

Reformation Tour

Oberammergau Passion Play & Munich Oktoberfest 12 days/ 10 nghts

Sept. 16 -27, 2010 (DATES CAN BE CHANGED IF OMITTING OKTOBERFEST)

Berlin, Wittenberg, Buchenwald, Erfurt, Rudesheim, Rhine Cruise, Worms, Heidelberg, Zurich, Innsbruck, Munich

Day 1 Thurs, September 16

Depart USA to Berlin, Germany

Day 2 Fri, Sept 17

Berlin

BD

Morning arrival in **Berlin**, once again the reunited capitol of Germany. You are met by your Tour Manager and transferred by private motorcoach for a guided panoramic tour of this vibrant city. Your tour includes such historical highlights as the Brandenburg Gate, the historic avenue "Unter den Linden", the Memorial Church, the Reichstag, the "Kurfurstendamm" along the Leipziger Strasse and the former sight of **Check Point Charlie**. Afterwards continue to your hotel for check-in. Remainder of day at your leisure to explore this fabulous city on your own - strolling the "Ku-damm", take a break in one of the many sidewalk cafés, terrace restaurants or a typical Berliner pub. **Welcome** dinner tonight at your Hotel

Day 3 Sat, Sept 18

Berlin – Wittenberg

BD

Morning transfer to **Wittenberg**, the city at the heart of the Reformation. Here Martin Luther was called in 1511 to join the faculty at the Town Church of St.Mary. Visit the church, see and admire the baptismal font used by Luther to baptize many followers, and appreciate the simplicity of this holy space as you contemplate the altarpiece of Cranach the Elder. Continue and visit the Palace Church or Schlosskirche, where in 1517 Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the wooden doors of the church – the first Protestant service was held in this building on Christmas Day in 1521. Visit the **Luther House**, a Monastery prior to the Reformation. Enter via the ornate **Katharinenportal** (Katharine's Door), a birthday gift to Luther from his wife, Katharina von Bora, a former Nun in 1540. Time for lunch (on your own) and continue with touring including the Stadtkirche, the Market Square with statues of Melanchthon and Luther side by side, the **Lutherhalle** known as the world largest museum devoted to the history of the Reformation and other historical masterpieces. Overnight in **Wittenberg** with dinner at the hotel or local restaurant

Day 4 Sun. Sept 19

Wittenberg –Buchenwald – Erfurt

BD

Morning transfer via **Buchenwald** Concentration Memorial to **Erfurt**, capitol of the Free State of Thuringia and already a center of commerce and culture in the early Middle Ages. Participate in a guided city tour including the **Mariendom** – here Luther was ordained (St.Mary's Cathedral) the Severi Church and the Cloister of the **St. Augustine Monastery** featuring the cell of Friar Luther. Afterwards check-in at your hotel in Erfurt and dinner.

Day 5 Mon. Sept. 20

Erfurt - Eisenach - Rudesheim

BD

Morning visit to **Wartburg Castle**, situated on a 410 meter high hill, is one of the best preserved German medieval castles founded in 1067 by Ludwig der Springer. After an imperial ban was imposed upon Luther at the Diet of Worms, his life was saved by the fake capture on May 04, 1521 by his friend and protector Frederick der Weise. While living in the castle unrecognized as Junker Jorg until March 1, 1522 he translated the original Greek text of the New Testament into German. Visit the room where Luther studied and worked, writings by Luther, the spoon he used on his travels, a replica of his wife's wedding ring, paintings by Lucas Cranach der Elder as well as the spot on the wall, said to be caused when he threw his inkwell at the Devil. Continue to Eisenach and visit the Luther Monument in the Karlsplatz, Nikolai Church and Gate, St.George's Church and the 500+ year old half-timbered **Lutherhaus**. Afterward continue leisurely with your private deluxe motorcoach for late afternoon arrival in Rudesheim and overnight.

Day 06 Tue. Sept. 21

Rudesheim – Rhine Cruise – Worms – Heidelberg

BD

Morning departure to the pier for an unforgettable **Rhine Cruise** passing of course the legendary **Lorelei**, vineyards planted by Caesar's legions, **Castles and Chateaux's**. Afterwards travel to **Mainz** for a guided tour of the **Gutenberg Museum** and continue to **Worms** for a brief stop and visit the "**World Memorial to the Reformation**" created in 1868 by Ernst Rietschel. Luther was summoned to **Worms** on April 17 and 18, 1521 before an Imperial Diet convened by Emperor Karl V in order to justify his conduct. Afterwards continue for late afternoon arrival in **Heidelberg** celebrated in poetry and songs through Romberg's operetta "The Student Prince". Continue with a guided walking tour of the old city; admire the magnificent ruins of the 16th century red stone Castle overlooking the city. Dinner and overnight in Heidelberg.

Day 07 Wed. Sept. 22 Heidelberg – Black Forest – Zurich

BD

Morning transfer via Black Forest to Schaffhausen and view the mighty Rhine Falls and Europe's highest waterfall near Lake Constance, stretching out in front of the grandiose panorama of the Austrian and Swiss Alps which radiates a cheerful almost Mediterranean atmosphere arriving early afternoon in **Zurich**. Enjoy a guided city tour of Zurich, primarily a business center with an emphasis on international finance and banking. This prosperous and clean city is dotted with fine buildings, museums, historic churches and green spaces, the perfect background for affluent stores, elegant cafés and well dressed citizens. Your panoramic city tour includes the **Alt Stadt, Fraumuster, the Rathaus and Bahnhofstrasse** -running from the rail station to the lake, lined with expensive stores featuring fashion-jewelry-porcelain-furs and accessories. Special visits to Zwingli Church, Grossmunster and Helferei where Zwingli lived. Don't miss *Sprungli* -one of the most mouthwatering chocolate shops ever visited. Dinner and overnight at your Zurich hotel.

Day 08 Thur Sept. 23 Zurich - Liechtenstein – Innsbruck

BD

Morning transfer through beautiful Swiss Alpine scenery via the 60 sq.mile Principality of **Liechtenstein**. Time for lunch stop (optional) in fairy-tale 12th century capitol Vaduz. Continue over the 6,000 ft. **Arlberg Pass, St. Anton**, Landeck to **Innsbruck** for overnight. Afternoon city walking tour of Innsbruck. Dinner at hotel.

Day 09 Fri. Sept. 24 Oberammergau Passion Play

BLD

Morning transfer to **Oberammergau** to attend the sensitively presented performance of the Passion Play performed every 10 years. Overnight in designated Oberammergau area

Day 10 Sat. Sept. 25 Oberammergau – Mittenwald – Munich (Oktoberfest)

BD

Morning transfer via **Mittenwald**, Hohenschwangau Castle (Kodak moment) built in 1832-36 in neo-Gothic Tudor style according to plans by Domenico Quaglio. Continue to **Neuschwanstein** built in a stunning location above the Pollat Gorge by King Ludwig II in late Romanesque style between 1869-1892 and continue to Dominicus Zimmermann's supreme achievement in Rococo style - the **Wieskirche** (Church in the Meadow) arriving late afternoon in **Munich**. Transfer for dinner at the **Oktoberfest**. Overnight Munich.

Day 11 Sun. Sept. 26 Munich (optional 2nd visit to Oktoberfest)

B

Morning sightseeing tour of Munich's major attractions including the **Marienplatz**, the Rathaus whose attractive architecture dating back to the middle ages, the Frauenkirche (Dom), Odeonsplatz, Ludwigstrasse and many other attractions. Afternoon free for last minute shopping, photos or visit the **Oktoberfest** one more time. **Prost!!**

Day 12 Monday, September 27 Munich Airport

B

Transfer to Munich airport for your return flight back home! **Auf Wiedersehen!!**

[See included services below.](#)

Included services:

Private deluxe motorcoach throughout with AC and emergency restroom
First class category selected hotels with private facilities based on double occupancy
Buffet breakfast daily
One Lunch Sept.24 with *Oberammergau* arrangement
Dinners as indicated in itinerary (**no** beverages included)
Tour Manager throughout
Step-on guides where required
All sightseeing and admissions as indicated in itinerary
Rhine Cruise

First Class Tickets - Oberammergau Passion Play

Worship Celebration room where desired
Porterage at hotels for one (1) piece of luggage per person
All local taxes, service charges, city motorcoach fees and road tolls

Hotels: 12 days/ 10 nghts

Berlin	1 ngt
Wittenberg	1 ngt
Erfurt	1 ngt
Rudesheim	1 ngt
Heidelberg	1 ngt
Zurich	1 ngt
Innsbruck	1 ngt
Oberammergau	1 ngt



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