

ALPINE PILGRIMAGE IN AUSTRIA & GERMANY & OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Vienna – Mariazell – Salzburg – Altötting – Innsbruck – Oberammergau – Munich

August 14–27, 2022 (14 days)



Our Lady of Altötting
© S. Finer, Dipl. Ing. - Architektur



Hallstatt
© Wolfgang Weinh, Oesterreich Werbung



Way of the Cross © Birgit Gudjonsdottir, Passion Play Oberammergau 2022

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
- Join spiritual leaders **Fr. Mark McGuckin from St. Joseph Parish, Port Moody** and **Fr. James Hughes from Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Port Coquitlam** and discover the most important pilgrimage sites of Austria and Germany, such as St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Our Lady of Mariazell Shrine, the Silent Night Chapel in Oberndorf, the Bavarian shrine of Altötting, and the monasteries of Heiligenkreuz, Melk and Ettal
- 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"
- Enjoy spectacular scenery, picturesque villages and historic towns as you drive through the Austrian and German Alps



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

4603 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6, Canada

Tel: 604-291 1332 or 1800-665 0998 Fax: 604-291 1378

Email: sti@sticanada.com website: www.sticanada.com

ITINERARY

Day 1 / Sun, Aug 14: DEPART VANCOUVER

Depart for Austria.

Day 2 / Mon, Aug 15: ARRIVE VIENNA

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

Day 3 / Tue, Aug 16: 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 with a walking tour of the **First District** (Innere Stadt) including **St. Stephen's Cathedral**, one of the city's most recognizable symbols, and the Church of the Minorities. 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 / Wed, Aug 17: VIENNA – HEILIGENKREUZ – 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 / Thu, Aug 18: VIENNA – MELK – MARIAZELL

Depart Vienna and visit the incredible **Benedictine Monastery of Melk**, towering above the Danube River. The monastery contains the tomb of Saint Coloman of Stockerau and the remains of several members of the House of Babenberg, Austria's first ruling dynasty. The centrepiece of this complex is the library, its main hall boasting 16,000 volumes and graced with a ceiling fresco by Paul Troger.

After a break for lunch, drive to the foothills of the Alps and visit **Mariazell** – Austria's most important pilgrimage site. Its basilica, founded in 1157, holds a sacred statue of the Virgin. (B,D)



Hofburg Palace © Peter Rigaud, WienTourismus

Day 6 / Fri, Aug 19: MARIAZELL – BAD ISCHL – LAKE DISTRICT

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.

Continue on to the spa town of **Bad Ischl**, once the favourite summer retreat of the Imperial Court under Emperor Franz Joseph. Get an insight into the life of the Habsburgs while you explore the **Kaiservilla** – the summer castle and hunting getaway of the Austrian royals. Then, head to the **Salzkammergut Lake District**, a spectacular region featuring quaint villages, shimmering lakes and scenic hills. (B,D)

Day 7 / Sat, Aug 20: LAKE DISTRICT

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, discover some of the charming villages and sites associated with **The Sound of Music**, including the church where Maria got married to Baron von Trapp; attend **mass** here. (B,D)

Day 8 / Sun, Aug 21: LAKE DISTRICT – PASSAU – ALTÖTTING

Depart the Lake District and stop at **Oberndorf**, famous as the birthplace of the carol *Silent Night*, first performed at the former Church of St. Nicholas on December 24, 1818.

Continue to the picturesque town of **Passau** in Bavaria. Located at the confluence of three rivers – the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz – Passau was an important trading centre for centuries, especially for Bohemian salt, central Europe's 'white gold'. Christianity, meanwhile, generated prestige as Passau evolved into the largest bishopric in the Holy Roman Empire. Enjoy a walking tour of the town including **St. Stephen's Cathedral**, famous for its organ. End the day in **Altötting**, often referred to as "the Lourdes of Germany". (B,D)



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

Day 9 / Mon, Aug 22: ALTÖTTING – INNSBRUCK

Morning **tour of Altötting**, the spiritual centre of Bavaria and for more than 500 years the most significant place of pilgrimage in Germany in veneration of the Virgin Mary. More than 1 million pilgrims and visitors per year seek the 'Black Madonna', a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary kept in the octagonal **Chapel of Grace**. The chapel also houses a silver urn immortalizing the hearts of Bavarian kings and prince-electors, as well as precious votive offerings. Drive through the Inn Valley and stop at the **Tyrolean Farmhouse Museum** in Kramsach, an open-air museum featuring 14 farmhouses and 23 outbuildings bearing witness to past days in the various Tyrolean valleys. Late afternoon arrival in **Innsbruck**, scenically squeezed between two impressive mountain chains, and host of the Olympic Winter Games in 1964 and 1976. (B,D)

Day 10 / Tue, Aug 23: INNSBRUCK

Morning walking tour of **Innsbruck's Old Town** around the Golden Roof – Innsbruck's sparkling golden landmark. You will also visit the **Wilten Monastery**, dating back to the 12th century, and now home to 30 monks and 11 canons.

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

Day 11 / Wed, Aug 24: INNSBRUCK – OBERAMMERGAU

Today drive to the **Pastor's Corner**. 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 12 / Thu, Aug 25: 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 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. 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 13 / Fri, Aug 26: OBERAMMERGAU – MUNICH

Depart Oberammergau for **Munich**, Bavaria's capital. Enjoy a tour of the Old Town including the **Frauenkirche**. Its impressive domed twin towers rise a hundred metres into the sky and can be seen from miles around. You will also visit the **Hofbrauhaus**, originally built at the end of the 16th century to supply the court of the Wittelsbachs so that it would no longer be necessary to import beer from Lower Saxony – and now the most famous brewery in the world.

Afternoon at leisure to further explore Munich on your own or do some last-minute shopping. Tonight, celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Day 14 / Sat, Aug 27: DEPART MUNICH – ARRIVE VANCOUVER

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

This tour will be conducted in the spirit of our long time partner and friend Priscilla Estrada from Sampaguita Travel.



TOUR COSTS in CAD

Per person, based on twin occupancy:

From Vancouver **\$6,470**

Land only (if booking your own flights) **\$4,495**

Single supplement **\$1,190**

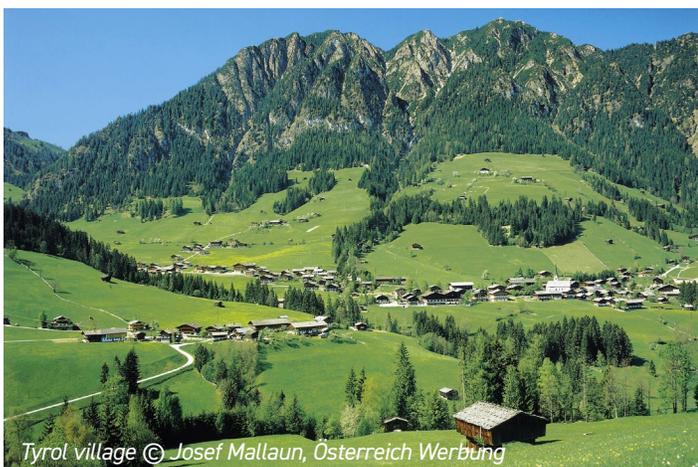
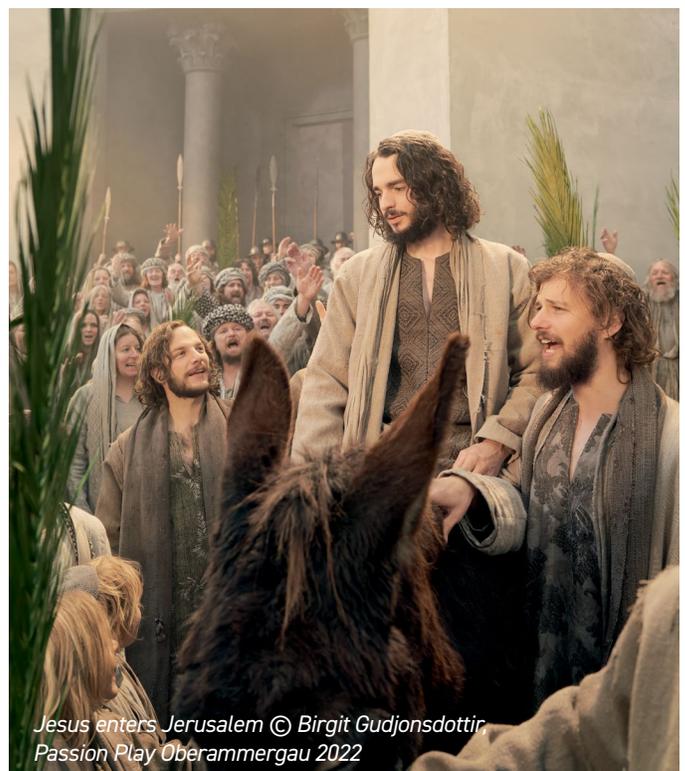
(twin-share only in Oberammergau)

INCLUDED

- Return international economy airfare & taxes
Vancouver – Vienna and Munich – Vancouver
- 12 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 incl. local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Gratuities for drivers and guides

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel insurance
(please contact our office for a quote)
- Baggage handling
- Drinks with meals
- Items of a personal nature



RESERVATION FORM

ALPINE PILGRIMAGE & OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

August 14-27, 2022

Please complete this form and return it to us with your deposit of \$800.00 per person. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill'). Travel insurance is optional but strongly recommended.

	TRAVELLER #1	TRAVELLER #2 <small>(if different address/payment method than Traveller #1, please fill out a separate booking form)</small>
Title (Mr / Mrs / Ms etc.)		
First name		
Middle name(s)		
Last name		
Date of birth (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
City + country of birth		
Passport #		
Passport expiry (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
Passport issuing country		
Preferred first name (for name tag)		
Dietary restrictions		

ADDRESS

Street:	
City:	Province/State:
Postal code:	Country:
Cell #:	Home #:
Email:	

TRAVEL PREFERENCES

Accommodation: Single* Double Twin Sharing with:

*Please contact us if you would like to be paired up with another traveller and we will do our best to assist.
If we are unable to arrange a twin-share, you will be accommodated in a single room and invoiced accordingly.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Next of kin's name:	Next of kin's phone #:
---------------------	------------------------

TRAVEL INSURANCE

I/we would like to receive a travel insurance quote. I/we have arranged my/our own travel insurance.

PAYMENT

Please make cheques payable to: **SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL**

Visa / MasterCard / American Express (a 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card)

Card #:	Expiry date:
Name on card:	Amount to be charged: \$

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

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$800 pp deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$1,000 due by March 14, 2022
Balance due by May 14, 2022
Tour 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).

Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, we have put in place a special scale of charges in case of cancellation, to protect the traveller as much as possible:

Until May 13, 2022	\$650
May 14 – June 13, 2022	\$2,000
From June 14, 2022	100%

(a cancellation/interruption insurance policy should be purchased to cover these cancellation charges)

We are also offering the following consideration: if you cancel PRIOR to May 14, 2022, YOU may find a traveller to take your place on the tour, and only forfeit \$300 (instead of \$650).

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels. Travel insurance companies are offering packages that include Cancellation and/or Medical coverage should you fall ill before or during your trip. Premiums are based on the age of the traveller(s). Should you be unable to travel because of contracting COVID-19, or ANY other insurable reason, you will be entitled to compensation by your travel insurance company.

COVID-19 consideration: Some insurance companies offer an optional add-on benefit allowing you to cancel for ANY reason. These specific CANCEL FOR ANY REASON (CFAR) policies will reimburse you up to 80% of your monies, depending on when you cancel. Cost of the premium is usually about 25% higher than a standard insurance policy. CFAR policies can only be purchased at the time of booking your trip. Standard policies (All Inclusive / Cancellation / Medical) can be purchased later – at the time the 2nd payment is due, for instance. Please note travel insurance does not cover everything. It is designed to cover losses arising from sudden and unforeseeable circumstances due to emergencies. For further details, please call our office or an insurance company specialized in travel insurance.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

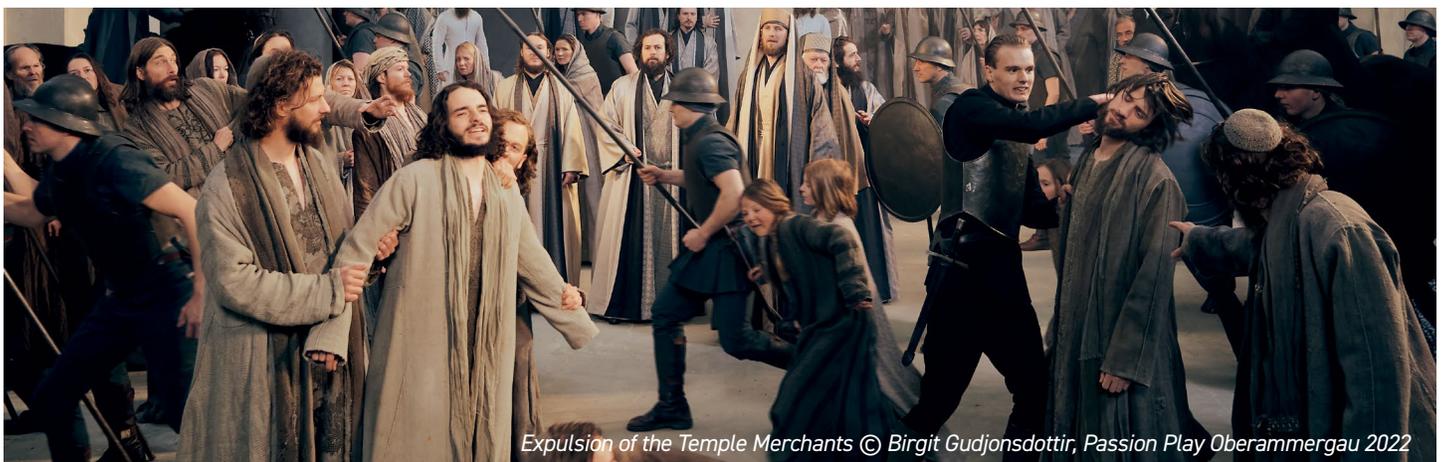
It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

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.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air 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. 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.



Expulsion of the Temple Merchants © Birgit Gudjonsdottir, Passion Play Oberammergau 2022



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL BC Reg #23625
4603 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6, Canada
Tel: 604-291 1332 or 1800-665 0998 Fax: 604-291 1378
Email: sti@sticanada.com website: www.sticanada.com