



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

OBERAMMERGAU 2010

Experience The Passion Play

Italian Pilgrimage

Monday, June 14 - Friday, June 25, 2010

This exhilarating and spiritual vacation begins in Rome with a Vatican City visit to attend the weekly papal audience,* St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museum. You'll view the legacy of ancient Rome at the Circus Maximus, Colosseum and Arch of Constantine and visit the oft-photographed Trevi Fountain and Piazza Venezia. In Assisi you'll tour the old city and the Basilica of St. Francis and visit both medieval Perugia and Siena before arriving in Florence where your first stop is a family-owned leather shop. A cultural tour of this Renaissance city is highlighted by a visit to the Accademia Galleria to see Michelangelo's David and the Palazzo Vecchio and the Church of Santa Croce. Travel to the medieval city of Padua to view the six-domed Saints Basilica, dedicated to St. Anthony, enroute to Venice and its 150 canals and bridges. Delight in a boat trip to Murano for a glass-making demonstration before a visit to magnificent St. Mark's Square where you'll see the Basilica, the Doge's Palace and the famous Bridge of Sighs. Depart Venice on a scenic trek to the Bavarian village of Oberammergau, passing through the majestic Dolomites. The culmination of this "pilgrimage" is the day-long Passion Play performance.

Highlights

Rome, Papal Audience, St. Peter's Basilica, Colosseum, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Padua, Venice, Murano Island, Trento, Oberammergau, Passion Play performance (seven-hour event includes a meal during intermission)

Rates

\$5,239 per person double occupancy

\$6,489 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 flights from Boston to Rome and Munich to Boston
- Ten nights' first-class hotel accommodations
- Seventeen meals: ten breakfast one lunch six dinners
- Sightseeing and touring
- Round-trip airport/hotel transfers

Trip Planner

Day 1: Overnight flight

Days 2-4: Rome Hotel, Rome

Day 5: Sangallo Palace or Hotel Gio, Perugia

Days 6-7: Hotel Mediterraneo, Florence

Days 8-9: Venice Hotel Venice

Days 10-11: Oberammergau or Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Oberammergau:

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, June 14, 2010 Overnight Flight

Welcome to Italy, a land rich in history, culture art and romance. Your journey begins with an overnight flight to Rome, "The Eternal City"

Day 2: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 – Rome

Morning arrival in Rome. You are met at the Rome Airport and transferred to your hotel. In the evening join your fellow travelers at a popular local restaurant featuring regional delicacies and fine Italian wines. **(D)**

Day 3: Wednesday June 16, 2010 – Rome - Vatican City - Papal Audience

This morning visit Vatican City to attend the weekly papal audience* and receive the blessing given by His Holiness Benedict XVI. Later, visit St. Peter's Basilica, built on the site where St. Peter was martyred. Known as the grandest of the world's churches, St. Peter's is unsurpassed in beauty. In the Vatican Museum* you'll view such historical treasures as the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's restored mural of the *Last Judgement*. **(B)**

Day 4: Thursday, June 17, 2010 – Rome

This morning enjoy a locally guides panoramic tour of Rome featuring the Impressive Piazza Venezia, the Circus Maximus, the Colosseum, the Arch of Constantine and the famous Trevi Fountain. This afternoon, explore Rome on your own-perhaps visit the legendary Spanish Steps or shop for one of a kind gifts. **(B)**

Day 5: Friday June 18, 2010 – Rome – Assis - Perugia

Today your Tour Manager will help you discover the origin and history of the language(s) you will experience on your tour along with key words and phrases that will help you communicate with the locals. Today you are off to Assisi birthplace of St. Francis. Take a guided walking tour of the old city, including the Basilica of St. Francis. Then, travel to medieval Perugia, this historic capital of Umbria. Here you will behold one of the grandest squares in Italy, the Piazza IV Novembre and delight in the medieval palaces and ornate cathedrals. **(B, D)**

Day 6: Saturday, June 19, 2010 – Perugia – Siena - Florence

A scenic journey through Tuscany's graceful low-lying hills brings you to the mystical city of Siena. You will be delighted by its' narrow Gothic streets, magnificent palaces and historic Piazza del Campo. Upon arrival in Florence, visit a family owned leather shop and learn the traditional Italian techniques of leather making. **(B,D)**

Day 7: Sunday June 20, 2010 – Florence

In Florence, the "Cradle of Italian Renaissance visit the world-famous Academy Gallery to see Michelangelo's incredible *Statue of David*. During your cultural tour of Florence, you'll also view the Cathedral of Santa Maria Del Fiore, the Palazzo Vecchio and the Church of Santa Croce, burial place of Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli. The remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy this fascinating city on your own. **(B)**

Day 8: Monday, June 21, 2010 – Florence – Padua - Venice

Today you journey through central Italy to the medieval city of Padua to view the impressive six-domed Saints Basilica, dedicated to St. Anthony. Then it is on to the canal-laden city of Venice. This enchanting city was built on 117 tiny islands and is characterized by a latticework of 150 canals and 400 bridges. **(B,D)**

Day 9: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 – Venice - Murano Island - Venice

Your day begins with a boat trip (weather permitting) to Murano Island for an up-close glass making demonstration. Next return to Venice and visit charming St. Mark's Square, the lively hub of the city's activity and events. A local expert will guide you on a walking tour of the area featuring St. Marks's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and the Clock Tower with its famous Moors. **(B)**

Day 10: Wednesday, June 23, 2010 – Venice – Trento - Oberammergau, Germany

Today you make the scenic journey to the Bavarian village of Oberammergau. En route, travel through the majestic Dolomites with a special stop made in the Alpine town of Trento. During your visit, stroll the quaint streets and admire the artistic heritage of this Renaissance-inspired center. **(B,D)**

Day 11: Thursday, June 24, 2010 – Oberammergau - Passion Play - Tour Ends

This morning is at leisure for you to explore this lovely village. This afternoon, witness a 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 perform a play to honor the life of Christ. The performers are native Oberammergauers. To lend the authenticity to the performance, the cast members start to grow their hair and beards more than a year in advance. Also, the intricate costumes are made locally by the villagers. During the break in the performance, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of a memorable trip. **(B,L,D,)**

Day 12: Friday, June 25, 2010 – Oberammergau - Flight Home

After breakfast this morning transfer to the airport for your return flight to Boston (B)

*The Papal Audience is at times unavailable due to the Pope's travel schedule

*On occasion, due to inclement weather, your boat trip to Murano Island may be substituted with a visit to a local glass factory in Venice.

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.*