

WALKING THE ALPINE EUROPE PANORAMAS

with the Oberammergau Passion Play!

Guten tag from your fellow Adventurers at WAI!

Our Alpine Europe Panoramas Adventure encompasses an unforgettable survey of a part of Europe that, more than any other trip we offer, epitomizes our slogan of capturing the “history, culture, and scenery” of the lands through which we travel. No other region of the world we visit is so wonderfully packed with world-changing history, delightful cultural traditions, and eye-popping scenery! We'll take in Munich, Rothenburg, and a Rhine Cruise, the Gutenberg Museum, the Black Forest, and the Rhine Falls. From the Rhine Falls on, we'll enjoy virtually non-stop breathtaking alpine panoramas: Jungfrauoch, Sussten Pass, Hallstatt, and innumerable lesser known scenic wonders make each day a magical passage through a 3-D postcard! Along with all this sensory overload, we'll learn what makes this part of Europe unique – the Reformation, cuckoo clocks, William Tell and Swiss Independence, Smart cars, the Hapsburg Dynasty, Swiss army knives, Hitler and World War II, amazing flower boxes, Mozart, mountain-climbing, great beer... and to top it off, this year only, we also experience the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play. Only every 10th year, the town of Oberammergau celebrates its deliverance from the Black Death—the bubonic plague—by conducting a summer-long play depicting Jesus Christ's last days on earth.



View from Jungfrauoch

NOTE: It is unlikely that our Alpine Europe Panoramas itinerary will be offered again before 2015.

How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

Over 80 travelers have submitted Early Bird deposits for this Adventure! If you are among the first 60 in this group who submitted deposits, your spot on one of the trips is secure until **June 24**. Between now and June 24, travelers who have submitted Early Bird deposits will be accepted into the departure of their choice in the order in which they submitted their deposit. A maximum of 30 travelers will be accepted on any one departure. After June 24, registrations from Early Bird travelers #61 and higher will be accepted to fill any remaining open spots.

Because we currently have nearly enough travelers to offer a Third Departure, we will strongly consider this possibility once our first two Alpine Adventures for 2010 are full. At this time, we will contact all additional Early Bird travelers, and any new travelers who submit full registrations after the brochure is published, regarding dates of a Third Departure. The possibility of a Third Departure, and the dates of this itinerary, will hinge on the availability of additional space at the Passion Play.

NOTE: Due to nonrefundable deposits and early payments required by the Oberammergau Passion Play, our payment and cancellation policy for the Alpine Europe Panorama Adventures must be adjusted as follows:

Payments:

- Registration deposit: \$500 (as usual)
- Second deposit of \$500 due on September 15, 2009 (total to date on deposit—\$1000)
- Final payment due 90 days before departure (as usual)

Cancellations:

- From time of deposit until September 15, 2009: full refund less \$250
- From September 16, 2009 until 90 days before departure: full refund less \$500
- From 89 to 60 days before departure: 50% refund
- From 59 days to departure: No refund issued

What do we mean by “Alpine”?

We've changed course from our initial plan to offer an optional extension to the Dolomite Mountains of northern Italy. Hitting the highlights of our Adventure through Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Austria will take us 15 days. This longer time frame, in addition to the cost of the Passion Play and the night in Oberammergau (approximately \$800 per person) dampened our enthusiasm to offer several more days in Italy for nearly \$2000 more. It is likely that we will include the Dolomite region with our upcoming Classic Italy 2010 Adventure instead, traveling north from Venice to visit the Dolomites and Lake Como.

How is airfare arranged?

The official start and finish point for this Adventure is Munich. We recommend that you contact the travel agent we work with to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment! More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided in the *Adventure Advice* flyer, enclosed with your first invoice after you register for the Adventure. ***Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!***

Travel Insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the enclosures for more detailed information.)

IMPORTANT: The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for pre-existing conditions, provided you purchase the insurance at the time you register for the trip, or within 14 days of your registration. *Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office after you purchase your airfare.*

Group Travel Credit

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name in writing to us before you register, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full deposit is needed to officially reserve your place.

NOTE: The deadline to join a group for everyone *who has already Early Birded* is June 30.

What Happens Next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter, initial invoice, and *Adventure Advice* flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. ***Please do not buy your airline tickets until you receive the Adventure Advice flyer.*** The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

For now, we invite you to take some time and enjoy perusing the enclosed Adventure brochure. We look forward to sharing this one-of-a-kind walking adventure through the history, scenery, and culture of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria with you in 2010!



WALKING ADVENTURES INTERNATIONAL

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