



CREDIT RIVER PROBUS CLUB
AND TOUR DESIGN PRESENTS

OBERAMMERGAU & AUSTRIA

“The Passion Play”

September 19 – October 03, 2020 (15 days)



Introduction

Every decade a small German village in the remote Bavarian Alps continues a tradition that dates back four centuries to the time of the Bubonic Plague. All performers must be natives of the village, two thousand (nearly half the town's population) stage a retelling of the life of Christ. Each production draws millions of visitors from around the world to the town of Oberammergau to experience the performance.

This is a delightful, relaxing program featuring five nights in Bregenz, one night in Oberammergau, two nights in Innsbruck, and five nights in Graz. From the two centres Bregenz and Graz, we will explore the country of Austria as well as her neighbour countries including Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Slovenia.





Itinerary

DAY 1 / SEPT 19, 2020 DEPART CANADA

Depart today for flight to Zurich.

Transportation: Air Canada

Tentative flight schedule: AC 878 / Toronto – Zurich / depart 6:25pm / arrive 7:50am next day

DAY 2 / SEPT 20, 2020 ARRIVE IN ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND – BREGENZ, AUSTRIA (L,D)

We arrive in Zurich at 7:50 am where we meet our deluxe coach, driver and guide. Once we clear the airport, we transfer from the city of Zurich to our hotel in Bregenz (approximately 1.5 hours), then enjoy a lunch at the hotel.

Tucked between Austria's corner of Lake Constance and the green foothills of the Alps lies Bregenz, the largest city in western Austria and the capital of Vorarlberg. Literally translated Vorarlberg means "before Arlberg", the high mountain pass that separates the province from the Tyrol and the rest of Austria. A small city of less than 30,000 inhabitants, Bregenz nevertheless offers a spectrum of cultural and outdoor activities those cities many times its size would be envious of. It is not uncommon to see snow dusting the tops of the Swiss Alps off in this distance at this time of year.

After lunch, depart on an orientation walking tour of the town.

Dinner this evening at hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Weisses Kreuz or similar (5 nights)

DAY 3 / SEPT 21, 2020 BREGENZ – MEERSBURG, GERMANY – BREGENZ (B,D)

Leave Bregenz for a full day tour to Meersburg. Visit the town and the gardens with the beautiful castle in the background. Take the ferry over to Mainau Island which is a very fascinating 'flower island' due to an interesting microclimate. Bus follows on a different ferry. Lunch (on own) either in Meersburg or on Mainau Island.

Dinner at hotel.



DAY 4 / SEPT 22, 2020 BREGENZ – VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN – APPENZELL, SWITZERLAND – BREGENZ (B,D)

Go to Vaduz, capital of Liechtenstein for guided tour of Parliament. Then, go over to Appenzell in Switzerland in the cheese making region and also last canton where women got the right to vote in 1992. Then stop at Heiden at Henri Dunant Museum – founder of the Red Cross and back.

Dinner back at hotel.



DAY 5 / SEPT 23, 2020
BREGENZ (B,D)

Free day to enjoy and relax on your own.
Dinner at hotel.

DAY 6 / SEPT 24, 2020
BREGENZ – SCHWARZENBERG – BREGENZ (B,D)

We set off this morning to explore the “Bregenz Forest”, an area of rolling hills and low mountains immediately to the east and south of Bregenz. It is mostly known for its picturesque villages, wellness spas and tasty dairy products. Our tour of the area will include a ride on the historical “Wälderbähnle” or ‘forest railway’ with a stop for lunch in the village of Schwarzenberg (Black Mountain). We will also visit an authentic cheese maker and sample some of the phenomenal Alpine cheeses from the region.

Dinner back at hotel.

DAY 7 / SEPT 25, 2020
BREGENZ – OBERAMMERGAU – THE PASSION PLAY (B,D)

Depart from Bregenz after breakfast by coach to Oberammergau, known throughout the world for its Passion Play. You’ll be transferred by shuttle bus from hotel to the village. After, go to the theater for the performance of the spectacular Passion Play.

In 1633, the residents vowed that if God spared them from the bubonic plague, they would produce a play thereafter depicting the life and death of Jesus. Performed during years ending in zero, it is considered as one of the grandest in the world. The production involves over 2,000 performers, musicians, and stage hands – all residents of the village. They rehearse for over six months and present the play over 100 times during a performance year. The open-air theater adds to the magic of the show. We have reserved the best orchestra seats for our customers. A meal is included with the show and will be served during intermission. After the show, you’ll be transferred to the hotel by shuttle bus.

Accommodation: 4 hotel in Oberammergau or surrounding towns (1 night)*



DAY 8 / SEPT 26, 2020
OBERAMMERGAU – INNSBRUCK (B,D)

Depart this morning and transfer to Innsbruck. Upon arrival, enjoy a tour of the old town area including sights like St. Anne’s Column, the Triumphal Arch, the Golden Roof, Altstadt, Stadtturm, St. Jacob Dom, the Hofkirche Church, and the Hofburg. Free time for lunch on your own.

In the afternoon, take the Nordkette funicular ride to get a breathtaking 360 degrees view of the mountain that is at the heart of Innsbruck. Leaving a lasting impression with the capital of the Alps on one side and Tyrol’s most extensive conservation area on the other.

Dinner at hotel.

Accommodation: Adler Hotel Innsbruck or similar (2 nights)

DAY 9 / SEPT 27, 2020
INNSBRUCK (B,D)

This morning, visit the Swarovski Crystal World. Welcome to the magical world that unfolds whenever you step through the head of the Giant into Swarovski Crystal Worlds, and visit the Chambers of Wonder. Heading into the garden of the Giant, allow yourself to be mesmerized by the sparkling Crystal Cloud, stroll along the Mirror Pool, and experience playing and climbing with all of the senses in the multiple levels of the playtower. Following your exclusive tour, enjoy an aperitif in the VIP Lounge, and get a gift bag to take home with you.

Return to the hotel and remainder of the afternoon is at your own leisure. Tonight, enjoy a Tyrolean dinner and show with authentic Tyrolean music, Folk dances and shoe-slapping as well as typical Tyrolean songs and yodelling!



DAY 10 / SEPT 28, 2020
INNSBRUCK – GRAZ (B,L,D)

This morning we say farewell to Innsbruck as we walk with our guide to the train station, and depart on a panoramic train ride crossing Austria in a modern train that will take us directly to the city of Graz, 2nd largest city of Austria but with a charm and ambiance more like a small town. *NOTE: 1 piece of luggage per person will be transported by separate luggage coach from the hotel in Innsbruck to the hotel in Graz.*

Most people are familiar with the Austrian tourist hubs of Vienna and Salzburg but few make it to this southern capital of the province of Styria. The region is known for its phenomenal wines and numerous castles and fortresses dotting the landscape. Graz was the European City of Design in 2011 and the amazing architecture and numerous galleries and museums attest to this. There are countless things to visit and everything is easily accessible on foot or by a very friendly transit system where announcements come in English as well as German!

We arrive in the evening to meet our local guide and driver and transfer to our hotel for some time to relax and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Parkhotel Graz or similar (5 nights)

DAY 11 / SEPT 29, 2020
GRAZ (B,D)

This morning have a half day orientation walking tour of the city where the major sights will be pointed out such as the Schlossberg, the mountain which the city drapes around, the Landhaus with its inner courtyard elegantly embellished by Italian Renaissance arcades. Also the Hauptplatz/Main Square reflecting various architectural styles of different periods, the Dom (Cathedral) and the Mausoleum of the Habsburg Dynasty, and finally the medieval double spiral staircase of the former imperial residence, the Burg. This afternoon a one hour trip west to the town of Piber, home of the Lipizzaner Stud Farm, the oldest thoroughbred horse breed in Europe. Lipizzaner stallions have been bred here since 1920 for use in the High School of Classical Horsemanship. Between 30 and 40 foals are born each year and enjoy their youth at the stud farm, grazing on the mountain pastures in the summer. Each year, the best stallions are sent to the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, where their prowess is applauded by horse-lovers from all over the world. We will take a guided tour of the museum, stud stables, farrier, and more. You will enjoy watching the horses play, petting the foals and learning about the exciting history of the breed.

Dinner at the hotel this evening.





DAY 12 / SEPT 30, 2020
GRAZ – SOUTH STYRIA – GRAZ (B,L,D)

Today we depart on a full day excursion to explore southern Styria, dubbed “Styrian heaven” by locals. Stroll through lush vineyards, soak up magnificent views across the border into Slovenia and listen to the sound of Klapotetz (a traditional windmill used to keep the birds from eating the grapes). Enjoy Styrian hospitality with a glass of local wine and a hearty “Brettljause” (lunch of cold cuts and cheeses) in a cozy tavern. In the afternoon we drive via Kitzpeak, the highest vineyard in the province and visit the Castle of Seggau with its 300 year old wine cellar. We will enjoy a sampling of wines that the region is famous for. Return to Graz for dinner at the hotel.

DAY 13 / OCT 01, 2020
GRAZ – LJUBLJANA – GRAZ (B,D)

This morning we leave on a full day trip to Slovenia, our 5th country on this tour. Once a part of Styria and now one of the latest members of the European Union, our journey through Slovenia takes us to Slovenia’s capital and largest city Ljubljana, one of Europe’s greenest and most liveable capitals. Indeed, the European Commission awarded Ljubljana with the coveted Green Capital of Europe title for 2016. Car traffic is restricted in the centre, leaving the leafy banks of the emerald-green Ljubljanica River, which flows through the city’s heart, free for pedestrians and cyclists. In summer, cafes set up terrace seating along the river. Slovenia’s master of early- modern, minimalist design, Jože Plečnik, graced Ljubljana with beautiful buildings and accoutrements; attractive cities are often described as ‘jewel boxes’, but here the name really fits. And bringing life to these historical riches, the city’s 50,000-odd students support an active clubbing and cultural scene, and the museums, hotels and restaurants are among the best in the country. We enjoy dinner here at local restaurant this evening before returning to our hotel.



DAY 14 / OCT 02, 2020
GRAZ – EAST STYRIA – GRAZ (B,D)

Today’s full day tour brings us to the eastern part of Styria. The landscape was formed by ancient volcanos, on top of which fortified castles were built including the Riegersburg, perched high up on a cliff. We will stop for a visit and a chance to look out over the lush countryside. The volcanic rock in the area gave rise to many hot springs which are in use by the spas of the region today. In the afternoon one of our highlights of the trip will be a visit to the Zotter Chocolate Factory – renowned throughout Austria. Our Taste Adventure visit will begin with a chocolate aperitif, followed by a private tour of the production process with tasting of the various stages along the way. We finish off with coffee or schnaps and receive a little take home souvenir. Farewell dinner at the hotel in Graz.

DAY 15 / OCT 03, 2020
GRAZ – VIENNA – DEPARTURE (B)

Breakfast at hotel before we transfer to the Vienna for our return flight home.

Transportation: Lufthansa / Air Canada

Tentative flight schedule:

LH1247 / Vienna – Frankfurt / depart 2:10pm / arrive 3:35pm

AC 877 / Frankfurt – Toronto / depart 5:15pm / arrive 7:30pm

END OF TOUR

B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner



Tour Map



Pricing & Terms

PACKAGE RATE (CAD\$, PER PERSON)

CAD\$5,995 per person based on double occupancy
CAD\$1,590 per person for single supplement

INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip flights from Toronto to Zurich and Vienna to Toronto
- 13 nights accommodation at hotels as per itinerary
- 13 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 13 dinners as per itinerary
- Tours and transfers as per itinerary
- Show admission to "The Passion Play" in Oberammergau
- Train ride from Innsbruck to Graz in second class with seat reserved
- Portage at hotel wherever available (1 piece of luggage per person)
- All gratuities for local guides, drivers, and included meals

EXCLUSIONS

- Airport departure taxes and fuel surcharges. Currently \$690 per person, subject to change until time of final payment
- Roundtrip home to Toronto Airport and return limousine transfers
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Optional travel insurance

AIR CREDIT

If you wish to arrange your own air from Toronto to Zurich and Vienna to Toronto, an air credit of CAD\$550 per person will be deducted from the tour cost. And above mentioned airport taxes and fuel surcharges will not be applicable.

Please contact us for air deviation, premium economy or business class upgrade surcharges.

SPECIAL NOTE

- Names provided at time of booking MUST match exactly your passport
- You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months after your return date
- If you wish to purchase optional travel insurance with us, it MUST be purchase prior to final payment date. Please contact us for a quotation.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT

At time of booking: \$500 per person
Second deposit: \$1,000 per person due March 20, 2020
Final payment: remaining balance due June 12, 2020

CANCELLATION TERMS

Between time of booking & Mar 19, 2020: \$500 per person
Between Mar 20 & Jun 11, 2020: \$1,500 per person
Between Jun 12, 2020 & date of departure: 100% of total cost

Program designed in conjunction with Rick Palmer from the Credit River PROBUS Club.

Email: rick.palmer@rogers.com or call 905-828-7314

To book this program, please complete the Booking Form and email, mail or fax to Tour Design.

Photos credit Passion Play 2020 Oberammergau



TOUR DESIGN

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