



Oberammergau with Salzburg

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SUMMER SALE

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Day 1 — Oberammergau, Germany

Arrive and check in to your hotel. Also known as “Upper Ammer Vale,” Oberammergau enjoys a stunning setting in a scenic alpine valley in southern Bavaria. The quaint village is best known for its production of the Passion Play, which depicts the trial, suffering and death of Christ. Its once-per-decade staging fulfills a promise that citizens made to God in 1633 after, according to legend, He answered their prayers and spared them from the plague. The tradition continues today and it is a great honor for Oberammergau’s residents to be a part of this powerful, dramatic performance.

Day 2 — Oberammergau, Germany

The charming hamlet of Oberammergau has long been a center of wood carving and is home to the Bavarian State Wood Carving School, attracting young apprentices from far and wide to learn this centuries-old art form. Intricate carvings of village life inside walnut shells are popular here and grace the shelves of many of the town's gift shops. Frescoes of fairy-tale or religious scenes and architectural trompe l'oeil—realistic paintings on building facades that appear three-dimensional—are also found throughout the town.

Day 3 — Salzburg, Austria

After breakfast, check out of your hotel in Oberammergau and begin your transfer to Salzburg. The fourth-largest city in Austria, Salzburg is known for its great beauty and high baroque architecture. Its sweeping alpine surroundings, the setting for the film *The Sound of Music*, infuse its Old Town with an epic feel. The third highest-grossing movie of all time in the US, *The Sound of Music* is based on the true story of the von Trapp family singers and their escape from Nazi-occupied Austria. This classic musical filled with iconic songs has remained a firm favorite across generations.

Day 4 — Salzburg, Austria

Salzburg is the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose childhood home can still be seen here and whose tunes, along with those of Haydn, ring out from the city's Glockenspiel. Mozart, the city's most celebrated son, began composing at the age of five; regular performances of his timeless pieces can be heard throughout the city. Dominating the Old Town are the towering spires and copper domes of the 17th-century Salzburg Cathedral, a baroque masterwork containing the baptismal font in which Mozart was baptized.

Day 5 — Salzburg, Austria

Beyond Salzburg's renowned musical legacy lies a city where rich history and modern life blend seamlessly. Graceful arcades and narrow lanes wind past intricate guild signs that hint at the city's centuries of skilled craftsmanship. Salzburg's three hundred-year-old coffeehouse culture endures in establishments such as Café Tomaselli and Café Bazar, once gathering places for artists and intellectuals. In these cafés and historic inns, regional dishes like savory *tafelspitz* and sweet Salzburger Nockerl offer a taste of local tradition. After breakfast, check out of your hotel and begin your transfer to Passau.

Day 6 — Passau, Germany

Founded by the Celts over 2,000 years ago, Passau is one of Bavaria's oldest cities. Known as the "City of Three Rivers," it rests at the confluence of the Inn, Ilz and Danube rivers. The city has long enjoyed its strategic position and grew to great economic and political power because of it. The legacy of its past prosperity lives on in graceful arcades, colorful houses with rococo facades and the glorious baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral, home to one of Europe's largest pipe organs. Passau is also where two nations meet; it is here that the German-Austrian border begins.

Day 7 — Linz, Austria

Originally known as Lentia in its days as a 1st-century Roman castle-settlement, Linz is today's provincial capital of Upper Austria. The city's famous Linzer Torte, the jam-filled cake topped with almonds, hails from here and can be found in any number of cafés. In the Old Town, narrow lanes lead to the Hauptplatz, once the largest town square in Austria. Handsome patrician houses, the 17th-century Town Hall and an impressive cathedral line the open space. The steepest mountain railway in Europe delivers visitors to *Pöstlingberghill* and its 18th-century pilgrimage church.

Day 8 — Scenic Sailing: Wachau Valley

Sail through a serene tapestry of terraced vineyards, forested slopes, charming towns and castle ruins in Austria's Wachau Valley, celebrated as perhaps the most scenic stretch of the Danube. Journey 18 miles through this vast UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the river courses through picturesque hillsides. Gaze upon the prolific grapevines and quaint wine-producing villages hugging the shores—the legacy of vintners that stretch as far back as Celtic and Roman times and an echo of the more than 30 monasteries that served as vineyards in Renaissance days.

Day 9 — Vienna, Austria

Renowned as the “City of Waltzes,” Austria's capital city of Vienna is Europe's center of classical music. Strauss and Mozart composed many of their finest pieces here. Vienna's musical history is matched by the elegant, graceful architecture that lines the Ringstrasse, the wide boulevard encircling the Inner City. Baroque, neo-Renaissance, Gothic-Romanesque and other splendidly styled structures, from the Hofburg Palace to the Vienna State Opera, take the breath away with their grand facades. Vienna has a more intimate side too: inviting footpaths lead through green parks and its famed Viennese cafés sweeten any stay with coffee and the city's delectable *Sachertorte*.

Day 10 — Bratislava, Slovakia

The Slovakian capital of Bratislava is filled with lovingly restored baroque city palaces and leafy squares. The Little Carpathians rise steeply in the north and the enormous *hrad* (“castle”) perches 300 feet above the Danube, lending the city a picturesque setting. Below the castle, the Old Town boasts elegant mansions, art nouveau houses and gracious pedestrian zones. Eleven Hungarian kings and eight queens were crowned in St. Martin's Cathedral, today a concert hall that plays a central role in the city's rich cultural offerings.

Day 11 — Budapest, Hungary

Riverside beauty and a vibrant cultural scene blend together in Budapest to form one of Europe's most rewarding cities. Hungary's enchanting capital straddles the banks of the Danube, with traditional hillside Buda on one side and modern Pest on the other. By day, stunning art nouveau buildings, stalwart castles and grand palaces set the stage for inspiring strolls and long soaks in thermal spas. By night, the shimmering lights of the Parliament building dance across the waters of the Danube, the Chain Bridge uniting it all as a dramatic centerpiece.

Day 12 — Budapest, Hungary

Budapest's old town is a fascinating medieval patchwork of narrow streets and colorful houses. In the Castle District, the Matthias Church soars in Gothic glory. Adjacent, the expansive wall and seven turrets of Fisherman's Bastion overlook the Danube, the graceful Chain Bridge and the Pest side of the river. The centerpiece of the district is the sprawling Buda Castle. Constructed in the 13th century and expanded to its current baroque splendor during the 18th century, this edifice was home to Hungary's kings for almost 700 years. Bid farewell to your fellow guests and journey home. Or spend more time exploring, perhaps joining one of our extensions.

** One shore excursion included per port; all others available at an extra charge.*