

Oberammergau Passion Play 2010

2-Nights Passion Play + Neuschwanstein Tour



Friday

Arrival on your own in **Füssen**. An easy ride by train from Munich.

If you are to arrive from elsewhere, please contact us for directions.

You are met at the train station and transferred to your hotel for your 2 nights stay. Your rooms will be ready from 2 p.m. onwards.

Meet your tour director for a welcome drink and then enjoy a hearty Bavarian Dinner in a fantastic restaurant.

Saturday

After a leisurely breakfast a few minutes ride to the village of **Hohenschwangau**, site of both King Ludwig II's boyhood castle home and Neuschwanstein, the most famous castle he built himself.

Hohenschwangau Castle, where Ludwig grew up, is visible to one side of the village, but it's less impressive than our focus. We take a bus ride up to **Marienbrücke** (Mary's Bridge) to get a clear view of Neuschwanstein, sitting on a rock high atop the Poellat Gorge.



Neuschwanstein is the first of Ludwig's three castle creations, and by far the most impressive.

It was designed by Christian Jank, a theatrical set designer, and – under Ludwig's instructions – includes many references to Richard Wagner's operas.

Many of the most striking photos of the castle are taken from our vantage point on Mary's Bridge.

A short walk downhill takes us to the **Neuschwanstein Castle** for our inside guided tour with a local castle guide.

Ludwig's castles are relatively new as castles go. All were built in the period from 1869 to 1876, and used the most modern construction practices and technologies of the time to achieve fantastical effects. Steam engines and electricity, modern venting, and heating pipes are all included in the structures. The interior walls illustrate numerous scenes from Richard Wagner's musical dramas.

The most lasting impressions will be of the wildly imaginative architectural design and the stunning elegance of the finished interiors.

We ride a horse-drawn carriage down from the castle to continue on our tour.

After free time for lunch we drive to Oberammergau for the Passion Play.

In the year 2000 Oberammergau presented its Passion Play for the 40th time.

The Oberammergau Passion Play was first performed in 1634 to honour the village's vow that it would perform a passion play depicting the life and death of Jesus every ten years if it were spared the effects of the bubonic plague then sweeping the region.

Oberammergau was spared the worst effects of the plague and has continued to honour its commitment throughout the centuries.



The play is now performed repeatedly over the course of five months during the last year of each decade, and involves over 2,000 performers, musicians, and stage technicians, all residents of Oberammergau. The Passion Play Theatre, with renovations completed in 1999, now accommodates an audience of 4,720 in covered seats.

The first part of the performance runs from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m., the second from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m. Your ticket category is "1".

During the break enjoy a nice dinner in town.

After the performance a short ride back to Füssen for overnight.

Sunday

After the included breakfast complimentary transfer to the Füssen train station, Munich train station, or Munich airport is available.

Included Features

- All transfers, door to door transportation on air conditioned coach, local driver
- Local tour director throughout the day, castle guide
- Tickets for Neuschwanstein, local bus, horse carriage, Passion Play Category 1 seats
- 2 dinners (days 1 and 2), 2 breakfasts (days 2 and 3)
- 2 overnight stays in a 4-star alpine country hotel, Landhaus Kössel or similar

Cost and Date Information

2-Nights Passion Play + Neuschwanstein Tour

Arrival	Departure	Status	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Friday, 28 May 2010	Sunday, 30 May 2010	Waitlist	379 EUR	439 EUR
Friday, 11 June 2010	Sunday, 13 June 2010	Waitlist	379 EUR	439 EUR
Friday, 17 Sept 2010	Sunday, 19 Sept 2010	Waitlist	379 EUR	439 EUR

Cost and Date Information, continued

A **Deposit** of 100 EUR per person is required to secure a reservation for this tour.

Detailed **Reservation Request** instructions and your choice of an online or paper form are provided on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Final payment is due 45 days before departure.

Five weeks before departure you will receive a detailed information package with lots of travel tips and information about places we will visit.

Participation in Astrid Baur Travel tours is conditional on acceptance of the Astrid Baur Travel Terms and Conditions posted on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Cancellation Policy

If notice of cancellation is received more than 45 days prior to tour start, the Deposit will be retained.

Otherwise:	31 to 45 days prior to tour start:	20 % of total price *
	15 to 30 days prior to tour start:	35 % of total price *
	8 to 14 days prior to tour start:	50 % of total price
	1 to 7 days prior to tour start:	75 % of total price
	Departure day and later:	100 % of total price

* = or the Deposit, whichever is greater

The Deposit will be applied to any cancellation charges.

Contact Information

Would you like to talk to passengers from previous tours? Let me know.

I will be pleased to answer questions you may have, and very pleased to take your reservation.

Astrid Baur, Tour Director

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