

Germany 2020 Trip Itinerary (September 16th – 27th, 2020)

Day 1: September 16th – **Departure from USA.**

Day 2: September 17th – Upon arrival we **drive to Cologne**. We start our journey with a walking tour through the Old Town and then visit the vast, towered **Gothic Cathedral of St. Peter & Mary**. This unique church houses the golden Shrine of the Three Magi; the priceless treasure is exhibited in the historic vaulted chamber dating back to the 13th century. We will celebrate Mass, then check in to our hotel for dinner and **overnight in Cologne**.

Day 3: September 18th – **Drive to Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle)**, nearby the Dutch border, and visit the city where Roman emperors were crowned from 813 to 1531. We visit the world-renowned **Cathedral of Aachen**. Visit Charlemagne's tomb and the relics he received from the patriarch of Jerusalem in 799. We board the coach and ride to the German-Belgium border and continue on to **Banneux**. We visit the Holy sites and celebrate the Holy Mass. We return to Germany and travel through the romantic valley of Moselle river to reach the oldest German town for dinner and **overnight in Trier**.

Day 4: September 19th – **City tour of Trier**, founded by the Romans 16 BC. We see the Porta Nigra, the largest Roman city gate north of the Alps and UNESCO World Heritage site, the ruins of the Roman Imperial palace and the Roman thermae. We visit the **Cathedral of Trier**, the oldest church in Germany and home of the bishop for more than 1700 years. We celebrate the Holy Mass. We continue to one of the most beautiful German wine destinations - the **Southern Wine Road** and enjoy in the evening a wine tasting with a sample of the best German wines. **Overnight in Deidesheim**.

Day 5: September 20th – **Drive to nearby Worms and visit St. Peter's Cathedral**, one of the most exquisite examples of Romanesque architecture. The Cathedral was the scene of several milestones of European history. We also visit Europe's oldest **Jewish cemetery, the Holy Sands** before continuing on to Mainz. We visit the birthplace of printing, the **Gutenberg Museum**. Then we tour **St. Martin's Cathedral**, built in the 8th century and towering in all its might and grandeur over the city. If time is still available visit **St. Stephen's Church**, famous for its marvelous Chagall. We celebrate the Holy Mass. We return to our hotel for dinner and **overnight in Deidesheim**.

Day 6: September 21st – This morning, we drive south along Southern Wine Road and **enter France to visit Strasbourg**. We tour the **Cathedral of Strasbourg** with the Astronomical clock and celebrate the Holy Mass, the city center as well as the historic "La Petite France" quarter. Dinner and **overnight in Strasbourg area**.

Day 7: September 22nd – Today, we enjoy the scenic and magic landscapes of **South Germany**. Stop in **Triberg** where we will have time for lunch and some shopping. In the afternoon we continue on to Constance area, situated on the shore of Germany's largest lake, the **Lake of Constance**. We drive across a dam that connects the mainland directly into paradise - and on to the **Peninsula of Reichenau**. The monastic island is an outstanding testament to the religious and cultural role of a great Benedictine monastery.

in the Middle Ages. The **Benedictine Abbey** had been a spiritual and cultural center of the Holy Roman Empire over 3 centuries. We visit **St. George Church** with its outstanding meticulously restored Romanesque wall paintings. We also celebrate the Holy Mass. Dinner and **overnight in the Constance area**.

Day 8: September 23rd – This morning, we visit nearby **St. Gallen in Switzerland**. The **Abbey of Saint Gall** is a religious complex within the city. The Carolingian-era Abbey has existed since 719 and became an independent principality during the 13th century, and was for many centuries one of the chief Benedictine abbeys in Europe. We tour the library, one of the richest medieval libraries in the world, the abbey church and celebrate the Holy Mass. Lunch on our own in the Alp principality of **Liechtenstein**. Then on to Bavaria for dinner and **overnight in the Füssen area**.

Day 9: September 24th – Today, we tour the elaborate **Neuwschwanstein Castle**, one of Mad King Ludwig's fantasy castles and surely the crown jewel of Bavaria Castles. Then on to visit the **Wieskirche** (Church in the Meadows) where rococo art reached a unique perfection. This masterpiece, created by the brothers Dominikus and Johann Baptist Zimmermann of Wessobrunn, was given international recognition as a cultural site on the World Heritage List. We celebrate the Holy Mass. We return to our hotel for dinner and **overnight in the Füssen area**.

Day 10: September 25th – This morning, we celebrate the **Holy Mass at Ettal Abbey**. We continue on to Oberammergau area for our check-in to the hotel. In the afternoon, we take part in the extravagant **Oberammergau Passion Play**, performed only once every ten years and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Beginning in the afternoon and involving almost all residents of the village, the play has a running time of approximately five hours with a three-hour intermission. Explore this quaint Bavarian village on your own. Most of the buildings have beautifully detailed murals on them, mostly of Biblically significant tableaux. Dinner and **overnight in Oberammergau**.

Day 11: September 26th – Following breakfast, we board our coach and drive to **Munich**, the capital of Bavaria. Our tour guide will lead us to the major and most beautiful sights of Munich, such as King's Square with its three temple buildings in the classical Greek style, the Pinakotheken Art Museums, the Hall of Generals, the Angel of Peace monument, Maximilianeum (Bavarian state parliament), the Royal Palace, the traditional Viktualienmarkt, an open air food market with colorful outdoor stalls, Karl Square (called "Stachus") and the medieval city gates, Palace of Nymphenburg - former summer residence of the Bavarian kings, the Rathaus and its famous Glockenspiel. Time on our own to stroll the Marienplatz, with its numerous shops, visit the fresh produce and flower markets and the world-famous Hofbräuhaus Restaurant complete with authentic Bavaria food, music and entertainment. Farewell dinner and **overnight in Munich**.

Day 12: September 27th – **Fly back to USA**.