

# THE BEST OF AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND PLUS OBERAMMERGAU

16 days



**Day 1 (Sat.)** Board your overnight transatlantic flight.

**Day 2 Arrival in Vienna, Austria.** (Sun.) Time to rest or to start exploring the Viennese capital. At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a very special welcome dinner at your hotel. (D)

**Day 3 Vienna.** (Mon.) Meet your Local Guide and start your sightseeing, then, drive along Ring Boulevard, pass the State Opera House, the Jewish quarter, and stop at the Hofburg Palace, winter residence of the Austrian Imperial family. Marvel at the impressive courtyards and famous Heldenplatz, and visit awesome ST. STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL. Afternoon at leisure.

Optional excursions to Schönbrunn Palace and the wine village of Grinzing are available. (B)

**Day 4 At Leisure in Vienna.** (Tue.) Explore Vienna independently. Consider a visit to Hofburg Palace or a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts with works by Jan Van Eyck, Rubens, Rembrandt, Raphael, and more. Later, you may want to join an optional excursion to Bratislava, capital of Slovakia. (B)

**Day 5 Vienna-Melk-Salzburg.** (Wed.) Drive to Krems and enjoy a DANUBE CRUISE. Then, follow the Danube Valley to historic Melk for pictures of the Melk Abbey. No landscape is more typically Austrian than the Salzkammergut lakeland. Stop for a picture of the Parish Church in Mondsee, used for the wedding scenes in *The Sound of Music*, then, continue to Salzburg. (BB,D)

**Day 6 Salzburg.** (Thu.) Stroll with a Local Guide through the historic center. Admire exquisite MIRABELL GARDENS, the Great Festival Hall, ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD, monumental Domplatz, and Mozart's birthplace in the charming Getreidegasse. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

**Day 7 Salzburg-St. Moritz, Switzerland.** (Fri.) Enter the Swiss Engadine, the most beautiful mountain area in the world with its deep-blue lakes, airy larch forests, mountain peaks, and quaint Grisons style villages. The rest of the day is at leisure in ritzy St. Moritz. (B,D)

**Day 8 St. Moritz-Chur-Zermatt.** (Sat.) Drive through exhilarating Alpine scenery. At Chur, board the panoramic coach of the world-renowned GLACIER EXPRESS TRAIN. Admire thundering waterfalls, impressive peaks, glacial ice fields, and tiny villages as you pass through the Valais, a region known for its great mountain resorts and excellent wines. This afternoon you are in Zermatt, a picturesque cluster of rustic chalets beneath the majestic Matterhorn. (B,L,D)

**Day 9 At Leisure in Zermatt.** (Sun.) An entire day at leisure. Perhaps ride Europe's highest rack-railway to 10,272-foot Gornergrat for a breathtaking panoramic view of the Alps. (B)

**Day 10 Zermatt-Berne.** (Mon.) Board the MOUNTAIN TRAIN to Täsch and motor through the lower Rhône Valley to the shores of Lake Geneva. Visit CHILLON CASTLE, the 12th-century water fortress immortalized by the poet Lord Byron. Evening arrival in Berne. (B,D)

**Day 11 Berne-Interlaken-Lucerne.** (Tue.) Sightseeing with a Local Guide starts at the popular BEAR PIT and then focuses on the monumental Federal Palace and the beautiful medieval Old Town. Witness the hourly parade of painted figures at the Clock Tower and take your pictures of ornate, flower-adorned fountains. Enjoy a lunch break in Interlaken, situated beneath the towering Jungfrau. Take Brünig Pass to picture-book Lucerne. You may wish to sign up for a folklore party with yodeling and alphorn blowing. (B)

**Day 12 Lucerne.** (Wed.) On your walking tour this morning, admire Thorwaldsen's LION MONUMENT, the ornate patrician houses of the walled Old Town, then cross the famous covered CHAPEL BRIDGE to the Jesuit church. Afterwards, shop for watches and choose from our optional activities: climb a mountain by cable car or take a cruise on the fjord-like lake. (B,D)

**Day 13 Lucerne-Liechtenstein-Innsbruck, Austria.** (Thu.) Stop in the Principality of Liechtenstein and continue to Innsbruck in the Austrian Tyrol. Walk through its quaint little lanes and take pictures of Emperor's Maximilian's GOLDEN ROOF. (B,D)

**Day 14 Innsbruck-Oberammergau.** (Fri.) Into the Bavarian Alps to picturesque Oberammergau for the highlight of your vacation: the original PASSION PLAY, held every ten years, and performed by the residents of Oberammergau. (B,L,D)

**Day 15 Oberammergau-Munich.** (Sat.) Time to explore the town or to visit one of King Ludwig's castles before you leave for Munich, where an orientation drive features its main landmarks: the Olympic Park, the 1,000-foot-high Television Tower, and the Nymphenburg Palace. Tonight, you may wish to join an optional outing to visit Marienplatz and to have a stein of beer in the Hofbräuhaus. (B)

**Day 16 (Sun.)** Your homebound flight arrives the same day. (B)

**TOUR ZCO - Prices from \$3,999 US, per person, twin occupancy**

*Dates, prices, itinerary, and terms and conditions will be advised at time of reservation and are subject to change.*