

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2010 AND BEST OF ITALY

11 days /9 nghts

Munich – Garmish – Verona – Venice – Tuscany – Florence – Assisi - Rome

Day 01 Depart USA city to Munich, Germany

Day 02 Munich - Garmish

D

Morning arrival in **Munich**, Capital of Bavaria and Germany's third largest city founded by Monks in 1158 has evolved into a world class metropolis for good taste and its own enchanting ambiance. The Wittelsbach Dynasty ruled the one time Kingdom of Bavaria for more than 800 years, leaving its mark in art and culture, rich in testimony to the Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo past. You are met by your Tour Manager and transferring to your deluxe motorcoach for a panorama city tour including the **Marienplatz, the Rathaus** whose attractive architecture dating back to the middle ages, the Frauenkirche (Dom), Odeonsplatz, Ludwigstrasse and other historical highlights. Afterwards continue for a leisurely drive to **Garmisch** or other designated area. Dinner at designated restaurant

Day 03 Garmish – Oberammergau Passion Play - Garmish

BLD

Morning transfer to **Oberammergau** for shopping and individual activities. **Afternoon attend the sensitively presented performance of the Passion Play** starting at 2:30 until 10:30p.m. Lunch, Dinner and overnight in designated area near Garmish.

Day 04 Garmish – Verona – Abano Terme (Venice area)

BD

Morning transfer for a short visit to **Verona**, one of Italy's most fascinating cities lying in a delightful setting and endowed with a wide variety of monuments, historic buildings and places associated with **Romeo and Juliet Capuleti**. Continue to **Padua** and enjoy a tour of the Basilica built in honor of St. Anthony. Marvel at the many works of art, **the shrine and burial place of St. Anthony** and the high altar with splendid bronze art works by Donatello and other historical masterpieces. Arrival late afternoon in **Abano Terme**. Overnight and dinner.

Day 05 Abano – Venice – Abano

B

Morning transfer to the magical and truly romantic **Venice** "the Pearl of the Adriatic". On his first view of Venice, Thomas Coryate wrote: "the most glorious and heavenly show upon the water that ever any mortal eye beheld". Enjoy a city walking tour starting with a private water taxi on the **Grand Canal**, the great water road filled with gondolas, motorboats and peppermint stick moorings. Admire the splendid Basilica, famous for its Byzantine and Gothic design, mosaic, marble and precious sculptures, **St. Mark's Square** with its thousands of pigeons, strolling musicians and minstrels. View the 15th century clock tower, **Doges Palace** (outside visit) and the **Bridge of Sighs**. Remainder of day at leisure to wander and discover your own Venice. Perhaps a Gondola ride or stop for a Campari at the fashionable Florian Café. Dinner on your own to enjoy the magic of Venice. Late transfer back to your hotel.

Day 06 Abano – Tuscany – Montecatini Terme (Florence)

BD

Morning departure through the Veneto Plains via Ferrara, Bologna to the heart of Tuscany – **Montecatini Terme** Upon arrival check in at your centrally located hotel. Remainder of day free to wander the quaint streets of this marvelous town. Dinner in hotel or local Ristorante

Day 07 Montecatini – Florence – Montecatini

B

Morning excursion to **Florence** – the “Cradle of the Renaissance”. Upon arrival enjoy a guided tour including the magnificent **Duomo** (Cathedral) with its immense cupola by Brunelleschi, the **Bell Tower** by Giotto, the “**Door of Paradise**” by Ghiberti and the **Accademia** featuring **Michelangelo’s** original **David** and other important historical highlights. Remainder of the day to explore Florence at your leisure, hopefully including a few moments to enjoy the **Basilica of Santa Croce**, one of the largest Franciscan Basilicas, where Michelangelo and Galileo are laid to rest. Tonight, enjoy a Florentine dinner on your own in one of the many sidewalk cafes prior to returning to Montecatini.

Day 08 Montecatini – Assisi – Rome

BD

Early morning transfer to **Rome** via the magical small and enchanting town of **Assisi**, home of **St. Francis**, surrounded by its ancient walls, spread over the green slopes of **Mount Subasio** with its colorful houses of pink stone, narrow streets and flower-decked balconies. Visit the **Basilica of San Francesco** to view the cycle of Giotto’s frescos with its twenty eight episodes from the life of St. Francis. No stop in Assisi is complete without a brief lunch stop (optional) to visit Fabrizio’s deli “*Bodega de Saponi*” (warehouse of flavors). Afterwards continue to **Rome** - “The Eternal City” built on 7 hills in 753 B.C. The Cradle of western civilization and the heart of Catholicism today, Rome is the center of Italian political, administrative, cultural life and the seat of the Papacy. Arrival late afternoon with dinner at the hotel.

Day 09 Classic and Imperial Rome

B

Morning guided sightseeing tour of Classic and Imperial **Rome** featuring **Trevi Fountain**, the **Coliseum**, the **Roman Forum**, **Piazza Navona**, and admire the “*Throne of St. Peter in Glory*” by Bernini and above all, and Palatine Hill, the political, economic and religious center of ancient Rome and many other magnificent historical masterpieces. Remainder of day at leisure, individual touring and private activities.
Dinner on own.

Day 10 Rome – Vatican Museum/ Sistine Chapel – St. Peter’s Basilica

BD

Morning transfer to the Vatican visiting **St. Peter’s Basilica with Michelangelo’s Pieta**. Afterwards continue with a guided tour to the **Vatican Museum**, a group of impressive edifices with hundreds of rooms, halls, galleries, libraries and chapels overflowing with art treasures; the most beautiful of which is the overwhelming **Sistine Chapel** – seat of the Conclave for the election of the Pope and Michelangelo’s masterpiece. Afternoon at leisure for last minute shopping or photo opportunities. **Farewell dinner** with music in a local Ristorante.

Day 11 Rome - USA

B

Morning departure to Rome airport for your USA flight with fond memories of beautiful experiences and friends made along the way. Arrivederci Roma!!

Included features:

Private deluxe motorcoach throughout with emergency facility
Selected First Class category hotels with private facilities based on double occupancy
Buffet breakfast daily
Dinners as listed in itinerary (**with wine in Italy**)
Lunch in designated area – determined by Oberammergau Committee
Tour Manager throughout
Local step-on guide
Private motorboat transfer in Venice
All sightseeing and admissions as listed in itinerary
First Class Oberammergau Passion Play tickets based on 2 night arrangements
Porterage at hotels for one (1) piece of luggage per person
All local taxes, service charges, motorcoach city fees and road tolls