



11 DAYS ALPINE EUROPE

visiting

**HEIDELBERG * RHINE VALLEY * ROTHENBURG * MUNICH * MARKTL AM INN
ALTÖTTING * SALZBURG * INNSBRUCK * LUCERNE**

including

THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU

hosted by

FR. ORRIN HALEPESKA

HOUSTON/FRANKFURT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Depart Houston today on your overnight transatlantic flights to Frankfurt, arriving the following day. En route enjoy dinner and onboard entertainment.

ARRIVE FRANKFURT/HEIDELBERG/RHINE VALLEY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Arrive Frankfurt. Drive to Heidelberg, the oldest University town in Germany and home of the "Student Prince." View the medieval Town Hall and the University, founded in 1386. Cross the Neckar River and see the ancient castle high above the city and river. Overnight in the Rhine Valley.

(D)

RHINE VALLEY/ROTHENBURG/OBERAMMERGAU

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Travel east to Rothenburg, Germany's best preserved medieval town. Rothenburg's ramparts, cobbled roads, and high gabled houses invoke the romance of the Middle Ages. The battle-scarred walls that encircle the town still protect St. Jakobskirch, with its altar carving by Tilman Riemenschneider. After a visit, proceed south on the Romantic Road through fairy-tale towns surrounded by moats, gates and towers. Admire the landscape dotted with lovely church spires standing since the Middle Ages. Continue to Oberammergau, site of the world famous Passion Play.

(B,D)

THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The highlight of your trip! In keeping with their 387-year old promise, the villagers of Oberammergau present their Passion Play depicting the last week of the life of Christ. The play's presentation can be traced to 1633 when the Black Plague swept Europe. The people of Oberammergau took a solemn oath: if God spared them, they would present a day-long play depicting the last week in the life of Christ. To this day they have kept their promise and every ten years the citizens of Oberammergau perform their passion play with the same love and devotion they have shown for over 380 years. Today the play takes place on an open-air stage with a covered auditorium seating 4,700, against a beautiful backdrop of towering Alpine mountains.

(B,D)

OBERAMMERGAU/NEUSCHWANSTEIN/MUNICH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

View Mad King Ludwig's fairy-tale Neuschwanstein Castle, one of the most photographed palaces in the world and the model for the castles at the Walt Disney theme parks. Next visit the oval rococo Wies Church designed in the late 1740s. On to Munich, the capital of Bavaria. Munich was ruled for over 650 years by the Wittelsbacher dukes and kings, who left their mark on the architecture. On a city tour see Marienplatz, Munich's town square, and view Nymphenburg, the former Royal Residence; Odeon Square with the beautiful Theatiner Church; and the Hall of Generals. Overnight in the Munich area.

(B)

MUNICH/MARKTL AM INN/ALTÖTTING/SALZBURG

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

This morning drive to Marktl am Inn (Little Market on the Inn River). The picturesque village is the birthplace of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. View the church of St. Oswald to Altötting, home of the Black Madonna of Altötting, and a pilgrimage destination for over 500 years. According to Pope Benedict XVI, it is “the heart of Bavaria and one of the hearts of Europe”. Celebrate mass and see the Shrine of Our Lady with the miraculous statue of Our Lady, and the Basilica of St. Anna before continuing to Salzburg, one of the world's most beautiful cities. Featured in the movie “The Sound of Music,” Salzburg will always be remembered as Mozart’s birthplace. **(B)**

SALZBURG/INNSBRUCK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

On your city tour of Salzburg this morning you will see the Mozarteum (house where Mozart lived) and visit the Church of the Franciscans and the Alter Markt in the heart of the Old City. Admire the majestic mountain scenery as you depart Salzburg and travel west through the Kitzbuheler Alps to Innsbruck, capital of the Austrian province of Tyrol. The 800-year-old city was named for the bridge across the Inn River, first built in the 12th century. On your orientation tour of Innsbruck, view the Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof), a late Gothic oriel with 2,657 gold-plated tiles. It was built under the rule of Emperor Maximilian I as a royal box for spectacles held in the square below. Also see Wilten Basilica, Hofburg Palace, and Maria Theresia Avenue. **(B,D)**

INNSBRUCK/LAKE LUCERNE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

Drive to Lucerne. Its attractive waterfront, 14th and 15th century covered wood bridges and medieval walls make Lucerne one of Switzerland’s prettiest cities. Walk along the quaint, winding streets of the Old Town and see the 14th century wooden Kapell Bridge and the Lion Monument. Free time to stroll along the bridges, relax on the lakeshore, or visit the elegant shops. Overnight in the Lake Lucerne area. **(B,D)**

LAKE LUCERNE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Tour Switzerland’s breathtakingly beautiful Bernese Oberland. Follow the Bruenig Pass road to Interlaken, a popular summer resort dwarfed by the famous snow-covered Alpine peaks of the Eiger and the 13,642-ft. Jungfrau. Proceed to the picturesque villages of Lauterbrunnen and Grindelwald and then return to your hotel for the night. **(B)**

LUCERNE/RHINE FALLS/FRANKFURT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Cross into Germany and continue to the magnificent Rhine Falls. After admiring the thunderous falls proceed to Frankfurt for overnight. **(B,D)**

FRANKFURT/HOUSTON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Bid farewell to Europe as you transfer to the Frankfurt airport for your flights back to Houston arriving the same day. **(B)**

B~Breakfast at your hotel

D~Table d’hote dinner at your hotel