markets and the Old Town

and its gnomes. But Wrocław's soul is **Ostrów Tumski**. This "Cathedral Island" is within easy walking distance northeast of the market square. It will be one of the highlights of our tour. **B/D**

Day 7 • Dresden, Germany

After breakfast, we depart for a short ride into Germany and the Baroque beauty of Dresden. We take a walking tour of the Old Town, including the Frauenkirche, Zwinger Palace, and the **Porcelain Collection** for which this town is so famous. There is free time this afternoon to add a visit to more of the town's resplendent churches, museums, or shops. **B/D**

Day 8 • Bayreuth/ Oberammergau

Our first stop this morning is Bayreuth, to visit the **Hermitage Gardens** surrounding the **Altes Schloss palace**, also a museum, and the **Temple of the Sun**, honoring the god Apollo. We stop in town for a long lunch and the opportunity for you to visit the Franz Liszt or Wagner museums, if you like. We continue later this afternoon to Oberammergau. **B/D**

Day 9 • Oberammergau

We enjoy a relaxed morning in **Oberammergau**, admiring the bright frescoes that adorn many of the homes and businesses, perhaps shopping for a souvenir woodcarving for which the village is famous. We might choose to take the regional bus to nearby Ettal for a visit to the impressive Benedictine abbey. During WW II, the Protestant theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the Jesuit Priest, Rupert Mayer, both active in the resistance against the Nazi regime and later martyred, were given refuge here. This afternoon we attend Part One of the **Passion Play**, the legacy of a vow made by the Oberammergauers in 1633 to enact the Passion story. Due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War, the plague had taken its toll in lives. But many of the people were spared, and the following year, 1634, the first Passion Play was performed on a stage set up in the cemetery. After dinner we attend Part Two. **B/L/D**

Day 10 • Munich

After breakfast we drive through the Bavarian countryside to **Linderhof Castle**, one of the castles of King Ludwig II. Linderhof was the favorite of King Ludwig's three castles, tucked into an intimate setting in the woods. There are four pounds of gold leaf in every room and a beautiful collection of vases. We take time to take a guided tour of the castle. This afternoon, we take a brief tour of Munich including the **Olympic grounds**, the **Glockenspiel**, the grounds of Nymphenburg Castle, and the pedestrian zone. Our farewell dinner will be a great chance to reminisce about all we've seen on this tour. **B/D**

Day 11 • Return

We transfer to the airport for our return flight. **B**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Warsaw Royal Castle Visit
- ◆ Museum of the Warsaw Uprising
- ◆ Paulite Monastery
- ◆ Horse-drawn Carriage Ride
- ◆ Wawel Castle
- ◆ Wieliczka Salt Mines
- ◆ Vodka Distillery
- ◆ Gnomes of Wrocław
- ◆ Ostrów Tumski
- ◆ Dresden Porcelain Collection
- ◆ Hermitage Gardens
- ◆ Temple of the Sun
- ◆ Free Time in Oberammergau
- ◆ Passion Play
- ◆ Linderhof Castle

Switzerland & the Passion Play



Tour: PPSW20

After attending the Oberammergau Passion Play, this tour takes us into splendid Switzerland. We explore her natural highlights and charming cities, adding some of the famous Swiss trains into our coach tour.

Day 1 • Depart USA

We begin our “Ed-Venture” as we depart the United States for Munich, Germany.

Day 2 • Munich, Germany

We arrive into **Munich** today, where we have a short orientation tour of the city, including the **Olympic grounds**, the **Glockenspiel**, the grounds of Nymphenburg Castle, and the pedestrian zone. We visit the famous **Hofbräuhaus** in the evening where dinner will be on your own. **B**

Day 3 • Oberammergau

After breakfast we drive through the Bavarian countryside to **Linderhof Castle**, one of the castles of King Ludwig II. Linderhof was the favorite of King Ludwig's three castles, tucked into an intimate setting in the woods. There are four pounds of gold leaf in every room and a beautiful collection of vases. We take time for a guided tour of the castle. Time allowing, we also visit the beautiful rococo cloister in Ettal. We drive to **Oberammergau** for overnight. In the evening we can wander on the beautiful streets. **B/D**

Day 4 • Oberammergau

We enjoy a relaxed morning in **Oberammergau**, admiring the bright frescoes that adorn many of the homes and businesses, perhaps shopping for a souvenir woodcarving for which the village is famous. This afternoon we attend Part One of the **Passion Play**, the legacy of a vow made by the Oberammergauers in 1633 to enact the Passion story. Due to the ravages of the Thirty Years War, the plague had taken its toll in lives. But many of the people were spared, and the following year, 1634, the first Passion Play was performed on a stage set up in the cemetery. After dinner we attend Part Two. **B/L/D**

Day 5 • Lugano, Switzerland

We depart after breakfast, driving past the end of Lake Constance and entering **Liechtenstein**. We make an early lunch stop before continuing on to the south. The beauty in the next few days is unsurpassed in Europe, with beautiful mountains, castles, villages and the lake district of Italy. We overnight in **Lugano**. **B/D**

Day 6 • Zermatt

The beautiful scenery gets better as we weave through the mountain passes in and out of Italy and Switzerland. We traverse the Simplon Pass, a beautiful winding road, and drive to **Zermatt** in the center of most of Switzerland's highest peaks. Our coach takes us as far as **Täsch**, where we board a train for the last short distance into **Zermatt**, a village without cars. **B/D**

Day 7 • Zermatt

Today, weather permitting, we board the Gornergrat Bahn, a mountain train that takes us up to a plateau where we soak in the beauty. On a clear day, we can see a dozen mountain peaks, several over 12,000 feet. The driver has the day off, as we hike around the village, and absorb the nature around us. **B/D**

Day 8 • Montreux

We come down from the mountains and drive through the beautiful "valley of the sun" en route to **Montreux**. While there we visit the "**Castle of Chillon**", where Lord Byron wrote his famous "Prisoner of Chillon." We overnight in **Montreux** on the shores of Lake Geneva. **B/D**

Day 9 • Lucerne Area

We drive to the center of Switzerland, into the **Bernese Oberland**, the heart of the Swiss Alps. We make a stop in **Bern**, the small but famous internationally known capital. We see the **Berner Bears** in the Bearpit, the unusual construction in the center of the city and the **Bern Cathedral**, before driving to our hotel in the mountains near Lucerne. **B/D**

Day 10 • Lucerne Area

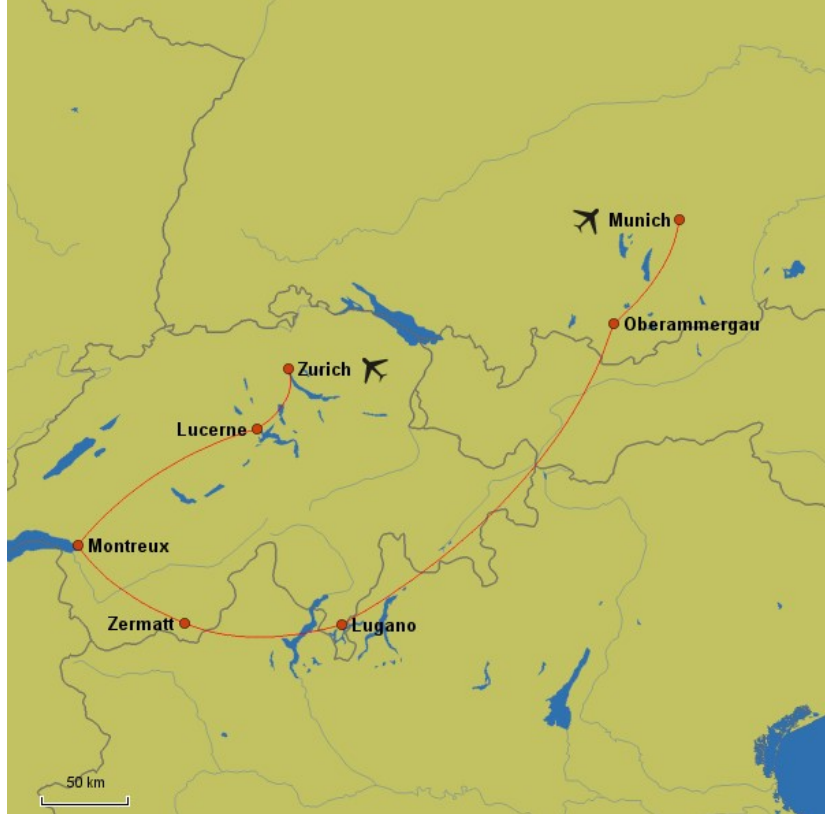
After breakfast, we begin a wonderful day of sightseeing. We take a short drive over the Brunig Pass to the **Bernese Oberland**. We now enjoy an excursion via cogwheel train from **Lauterbrunnen**, the "village of the waterfalls," to the **Kleine Scheidegg** for a panoramic view of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau Mountains! After time for lunch we continue our train ride down the other side of the mountain to **Grindelwald**, the "village of the glaciers!" **B/D**

Day 11 • Lucerne Area

We drive to **Lucerne** on the magnificent Vierwaldstättersee. We take time to cross the famous wooden **Chapel Bridge**, and stop to see the poignant **Lion Monument**, designed by the Danish sculptor Thorvaldsen, as a memorial to Swiss mercenaries who lost their lives defending the King of France. We enjoy some free time in Lucerne before returning to our hotel for a farewell dinner. **B/D**

Day 12 • Return

Sadly our travels end today, as we transfer to the Zurich airport for our return flight to the U.S.. We take with us new friends and memories of ancient castles, opulent palaces, scenic alpine views, and of course the inspiring memory of the Passion Play. **B**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Dinner at Hofbräuhaus
- ◆ Linderhof Castle
- ◆ Free Time in Oberammergau
- ◆ Passion Play
- ◆ Liechtenstein
- ◆ Mountain Passes of Italy and Switzerland
- ◆ Train Ride to Zermatt
- ◆ Gornergrat Mountain Train
- ◆ Castle of Chillon
- ◆ Berner Bears
- ◆ Bern Cathedral
- ◆ Cogwheel Train Ride
- ◆ Chapel Bridge
- ◆ Lion Monument

Northern Italy, Salzburg & Switzerland



Tour: PPIT20

This tour is an excellent mosaic of the best of these Alpine regions. You experience the differences in culture, food, music, and architecture that a short coach ride between cities can bring.

Day 1 • Depart USA

We depart the United States for Zurich.

Day 2 • Lucerne Area, Switzerland

Upon arriving in Zurich, we meet our coach and driver and drive to **Lucerne** on the magnificent Vierwaldstättersee. We take time to cross the famous wooden **Chapel Bridge**, and stop to see the poignant **Lion Monument**, designed by the Danish sculptor Thorwaldsen, as a memorial to Swiss mercenaries who lost their lives defending the King of France. We then drive to the mountains outside of Lucerne to overnight. **D**

Day 3 • Lucerne Area

After breakfast, we begin a wonderful day of sightseeing. We take a short drive over the Brunig Pass to the **Bernese Oberland**, the heart of the Swiss Alps. We now enjoy an excursion via cogwheel train from **Lauterbrunnen**, the "village of the waterfalls," to the **Kleine Scheidegg** for a panoramic view of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau Mountains! After time for lunch we continue our train ride down the other side of the mountain to **Grindelwald**, the "village of the glaciers!" **B/D**

Day 4 • Lugano, Switzerland

The beauty continues today, with beautiful mountains, villages and the lake district of Italy. We travel through the longest tunnel on mainland Europe, overnighting in Lugano, on Lake Lugano, surrounded by mountains. **B/D**

Day 5 • Montecatini Terme, Italy

Departing Lugano, we now journey southward into the region of **Tuscany**, often described as the "heart of Italy." Our home for the next two nights is **Montecatini Terme**. Situated between Florence and Pisa, the city is one of the world's most famous health spas. Our sightseeing today includes the famous **Leaning Tower of Pisa** and a lunch break in **Lucca**—a Roman-style city surrounded by massive red brick walls. The rest of the day is free to relax and explore Montecatini. **B/D**

Day 6 • Montecatini Terme

Today is spent in **Florence** with a local guide showing us the **Duomo**, the leather market, the bridges on the Arno and the Accademia which houses **Michaelangelo's David**. We return to our hotel in Montecatini. **B/D**

Day 7 • Venice/Mestre

Our destination today is fabulous **Venice—La Serenissima**, the "Serene One." Built upon 117 islands, Venice is a mosaic

of canals, plazas, fascinating markets, and chaos! After our drive to Venice, we travel by boat to **Murano**—a cluster of small islands connected by bridges and the center of the Italian glassmaking industry since 1291. We overnight in Mestre or Venice. **B/D**

Day 8 • Venice/Mestre

We begin our day in Venice with an excursion to **St. Mark's Square**, including a cruise along the serpentine **Canale Grande**. Here we see the **Bell Tower** and the impressive **St. Mark's Cathedral**. There is time in the afternoon to explore and shop in the famous market area around the **Rialto Bridge** or to enjoy a coffee and some people-watching at St. Mark's Square. **B/D**

Day 9 • Salzburg area, Austria

Our drive through the Austrian mountains is striking and different from the Swiss Alps. We stop at a small town en route for lunch, and continue to **Salzburg** for the night. You may wish to attend a musical event this evening. **B**

Day 10 • Salzburg area

We rise early this morning for breakfast before enjoying a locally-guided city tour of Salzburg, including the **Salzburg Cathedral**, **St. Peter's Church**, the **Mirabel Gardens**, **Mozart's birth house**, and sights from "The Sound of Music." We then have the remainder of the day at leisure in the **Getreidegasse**, Salzburg's beautiful pedestrian shopping area. You might wish to take the funicular to the Salzburg fortress, which looks down over the beautiful old city. **B/D**

Day 11 • Oberammergau, Germany

After breakfast we drive through the Bavarian countryside to **Linderhof Castle**, one of the castles of King Ludwig II. Linderhof was the favorite of King Ludwig's three castles, tucked into an intimate setting in the woods. There are four pounds of gold leaf in every room and a beautiful collection of vases. We take time for a guided tour of the castle. Time allowing, we also visit the beautiful rococo cloister in Ettal. We then drive to our hotel in **Oberammergau**. In the evening we can wander on the beautiful streets. **B/D**

Day 12 • Oberammergau

The morning is free for exploring Oberammergau. After lunch we attend the **Passion Play**, the highlight of the tour. There is an intermission for dinner and then return to the theater for the rest of the production. **B/L/D**

Day 13 • Munich

We drive to **Munich** today, where we have a short orientation tour of the city, including the **Olympic grounds**, the **Glockenspiel**, the grounds of Nymphenburg Castle, and the pedestrian zone. We visit the famous **Hofbräuhaus** in the evening where dinner will be on your own. **B**

Day 14 • Return

We transfer to the Munich airport for our return flight to the United States.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ♦ Chapel Bridge
- ♦ Lion Monument
- ♦ Cogwheel Train Ride
- ♦ Leaning Tower of Pisa
- ♦ Michaelangelo's *David*
- ♦ Glassmaking in Venice
- ♦ Rialto Bridge
- ♦ City Tour of Salzburg
- ♦ Linderhof Castle
- ♦ Free Time in Oberammergau
- ♦ Passion Play
- ♦ Munich Glockenspiel



ED-VENTURES WORLDWIDE GROUP TOURS

LIFE-CHANGING TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

320 Elton Hills Drive NW
Rochester MN 55901

Phone: 507-289-3332
Toll-free: 800-658-7128
Fax: 507-281-9747
E-mail: tours@ed-ventures.com
www.ed-ventures.com

Custom Tour Planning for all your groups

Our groups are your groups – whether you are joining one of our scheduled tours or custom designing one for your own group of 20 or more. We strive to put a unique viewpoint, unusual stops, and the best tour directors into each and every tour.

Our world is THE world – whether you are looking for a Wisconsin cheese tour or an Italian formaggio tour, we can do that. Let us handle the planning, contracting, deposits, brochures and all the other details for you. Our air department can quote group air prices and we have an insurance policy to cover all your travelers.

Our goal is to make your travelers happy – from breaking in a new passport to carrying a well worn document, our customization brings a fresh look at the world. We work with groups of all ages and experiences. Churches, family groups, performance groups and educational institutions are just a few of the communities we serve. From school groups and girl scouts to garden clubs, senior centers, and family history tours, our experienced staff will ensure that your trip is a...

“Life Changing Travel Experience”.

