

# THE SCENIC AUSTRIAN ALPS & OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Vienna – Salzburg – Eastern Tyrol – Innsbruck – Oberammergau

September 11–25, 2020 (15 days)



## Highlights:

- Attend the once-a-decade performance of the world-renowned Passion Play (Passionsspiele), produced and performed by residents of the Bavarian village of Oberammergau since 1634
- Explore the cities of Vienna, Austria's imperial capital and the legacy of the powerful Habsburg monarchy, as well as Salzburg's UNESCO listed Old Town, and Innsbruck, "capital of the Alps"
- Discover beautiful palaces, summer castles, cathedrals and monasteries, including Vienna's Hofburg Palace, Linderhof Palace and the monasteries of Heiligenkreuz, Melk and Ettal
- Enjoy spectacular scenery, picturesque villages and historic towns as you drive through the Austrian, Italian and German Alps



**SPECIAL  
TRAVEL  
INTERNATIONAL**

## SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

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# ITINERARY

## Day 1 / Fri, Sep 11 / DEPART CANADA

Depart for Austria.

## Day 2 / Sat, Sep 12 / ARRIVE VIENNA

After arrival at Vienna International Airport, transfer to your hotel. Time to relax before dinner. (D)

## Day 3 / Sun, Sep 13 / VIENNA

Discover the historic centre and the Ringstrasse on a morning **city tour of Vienna**. Lunch at leisure.

This afternoon, visit the **Imperial Treasury at the Hofburg Palace**, which houses the Imperial Regalia of the Holy Roman Empire, including the Imperial Crown, the Imperial Cross, the Holy Lance and the coronation vestments. Continue to **St. Stephen's Cathedral** and explore the **First District** on a walking tour. You may also wish to visit the Imperial Vaults – the burial place of more than 150 royals of the Habsburg Empire. (B,D)

## Day 4 / Mon, Sep 14 / VIENNA

Today travel to the **Vienna Woods** and visit the **monastery of Heiligenkreuz**; after the tour, take part in the noon hour chants of the monks, before enjoying lunch at the monastery's restaurant. Return to Vienna. Why not visit the Art History Museum or the Natural History Museum, or do some shopping along Mariahilfer Strasse? After dinner, enjoy a **classical music concert**. (B,L,D)

## Day 5 / Tue, Sep 15 / VIENNA – MELK – BAD ISCHL

Take a **short cruise on the Danube**, through the **Wachau Valley**, blanketed with vineyards and ornamented with picturesque villages. Visit the incredible **Benedictine Monastery of Melk**, towering above the Danube River, as well as a **winery**.

Transfer to the spa town of **Bad Ischl**, once the favourite summer retreat of the Imperial Court under Emperor Franz Joseph. (B,D)

## Day 6 / Wed, Sep 16 / BAD ISCHL

In the morning get an insight into the life of the Habsburgs while you explore the **Kaiservilla** – the summer castle and hunting getaway of the Austrian royals.

This afternoon, enjoy breathtaking views and mighty peaks on a scenic drive to **Hallstatt**, one of the most picturesque villages and UNESCO site of the area. Hallstatt is famous for the 'Bone House' located in St. Michael's Chapel. High in the mountains, hundreds of graves from 800 BC were found, and the chapel features an unusual collection of over 600 artistically painted skulls. Take a **boat trip on the lake** before returning to Bad Ischl. (B,D)

## Day 7 / Thu, Sep 17 / BAD ISCHL

Today visit **Salzburg**, dominated by churches, castles and palaces. Its picturesque old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Learn about the history of its famous son, Mozart, and see the cathedral where he was baptized.

This afternoon join a spectacular excursion to the **Eagle's Nest**, one of the local mountains, for breathtaking views of the Bavarian and Austrian Alps, and learn of the darker times of WWII. To reach the former tea house, a 124-metre tunnel through the solid mountain rock takes guests to a lift, the interior of which is fitted with mirrors and polished brass. In just 41 seconds the lift takes guests up to the interior of the Eagle's Nest. Late afternoon return to Bad Ischl. (B,D)

## Day 8 / Fri, Sep 18 / BAD ISCHL – LIENZ

Enjoy a scenic drive and stop in the small Carinthian town of **Friesach** with its beautiful ruined fortifications. Continue to **Hirt** for a tour of its wonderful **local brewery**, followed by lunch.

You will then visit **Klagenfurt** on Lake Wörthersee for a short tour of the historic centre, before continuing through the Drau Valley to the medieval town of **Lienz**, known as the 'Pearl of the Dolomites', in Eastern Tyrol. (B,L,D)

## Day 9 / Sat, Sep 19 / LIENZ

Explore the scenic countryside of the province, starting with the picturesque town of **Kals**, situated at the foot of the Grossglockner Mountain – Austria's highest peak (3,798 metres). Return to Lienz and visit a **local Schnaps maker**.

Afternoon at leisure to further explore this charming town on your own. (B,D)



Museum of Fine Arts, Vienna



Kapitelplatz with the Fortress Hohensalzburg and Sphaera, Salzburg  
© Salzburg Tourism

### Day 10 / Sun, Sep 20 / LIENZ

Full day Alpine excursion. Tour some of the most beautiful valleys and mountain passes of Alto Adige, the northernmost province of Italy. Visit **Cortina d'Ampezzo**, undeniably beautiful, with its stone church spires and pleasant cascading piazzas framed by magnificent mountains, and continue through the **Dolomites**, across Passo di Falzarego and Passo di Sella, to the picturesque valley of **Val Gardena**. Return to Lienz in time for dinner. (B,D)

### Day 11 / Mon, Sep 21 / LIENZ – INNSBRUCK

Drive across the mountains through the Alps. Before reaching Innsbruck, visit **Swarovski Crystal Worlds**, opened in 1995 to mark the centennial anniversary of the company's founding. This modern art gallery features a series of 14 cavernous exhibition halls designed by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists. A giant's head, created by Austrian artist André Heller, spewing water into a pond, greets visitors at this fantastical playground. Continue to **Innsbruck**, scenically squeezed between two impressive mountain chains, and host of the Olympic Winter Games in 1964 and 1976. (B,D)

### Day 12 / Tue, Sep 22 / INNSBRUCK

Morning **walking tour of Innsbruck's Old Town** around the Golden Roof – Innsbruck's sparkling golden landmark. Completed in 1500, the roof was decorated with 2,657 fire-gilded copper tiles for Emperor Maximilian I to mark his wedding to Bianca Maria Sforza. The Emperor and his wife used the balcony to observe festivals, tournaments and other events that took place in the square.

This afternoon, take the cable car up to **Nordkette** for a breathtaking view of the valley and city below. Tonight, enjoy Alpine Folklore and music during dinner. (B,D)

### Day 13 / Wed, Sep 23 / INNSBRUCK – OBERAMMERGAU

Today drive to **Bavaria, Germany**. Stop at **Ettal Abbey**, the largest Benedictine monastery in Germany, founded in 1330 by Emperor Ludwig of Bavaria for a group of knights and a community of monks. The church's chief treasure is its enormous dome fresco painted by Jacob Zeiller circa 1751-52. The mass of swirling clouds and the pink-and-blue vision of heaven are typical of the rococo fondness for elaborate ceiling painting.



Continue to the beautiful **Linderhof Palace**, the 'Royal Villa' of Ludwig II, modelled on the small summer palaces that were built in France in the 18th century. The gardens surrounding the palace are considered some of the most beautiful in the world, combining the formal elements of Baroque style and Italian Renaissance gardens with landscaped sections in the English style. End the day in the **Oberammergau** area. (B,D)

### Day 14 / Thu, Sep 24 / OBERAMMERGAU

Morning at leisure in Oberammergau.

After lunch, take seats in the theatre to attend the **performance of the 42nd Passion Play**. The history of the Passion Play at Oberammergau goes back to the year 1634, when the quaint alpine village of Oberammergau was threatened by the deadly and contagious Black Plague that scourged Europe, killing two-thirds of the population of Germany. The people of Oberammergau vowed that if the village could be spared, a re-enactment of the life and suffering of Christ would be performed. The village was miraculously saved from the ravages of the Black Death and since that date, the play has been performed every ten years. Performers are local villagers; often, roles are handed down from generation to generation within families. Dinner is included during a three-hour break. (B,D)

### Day 15 / Fri, Sep 25 / DEPART MUNICH – ARRIVE CANADA

Transfer to Munich Airport for your flight(s) back to Canada. (B)

## TOUR COSTS in CAD

Per person, based on twin occupancy:

**From Vancouver** \$5,190

**From Calgary/Edmonton** \$5,190

**From Toronto/Montreal** \$4,990

*From other cities, please contact our office for a quote.*

**Single supplement** \$1,090

*(twin-share only in Oberammergau)*

**Land only** \$4,390

*(if booking your own flights)*



## INCLUDED

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- Return international economy airfare
- Airport transfer on arrival in Vienna and on departure in Munich (if travelling on group flights)
- 13 nights in comfortable 3- and 4-star hotels
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Private coach transportation throughout
- English-speaking guide throughout
- Oberammergau Passion Play tickets (category 2)
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Gratuities for drivers and guides

## NOT INCLUDED

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- Air taxes
- Travel insurance (please contact our office for a quote; we strongly recommend purchasing a cover upon payment of the 3rd installment)
- Airport arrival and departure transfers if not travelling on group flights
- Baggage handling
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks with meals
- Items of a personal nature

## FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

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### RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$300 pp deposit due at time of booking  
2nd installment of \$300 pp due by March 31, 2018  
3rd installment of \$300 pp due by October 31, 2018  
4th installment of \$300 pp due by February 20, 2019  
5th installment of \$1,000 pp due by October 31, 2019  
Balance due by June 11, 2020  
Travel documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

### TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

### CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). The deposit of \$300 is non-refundable. The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until Oct 30, 2018	\$300
Oct 31, 2018 – Feb 19, 2019	\$600
Feb 20 – Oct 30, 2019	\$900
Oct 31, 2019 – Jun 10, 2020	\$1,900
From Jun 11, 2020	100%

*NB: different payment/cancellation policy applies to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.*

### RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or

liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travel. Travel insurance should be purchased upon payment of the 3rd installment, so that each payment thereafter is fully covered in case of cancellation (due to an insurable reason).

### TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents and visas are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

### AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any airliner carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.

# RESERVATION FORM

**THE SCENIC AUSTRIAN ALPS & OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY**

**September 11-25, 2020**

Please fill out this form in full and mail it with your deposit of \$300.00 and travel insurance payment for each traveller. Travel insurance is optional but recommended. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill').

TRAVELLER #1		TRAVELLER #2	
Mr/Mrs/Ms	First name	Mr/Mrs/Ms	First name
	Middle name(s)		Middle name(s)
	Last name		Last name
Date of birth:	dd/mmm/yyyy	Date of birth:	dd/mmm/yyyy
City + country of birth:		City + country of birth:	
Passport #:		Passport #:	
Passport expiry date:	dd/mmm/yyyy	Passport expiry date:	dd/mmm/yyyy
Passport issuing country:		Passport issuing country:	
Preferred first name (for name tag):		Preferred first name (for name tag):	

## ADDRESS

Street:	
City:	Province/State:
Postal code:	Country:
Cell #:	Home #:
Email:	
Accommodation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing with:
Seating preference on aircraft:	<input type="checkbox"/> Aisle <input type="checkbox"/> Window
Special dietary meal request:	(where available)
Next of kin (in case of emergency):	Phone #:

## TRAVEL INSURANCE (to be purchased upon payment of the 3rd installment)

<input type="checkbox"/> All Inclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Trip Cancellation <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
Amount of premium (see next page): \$ .....

## PAYMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> Please make cheques payable to: <b>SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL</b> 4603 Main Street Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6, Canada Tel: 604-291-1332 or 1800-665-0998
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa/MasterCard (a 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card)
Card #:
Expiry date:
Name on card:
Amount to be charged: \$ .....

**I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



Tyrol village © Josef Mallaun, Österreich Werbung



Imperial Villa, Bad Ischl © Trumler, Oesterreich Werbung



Melk Abbey © Herzberger, Oesterreich Werbung



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