

2020 – Passion Play of Oberamagau & Shrines of Germany

Pilgrimage to Germany



Holy Relics of Aachen



Passion Play of Oberammergau

Sun. May 24 – Fri. June 5, 2020 (13 days)

With Fr. John Vandenakker

Companions of the Cross

Spiritual Director



St. Hildegard Von
Bingen



Altötting -the "Lourdes of Germany"



Shrine of Kevelaer

Pilgrimage to Germany: (13 days)

Focus on the Key Shrines of Germany and the Passion of Christ

Day 1 (Sun. May 24) Ottawa via Toronto to Munich

Evening departure from Ottawa via Toronto on a direct flight to Munich, Germany.

Day 2 (Mon. May 25) Munich

Welcome to Munich! After our arrival, we will be greeted by our tour guide. Our deluxe motor coach will take us into historic old Munich, where we begin our tour with Mass at the **St. Boniface's Abbey**, a Benedictine monastery founded in 1835 by King Ludwig I of Bavaria, as a part of his efforts to reanimate the country's spiritual life. The church contains the tombs of King Ludwig I and of his queen and is situated in the city, unusual for a Benedictine monastery. (if this doesn't work, then Mass at St. Cajetan's church). Following Mass, we will enjoy lunch in a lovely restaurant situation in the magnificent **English Garden**, created in 1789 as the first public garden on the Continent. After exploring the gardens a bit more, we will visit the magnificent Residenz, a former palace of Bavarian Kings and now a museum. Dinner and overnight at our **Munich** hotel.



Day 3 (Tues. May 26) Munich

This morning, we journey just outside of Munich to visit the beautiful **Nymphenburg Palace**, summer home of the Bavarian monarchs, complete with its impressive gardens. After our visit here, we return for a city tour of Bavaria's capital, including the historic glockenspiel on the **Marienplatz**, the revered twin-towered **Fraunkirche (Church of Our Lady)**, the most familiar landmark of old Munich, the Baroque church of **Asamkirche** and more. We will celebrate our Mass in Munich's oldest parish church, **St. Peter's Church (Peterskirche)** which stands on a small hill originally settled by monks and adjacent to the main square. Known as "Old Pete", the church is emblematic of Munich and believed to have been the originating point for the whole city. Tonight, we will enjoy a festive dinner at the famous **Hofbrauhaus** before returning to our **Munich** hotel.



Day 4 (Wed. May 27) Altotting, Marktl, Passau

This morning we travel to the “Lourdes of Germany” - the town of **Altotting**, and the Shrine of the Black Madonna here. Visited by over 1 million pilgrims each year, the shrine contains many crutches and other votives that testify to the healings attributed to the intercession of [Our Lady of Altotting](#). The ongoing miracles are manifested by countless conversions and a return to renewed faith of the pilgrims. The Shrine was a favourite of Pope Benedict VI and was visited by Pope John Paul II. [After time for Mass and reflection](#), we take a short drive to **Marktl**, birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI, and then continue our journey with to the stunning city of **Passau**, the “**Bavarian Venice**”, beautifully situated at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz and Inn rivers. Burnt to rubble by a massive fire in 1662, the town was rebuilt by Italian architects in the Baroque style. We will visit the magnificent St. Steven’s Cathedral containing the world’s largest church organ, the Church of the Convent of Niedernburg and take a boat excursion/illuminated dinner cruise on the **Danube River**. Dinner and overnight in **Passau**.

<p>Driving Times</p> <p>Munich to Altotting 1 ¼ hrs Altotting to Marktl 20 min Marktl to Passau 1 hr</p> <p>Total = 2 ½ hours</p>		
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Day 5 (Thurs. May 28) Erding, Andechs, Weis (Steingaden), Oberammagau

This morning we drive west to **Erding**, home of a **Eucharistic Miracle** in 1417. [Here, we will celebrate Mass in the Church of the Most Precious Blood](#), built as a Sanctuary for the countless pilgrims that flocked there, and home to many relics, the most important being the Precious Blood of Christ. After lunch, we continue southwest to **Andechs**, a 10th Century Monastery and famous Brewery, whose church contains many relics, making it a popular pilgrimage destination. Dinner and overnight at our lakeside resort in **Starnberg**, on Lake Starnbergen.

<p>Driving Times</p> <p>Passau to Erding 1 ¾ hrs Erding to Andechs 1 ¼ hrs Andechs to Starnberg 20 min</p> <p>Total = 3 hours</p>		
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Day 6 (Fri. May 29) The Passion Play of Oberammergau

This morning we start our day by driving to the Alpine Valley church of [Wieskirche \(near Steingaden\)](#), [where we will celebrate Mass](#). This beautifully preserved Baroque pilgrimage Church, considered one of the most beautiful in the world, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After Mass, we will tour the historic church of the Abby of Steingaden, a Romanesque church from 1170. We leave the Abby to drive to **Oberammergau**, where we will visit its lovely **parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul**, before checking into our hotel and enjoying some free time to explore. You will see picturesque houses

decorated with so called “Lüftlmalerei” (wall paintings) that add to the beauty of the community. The traditional art of woodcarving is one of the town’s notable attractions. Cuckoo clocks are also sold here. There is also a very unique Christmas with many beautiful hand-made decorations. After lunch, we will attend the Passion Play, broken into two parts with afternoon and evening performances. **The Passion Play**, maintained almost without interruption for over 380 years, is regarded as the most important passion play in the world. The entire town is involved, and 2500 townspeople directly participate. This community at the edge of the Bavarian Alps welcomes approximately 450,000 global visitors for the passion play. The tradition began in 1633, while in the middle of the Thirty Years War, after months of suffering and death from the plague, the remaining citizens of Oberammergau swore an oath that they would perform the "Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ" every ten years if they were protected from any more deaths in the village. From that point onwards, not one person died of the plague. At Pentecost 1634, they fulfilled their pledge for the first time on a stage they put up in the cemetery above the fresh graves of the plague victims. The production is epic, inspiring, amazing, incredibly visual, and the talent of the townspeople will take your breath away. The production, acting, full orchestra and choir are truly fit for the world stage. Bring binoculars and tissues! For more information, check out: <https://www.passionsspiele-oberammergau.de/en> Dinner and overnight at our mountain-view hotel in **Oberammergau**.

<p>Driving Times</p> <p>Starnberg to Weis 1 hr Weis to Oberammergau ½ hr</p> <p>Total = 1.5 hours</p>		
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Day 7 (Sat. May 30) Klosster Ettal, Fussen, Lindau

After breakfast, we will experience more of this breathtakingly beautiful region of Germany, known for its strong Catholic faith as well as dense forests, **Bavarian Alps**, fairytale castles, green-shuttered and gabled Bavarian-style inns, and homes decorated with religious frescoes. First, we take a short drive south to the famous **Klosster Ettal Benedictine Abby, where we will celebrate Mass**. Founded by Duke Ludwig the Bavarian in 1330, it houses an important statue of the Virgin Mary, guarded over the centuries since by monks, knights and ladies and visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. The gift shop offers various local crafts as well as Ettaler, a famous liqueur made from a centuries-old recipe, that is still distilled at the monastery by the monks. There is also a wonderful beer garden where you can sample the very unique beer brewed here. Following our tour, Mass and tasting, we travel west to the quaint medieval town of **Fussen**, walk its cobblestone streets, then visit the legendary **Neuschwanstein Castle**, an architectural masterpiece, poised atop a precipice among the Bavarian Alps. One of the fairytale castles built by Mad King Ludwig II, it was the inspiration for Walt Disney’s Cinderella Castle. From here we drive to **Lindau**, a picturesque medieval town on an island on the eastern side of Lake Constance. Dinner and overnight in our lakeside **Lindau** hotel.

Driving Times

Oberammergau to
Kloster Ettal 10 min
Kloster Ettal to
Füssen 1 hour
Füssen to Lindau 1 ¼ hrs

Total = 2.5 hours



Day 8 (Pentecost Sunday May 31) Lindau, Lake Titisee

After breakfast, we will spend the morning touring **Lindau**, famous for its architecture, gardens, and beautiful scenery. We will enjoy the harbour and its lighthouse, a boat trip on the lake, the Flower Isle (Blumeninsel) of Mainau, St. Peter's church founded in 1000 and now a war memorial, the main square and town hall and the fantastic view of the Swiss and Austrian Alps across the lake. **After Mass at the historic Munster Unserer Lieben Frau (Church of Our Lady)** and lunch, we take a delightful drive along the shores of Lake Constance and through the beautiful Black Forest to visit **Titisee-Neustadt** and the glacial **Lake Titisee**, popular with tourists. We will enjoy some free time in the Seestrasse, a pedestrian area between the souvenir shops and the lake, before we board our bus to continue north, winding through the **Black Forest** to the quaint town of **Maulbronn**. Legend has it that the settlement was founded by monks who followed a mule to a valley with a source of clean water. The valley was also blessed with large deposits of soft sandstone for building. The monks built the original abbey and erected a fountain to honour the mule. The town name means mule fountain. Dinner and overnight at our quaint hotel situated near the town of **Bretten**, a short drive from Maulbronn and its famous Abby.

Driving Times

Lindau to Lake Titisee 2 ¼ hrs
Titisee to Maulbronn 2 hrs

Total = 4 ¼ hours



Day 9 (Mon. June 1) Maulbronn, Heidelberg

After breakfast, we visit the beautiful **Maulbronn Abby**, founded in 1147 by monks who came here from Alsace, which is now a UNESCO Heritage Site. The 850-year old Romanesque monastery complex, surrounded by turreted walls and a tower gate, is one of the best-preserved examples of its kind in Europe. Following our tour, we move onto Heidelberg, a romantic city considered one of the most beautiful in Germany, nestled between the Neckar river and the foothills of the Odenwald forest. **After Mass in the magnificent Jesuitkirche** built in 1712 by the Jesuits, we will enjoy some lunch before touring Heidelberg's key sites, including the majestic castle, bridges, and scenic "Philosopher's Walk". Dinner and overnight in our **Heidelberg** hotel, situated on the banks of the Neckar River.

Driving Times

Maulbronn to
Heidelberg 1 hr

Total = 1 hour



Day 10 (Tues. June 2) Eibingen, Cologne

After breakfast, we continue on to **Eibingen**, to visit the **Benedictine Abby of St. Hildegard**, where we will have a guided tour, **celebrate Mass**, and visit the shrine of St. Hildegard of Bingen. Hildegard, who was called “a light for her peoples and her time” by Pope John Paul II, and later made a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict in 2012, was a lifelong mystic, founded 2 monasteries in Rupertsburg and Eibingen, served as Abbess, and is famous for her extensive writings on theology, botany, medicine, as well as many liturgical songs and poems. After time for prayer and reflection, we drive north-east to **Cologne**, a 2,000-year-old city spanning the Rhine River and the region’s cultural hub. Here, we will visit its twin-spired **Gothic Cathedral**, known for its gilded medieval reliquary and sweeping river views, and set amid the reconstructed old town, and the **Church of St. Andrew**, and the tomb of **St. Albertus Magnus** there. The immense Cathedral is the most visited tourist attraction in Germany. Amazingly, although much of the city was destroyed around it during World War Two and the Cathedral was hit by 14 bombs, it emerged mostly un-scathed. Dinner and overnight in **Cologne**. *(Note – on line site said Abby open daily)*

Driving Times

Heidelberg to Eibingen 1 ½ hrs
Eibingen to Cologne 2 hrs
hour

Total = 2 ¼ hours



Day 11 (Wed. June 3) Aachen, Kevelear, Cologne

This morning, we drive west to **Aachen**, to visit its Cathedral, a building of great historical, architectural and religious importance. Built by Charlemagne in 805 AD, it contains a wealth of treasures from the early medieval period, including Charlemagne's Throne, the shrine of the Virgin Mary and an impressive collection of relics that attract many pilgrims, such as St. Mary’s cloak, Christ’s swaddling clothes, St. John the Baptist’s beheading cloth and Christ’s loincloth. Then we head north to the **Healing Shrine of Kevelear**, the best visited Catholic pilgrimage location within north-western Europe, where we will **celebrate Mass**. It was here that in 1641 a pious travelling salesman named Hendrik Busman stopped to pray at a roadside cross and heard a mysterious voice instruct him to “Build me a chapel on this spot.” After receiving the message two more times, Hendrikwork on the chapel began, his wife experienced a vision of a chapel bathed in light with a copper image of Our Lady of Luxembourg in its centre. Recently, 2 soldiers had offered this very same image to her for sale, but she had refused to buy it as it was too expensive. With great difficulty, they were able to locate and purchase it, and later installed it in the

chapel, calling it “The Mother of Jesus, Comforter of the Sad and Distressed.” After the chapel was consecrated, miracles of healing began to take place. In 1642 the simple chapel was replaced with a larger hexagonal shaped chapel called The Chapel of Grace, which still stands today, as well as a magnificent Basilica to handle the crowds. Almost one million pilgrims come here each year. After our return to Cologne, we will enjoy our celebration dinner on a scenic illuminated dinner cruise on the **Rhine River**. Overnight at our hotel in **Cologne**.

<p>Driving Times:</p> <p>Cologne to Aachen 1 hour Aachen to Kevelaer 1 ½ hrs Kevelaer to Cologne 1 ½ hr</p> <p>Total = 4 hours</p>		
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Day 12 (Thurs. June 4) Rhine River Cruise

This morning, we drive south to take a scenic boat trip on the **Rhine River** south of Frankfurt. We will celebrate Mass in the town of Limburg, at the **Church of St. Sebastian**, which dates from the 14th century, while on route to the docks. Our full-day tour along this UNESCO-listed stretch of the along the Rhine River will take us past sweeping vineyards, medieval towns and mountaintop castles. As part of our beautiful day, we will have time to see the landmark Loreley Rock, explore historic **Rudesheim**, enjoy a delicious lunch by the riverside and indulge in a delicious wine tasting at scenic **St. Goarshausen**. Dinner and overnight in **Frankfurt**.

<p>Driving Times</p> <p>Cologne to Frankfurt 2 hrs</p> <p>Total = 3 hours</p>			
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Day 13 (Fri. June 5) Frankfurt

Depart Frankfurt on our Air Canada direct flight to Toronto.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION – 2 days in Frankfurt

Information Meetings
Ottawa: St. Mary’s church, 100 Young St. from 2:30 – 3:30 pm. Parish Hall
Dste to be determined in late 2019

Terms and Conditions

Cost for Tour: MAY 27? – JUNE 8?, 2020 (13 days)

- \$ Per person (double occupancy) trip will be priced once our air seats are booked in 2019
- \$ Departure taxes (subject to change) **Total per person to be determined in June 2019 after the air seats are booked**
- \$ Single supplement to be announced in June 2019
- \$ 500.00 Deposit due at initial pre-registration in order to secure the hotel and Passion Play tickets in Oberammergau. A second payment (of approx.\$400 CDN) must be paid in **February 2019** to pay the remaining amount for Oberammergau. The remaining balance for the pilgrimage is to be paid 60 days prior to departure.
- **Optional** insurance extra (due at time of deposit)

Included:

- Round trip airfare from Toronto to Munich and return from Frankfurt
- Deluxe hotel accommodation with breakfast and dinner daily, lunch on arrival day
- All admission fees, hotels, taxes & service charges
- Deluxe motor coach and guides
- Tips to guides, drivers & hotel restaurant staff
- Departure taxes

Not Included:

- 10 Lunches
- Connecting airfare from home city to Toronto (these will be purchased in advance at very reasonable rates through International Heritage Tours)

Insurance: In Canada - All inclusive trip cancellation is recommended through TIPS – which will protect against cancellation charges due to sickness, accident or death of an immediate family member. It also covers baggage loss (limited), medical expenses and return transportation home. Semi-inclusive non-medical insurance is also available. Call Laurie for rates. USA passengers must purchase travel insurance in the USA.

Passport: A passport, valid for at least 6 months from our date of departure, is required.

Payment: After registering with Laurie, make deposit cheques payable to **International Heritage Tours**, c/o Ari Bauer, 7117 Bathurst St., Thornhill, Ontario, L4J 2J6

- Credit card payments are subject to a service charge of 3%
- **Balance due March 24, 2020**
- Tour will operate with a minimum of 25 passengers.
- Rates are subject to change due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharges or other unforeseen circumstances.

Hotels

Munich	2 nighta	NH Bedbank Ost Conference Centre (4 Star)
Passau	1 night	Dormero Hotel (4 Star)
Starnberg	1 night	TBD Resort (4 Star)
Oberammergau ?	1 night	TBD (4 Star)
Lindau	1 night	Hotel Bayerischer Hof Lindau (4 Star)
Bretten	1 night	Achat Comfort Karlsruhe (4 Star)
Heidelberg	1 night	Bedbank Leonardo (4 Star)
Cologne	2 nights	Azimut Hotel City Centre (4 Star)
Frankfurt	1 night	Leonardo Royal Hotel (4 Star)

For Information and Reservations contact: Laurie Courchesne-Dooley
phone 613-732-5739 e-mail: lafrcodo@outlook.com