Oberammergau 2022

Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Austria and Oberammergau including the Passion Play

27 May – 3 June 2022

Led by The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Anglican Bishop of Croydon and The Rt Revd Paul Hendricks, Catholic Bishop of Croydon

A visit to Oberammergau is combined with the sparkling lakes and majestic mountains of Austria and a visit to Salzburg, giving the opportunity of fellowship together with the common purpose of attending the Passion Play.

McCabe PILGRIMAGES

The Oberammergau Passion Play

Towards the end of the Thirty Years War in central Europe, there was an outbreak of the plague in Bavaria. The elders of the village of Oberammergau in an effort to protect their village, decided to seal it off from outside contact. But an itinerant worker returned, bringing the plague with him and it swept through the village.

Whereupon the people solemnly vowed that, if God would show His compassion and lift the scourge, every ten years they would enact the Passion of our Lord. The plague left the village in 1633 and, as a perpetual thanksgiving and re-affirmation of faith, the villagers of Oberammergau have performed the Passion Play at regular intervals ever since.

A message from the leadership team:

Every ten years the people of Oberammergau fulfil their oath to God made in 1633 by performing a Passion Play. It is an act of faithfulness and we have the privilege of sharing in it. The familiar story is dramatically and powerfully retold during one day in this beautiful Bavarian town.

This pilgrimage to experience the Passion Play with Croydon Churches will incorporate time in the wonderful mountain and lake locations of Austria. Whilst preparing to journey with Christ to the cross in Oberammergau, we are offering an itinerary with a pilgrimage theme, we will have time to individually reflect and, if you wish, to share reflections on the Passion as we journey together. The pilgrimage will offer the option to walk part of the Jacobsweg, the Austria section of the Camino, which passes through Salzburg and not far from our hotel. This trip will be true pilgrimage in a most beautiful part of the world, travelling the Way of St James and the Way of the Cross.

We will include a tour of the local area and a wonderful day to visit Salzburg, including major attractions, and locations of the film version of the “Sound of Music”, and a day at Lake Wolfgangsee, including the charming village of St Wolfgang.

We will visit Oberammergau for two nights and receive a top grade ticket for a performance of the Passion Play.

While we are in Austria there will be opportunities to reflect and worship together as a group, as we prepare ourselves for the Passion Play. We will talk about the key events and people of the days leading up to the crucifixion.

We look forward to travelling with you. For many people it is an opportunity of a lifetime to share with the people of Oberammergau in the fulfilment of their vow to lead people on the Way of the Cross.

Come and join us for the trip of a lifetime.

The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark and The Rt Revd Paul Hendricks

Meet the Leaders

The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Anglican Bishop of Croydon

Bishop Jonathan is Chair of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, supporting the work of the diocese's 106 church schools. For the Church of England, he chairs the Ministry Division's panel which oversees quality in theological education.

More widely, he chairs the Churches' Refugee Network, a network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and also chairs the Board of Safe Passage International, a pioneering charity seeking to enable unaccompanied child refugees to be reunited with family members.

The Rt Revd Paul Hendricks, Catholic Bishop of Croydon

Bishop Paul has led several pilgrimages to various places, and he is delighted to be co-leading this wonderful pilgrimage with Bishop Jonathan. He very much looks forward to meeting you all. He is Convenor of Croydon Churches Forum, together with Bishop Jonathan Clark. Paul's ecumenical interests and related experience includes: Member of Bishop's Conference Department of Dialogue and Unity; Trustee of Churches Together in England and of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland; Member of English ARC (RC/Anglican dialogue) 2008-2018; Co-Chair, URC-RC dialogue from 2018; Former Chair, Churches Together in South London; Member of Catholic-Oriental Orthodox Forum since 2007; and is Ecumenical Canon, Southwark (Anglican) Cathedral.

Paul attended Oxford, Corpus Christi College, where he was awarded a bachelor's degree in Physics. He studied for the priesthood in Rome where he attained a bachelor's degree in Theology and a Master's degree in Philosophy. He was ordained deacon in 1983 and priest in 1984 and subsequently Assistant Priest at St. Boniface in Tooting (1985-1989); Philosophy Lecturer and Bursar, St John's Seminary, Wonersh (1989-99). Parish Priest, Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham, 1999-2006 before moving into his current position as Auxiliary Bishop for SW Area of Southwark (RC) Archdiocese.
Paul enjoys walking, novels (anything from JK Rowling to Jane Austen), cinema and classical music and lives in Sutton, with a re-homed black cat named Marmite!

Our Itinerary

Day 1 Friday 27 May, Heathrow to Munich
We meet at Heathrow airport. Lufthansa flight to Munich departs at 1055 arriving Munich 1345. Three hour drive to Fieberbrunn and the Hotel Alte Poste, our base for five nights.

Day 2 Saturday, Salzkammergut
Our excursion today takes us to the Austrian Lake District, where we have the opportunity to sail on Lake Wolfgangsee, and visit the charming town of St Wolfgang.

Day 3 Sunday, Pilgrimage Theme
A pilgrimage themed day, where we begin with worship in the church of St Adolari on Lake Pillersee, before walking a section of the Jacobsweg, the Austrian route to Santiago de Compostela. We break for lunch before driving to Maria Kirchental Pilgrimage church for an act of worship.

Day 4 Monday, visit Salzburg
A day in Austria's musical capital of

Salzburg, a beautiful compact city, full of interest from Mozart to the Sound of Music. A guided tour in the morning and an afternoon to explore at leisure.

Austrian themed evening at the hotel.

Day 5 Tuesday, Fieberbrunn
This morning a local guide will take us on a walk through the village. The afternoon is free to explore and perhaps take the gondola up on to the mountain where there are walks and eating places.

Day 6 Wednesday, to Oberammergau
Driving time is about three hours and we take a scenic route breaking the journey beside Lake Achensee, the largest lake in the Tyrol.

Afternoon arrival in Oberammergau and check-in to your accommodation for a two night stay.

Day 7 Thursday, The Passion Play
Morning free to explore the village. A light lunch is included. Afternoon and evening attend the Passion Play with dinner during the interval.

Day 8 Friday 3 June, return to Heathrow
We will visit the monastery at Ettal en route to Munich airport, less than two hours drive. Our homeward Lufthansa flight departs Munich at 1605 arriving Heathrow 1705.

Flights *shown are based on airline schedules at the time of going to press. We will advise you of any changes.*

Covid safety *For personal safety and the peace of mind of everyone in the group we expect everyone to wear face masks when inside buildings, on planes and coaches and observe social distancing when outside and when requested.*

Hotel Alte Poste, Fieberbrunn

Surrounded by an impressive mountain landscape, the Hotel Alte Post is located in the heart of the village of Fieberbrunn next to the picturesque village church and a short bus ride from the gondola ascending the mountain. The hotel is furnished to a high standard, boasting an extensive spa and an outdoor pool.

The Eder family has created a unique hotel for their guests. The family's honest and authentic hospitality permeates the hotel, which is lovingly managed by this fourth generation Eder family. Always at your side without being intrusive, with an open ear for their guests and attention to detail – hospitality is in the Eder family's genes. For more than 100 years, they have catered to guests in Fieberbrunn with attentive gestures, special touches and Tyrolean hospitality. Rooms have showers, wc, hairdryer, radio, television, free Wi-Fi and balcony.

The pilgrimage church of Maria Kirchental, also known as Pinzgau cathedral, sits high on a nearby mountain and we will visit it by coach. The Jacobsweg passes close by and our holiday itinerary will have a pilgrimage theme. We will walk along a scenic section of the Jacobsweg by Lake Pillersee and enjoy a day in Salzburg.
Our programme also includes a visit to the lakes of the Salzkammergut, made famous in the "Sound of Music" film. We will visit St Gilgen and sail to St Wolfgang with free time to explore this iconic lakeside village.

We will also arrange a local guided walk and an Austrian themed evening. In your free time perhaps take the bus to the cable car and enjoy lunch on the mountains surrounding your hotel.

Tour Information

The cost of this holiday is £1,785 per person sharing a twin or double-bedded room with private facilities.

This includes
Flights from Heathrow to Munich with Lufthansa, seven nights accommodation with breakfasts and dinners, airport transfers, and an excursion programme with local guiding. Also included are gratuities to guides, drivers and waiters.

Your tour price includes two nights in Oberammergau, a top grade Passion Play ticket and lunch on the day of the performance.

Not included:
Lunches are not included (except in Oberammergau). Most gratuities are included but we ask you to leave something on departure in your room for the cleaning staff.

Travelling Alone
A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional charge of £195. Ask for a room share, and we will either accommodate you with another single traveller looking for someone to share with or, if we are not successful, we will accommodate you in a single room at half the usual cost.

Deposit Payments
A deposit of £600 is payable on booking. The balance is payable eight weeks prior to departure.

Insurance
Our suggested policy includes COVID cover and is £70 per person aged up to 75 years at the time of booking and £129 per person aged 76-90. Premiums are payable with your deposit. A special feature of this policy is that you do not need to declare medical conditions. We require all travellers to have adequate cover for the trip but you may have annual or another suitable insurance.

Make a Reservation

To reserve your place on this tour:
Please complete the enclosed booking form and send it with a deposit of £600 per person to the group organiser. Please make cheques payable to *McCabe Travel Ltd*. To pay by card or bank transfer, indicate CARD PAYMENT or BANK TRANSFER on the booking form and someone from McCabe will contact you.

Please ensure you mark your booking form with the departure date and tour leader as *Croydon Deanery*.

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Your Stay in Oberammergau

Oberammergau Village
During the season, accommodation in and around Oberammergau is allocated to ticket holders for either one or two nights, and restaurant reservations are pre-assigned. It is not possible to book an extended stay in the village, and for this reason McCabe Travel combines the Passion Play with a holiday among the lakes and mountains of Austria. With very few exceptions, our guests will be accommodated in Oberammergau village itself in hotels and guest houses within walking distance from the theatre. All McCabe guests will receive a Category 1 performance ticket and will be seated together in the theatre. McCabe has also produced a Passion Play Guide Book to enhance your visit and we will have our own staff in the village helping us make the very most from our time there.

Two nights accommodation in the village and a top grade performance ticket are included in your tour cost.

A Group Experience
This is the fourth programme of Oberammergau Passion Play holidays McCabe has organised and their aim, and ours, is to encourage a real feeling of sharing as we participate together in this landmark Christian event.

Austrian twin-beds
Twin bedded accommodation in Austria traditionally consist of one bed frame with two separate mattresses and separate duvets. McCabe have contracted their hotels on the basis a good number of rooms with properly separated twin beds are available, and these will be allocated as a priority to guests requesting room shares.

For the two nights In Oberammergau occasionally the traditional style beds may be allocated. We can, however, be creative in solving this problem by adding a sofa bed, for instance.

The Passion Play Experience

The Theatre
The Passion Play theatre is large, but intimate in nature. In response to feedback from 2010, the capacity has been reduced to 4,400 seats to allow guests more space. The play is performed in all weather conditions with the audience under cover, viewing the open-air stage and natural mountain back drop (though there is now a retractable stage roof)

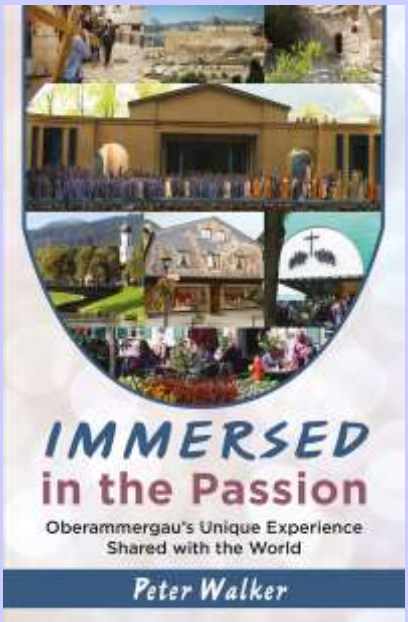
The play will be performed five times weekly from May through September. The five hour performance begins at 2.30pm concluding around 10.30pm with a three hour break when dinner is provided in our assigned restaurant.

Part One:
2:30pm – 5:00pm

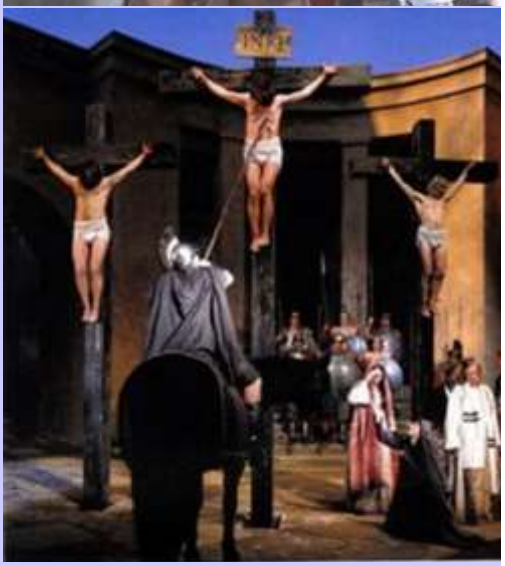
Part Two:
8:00pm – 10:30pm

From a dramatic point of view, the first half is in daylight, enhancing such spectacular scenes as the Palm Sunday procession when over 2,000 villagers are on stage at one time. The second half is quite different as the stage lighting and special effects make a stunning impact. You will feel part of something truly special as the open-air stage is transformed into the Garden of Gethsemane with the disciples huddled around open fires.

Guide Book
Dr Peter Walker, a regular McCabe leader, has written a guide especially for Oberammergau 2022 and all McCabe travellers will receive a complimentary copy.



More about our holiday



Travel Insurance
Our recommended policy includes COVID cover and is £70 per person aged up to 75 years at the time of booking and £129 per person aged 76-90. Premiums are payable with your deposit. A special feature of this policy is that you do not need to declare medical conditions. You are welcome to shop around or use an annual policy when you can purchase this. We expect all travellers to be fully insured once we are within 12 months of travel and after this point, your insurance will provide cover for cancellation fees. Visit our website for more information www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/travel-insurance

Holiday Price
This price featured in this brochure was calculated in November 2020. We have agreed prices with some of our partners but there is a lot of uncertainty about flight costs, our future trading relationship with Europe and currency exchange rates. The holiday price is based on an exchange rate of £1 = 1.15 Euros. If these factors change significantly, it could affect the price of your holiday. The key areas that would trigger a price change are the value of the Pound; a sharp rise in the cost of oil; inflation in Austria leading to higher charges; any new travel taxes. McCabe will absorb the first 2% of any increase, and in the very unlikely event that the price increases by more than 10%, you have the right to cancel and receive a full and prompt refund. Full booking conditions can be found on our website at www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/booking-conditions

Covid Safety
For personal safety and the peace of mind of everyone in the group we expect everyone to wear face masks when inside buildings, on planes and coaches and observe social distancing when outside and when requested.

The McCabe Educational Trust (MET)
MET is the heart and soul of McCabe Pilgrimages. With the support of so many travellers, we are now approaching a significant milestone giving £4 million in grant aid to needy people we have met on our travels. We invite all travellers to become partners in this work. A £15 voluntary donation to the Trust's work is added to each pilgrim's invoice and all money raised in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate. For more details visit www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/mccabe-educational-trust

AITO Quality Statement
McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on www.aito.co.uk. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

All monies paid to McCabe are financially protected. For holidays including air travel an ATOL certificate will be issued. Holidays without flights are protected by an ABTOT bond.

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