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## **A CRUISE ON THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE DANUBE AND THE PASSION PLAY IN OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY**

**Trip Code:** OBP\_PP

**Duration:** 8

**Destination:** BUDAPEST - BRATISLAVA - VIENNA - MELK - PASSAU - Oberammergau

**Travel Dates:** 2022

### **DAY 1 BUDAPEST - BOARD SHIP**

Passengers are welcome to board our ship at 6:00 p.m. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail before dinner. In the evening, join us on an optional excursion for both packages: Evening of traditional entertainment in Budapest. This one-and-a-half-hour show will take you across all the regions of Hungary through its folklore and Gypsy dance and music.

### **DAY 2 BUDAPEST - BRATISLAVA**

Join us for the optional excursions proposed: **CLASSIC:** Guided tour of Budapest. The metropole was once two distinct cities united only in 1873: Buda, with its winding streets, Turkish baths and Buda Castle; and Pest, with its flatter landscape offering a panoramic view over the banks of the Danube. **DISCOVERY:** Budapest bike tour. You'll see all the important sights of the city on an easy-paced ride: a unique way to see the city's historic center. The afternoon will be spent cruising to Bratislava. Our ship will cruise through the night.

### **DAY 3 BRATISLAVA - VIENNA**

We'll arrive in Bratislava in the early morning. Join us for the optional excursions proposed: **CLASSIC:** Guided tour of Bratislava. Lined by the Danube, Bratislava intrigues. The charm of the Slovakian capital lies in its old city which reveals magnificent baroque palaces, churches and pleasant squares. The pastel-colored façades give its many houses their unique style. **DISCOVERY:** Hiking in the Little Carpathians Protected Landscape Area, including the geographically rich Sandberg expanse. From Devin Castle, we'll take in the splendid view of Bratislava. Our ship will cruise to Vienna. This evening, enjoy some free time or join us on an optional excursion for both packages: Vienna by night. Vienna symbolizes power and strength through its architecture and monuments. Street lights and special lighting accentuate shapes and dramatize the lovely baroque structures.

### **DAY 4 VIENNA**

Join us on an optional excursion for both packages: Visit Schoenbrunn Palace, a former summer residence for the Hapsburg monarchs. We'll travel on The Ring, part of the vast changes to the Viennese cityscape that took place in the second half of the nineteenth century, before arriving at the palace. The 1,441-room Baroque palace is one of the most important architectural, cultural, and historical monuments in Austria. This afternoon, join us on an optional excursion for both packages: Tour Hofburg Palace, an imperial march through history, art and luxury. The Palace is also known for having been during 600 years the "Winter Residency" of the Habsburgs. You will visit the Sisi Museum and the Imperial Apartments and access the 19 official and private rooms that once belonged to Franz Joseph and Elisabeth. The Imperial Apartments are a reflection of the monarchic splendor. In the evening, join us on an optional excursion for both packages: Concert of Viennese music

(subject to availability). Famous waltz melodies will take you back to the era of Franz Joseph and Sisi. We'll start cruising during the night.

#### **DAY 5                      MELK - PASSAU**

We'll cruise along the most beautiful section of the Wachau Valley before arriving in Melk. Join us on an optional excursion for both packages: Visit of Dürnstein, the fortified village where Richard the Lionheart was once held prisoner. You will be able to stroll through the streets of this medieval town and visit the Baroque abbey. In the afternoon, join us on an optional excursion for both packages: Visit Melk Abbey. Originally a Baroque-style palace built between 1702 and 1736, it is now a Benedictine monastery that hosts a prestigious coed school with more than 900 students. In the evening, we'll start cruising towards Passau. Tonight is our gala dinner and evening.

#### **DAY 6                      PASSAU - OBERAMMERGAU**

Enjoy one last buffet breakfast on board before discovering Passau on your own. With its charm and unique atmosphere, the "city of three rivers" is one of the most impressive sites located on the course of the Danube. 300 years ago, Italian master architects rebuilt the city in baroque style with high towers and picturesque squares which you'll get to see while ambling down lovely paved streets. We'll have lunch in town. Around 2.00 p.m., departure by coach to Oberammergau, known throughout the world for its Passion Play. After checking into a 3-star hotel, you'll enjoy dinner in the area.

#### **DAY 7                      OBERAMMERGAU - THE PASSION PLAY**

You'll be transferred by coach to the village. Enjoy the morning and lunch on your own. Use this time to stroll and take in the atmosphere and wonderful pastel-painted homes--some dating back to the 13th century--decorated with religious motifs. After, you'll be transferred to the theater for the performance of the spectacular Passion Play. In 1633, the residents vowed that if God spared them from the bubonic plague, they would produce a play thereafter depicting the life and death of Jesus. Performed during years ending in zero, it is considered as one of the grandest in the world. The production involves over 2,000 performers, musicians, and stage hands--all residents of the village. They rehearse for over six months and present the play over 100 times during a performance year. The open-air theater adds to the magic of the show. We have reserved the best orchestra seats for our customers. A meal is included with the show and will be served during intermission. After the show, you'll be transferred to the hotel by coach.

#### **DAY 8                      OBERAMMERGAU - MUNICH DEPARTURE**

In the morning, you'll be transferred by coach to the Munich airport. End of our services.

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