

OBERAMMERGAU

21st to 28th August



Quelle: Oberammergau Tourismus



One of the most notable events scheduled for the year 2010 is the world-renowned Passion Play in Oberammergau, a picturesque village with brightly decorated houses, typical woodcarving and flower-filled balconies, which nestles amongst majestic mountains in the very heart of the Bavarian Alps. Presented only once in every ten years, the Passion Play is the most famous musical drama in the world - a play of epic proportions that has been drawing crowds for centuries.

The Play was first presented in 1634 in gratitude to God for sparing most of the Oberammergau villagers from the Black Plague. The folklore is that a local farmer contracted the plague from a neighbouring valley and soon his family and about 80 other villagers had died. The survivors pleaded with God to stop the plague and spare the rest of the village and vowed that they would stage a religious performance each decade in gratitude. God answered their prayers and stopped the plague and they have faithfully kept their pledge, except when a Napoleon or Hitler interfered.

The story line of the play comes directly from the Biblical accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and depicts Jesus from the time he enters Jerusalem until the resurrection. Much of the story is sung in opera-fashion, and a full concert orchestra embellishes the drama with a rich musical background. The Passion Play is a profoundly moving spectacle which compels you to ponder the significance of Christ's death and resurrection. Even those who do not understand German, find the visual and musical aspects of the play deeply stirring - complete translations are provided for foreign guests.

Saturday 21st August Depart early morning for Dover and the ferry to Calais, from where we make our way to the Alsace region, where we are staying for the next two nights.

Sunday 22nd August This morning we shall have a guided tour of Strasbourg, including a boat trip on the River Ille, followed by some time at leisure to further explore this lovely town. This evening we have dinner at a Strasbourg restaurant and enjoy an organ recital in a local church before returning to our hotel.

Monday 23rd August After breakfast we continue our journey to the Oberamergau region, where we are staying for two nights.

Tuesday 24th August This morning we drive into Oberamergau where we shall be at leisure to visit the Passion Museum before enjoying a 3-course lunch. After lunch we take our seats for the first half of the Passion Play, (14.30 to 17.00). During the interval we have a 3-course dinner before re-taking our seats for the second half (20.00 to 22.30). After the performance we return to our hotel.

Wednesday 25th August Today we leave the Oberamergau area and make our way to Lake Constance, stopping at the fairy tale Neuschwanstein Castle where we shall have a guided tour.

Thursday 26th August A full day sightseeing, including a guided walk in Meerburg, a boat trip on the Lake and a visit to the Isle of Mainau - the Flower Island - where there are over 3,000 different species of flower and over 500 different species of tree. See the Arena of Fountains, the Italian Flower and Water Staircase, the Rose Gardens with more than 20,000 roses, where fragrance, beauty and elegance of the queen of flowers become a beguiling sensuous experience, the Herb Garden, Arboretum, Butterfly Garden and Butterfly House.

Friday 27th August After breakfast we begin our homeward journey, travelling to the French town of Verdun on the River Meuse for our overnight stay.

Saturday 28th August We continue our homeward journey, arriving back in Oxted mid evening.

What's included:

Hotels to be confirmed

A total of 7 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, plus lunch at Oberamergau.

All bedrooms have private facilities, TV & telephone .

Time to explore Strasbourg

Guided tour of Colmar

Organ Recital, Strasbourg

Boat trip, Strasbourg

Entry to Passion Museum, Oberamergau

Playbook of the 2010 Passion Play

Category 1 ticket to the Passion Play

Guided tour of Neuschwanstein Castle

Boat trip on Lake Constance

Visit to the Isle of Mainau

Guided walk of Meerburg

COST: £1395.00 per person

Single Room Supp: £82.00

Club Class Seat on Ferry £27.50



Neuschwanstein Castle © German National Tourist Board