

FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA, w/ OKTOBERFEST & OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Oktoberfest only last 2 weeks of Sept. 2010
(this tour can also be scheduled without Oktoberfest)

13 days/ 11 ngts

Day 01

Depart USA for Paris.

Day 02 Paris

D

Morning arrival in **Paris** at Charles de Gaulle airport. Meet your European Tour Director and continue with your private deluxe motorcoach for a condensed drive through the various districts.

Afternoon driving south to the lavish Baroque **Palace of Versailles** the retreat of French Royalty at the height of their absolutistic power. Admire the sumptuous reception rooms, the intriguing Hall of Mirrors and the Queens apartment (*interior visit is optional*). For those who would like to enter the Palace, there is a *nominal entrance fee*. Others might just like to take a leisurely stroll through the royal gardens, parks, discover the fountains and smaller chateaux that enhance the beauty of **Versailles**. Returning late afternoon to Paris for dinner. Welcome dinner this evening.

Day 03 Paris

BD

Morning comprehensive and informative city tour of **Paris**, including the left Bank, the right Bank, Montmartre, the **Opera**, Place de la Concorde, **Champs-Elysees** - the world's most celebrated Avenue, **Arc de Triomphe**, the **Eiffel Tower** - built for the Universal Exposition of 1889 and the great Gothic **Cathedral of Notre Dame**. Afternoon free to discover Paris on your own. Maybe a visit to the **Louvre Museum**, **d'Orsay Museum**, visit the **many beautiful churches**, look for bargains on **the Champs-Elysees**, or just relax in preparation for our wonderful journey throughout Europe. Tonight dinner culminating the day with a **Seine River Cruise**

Day 04 Paris – Strasbourg

BD

Morning departure to **Strasbourg** through the eastern **Champagne-Ardenne** region of France passing legendary fortresses, medieval villages and some of the most pristine countryside. Arriving at noon in **Reims** (lunch stop) and time to visit the splendid **Gothic Cathedral Notre-Dame of Our Lady** dating back to 1211 (was used for Coronations of French Kings) and admire the famous **Smiling Angel** just above the left door. See the **Basilica of St. Remi** housing the **tomb of Saint Remi**, the Bishop of Reims .who baptized Clovis, the King of France in 496 thus converting France to Christianity. Arriving late afternoon in **Strasbourg**. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 05 Strasbourg - Riquewihr - Black Forest

BLD

Morning walking tour of **Strasbourg**, a superbly maintained medieval town also known as La Petite France. Marvel at the mansard-roofed buildings in Louis IV style and half timbered houses ending with a visit to the majestic red stoned St. Stephan's Minster famous for its stained glass windows and the 450 ft. spire. Afterwards continue southwards through the **Alsace** wine country to the enchanting and flower bedecked **Riquewihr** for a **Gourmet lunch**. After lunch continue to **Black Forest** region - Titisee Hofgut Stemen area for overnight. Light dinner at hotel.

Day 06 Black Forest – Austrian - Swiss Alps – Black Forest

BD

Full day excursion to **Lake Constance**, stretching out in front of the grandiose panorama of the **Austrian and Swiss Alps** radiating a cheerful almost Mediterranean atmosphere. Visit Schaffhausen, **the Rhine Falls**, Stein am Rhine and the tropical **Island of Mainau** with its millions of indigenous as well as tropical flowers & plants - truly a phenomenon. Returning late afternoon. Dinner at hotel

Day 07 Black Forest - Lucerne

BD

Morning departure to **Lucerne**. After check-in enjoy a city tour including the world's most famous monument "**The Dying Lion of Lucerne**" carved out of natural rock in commemoration of the heroic death of the Swiss mercenaries at the Tuileries in 1792. The **Chapel Bridge** dating back to 1333 offering an imposing display of medieval art and architecture . Afternoon at leisure to shop (**attention Ladies - Bucherer** is Switzerland's largest retailing store for watches, jewelry, and precious stones) or stroll through a maze of small streets, bridges, promenades and plazas dominated by historical towers. **Folklore evening** and dinner show complete with yodeling, flag-throwing and Alphorn-blowing. Overnight, Lucerne.

Day 08 Lucerne – Liechtenstein – Innsbruck

BD

Morning departure through beautiful Swiss Alpine scenery via the 60 square mile Principality of **Liechtenstein**. Time for lunch stop (optional) in fairy-tale 12th century capitol Vaduz. Continue over the 6,000 ft. **Arlberg Pass**, to the beautiful alpine village of Innsbruck for a city tour including the Maria Theresien Strasse and the **famous Little Golden Roof**. Dinner at the **Farmhaus Restaurant Glungezer** in Sistrans near **Innsbruck**. Overnight Innsbruck.

Day 09 Innsbruck – Salzburg – Berchtesgarden – Innsbruck

BD

Early morning excursion for **Salzburg** with a breathtaking photo opportunity at Eagles Nest. Next stop, **Berchtesgarden** (optional lunch stop), before starting our **Sound of Music Tour**. This afternoon, enjoy **Mozart's** hometown of **Salzburg** including the Fortress, St. Peter's Cathedral, and the Abbey. Returning to Innsbruck for dinner and overnight.

Day 10 Innsbruck – Oberammergau Passion Play – Innsbruck

BLD

Today, attend the sensitively presented performance of the **Passion Play**, depicting the life of Christ. The Passion Play has been performed every 10 years since 1634 by local villagers, with roles often handed down from generation to generation within families. **Dinner in Oberammergau area**
Returning late to Innsbruck

Day 11 Innsbruck – Munich OKTOBERFEST

B

Morning transfer to **Munich** via the **Royal Castle of Neuschwanstein** built in a stunning mountain location above the Pollat Gorge by King Ludwig II in late Romanesque style between 1869-92 according to plans by Jank and supervised by Riedel. It is also known as the "Castle of the Holy Grail of the Ideal Sovereign." Afternoon at leisure to get acquainted with your surroundings and prepare to attend and enjoy a wide variety of Bavarian treats on your own at the **Oktoberfest**. An annual event dates back to 1810 and perpetuates the great celebration which marked the engagement of crown Prince Ludwig to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. This event attracts over six (6) million guests enjoying tasty barbecued chicken, roasted whole oxen, sausages, roast pork knuckles and drinking 1.4 million gallons of beer. **"Prost"**

Day 12 Munich

B

Morning city tour of **Munich**, Capitol of Bavaria and Germany's third largest city found by Monks in 1158. The city has evolved into a world-class metropolis for good taste and its own enchanting ambiance. The Wittelsbach Dynasty ruled the one time Kingdom for more than 800 years. Your tour includes the **Marienplatz**, the Town Hall with its **Glockenspiel**, the Dom, Odeonsplatz, Ludwigstrasse, the fashionable **Maximilian Strasse** and many other interesting sights. Afternoon free to visit the **Oktoberfest one more time** or enjoy last minute shopping or photo opportunities at your leisure.

Day 13 Munich to Airport

B

Transfer to Munich airport. **Auf Wiedersehen!!**

Included features:

- Private deluxe motorcoach throughout with AC and emergency facility
- Selected first class hotels with private facilities based on double occupancy
- Buffet breakfast daily
- Dinners as indicated in itinerary
- Gourmet lunch in France
- One (1) lunch in Oberammergau
- Oberammergau Passion Play 2 night arrangement
- Bilingual Tour Manager throughout
- Local step-on guides where required
- One (1) one way transfer to the Oktoberfest
- All sightseeing and admission as indicated in itinerary
- Porterage at hotels for one piece of luggage per person
- All local taxes, service charges, road tolls and city permits for buses

Hotels:

Paris	2 ngts
Strasbourg	1 ngt
Black Forest	2 ngts
Innsbruck	4 ngts
Munich	2 ngts



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