



[YOUR GROUP NAME] PRESENTS  
**CLASSICAL DANUBE WITH PASSION PLAY**  
**\*ESCORTED BY GRAND AMERICAN TOURS!\***  
(PASSAU TO BUDAPEST)  
**WITH AMADEUS RIVER CRUISES ON THE MS AMADEUS STAR**  
**10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS ~ JUNE 29 – JULY 8, 2022**  
*Air departs US on June 28<sup>th</sup> in order to arrive in Passau on June 29<sup>th</sup>*

***Oberammergau and The Passion Play***

*The small village of Oberammergau is one of the most scenic destinations in the Ammergau area of the Bavarian Alps. Located approximately ninety minutes from Munich, Oberammergau is easy to get to but a world away from the bustle of big city life. With slightly over 5,200 inhabitants the town is dedicated to its history and tradition, and while Passion Plays are performed throughout several other Christian parts of the world, Oberammergau is unique for its Thanksgiving to God. Every ten years the humble little town transforms itself to accept over a half-million visitors from all over the world, just as the actors who perform in the play intend to transform the lives of their audience by inspiring hope, love, and faith.*

*Travel back in history to 1633 when, after 30 years of war, poverty and disease, the bubonic plague ravaged the area that is part of the Garmisch-Partenkirchen District and brought death to thousands. In small villages like Oberammergau, the plague decimated the population as it wreaked panic, havoc and terror, killing over a third of the tiny town's population and ultimately affected the lives of each and every person who lived there. This devastation inspired the people of Oberammergau to make a vow, and then a covenant with God: the town pledged to perform a "Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ" every ten years ending in a zero if God would protect the remaining townspeople from getting the plague and spare the lives of those who were suffering. The first play was held during Pentecost in 1634 and legend has it that after the promise was fulfilled no other cases were diagnosed and those residents afflicted with the plague recovered. By the middle of the 18th century, people came from all over Germany and Europe to Oberammergau to witness the dedication and unique continuity of the townspeople. The tradition has continued for almost 400 years with the only exception in 1940 due to World War II. Most recently, when the Covid19 pandemic affected the entire world, the 2020 performances were delayed, and the 42nd Oberammergau Passion Play will now take place from May 14 to October 2, 2022.*

*Mix together the passion of the people set against the dramatic setting of some of Germany's highest peaks and it creates an atmosphere unlike any event in the world. From your assigned seat you watch the production take place on the open-air stage of the Passion Play Theatre. The five-hour performance is broken down into twelve different acts, with a break for dinner between scenes six and seven. The story portrays the final days of Jesus of Nazareth, from his arrival in Jerusalem on a donkey to His death on the cross and His miraculous resurrection, all while weaving in the tragic tale of how the plague was brought to Oberammergau throughout the acts. A hundred-person choir and a fifty-five instrumentalist orchestra accompany the dedicated ensemble to create a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The Passion Play is performed in the German Language however textbooks are provided in English to follow along easily.*

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*Over the past four centuries, the people of Oberammergau have remained true to that first generation's sacred promise; maintaining the age-old tradition that permits only the residents of Oberammergau born in the village, or those who have lived there for a minimum of 20 years to take part in the play. Nearly half of the town's population will participate, whether it is in the performance, set design or some other role. Throughout the years, some contemporary elements have been added, however the people who participate in the Passion Play, known as Passionsspiele, attempt to follow a strict guide to keep the original promise as authentic as possible. It takes two years to prepare the town for the influx of visitors from all over the world, and for the actors to prepare for their roles. For one entire year before the Passion Play, ordinary townspeople who are usually doctors, teachers, shop owners, restaurant workers, and so much more, practice every day and dedicate their lives to the production of the play.*

***Services included for the 2-night Pre-Cruise Oberammergau Package:***

- *Meet and greet service at Munich Airport (on program date)*
- *Scenic group transfers from Munich Airport to Oberammergau and from Oberammergau to Passau to join the ship with exclusive through-coach (on program date)*
- *Dedicated English speaking travel director from pick-up in Munich until embarkation in Passau*
- *Two nights accommodation in a 4-star hotel in the vicinity of Oberammergau with shuttle service from hotel to the town center and theater daily (specific group hotel assignments are subject to availability)*
- *Daily breakfast at the hotel*
- *One dinner at the hotel plus one dinner during the Passion Play break including beverage package*
- *Ticket to the Passion Play (cat. 2) and commemorative textbook of the Passion Play*
- *All taxes and associated fees*

***Pre-Cruise Excursion Travel Director***

*Your assigned English-speaking travel director is a local expert and valuable resource who will be available to assist with all arrangements including group transportation, hotel check-in and check-out, meals, and will be your escort to the theatre on the day of the performance to ensure your experience is a smooth and enjoyable one.*

**DAY 1 | MUNICH TO OBERAMMERGAU AREA**

Shortly after arrival at Munich International Airport, you'll proceed through customs and immigration before departing the secure area. An airport greeter will direct you to your deluxe motorcoach for transportation to your hotel in the vicinity of Oberammergau. For your convenience, the motorcoach you board at the airport will be your designated form of transportation and will remain with you until you arrive in Passau. This allows you to safely store larger luggage pieces you may wish to keep separate from your pre-cruise extension. An English-speaking travel director will accompany you over the next three days of your pre-cruise excursion.

**DAY 2 | OBERAMMERGAU - THE PASSION PLAY**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at your hotel before boarding your shuttle to the Village of Oberammergau. The twenty-minute ride through the scenic Bavarian Alps gives you a glimpse of the captivating mountains surrounding you during your pre-cruise extension. In the distance, set amid the spectacular vistas, you might get a peek at the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest peak, standing at 2,962 meters above sea level. The countryside awards you with sloping hillsides dotted with the centuries-old church steeples, farm houses and villages that have survived through the generations. After arriving at the drop-off point near The Passion Play Theatre, your travel director will guide you on a short walk through town and assist with the check-in process as well all other details surrounding the performance. At the conclusion of the Sixth Act the performance will break for dinner, offering plenty of time to dine and refresh before the second half of play resumes. Your travel director will meet you at the conclusion of the performance to escort you to the shuttle for the short drive back to your hotel.

### **DAY 3 | OBERAMMERGAU TO PASSAU**

After breakfast, prepare to board your deluxe motorcoach for a memorable ride to Passau, Germany. Enjoy scenic mountain passes, stunning alpine forests, and dramatic panoramas brimming with the majesty of the iconic Alps. Your journey takes you past post-card perfect castles constructed atop emerald cliffs, picturesque valleys, and rolling hills sprinkled with centuries-old farms. Small towns transform to sprawling metropolises and busy urban streets brimming with contemporary architecture and thriving industry, and then gradually fade to the romanticism of classic Bavarian villages dotting the Danube's riverbanks.

#### ***Classical Danube***

*This quintessential cruise along the beautiful Danube connects Passau, the "Three Rivers City" of the Inn, Ilz and Danube with the "Queen of the Danube" — the capital city Budapest. Traverse four of Europe's most important countries while visiting three world famous capital cities. This scenic cruise through beautiful landscapes, including the UNESCO protected Wachau Valley, is full of culture, history and charm. On this journey you get to know much about the heart of Europe - its countries, peoples and cultures.*

### **DAY 3 | PASSAU**

You arrive in the beautiful city of Passau with a few hours of free time before your 4:00pm embarkation. Store your luggage with the ship's front desk and set out to experience The City of Three Rivers. The river ship dock is conveniently located near authentic restaurants and inviting cafés for a tasty afternoon snack, or a cup of coffee heaped high with rich, Bavarian cream. You may wish to spend these precious moments wandering through the large squares and romantic promenades, or choose to occupy the passing of time by strolling along the riverfront to the dramatic conjunction point where the Danube, Ilz and Inn Rivers converge. Discover the historic Old Town area of Passau and a past that has been beautifully preserved to give you a glimpse of life in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when the town was a small, independent principality ruled by bishops. Wander down winding streets lined with magnificent Baroque and Gothic Architecture, where the buildings are pieces of art and history is evident on every step of your pathway.

In the afternoon, embark your AMADEUS river ship and settle in your cabin. This evening, join us for a Welcome Cocktail, followed by a specially-prepared Welcome Dinner.

### **DAY 4 | REGENSBURG 9:30am – 8:00pm**

Begin your cruise with a visit to Regensburg. This UNESCO site boasts architecture from many centuries, reflective of its varied history throughout the centuries. The stone bridge, built in 1135-1146, the Church of St James, and the Schloss of Thurn and Taxis are a few of the highlights of this beautiful city. Back onboard this evening, experience a Bavarian evening with lively traditional music and a dinner of local specialities.

#### **Regensburg walking tour in the morning**

#### **Excursion to Weltenburg Abbey in the afternoon**

#### **Bavarian evening on board (incl.)**

### **DAY 5 | PASSAU 8:00am – 10:00am > LINZ 4:30pm-10:00pm**

Today, those interested in excursions have all of three options. A morning walking tour through the Baroque center of Passau will provide insight into the history of the town. Alternatively, you can take part in a full day excursion in a comfortable tour bus, which will visit the Mozart town of Salzburg and the lake district of the Salzkammergut. Both excursions end in Linz, where you will return to your ship. The guests who do not take the bus to Salzburg can spend the afternoon on their own or take a guided tour through this Upper Austrian town before the ship weighs anchor in the evening.

#### **Full-day excursion to Salzburg with Salzkammergut and lunch**

### **DAY 6 | EMMERSDORF 8:00am-9:00am > WEISSENKIRCHEN 10:30am-4:00pm > VIENNA arrive 9:30pm**

This morning presents an opportunity to visit the famous Benedictine Abbey of Melk which stands over the Danube, or continue with the vessel to the town of Weissenkirchen. Here, sample some of the region's famous

Riesling wines or enjoy a leisurely stroll through the cobbled streets. Everyone will rejoin the ship in the early afternoon to continue on to Vienna.

Leisure time/ rejoin the ship

## **DAY 7 | VIENNA**

There is much to see in Imperial Vienna: its Imperial palaces, Museums Quarter with historic and contemporary buildings displaying works by Egon Schiele, Gustav Klimt and other artists, the impressive buildings along the Ringstrasse, St. Stephen's Cathedral and the famous Vienna State Opera among many others. This afternoon perhaps venture to Schönbrunn Palace, the sumptuous summer palace and gardens of Empress Maria Theresia and the Habsburg empire. In the evening opt for the "Sound of Vienna" and listen to the "Alt Wien" orchestra play popular pieces from Vienna's classical era. The vessel departs Vienna in the early hours.

### **City tour of Vienna in the morning**

## **DAY 8 | VIENNA depart 3:00am > BRATISLAVA 8:00am-10:00pm**

During the night, your AMADEUS ship will travel downriver towards Bratislava, arriving in the Slovakian capital at breakfast time. In the morning, you can go exploring on your own or as part of a guided city tour. In the afternoon, it is worth visiting the Imperial Festschloss Hof, which was once the country residence of Empress Maria Theresia and which is situated in Austria, not far from the Slovakian border. After the exclusive Captain's Gala Dinner, the ship will set sail for Hungary.

### **City tour of Bratislava in the morning**

### **Captain's Gala Dinner (incl.)**

## **DAY 9 | ESZTERGOM 7:00am-8:30am > BUDAPEST 1:00pm**

Relax onboard as the vessel makes its way to Budapest, Hungary. For those interested in exploring the Hungarian countryside, spend the morning visiting Esztergom and its Basilica dedicated to Saint Mary, and Szentendre, known for its art galleries and museums. After lunch, explore the beautiful Hungarian capital of Budapest. Uniquely straddling the Danube river, the Buda side with its Fisherman's Bastion and the Pest Side with its famous Hungarian Parliament building, are connected by the beautiful Chain Bridge. An evening cruise onboard your AMADEUS vessel along the illuminated skyline, accompanied by a folklore show of music and dance, is a perfect ending to your visit.

### **City tour of Budapest in the afternoon**

### **Evening cruise Budapest with folklore show (incl.)**

## **DAY 10 | BUDAPEST**

After breakfast Amadeus bids you farewell and hopes to welcome you again soon!

### **Inclusions:**

- Accommodations based on the allotted group block
- Full board including: Early Riser (reduced breakfast buffet in the Panorama-Bar),
- Buffet Breakfast (includes omelette service), Lunch (Buffet or table service depending upon the itinerary),
- Light Lunch (served in the Panorama-Bar), Dinner (5 courses, 3 choices for main course), Coffee & tea, iced water with meals, midnight (late night) snack.
- (No refund for meals not taken onboard; full board service starts with dinner on embarkation day and ends with breakfast on disembarkation day)
- Music program every day in the bar by a pianist or by the Amadeus music group
- Welcome Cocktail, Welcome Dinner and Captain's Gala Farewell Dinner
- Experienced English speaking cruise director
- Free-flowing red & white regional wines, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard.
- Complimentary WiFi
- 24-hour coffee station
- Bottled water in every stateroom

- 6 Shore excursions as noted in the itinerary
- Audio headsets for optional shore excursions
- All port charges and local taxes
- Breakfast at the hotel

Panoramic Oceanview Window Cabin Category	C-4	[\$Your Price]
Panoramic Oceanview Window Cabin Category	C-1	[\$Your Price]
French Balcony Cabin Category	B-4	[\$Your Price]
French Balcony Cabin Category	B-1	[\$Your Price]
French Balcony Cabin Category	A-1	[\$Your Price]
Suite Cabin Category		[\$Your Price]

Rates are per person double occupancy and include roundtrip airfare from [your air city], 2 pre-nights with Passion Play and cruise. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL AIR PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL FULL PAYMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

**\$150 DISCOUNT  
IF BOOKED BY MARCH 31, 2021!!!**

**PASSPORT REQUIRED**

**DEPOSIT POLICY:** An initial deposit of \$1500 per person double occupancy is non-refundable and is due by March 31, 2021 to secure reservations and assign cabins. Cabin Fare is due in full by January 28, 2022 and is non-refundable at that time. Passengers who purchase travel insurance and cancel for a covered reason will be reimbursed for all deposits and payments for this trip. **Those who book early get the best prices and the best cabin locations.**

**FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
[YOUR NAME] ~ [YOUR PHONE NUMBER]**

*Subject to change*