

CZECH REPUBLIC, GERMANY, *and* AUSTRIA

This pilgrimage covers three European countries' Pilgrimage sites. It covers Infant Jesus of Prague, Blessed Virgin of Altotting, tracing Pope Benedict homeland and ending up with the Sound of Music of Strauss and Mozart.



DAY 1: NEW YORK/PRAGUE - We depart on an international overnight flight to Prague. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

DAY 2: PRAGUE - Upon arrival in Prague, we are greeted by our tour guide, and next board our deluxe motorcoach for a panoramic tour of this charming capital of the Czech Republic. Dinner and overnight in Prague. (D)

DAY 3: PRAGUE - After breakfast we enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of the city. We travel to the Prague Castle District to see the Loreto Church, the Strahov Monastery and visit the Prague Castle, the largest castle complex in the world. We visit the St. Vitus Cathedral, view the Old Royal Place and St. George Basilica. Next, we travel to the Church of Our Lady Victorious and the Infant Jesus where we celebrate a Mass and see the renowned statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague (subject to confirmation). Then, we stroll down to the Lesser Town to cross the medieval Charles Bridge that is adorned with many baroque statues. Our tour continues to the Old Town where we can see the St. Nicholas Church, the Old Town Hall, the Astronomic Clock, the Powder Tower, and the famous Church of Our Lady before Tyn. The touring day ends at the Wenceslas Square in the New Town. Dinner and overnight in Prague. (B/D)

DAY 4: PRAGUE/ALTOTTING/MUNICH - This morning we leave Prague for Altotting, the site of Germany's most celebrated shrine dedicated to the Blessed Virgin



Mary. Upon arrival, we visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Altotting, also known as the Chapel of Grace, and celebrate Mass at the Chapel of Mercy that houses a 13th century statue of the Blessed Virgin to which numerous miraculous cures are credited (subject to confirmation). Next, we visit the Basilica of St. Ann, the Jerusalem Panorama, and St. Conrad of Parzham Monastery. Continue to Munich. Dinner and overnight in Munich. (B/D)

DAY 5: MUNICH - This morning we visit the Asam Church, one of the most richly decorated rococo churches in the world. A relatively small church, it is named for its two builders, the brothers Cosmas & Egid Asam. The skeleton of the saint for which the church is formally named, St. Johann Nepomuk, is enshrined there in a glass case. Next, we head off on an excursion to the infamous Dachau Concentration Camp outside Munich. We visit the Dachau Memorial Site and tour the camp. We return to Munich in the late afternoon for a Mass in the local church (subject to confirmation). Dinner at a local restaurant with a tasting of the local beer. Dinner and overnight in Munich. (B/D)

DAY 6: MUNICH - Departing Munich in the morning, we travel through spectacular mountain scenery to the very heart of Southern Bavaria. Upon arrival, we visit the famous Neuschwanstein Castle built by King Ludwig II and the inspiration for the Disney's Cinderella castle; the Hohenschwangau Castle for a quick photo stop; and the tiny village of Oberammergau where famous Passion Play is performed every 10 years. We return to Munich in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Munich. (B/D)

DAY 7: MUNICH/SALZBURG

Today we head for Salzburg, the lovely birthplace of Mozart, the city of great houses, mansions, the Festival Hall, and the Mirabelle Gardens. Hear the bells of the great Glockenspiel Tower performed to a melody of Mozart. Our tour begins with a Mass at St. Peter's Churchyard (subject to confirmation). Salzburg is compact and best explored on foot. Narrow, winding lanes and secluded passageways are evidence of its medieval roots. The heritage of the Catholic Church is evident in the Archbishop's

Residence and the decoration of the State Rooms, available for viewing. We visit the mighty Romanesque Cathedral, the Nonnberg Convent of Benedictine nuns and view the Fortress Hohensalzburg. We stop at Hellbrunn Palace to enjoy its gardens and hidden trick fountains. In the evening we enjoy Mozart concert dinner. Dinner and overnight in Salzburg. (B/D)

DAY 7: SALZBURG/MARIAZELL/VIENNA - After breakfast we motor east to Mariazell, the most important pilgrimage place in Austria. We visit the Mariazell Basilica and see the miraculous Statue of Our Lady of Mariazell, which is housed in the Lady Chapel or Chapel of Miracles built directly over the place where Magnus established his monastic cell in 157. We continue onto to Vienna, Austria's capital. Dinner and overnight in Vienna. (B/D)

DAY 8: VIENNA - After breakfast we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Vienna, home of Strauss and Mozart, and one of the most beautiful cities in the world. We begin our tour with a visit to the St. Stephan's Cathedral where we celebrate a Mass (subject to confirmation). After mass we tour the Cathedral and its catacombs, see the miraculous image of Our Lady of Mariapocs, and those strong and brave may climb the 343 steps to the top of the Cathedral spire. Next, we view the Parliament, the Hofburg Palace, the Stadt Opera, the Karlsplatz with its Church of St. Charles Borromeo and the Belvedere with its beautiful gardens. In the afternoon we visit the summer residence of the Habsburg rulers, the famous Schonbrunn Palace, the house with 1,441 rooms including a Hall of Mirrors where young Mozart performed at the age of six before a young Marie Antoinette. Somewhere along the way we will have a little coffee break to enjoy the famous Vienna pastries such as Sacher cake or apple strudel. Dinner and overnight in Vienna. (B/D)

DAY 9: VIENNA/NEW YORK

After breakfast we transfer to Vienna airport for our flight back home arriving the same day. (B)