



Reformation Tours, LLC presents

# Tuscan Treasures and the Passion Play

June 15-27, 2020



# Tuscan Treasures and the Passion Play



You are invited to join Pastor Jeffrey and Jacqueline Stuckwisch for a tour of the highlights of Northern Italy, Austria, and Southern Germany including the Passion Play of Oberammergau.

The thirteen-day tour will include Florence, Siena, Pisa, and Venice in Italy, as well as the Austrian cities of Innsbruck and Salzburg and the German city of Munich. The highlight of the tour will be the Passion Play which has been performed by the German village of Oberammergau once every ten years since 1634. In addition to viewing the art and architecture of Italian masters, tourists will also visit Tuscan vineyards, enjoy a Tirolean dance performance, experience the music of Mozart in a Salzburg palace, and take an optional Sound of Music tour.

Jeff is pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, an LCMS congregation in Seymour, Indiana. Jackie teaches mathematics at Trinity Lutheran High School. They hosted the Reformation Heritage Tour in 2016 and the Journeys of Paul in Greece and Rome in 2018. They enjoy teaching their groups the history behind the sites on tour and their connection to the Christian faith, as well fostering fellowship among travelers through educational pre-trip meetings.

*IF = In flight meals, B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner*

## **Day 1: Monday, June 15, 2020: Departure**

Our journey begins as we board our international flight bound for Rome, Italy, the Eternal City. Pre-tour nights are available. (IF)

## **Day 2: Tuesday, June 16, 2020: Rome, Siena**

Upon arrival in Rome, we will meet our tour director and motor coach and drive up into Tuscany. Our home for the first few nights is the historic city of Siena, famous for its cuisine, art, museums, medieval history and the annual Palio horse race. (IF/D)

## **Day 3: Wednesday, June 17, 2020: Florence, Siena**

Today's day trip is to Florence, the Cradle of the Renaissance. On the way into the city, we will stop at Piazza Michelangelo for an amazing view of the city. A local guide will take us on a walking tour of Florence, including a visit to Accademia to see Michelangelo's incomparable "David." We will see the beautiful Santa Croce Church with the tombs of many famous residents of Florence including Michelangelo, Dante and Galileo. We will tour the famed Baptistry and the Duomo. Tickets will be available for those who want to climb Brunelleschi's famous dome.



We will have some free time in the afternoon, before returning to Siena for dinner at a local restaurant. (B/D)

## **Day 4: Thursday, June 18, 2020: Siena and Tuscan Vineyards**

This morning a local guide will take us on a tour of Siena, including the Sunken Piazza del Campo and the Duomo, perhaps the finest Gothic cathedral in Italy. We will learn about the famous horse race that takes place in late summer. Horses represent the 17 districts, known as "Contradas" and we will see some of the emblematic flags on the tour. The Contradas include the Eagle, Snail, Wave, Panther, Forest, Tortoise, Owl, Unicorn, Shell, Tower, Ram, Caterpillar, Dragon, Giraffe, Porcupine, She-Wolf and the Goose. We will have lunch and a tour at Castello di Banfi. On our way to Brunello di Montalcino for a tasting, we will drive through some scenic villages, Montalcino and Montepulciano. Tonight we will have wine tasting and dinner in the Fattoria dei Barbi, before heading back to Siena. (B/L/D)



## **Day 5: Friday, June 19, 2020: Pisa, Venice**

This morning we will start with a tour of Pisa, to see the magnificent Leaning Tower. The energetic members of the group will be able to climb the tower, while the rest take photos. In the Piazza dei Miracoli (Square of Miracles), we will also tour the Baptistery, the Cathedral and the Monumental Cemetery (representing the cycle of life). In the afternoon we will continue our drive to Venice—La Serenissima, the "Serene One." Built upon 117 islands, Venice is a mosaic of canals, plazas, fascinating markets, and chaos!



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We will arrive at our hotel by water taxi on the Grand Canal and the luggage will be transferred separately. (B/D)



## Day 6: Saturday, June 20, 2020: Venice

After breakfast, our guide will take us on a walking tour of Venice, including inside visits of the Doge's Palace, St. Mark's Square, the Bell Tower and the impressive St. Mark's Cathedral. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore. We can shop in the famous market area around the Rialto Bridge, watch glass-blowing, take a gondola ride, or enjoy a coffee and some people-watching at St. Mark's Square. (B)



## Day 7: Sunday, June 21, 2020: Venice, Innsbruck

We will leave Italy this morning and drive up through the Dolomites to Innsbruck, Austria. On arrival in Innsbruck, two local guides will give us a tour including the Golden Roof and St. James' with its baroque interior. Tonight we will have dinner and enjoy a Tyrolean dance show, with folk dancing and yodeling. (B/D)

## Day 8: Monday, June 22, 2020: Bavarian Castles, Oberammergau

We will travel up to Germany and tour the magnificent fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle, the inspiration for the Disney Palace. This castle was built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria in the 19th century and is now one of the most visited tourist destinations in Europe. We will also visit Hohen Schwangau Castle, where he lived as a child. We will then continue on to our hotel near Oberammergau. (B/D)

## Day 9: Tuesday, June 23, 2020: Oberammergau

This morning we will visit the beautiful Baroque Wieskirche, then we will have free time to stroll around Oberammergau

before eating lunch and heading to the Passion Play. The seven-hour performance is truly a moving experience as we witness the passion of Jesus, recalling how He gave His life so that we might be forgiven. Gathered together with Christians from around the globe, this once-a-decade play is an unforgettable experience. (B/L/D)



## Day 10: Wednesday, June 24, 2020: Salzburg

We will drive to Berchtesgaden this morning, a German town in the Bavarian Alps on the Austrian border. We will visit Hitler's Eagle's Nest retreat, a restaurant with stunning alpine views. In the afternoon we will continue on to Salzburg and attend a dinner concert at Mirabelle Palace. (B/D)

## Day 11: Thursday, June 25, 2020: Salzburg

This morning we will have a guided walking tour, including the Mozart house. We will ride the funicular and tour the Hohensalzburg fortress. The rest of the day is at leisure, with the option of joining a Sound of Music tour (extra charge). (B)

## Day 12: Friday, June 26, 2020 Munich

We will drive to Munich this morning and have free time to purchase lunch in the Viktualienmarkt. In the afternoon, our walking tour will include Marienplatz, an inside tour of the Residenz, and the Hofbrauhaus. We will end the tour with a fun meal in a beer garden. (B/D)



## Day 13: Saturday, June 27, 2020: Munich

We will transfer to the airport for our flights to the US. (B)

## RJS20 Tour Price: 4,699 USD *\*per person, land only* *\*Price based on double occupancy with a minimum of 30 participants*

## Terms and Conditions

### Your Tour Includes:

- Land transportation via private, deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Accommodations (double-occupancy) in superior 3-star and 4-star hotels
- Category 1 seats for the Oberammergau Passion Play
- Meals as indicated in itinerary
- Professional tour director throughout the tour
- Local step-on guides for city tours and major attractions
- Entrance fees included as per itinerary
- All transfers as a group
- Luggage handling: one piece per person at hotels
- Basic Insurance coverage (upgrade available)
- All taxes and tips for services provided except as indicated below

### Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Air transportation and related taxes and fees (available in 2019)
- Meals not indicated on itinerary
- Beverages except with breakfast
- End of tour gratuity for tour director and coach driver
- Single supplement (\$980)
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees (*Passport must be valid for six months beyond return date*)
- Optional trip-cancellation insurance upgrade (recommended)

### Payment Schedule:

- First deposit of \$500 is due by February 22, 2019 to secure your place on the tour. All payments should be sent to Reformation Tours, P.O. Box 854, Belleville, IL 62222
- Second deposit of \$500 is due by May 1, 2019
- Final payments will be due no later than February 9, 2020
- Reservations will be accepted after February 9, 2020 subject to availability
- Early registration is encouraged. *Please note: all credit card payments will incur a 3.5% surcharge.*

### Cancellation Policy:

Oberammergau ticket deposits (\$650) are non-refundable, but we will endeavor to find replacement travelers. All cancellations must be in writing and the date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit until December 1, 2019: \$350. From December 2019 to 15 days prior to departure there is a \$650 per person penalty, plus any non-refundable deposits. Anyone canceling 14 days or less prior to departure will receive no refund. In the unlikely event the tour does not reach minimum enrollment required, all deposit money will be returned.

Reformation Tours reserves the rights to alter itineraries without notice should it become necessary. While on tour, if conditions necessitate changes, or if certain features are unavailable or limited, we reserve the right to vary or substitute alternatives. All prices are calculated at the exchange rate in effect at the time of this quotation. Should currency fluctuations necessitate an adjustment in tour price; the adjusted price will be reflected in the final invoice

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar, the number of participants and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee.

Responsibility: **Reformation Tours, LLC.**, their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances be liable to the client under or by reason of this agreement directly or indirectly for any accidents, injury, delay, damage, or inconvenience caused to the client by negligence of others, by malfunctions of transportation systems or equipment, by acts of war, terrorism, or rebellion, strikes, theft, itinerary changes, extreme weather conditions, or cancellations, and the client hereby releases the above mentioned corporation and persons from any and all such liability. The airline/s concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust the price.



**Reformation Tours, LLC**

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