



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

France & Bavaria

Featuring the Oberammergau Passion Play

Friday, September 10 - Monday, September 20, 2010

This exhilarating and spiritual vacation begins in Paris with a visit to the Eiffel Tower followed by an evening **Seine River cruise**. A panoramic tour takes in all the must-see sites including the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and the Champs-Elysees. The **high-speed TGV** train whisks you to picturesque Strasbourg and a walking tour of the Old Quarter, known as "Petite France." Follow the **Alsace wine route** to the charming villages of medieval Riquewihr and Kaysersberg, complete with castles and a 16th-century fortified bridge. In Germany, you'll visit the ancient Franconian wine town of Wurzburg, whose Residence Palace boasts the largest ceiling fresco in the world. Next, travel to the UNESCO **World Heritage city of Bamberg**. After a visit of Nuremberg, including the Nazi Party Rally Grounds and the site of the 1946 War Crimes Tribunal, you'll depart for the Bavarian village of **Oberammergau** for the **Passion Play** performance which is the culmination of this journey.

Highlights

*Dinner at the Eiffel Tower, Seine River cruise, panoramic Paris tour, walking tour of Strasbourg's Old Quarter, villages of Alsace wine route, walking tour of Wurzburg, winery visit, UNESCO World Heritage city of Bamberg, Nuremberg visit, **Passion Play performance (seven-hour event includes a meal during intermission)***

Rates

\$4,695 per person double occupancy

\$5,369 for single reservations

Add \$390 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Cancellation and unused services waiver is \$350. Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at the time of booking.

Includes

Round-trip regularly scheduled air transportation from Boston to Paris and Munich to Boston
Nine night's first-class accommodations
Fourteen meals: 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
Sightseeing and Touring
Round-trip private airport/hotel transfers

Trip Planner...

Day 1: Overnight flight

Days 2-3: Marriott Rive Gauche, Paris France,

Days 4-5: Hilton Hotel, Strasbourg

Days 6-8: Novotel Wurzburg, Wurzburg

Days 9-10: Oberammergau or Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Oberammergau

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday, September 10, 2010 Overnight Flight

Bask in the rich heritage and romance of charming France and Bavaria. On this special tour, you will enjoy being immersed in the culture of the region. Your trip includes a ride on the TGV high-speed train through the French countryside from Paris to Strasbourg. Your journey begins with an over night flight to Paris.

Day 2: Saturday, September 11, 2010 - Paris

Your tour begins in the magnificent capital city of Paris. Tonight sample delicious French cuisine and breathtaking views during **dinner at the Eiffel Tower**. Following dinner, enjoy a romantic Seine River cruise past famous landmarks, against a backdrop of Paris's glittering skyline. **(D)**

Day 3: Sunday, September 12, 2010 - Paris

Your day begins with a **panoramic tour** of Paris. See the breathtaking architecture of the Arc de Triomphe, the Gothic cathedral of Notre Dame with its lovely rose windows dating to the 13th century, the historic Place de La Concorde and its commanding obelisk from the tomb of Ramses II in Egypt; Place Vendome; and the Champs-

Elysees, the famed promenade that is know around the world for its people watching. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Do as the Parisians do and sit at a sidewalk café or visit one of the city's many renowned museums such as the Louvre **(B)**

Day 4: Monday, September 13, 2010 - Paris - TGV Train - Strasbourg

All aboard the high speed **TGV Train** as it departs this morning for picturesque **Strasbourg** in eastern France. Upon arrival enjoy a leisurely walking tour of the city featuring the Old Quarter, known as "Petite France" and the stunning Cathedral of Notre Dame. **(B)**

Day 5: Tuesday, September 14, 2010 Strasbourg - Alsace Wine Route

Spend the day visiting two charming villages of the Alsace wine route. First, is the well- preserved medieval town of **Riquewihr**, filled with vinters' houses dating back to the 15th century. Your next stop is **Kaysersberg**, a village offering historic houses and castles, as well as a 16th century fortified bridge. Tonight, dine at one of Strasbourg's finest restaurants complete with typical regional cuisine. **(B, D)**

Day 6: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 - Strasbourg -Wurzburg, Germany

Depart France for Germany this morning and travel to the lovely town of **Wurzburg**. Upon arrival join a local guide on a leisurely-paced walking tour. This ancient Franconian wine town is rich in historic sights, including the magnificent 18th century residence of the prince- bishops, the Residence Palace, which boasts the largest ceiling fresco in the world. You'll also see the ornate **Alte Mainbrücke** the oldest bridge on the River Main. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Perhaps you'll choose to join the locals at one of the wine taverns sprinkled throughout the city and enjoy a glass of delicious Franconian wine. **(B)**

Day 7: Thursday, September July 16, 2010 - Wurzburg - Weikersheim - Rothenburg

Today you travel along the Romantic Road to the charming city of Rothenburg. En route, a stop is made in the Renaissance city of **Weikersheim**. Here you will tour the Magnificent Weikersheim Castle. Including the Knight's Hall and the formal gardens, which were modeled after the spectacular gardens at Versailles. Then continue on to **Rothenburg** where, upon arrival, you will take a short walking tour through the winding cobblestone streets of the old town. You'll feel as though history has come alive as you walk past buildings and walls that have watched over this city for centuries. **(B)**

Day 8: Friday, September 17, 2010 Wurzburg - Bamberg - Wurzburg

Travel into the heart of Franconia for a visit to a local winery. Learn about the rich wine-making heritage of this region and sample some of the wonderful local varieties. Next, depart for the **UNESCO World Heritage city of Bamberg**. Bamberg is known for its beautiful old town which is veined with waterways reminiscent of Venice and capped by a gorgeous cathedral perched high above the city. Enjoy plenty of time at leisure to explore the attractions of this wonderful city. Visit the ancient Town Hall which is situated in the middle of the river and accessible only by bridge. Then stroll the charming streets that line the river, shopping for unique handicrafts or perhaps stopping to try a glass of Bamberg's renowned "smoked" beer. **(B)**

Day 9: Saturday, September 18, 2010 - Wurzburg - Nuremberg - Oberammergau

En route to **Oberammergau**, you will first stop in **Nuremberg**. In Nuremberg, medieval structures sit alongside streamlined, modern architecture. This interesting cityscape is due to the fact that most of the older buildings and infrastructure were completely destroyed during World War II. Take in the significant historical sights on a guided tour of the city. Your local expert will provide fascinating commentary as you tour the Rally Grounds where the Nazi party held their political rallies and the Justice Palace, where the War Crimes Tribunal sat in 1946. You'll also take in the 900 year-old ramparts that surround the city, the Imperial Castle and beautiful St. Sebald Church. Later arrive in the Bavarian village of **Oberammergau**. **(B, D)**

Day 10: Sunday, September 19, 2010 - Oberammergau - Passion Play

The morning is yours to enjoy at leisure. This afternoon witness the performance of the **Passion Play**. The original performance dates back to 1634. During the Thirty Year War, the village of Oberammergau was spared the Black Plague and for this reason, the villagers vowed that every ten years they would give a play to honor the life of Christ. The performers are native Oberammergauers. Their long hair and beards are natural as they start to grow it a year or more in advance and their costumes are made by local villagers. During the break of the performance join your fellow travelers for a **farewell dinner** celebrating the end of a memorable trip. **(B, L,D)**

Day 11: Monday, September 20 Wednesday, July 21, 2010 - Oberammergau - Tour Ends

Your tour ends today in Oberammergau. You will be transfer to the Munich airport for your return flight to Boston.
(B)

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*