

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Heart of Europe and Oberammergau 2010

June 11 - 23, 2010

A program of Christian Tours Europe
Hosted by Cynthia Biddlecomb, M.Div., A.i.M
Sponsored by Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamos NM USA

Every 10 years, a small town in southern *Germany*, Oberammergau, receives visitors from all over the world who look forward to being inspired by the "old, old story" that they "have loved so long" - the story of Jesus' Passion and our salvation. The town's gift to the world is to bring the story alive. The townspeople themselves step into the story and take on the roles in order to present the "greatest story ever told"



Heart of Europe and Oberammergau 2010

Munich - Oberammergau - Salzburg - Prague - Bratislava - Vienna - Budapest

Day 1, Friday, June 11, 2010: Depart the US

Group members gather for the overnight flights to Munich, Germany.

Day 2, Saturday, June 12, 2010: Munich

Welcome to Germany! Arrive in Munich, where your German tour director and private motor coach are waiting for you as you exit customs. After everything is settled, transfer to the downtown area of Bavaria's capital, which deservedly enjoys its reputation as a world city with a heart. A local guide will take us to the most important sights, the Nymphenburg Palace, Marienplatz, Frauenkirche and Olympic Stadium. Following some free time, we continue south to the Alps and the Passion Play village of Oberammergau. Our next two days will be at the Hotel Alte Post, right in the heart of the village. Toni, the owner of the hotel, portrayed Judas in the 2000 Passion Play and was just announced to portray Caiaphas in 2010. D

Day 3, Sunday, June 13, 2010: Oberammergau / PASSION PLAY

For 2010, we will have the morning free, to enjoy the colourful paintings in the village and to do a little shopping. Following lunch, the highlight of the trip, the Passion Play in Oberammergau begins! The Play was instituted in fulfillment of a vow made in 1633, when the town was stricken by plague. It was performed for the first time in 1634 and since then has been played every ten years. It's just a short walk from the hotel to the theater, which was built in 1930 and has seating for 4,800 spectators. While the seats are covered, the stage is open to the elements, using the natural grandeur of the region as a back-drop. BLD

Day 4, Monday, June 14, 2010: Neuschwanstein Castle

Continuing further south today, we stop at Ludwig II's most luxurious former residence, the Neuschwanstein Castle overlooking Bavaria's forested mountainside. The unfinished castle is one of Europe's premier tourist sites and the most photographed castle in the world, as well as being the inspiration for Cinderella's Castle. After a guided tour, continue along the Alps and cross the German-Austrian border to Salzburg. Hotel Untersberg. BD

Day 5, Tuesday, June 15, 2010: Salzburg

Visit Salzburg today, the city of Mozart and the Sound of Music. Upon arrival near the Old Town, we will set off on our guided city stroll through the centre - a pedestrian zone with many historic sites related to Mozart. Salzburg which is also known as the "Rome of the North," has many magnificent monuments from both the Baroque and Renaissance periods. Designated as a World Cultural Heritage Site, Salzburg was ruled for centuries by Prince Archbishops. Highlights of our walk will include Mozart's birthplace, St Peter's Church and Salzburg Cathedral. Our afternoon is at leisure to explore Salzburg on your own, or to take the cable car up to Fortress Hohensalzburg, before we return to our hotel. BD

Day 6, Wednesday, June 16, 2010: Cesky Krumlov / Prague

Our journey to Prague takes us through southern Bohemia, a picturesque landscape of endless rolling hills dotted with historic cities and villages. En route we make a stop at the UNESCO site of Cesky Krumlov, one of the best preserved medieval cities in the world. On arrival in Prague we check into the Prague Moevenpick Hotel, our home for the next two nights. BD

Day 7, Thursday, June 17, 2010: Prague

This historic city of golden stone and architectural grace offers a mix of Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo treasures. We explore the castle of Prague, which dates back to the 8th century, when Slavonic tribes built the first fortifications here. Then stroll through the Old Town to view its churches and palaces, many of them used today for cultural events, ministerial offices, embassies and art galleries. Narrow lanes and generous squares are characteristic of the Old Town, where we meander through Wenceslav Square and cross the Charles Bridge. We will enjoy an entertaining evening at the Stary Vrch restaurant in a close by suburb. BD

Day 8, Friday, June 18, 2010: Bratislava

We leave Prague this morning and leave the Czech Republic as well. We cross the border to Slovakia and have a lunch stop in the capital Bratislava. A tour will get us oriented and we will visit the ELCA Lutheran School here. In the afternoon, continue back to Austria again and into Vienna where we will spend the next three nights. BD

Day 9, Saturday, June 19, 2010: Vienna

Vienna's Ringstrasse was the Habsburg state boulevard, created by Emperor Franz Joseph to showcase the wealth and importance of the Empire. Here we see Austria's magnificent state buildings, including the historic parliament, city hall, the university plus the national theater and museums. Our city exploration continues past the Imperial Palace, a stately structure that evolved over the centuries and is now home to Austria's president. We also visit Schönbrunn Palace, summer home of the imperial family and a superb example of Austrian Baroque. In the evening enjoy dinner and a concert in the Orangery of the Palace Schönbrunn. BD

Day 10, Sunday, June 20, 2010: Vienna

Today we take a musical journey through the city of Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, Haydn and Strauss. Discover why this city inspired such great compositions on a "musical walk" among memorials to the great Viennese composers, followed by a tour of the State Opera (if available, depending on performance schedules) or a visit to the House of Music. The afternoon offers free time to explore Vienna further. Dinner at the very traditional Viennese Restaurant Buergerhof. BD

Day 11, Monday, June 21, 2010: Danube Bend / Budapest

We will head East into Hungary. We follow the course of the Danube River and drive along the romantic Danube bend, one of the most interesting Hungarian stretches of the legendary river. We will explore the impressive Estergom Cathedral. After lunch on own, we will visit Szentendre (a picturesque fishing village which is home to a harmonious mix of Hungarians, Croats and Serbs

whose families were expelled from Serbia by the Turks in the 17th century.) Later, we continue to Budapest, our last destination. This evening, after hotel check in, we celebrate the past two weeks, sharing our stories and memories at our Farewell Dinner. BD

Day 12, Tuesday, June 22, 2010: Budapest

We start our exploration with a tour of the city, or should we say cities - Buda and Pest. This is a city that both crackles with energy and soothes with its loveliness, a city that clearly sparks a passion for music in its citizenry. Our local specialist leads us through Heroes Square, adorned with seven massive, powerful statues of Magyar chieftains, and to the parliament area. For a beautiful view over the city, we drive up to the Gellert Hill on the Buda site. Here our visit includes the St. Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion. The afternoon and evening offers free time, or a visit to Monor and fellowship with the partner congregation of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Back to Budapest for overnight. B

Day 13, Wednesday, June 23, 2010: Budapest / Home

Transfer to the airport for our return flights to our homes. B

- Minor changes to the program are possible.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Rates:

The rates for the land arrangement are based on a minimum of 20 participants, double occupancy.

Per person: US \$ 2,900.00

Single room supplement US \$ 630.00

Accommodation:

Oberammergau	2 nights	Hotel Alte Post
Salzburg	2 nights	Hotel Untersberg
Prague	2 nights	Mövenpick Hotel
Vienna	2 nights	Courtyard by Marriott Schönbrunn
Budapest	2 nights	Radisson Beke SAS

Included:

- Thoroughly experienced multilingual tour director from Munich to Budapest Airport.
- Transportation in a 4 - star European-styled motorcoach with climate control, reclining seats, restroom, sink, refrigerator, and coffee machine. Maximum 44 seats.
- First Class hotel accommodations.
- First Class (1 or 1A) Passion Play Ticket.
- Baggage handling for one piece of luggage per guest.

- Taxes, parking and road fees.
- Local guides in Munich, Salzburg, Prague, Vienna, Szentendre, Estergom and Budapest.
- Entrance fee and guided tour at Neuschwanstein Castle.
- Entrance fee to Mozart's Birthplace in Salzburg.
- Admission to Prague Castle.
- Entrance fee for Schönbrunn Palace and Vienna State Opera or House of Music.
- Dinner and Concert at Schönbrunn Orangerie.
- Entrance fees to Fisherman's Bastion and Matyas Church in Budapest.
- Sightseeing and excursions as cited in the program.
- 22 meals: 11 buffet breakfasts, 1 lunch and 10 dinners (beverages are not included with lunch and dinners.)
- All necessary tips such as bellman, maid, doormen, dining room tips for meals specified in the itinerary are included.

Not included:

Airfare, expenses for passports, visas, beverages, bar bills, telephone calls, laundry or items of a personal nature, baggage or other insurance, meals other than those included in the itinerary, tips for beverages and drinks and the customary gratuity to tour directors, drivers, step-on guides.

Deposit/Payment/Cancellation:

An initial non-refundable deposit of US \$ 350 is due upon registration
 A second no-refundable deposit of US \$ 600 is due August 24, 2009
 Final payment US \$ 1,950 is due before April 1, 2010

Tour costs are payable by check made out to "Bethlehem Lutheran Church" and sent to Cynthia Biddlecomb, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2390 North Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544. The checks should arrive by the due dates. Christian Tours Europe is not responsible for loss or delay of check during mailing. In the unlikely event that Christian Tours Europe cancels the program, you will receive a full refund of all funds paid to Christian Tours Europe.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Terms and Conditions:

Any person reserving a Christian Tours Europe ("CTE") tour accepts the condition that CTE reserves the exclusive right to change tour itineraries, hotels, and other tour components whenever it is deemed necessary, although tours are planned and hotels are booked with all possible care. Published times in our itineraries are as accurate as possible and subject to change due to traffic, weather, mechanical and any other conditions that prevent CTE from operating under normal conditions. CTE cannot accept liability in the case of any passenger being denied boarding by any airline carrier due to carrier's over-booking of a flight, nor does it accept liability in the case of a cancelled or delayed flight. It shall be the passenger's responsibility solely to provide the means to join a missed tour that is already in progress. In the event that any dispute arises in which any party has a right to assert a claim, the exclusive jurisdiction for that claim shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction located in Braunschweig, Germany. The tour is operated exclusively under German law.

Responsibility:

Christian Tours Europe, Braunschweig, Germany acts only as an agent for all suppliers of service offered on this tour and does so upon the express condition and agreement that it shall not be liable for any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity, or expense arising from strikes, war, weather, quarantines, sickness, government restrictions or regulations, from any act or omission of any individual, firm or

corporation furnishing transportation, sightseeing, hotel accommodations, or any service in connection with such travel plan, or from any other cause whatsoever in connection therewith.

Baggage:

Transportation for one full-sized suitcase is included. For extra luggage, an additional \$30.00 per bag will be assessed. There is no charge for an additional carry-on bag, which must fit under your seat or in the overhead rack and for which you will be responsible. Although every effort is made to handle passengers' luggage as carefully as possible, Christian Tours Europe cannot be responsible, assume liability, or accept claims for loss or damage to luggage due to breakage, theft, or fair wear and tear though hotel and group carrier handling.

Travel requirements and insurance:

For U.S. citizens, a valid passport is all that is required. Participants are responsible for all visa, health and passport regulations. Please check your medical insurance for overseas coverage. It is recommended that participants purchase trip insurance to cover health, trip cancellation, and loss of baggage. Should you desire such insurance, please mark that on your registration form; the registrar will mail an offer for trip insurance to you.

Gratuities:

All necessary tips, such as maid, doorman, and dining room tips for meals specified in the itinerary and the customary gratuity to escorts, drivers and step- on guides are included. Tips for beverages and drinks are not included; if you wish, such appreciation may be extended on a voluntary and individual basis.

Physical activities:

There will be physical activities for you. You should be in good health, able to climb stairs (sometimes many) without assistance and to walk at a modest pace for more than a mile at a time. Christian Tours Europe requires all handicapped or disabled clients requiring special assistance to be accompanied by a responsible paying adult and that Christian Tours Europe must be notified, in advance, of this special required assistance.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact:

Cynthia Biddlecomb, Tel: (505) 662-5151 cynthia@bethluth.com