

TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1 July 6, Monday: Depart USA

Transfer by private coach from St. Pius X Parish to Newark (arranged by the parish).
Depart Newark Liberty International Airport for our overseas journey to Munich, Germany.
Complimentary meals and beverages will be served on board. (D,B)

Day 2 July 7, Tuesday: Arrive in Munich

Arrive at Munich International Airport, proceed through Passport Control, claim our luggage, and meet a Peter's Way tour manager as we exit Customs.

Board our private touring bus and we will be on our way for an orientation tour of Munich, the capital of Bavaria and the second largest city in Germany.

We will see the Marienplatz, the world-famous Glockenspiel, and the twin-towered Frauenkirche, the most familiar landmark of old Munich. Independent lunch.

Check-in at our hotel in Munich.

Welcome dinner at Hofbrauhaus in Munich.

Overnight at our hotel in Munich. (D)

Day 3 July 8, Wednesday: Neuschwanstein | Wieskirche |

Oberammergau Region

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

After breakfast, we will check out and drive to Southwest Bavaria to explore King Ludwig's majestic Neuschwanstein Castle, the king's former residence. This white dream-like fortress was built in 1869. Return to the times of Wagner as we visit the royal apartments decorated with scenes from German sagas and operas; throne rooms; music halls, with fine candelabra and chandeliers; King Ludwig's unique bedroom with artistic wood carvings; and an artificial grotto that recalls opera themes of his friend and composer Richard Wagner.

Independent lunch.

We'll continue to visit Wieskirche, the impressive Rococo-era Pilgrimage Church of Wies, designed in the 1740s.

Celebrate Mass at the Wieskirche.

After Mass, we'll continue on to Bad Kohlgrub for check-in at our hotel.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Bad Kohlgrub. (B,D)

Day 4 July 9, Thursday: Oberammergau Passion Play

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

After breakfast, we will have time to explore and shop in the village of Oberammergau.

This afternoon, attend the Passion Play in the renowned open-air theatre. The greatest story ever told comes to life as this superb production unfolds against a scenic backdrop of wooded mountains. The play begins with Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the drama continues with the story of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The accompanying music is magnificent, and a full English translation of the script is available for you to follow from your reserved seat. All the town members partake in this play every 10 years.

There are two parts of the performance.

Part I: 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Part II: 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm

The dinner break lasts three hours (dinner is included with Oberammergau arrangements).

Overnight at our hotel in Bad Kohlgrub. (B,D)

Day 5 July 10, Friday: Innsbruck

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, we'll leave Oberammergau for Innsbruck. The only major city in the European Alps, Innsbruck's charm lies in its combination of culture, history, and exquisite natural beauty. This city, with its breathtaking landscape, was once the exclusive vacation territory of the Habsburgs.

We will see St. Jakob's Cathedral and the Annesäule "St. Anna's Column." visit the Hofkirche with its impressive memorial to Emperor Maximilian and massive sarcophagus. A visit to Innsbruck would not be complete without a view of the "Goldenes Dach," a lodge built with a golden roof at the command of Maximilian.

Independent lunch.

Check-in at our hotel in Innsbruck.

Option (at additional cost): *Visit Bergisel Ski Jump Tower, Innsbruck's futuristic landmark and one of the venues for the International Four Hills Ski Jump Competition.*

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Innsbruck. (B,D)

Day 6 July 11, Saturday: Berchtesgaden | Salzburg

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, we leave Innsbruck for Salzburg. On the way we will stop in the town of Berchtesgaden. From here we will explore Obersalzberg, on a hill just above the town and the former southern headquarters of the Third Reich. We will have an overview tour of the WWII museum, Dokumentation Obersalzberg. Learn how this Alpine village became the Fuhrer's off-limits area and reflect on the history of National Socialism.

Independent lunch.

We will visit The Eagle's Nest, Hitler's mountain resort that still sits on the peak high above Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps. When the weather cooperates, the panorama is magnificent. Late afternoon, we'll continue to the Baroque city of Salzburg, a jewel set on the beautiful banks of the Salzach River, for hotel check-in.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Salzburg. (B,D)

Day 7 July 12, Sunday: Oberndorf | *The Sound of Music* Tour

| Lake Wolfgang | Salstatt

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

Begin our day with a visit to the village of Oberndorf to see the Silent Night Chapel, which marks the place where the beloved hymn was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818.

Continue to Leopoldskron to see the façade of the castle that appeared as part of the Trapp home in the famous film, *The Sound of Music*.

Continue on to the Basilica of St. Michael in Mondsee, where the wedding of Maria and Captain von Trapp was filmed.

Celebrate Sunday Mass. After Mass, continue to St. Gilgen on Lake Wolfgang, a lakeside town which offers one of the best known landscapes of the Salzkammergut and Schafberg mountains.

Independent lunch.

Continue to the village of Halstadt on Lake Hallstatt's western shore in Austria's mountainous Salzkammergut region. Its 16th-century Alpine houses and alleyways are home to cafes and shops. Time will be given to shop and browse around in the village of Halstadt.

Option (at additional cost): *Take the funicular railway to Salzwelten, an ancient salt mine with subterranean salt lake, and to skywalk Hallstatt viewing platform. Follow a trail to the Echern Valley glacier garden, with glacial potholes and Waldbachstrub Waterfall. Return to Salzburg.*

Independent dinner.

Overnight at our hotel in Salzburg. (B)

Day 8 July 13, Monday: Highlights of Salzburg

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, we will be transferred to the Shrine of Maria Plain in Salzburg. In 1633 a painting of the Blessed Mother was found undamaged in the ruins of a totally burned wooden house. In 1656, a small wooden chapel was built at this location. In 1710 the chapel was rebuilt to house the first copy of the miraculous image.

Celebrate Mass at the Shrine.

Then we'll begin our guided tour of Salzburg's sights along Getreidegasse, the city's pedestrian street, lined with authentic 17th and 18th century buildings. Pass by the house where Mozart was born and view Monchsberg with the fortress "Hohensalzburg," which overlooks the city. Built into the side of Monchsberg is the Salzburg Festspielhaus, home of the famous Salzburg Festival Operas. See Residenzplatz, the center square of Salzburg, dominated by the dynamic sculpture of the Residenzbrunnen, the largest baroque fountain north of the Alps. The Residenz building, built in 1596, was once the palace of the Bishops.

Next, visit St. Peter's Abbey, next to the cemetery where the escape was filmed in *The Sound of Music* and where most of Mozart's religious works were premiered.

Independent lunch.

Afternoon at leisure to enjoy Salzburg on your own. Perhaps stop at one of Salzburg's many cafes for iced coffee or hot chocolate and cake, a tradition that Austrians enjoy. Take the Cogwheel train up to the mighty Hohensalzburg Fortress, the former residence of the powerful Archbishops of Salzburg. From the terrace high above the city you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the old town, with its never-ending charm.

Independent dinner.

Evening performance at the Salzburg Marionette Theatre. (*Tickets will be requested when the summer 2020 calendar is published around 3 months prior to departure. Additional cost to be advised and added to final invoice.*)

Overnight at our hotel in Salzburg. (B)

Day 9 July 14, Tuesday: Full-Day Excursion to Lake Chiemsee

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

This morning we'll leave Salzburg on our full-day excursion to Lake Chiemsee. Upon arrival, take a boat ride to Herreninsel and learn about this breathtaking Island, on which stands a replica of the castle of Versailles. Enjoy a guided tour of this beautiful island dating back to the time of King Ludwig II, and take in the sights of the lakes surrounding it.

Visit the Augustinian Monastery and celebrate Mass.

Afterward, continue by boat to Fraueninsel. Here, there will be time to visit the Benedictine church.

Finish the day with a leisurely stroll around this spectacular area, indulge in the area's fine foods, swim in the clear waters, or simply relax before we go back by boat.

Independent lunch. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Return to Salzburg.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Salzburg. (B,D)

Day 10 July 15, Wednesday: Return to the USA

After breakfast, we will be transferred to Munich Airport for our return flight to the USA. Transfer by private coach back to St. Pius X Parish