

PASSION PLAY TOUR ITINERARY ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Wednesday, September 8, 2010: Departure USA

Thursday, September 9: WITTENBERG

Willkommen in Deutschland! Welcome to Germany! After clearing customs, meet your trip director and board your luxury motorcoach for a visit Lutherstadt Wittenberg. First mentioned as a fortification in a document dating from 1180, Wittenberg was given City status in 1293. The favorable location of the town by the River Elbe, as well as the junction of two important trade routes, contributed to the development of the town. Visit the Lutherhaus, home to the world's largest collection of artifacts from the Reformation and former residence of Martin Luther and Katerina von Bora. The house has been newly renovated inside and out, and the entire house is now open for tours. Just down the street is St. Mary's, also known as the Town Church, which was Luther's parish church. Marvel at the Cranach altar paintings and the grand pulpit. At the end of Collegienstrasse, the Castle Church was the venue for posting the 95 Theses and now serves as the final resting place of the Great Reformer and his counselor, Philip Melanchthon. In the late afternoon, continue on to Dresden where dinner awaits. *Breakfast. Dinner.*
O/N Dresden

Friday, September 10: DRESDEN

After breakfast, tour the city of Dresden. Splendidly situated on a bend in the Elbe River, Dresden's rococo yellows and greens make it enormously appealing. After checking in to the hotel, enjoy a city tour of the capital of Saxony. View the broad Altmark which is surrounded by the 18th century Kreuzkirche, the reconstructed Rathaus, and the 18th century Landhaus. Stand before the glorious Lutheran Frauenkirche whose Saxon sandstone walls were so sturdily built that they withstood a three-day bombardment during the Seven Years' War only to fall victim to an overnight raid by the Allies in the closing days of World War II. The church has been painstakingly reconstructed and reconsecrated in time for Dresden's 800th birthday. Near the Frauenkirche is the famous Albertinum, Dresden's leading art museum. Impressive as the art gallery is, it is the Green Vault that draws the most attention, containing an exquisite collection of unique objets d'art fashioned from gold, silver, ivory, amber, and other precious and semi-precious materials. Here, too, sits the drinking bowl of Ivan the Terrible. Nearby are the Cathedral of St. Trinitas, the largest church in Saxony, and the Semper Opera House, justifiably one of Germany's best-known and most popular theaters. Marble, velvet, and brocade create an atmosphere of intimate luxury (it seats 1,323), and the uninterrupted views and flawless acoustics are renowned. Finally, view the Zwinger Palace containing the Gallery of Old Masters, the porcelain collection, zoological museum, and the Mathematics and Physics Salon. *Breakfast.* O/N Dresden

Saturday, September 11: LEIPZIG

After checking out, travel to nearby Leipzig for a tour. Stand before the Nikolaikirche, where in 1989, thousands of East Germans stood to protest the totalitarian regime, spawning the collapse of worldwide Communism. Spend some reflective moments in the beautifully restored Thomaskirche, the Gothic Church where Johann Sebastian Bach, master of the contrapuntal style, was choirmaster for 27 years and was laid to rest before the altar. It was here that Martin Luther preached on Whit Sunday, 1539, signaling the arrival of Protestantism in Leipzig. Bach's 12 children and the infant Richard Wagner were baptized in the church's early 17th Century font. In the afternoon, explore this vibrant university on your own. At the end of the day, continue on to Eisenach where dinner awaits. *Breakfast. Dinner* O/N Eisenach

Sunday, September 12: EISENACH

Today, tour the remarkable town of Eisenach. Pass through the most impressive collection of Jugendstil villas dating from the turn of the century. Our destination is the mythical Wartburg Castle, the site of national and cultural events of monumental significance. Count the steps leading to the drawbridge and imagine Bach, Liszt, Luther, Goethe climbing this rocky precipice. Built in the 12th Century, the Wartburg became known around the Western world in 1521 when Luther accomplished the tremendous linguistic feat of translating the New Testament of the Bible from Greek into German. Legend has it that Luther also encountered the devil incarnate here and cast an inkwell at Lucifer. Visit the apartments of St. Elizabeth and the Grand Concert Hall which served as the model for the hall in Neuschwanstein. In the afternoon, join the private guide for the visit of the old town. J. S. Bach was born here and his parents died in Eisenach. At the St. George's Church stand before the baptismal font where Johann Sebastian was christened. Hear the organ and imagine how the mighty Reformer preached to the Eisenachers in 1521 on his way to the Imperial Diet in Worms. Take time to visit the stalls in the colorful town marketplace adjoining the Church as it has since the Dark Ages. The curator of the Bachhaus, Germany's only museum devoted to the genius of the Bach Family will be expecting us. You are invited to a private demonstration of Baroque instruments played by a master musician. Visit the original house where Luther lived during his formative years. *Breakfast.* O/N Eisenach

Monday, September 13: ROTHENBURG & THE ROMANTIC ROAD

After checking out, board the motorcoach for the drive to lovely Rothenburg. Tucked along the eastern bank of the Tauber River and preserved inside the stout city wall Rothenburg is quite simply the most impressive medieval citadel anywhere. Take time to see the inner city with not one modern building in the entire Altstadt. It's never too early to bring back authentic, hard-to-find Christmas gifts from one of the town's many shops. Wander about this medieval town that is almost too good to be true, with gingerbread architecture galore and a wealth of fountains and flowers against a backdrop of towers and turrets. In the afternoon, continue down the Romantic Road to the Alps. This evening dinner awaits in the village of Graswang near Oberammergau. *Breakfast. Dinner.* O/N Graswang-Oberammergau

Tuesday, September 14: PASSION PLAY

This morning, relax in the bucolic alpine surroundings or spend the morning in Oberammergau visiting the lovely shops. Lunch will be served. In the afternoon, the highlight of the tour begins: the Passion Play. You will be transported to the streets of Jerusalem and to Calvary to witness this spectacle that dates back to 1634. Dinner is served during the Play's intermission. In the evening, a comfortable featherbed awaits. *Breakfast. Lunch. Dinner.* O/N Graswang-Oberammergau

Wednesday, September 15:: RETURN DAY

This morning, transfer to the airport for the return flight to the United States.

passionsspiele ²⁰¹⁰ oberammergau

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Luxury motorcoach travel throughout
Goodspeed & Bach trip director
Professional bi-lingual driver
Guided walking tour of Lutherstadt Wittenberg
Entrance to the Reformation Hall in Lutherstadt Wittenberg
Entrance to the Town Church in Lutherstadt Wittenberg
Entrance to the Castle Church in Lutherstadt Wittenberg
Guided city tour of Dresden
Guided city tour of Leipzig
Entrance to St. Thomas Church in Leipzig
Entrance to the Wartburg
Entrance to St George's Church in Eisenach
TICKET TO THE PASSION PLAY
Concierge service in Graswang and Oberammergau
2 night accommodations in Dresden
2 night accommodations in Eisenach
2 night accommodations in Graswang-Oberammergau
Breakfast each day
Arrival dinner in Dresden
Dinner in Eisenach
Dinner in Graswang
Lunch in Oberammergau
Farewell dinner in Oberammergau

Land Tour Cost in double occupancy

Based on a minimum of 38 paying travelers: **\$2499 USD** per person
Based on a minimum of 30 paying travelers: **\$2599 USD** per person
Based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers: **\$2799 USD** per person

Optional Items

Passport services
Group airfare
Extension before or after the program
Beverages with meals (except breakfast)
Any items not in the itinerary
Any items of a personal nature
Trip insurance (strongly advised and available from Goodspeed & Bach)

Land Deposit Schedule

\$1000 per person due date: October 15, 2009
Final payment due date: March 15, 2010

Land Booking Conditions and Refunds

Up to October 1, 2009: 100% refund
Up to October 17, 2009: 75% refund
After March 17, 2010: no refund
Spots are transferable until final booking
Land Cancellations: You must advise of all cancellations in writing
Travel protection is strongly recommended and available from Goodspeed & Bach, Inc.

Group Air

The Land Program begins upon clearing customs in Europe. You may choose to fly with the group to Europe or you may choose to fly on your own. The airfare is due to be published by the airlines in summer 2009. Group air conditions and terms are set by the airline. Group air is provided as a convenience by Goodspeed & Bach, Inc.



PASSION PLAY 2010 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S): *passport spelling*

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please check all that apply.

_____ PACKAGE TOUR, *DOUBLE OCCUPANCY*
_____ SINGLE ROOM, *SUPPLEMENT FEE*
_____ GROUP AIR TO GERMANY
_____ I WILL MAKE MY OWN FLIGHT
ARRANGMENTS

I (we) have read the itinerary and terms and conditions as found above and also available on www.goodspeedandbach.com and agree to abide by all the stipulations contained therein.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

Please make your tour check payable to:

**Goodspeed & Bach, Inc.
33-52 81st Street # 1
Jackson Hts, NY 11372
Tel. 888-446-1789**

EMAIL: xgoodspeed@aol.com