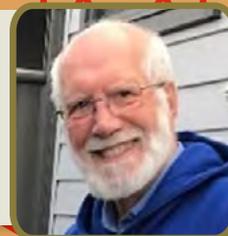


Pilgrimage to Italy & the Oberammergau Passion-Play

11th – 27th September 2022 Escorted by Bishop Ian Palmer



Thank you for your interest in this pilgrimage to include Rome, Assisi and the Oberammergau Passion Play. Twelve years ago I led a similar pilgrimage and it was a wonderful time: seeing the treasures of Rome, journeying through Tuscany in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi, revelling in the splendour of Renaissance Florence, being wooed by the romance of Venice, listening to the music of Salzburg and being captivated by the sheer size and drama of the Passion Play. The Oberammergau Passion Play takes place only once a decade (postponed from 2020 due to the corona-pandemic) and each time the insight of the Passion of our Lord is reworked to engage with contemporary matters. So this is a unique opportunity to journey with us on this pilgrimage. We will enjoy travelling together with friendship and laughter. We will experience excellent commentaries on the places we visit. There will be time for unhurried relaxation and reflection. There is the joy of seeing treasures in art and history. This is more than a tour, for on a pilgrimage the people we meet and the places we visit become life-giving. I look forward to welcoming you on this journey. Travel with hope and joy.

Ian

DAY 1: SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart from Sydney today on your flight bound for Rome.

DAY 2: MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER ROME ARRIVAL

Arrival in Rome, transfer to your hotel and if time delivery into Rome centre for free time to look around, back to hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 3: TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER ROME FULL DAY TOUR

After breakfast, meet your local guide and start your full day guided tour. Start your sightseeing in Rome by exploring the Vatican Museums from inside and the treasures of the Popes. Admire Michelangelo's famous ceiling inside the Sistine Chapel. Visit St Peter's Basilica, where Peter - the apostle who is considered the first Bishop of Rome - was crucified and buried. Visit the heart of Ancient Rome, the Colosseum. Explore this scene of many gladiatorial contests. Admire the spectacular Roman Forum, between the Palatine hill and the Capitoline hill. It was the centre of political, commercial and judicial life in ancient Rome. See the Roman empire come back to life at this site. Note especially the great arch dedicated to Constantine the first Christian Emperor, and the triumphal arch of Titus celebrating (from a Roman viewpoint) the overthrow of Jerusalem. The remains of many other buildings from different periods are visible. Proceed to the Baroque fountain Di Trevi, one of the most famous fountains in the world. Throw a coin in it, to be ensured a return to Rome. Have a break in Piazza Navona, one of the world's most famous squares. Continue to the Pantheon, the temple to all Gods in Ancient Rome and later a church. Get to the Spanish steps, the most majestic urban monuments of Roman Baroque style in Rome. Back to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER ROME FULL DAY TOUR CHRISTIAN ROME

After breakfast meet your local guide and start your full day tour of Christian Rome. Your tour will include a visit to the three of the most suggestive Papal Basilicas of Rome: Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, the Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano and the Basilica of San Paolo fuori le Mura. In the afternoon, you will visit San Calisto Catacombs. Follow your guide through the underground tunnels, learning about the burial process during this period of history. Back to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5: THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER ROME - ASSISI (3H30MIN/ 175KM)

After breakfast, transfer to Assisi. After arrival you will enjoy some free time. Go to hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 6: FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER ASSISI HALF DAY TOUR + AFTERNOON VISIT

After breakfast, meet your local guide and start your full day guided tour of Assisi, a World Heritage-listed town famed for being the birthplace of St Francis of Assisi, a patron saint of Italy and one of the most legendary figures in religious history. Take a walking tour of town to see sites related to St Francis' life, including the stall where he is thought to have been born, his former home and the place where he vowed to dedicate his life to the church (1181-1226). You'll also learn about Assisi's other hometown saint, St Clare, one of St Francis' followers. Visit both the Basilica di Santa Chiara, named for her, and the Basilica di San Francesco, dedicated to St Francis, plus see other Assisi sights like Piazza del Comune, Palazzo del Capitano

del Popolo, the town hall and the Roman Temple of Minerva. In the afternoon you will visit San Damiano, by minivans. Back to the hotel in Assisi for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7: SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER ASSISI - SIENA HALF DAY TOUR (2H30MIN/ 127KM) - FLORENCE

After breakfast, transfer to Siena. After arrival in Siena, enjoy a 5hrs guided tour. You will be guided along the main street of the town, a street that in the Middle Ages belonged to a famous pilgrimage route called Via Francigena. Today, it is along this street where you can see the headquarters of one of the oldest banks in the world, the 'Monte dei Paschi di Siena', founded in 1472. Afterwards you will visit the main square of the town, the Piazza del Campo, a beautiful sea shell shaped plaza where the famous Palio horse race is held every year on July 2nd and August 16th. You will also enjoy a tour of Museo Civico, located in the building of Palazzo Pubblico. At the end of the tour you will have the opportunity to admire the impressive facade of the Cathedral dedicated to the Virgin Mary, covered with colourful local marbles, where works of art by renowned artists like Michelangelo, Donatello, and Bernini are kept. Continue to Florence for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8: SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER FLORENCE

After breakfast, meet your local guide of a 2hrs guided tour of Uffizi Gallery. The Uffizi comprises work from Ancient Greece to the 18th century, but its true gems hail from the Renaissance era. The 45 rooms are arranged chronologically, so you can begin exploring through the early Renaissance first, pausing to admire work from Giotto and Fra Angelico, before heading to the masterpieces of the High Renaissance. See Botticelli's Birth of Venus, Michelangelo's Doni Tondo and da Vinci's famed Annunciation. Pass by Titian's Venetian paintings and head upstairs to check out Caravaggio. After the tour ends, you will enjoy some free time to explore the museum and Florence on your own. Dinner and overnight back in the hotel in Florence.

DAY 9: MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER FLORENCE HALF DAY TOUR - VENICE (MESTRE)

After breakfast, meet your local guide for a half day guided tour in Florence. Start your tour with a visit of Piazzale Michelangelo, a pretty square that offers magnificent panoramas of the city. Continue on to Florence Old Town. Follow your guide along the windy pathways, then come to a stop in Piazza del Duomo. Be awed as you take in the glory of the Duomo (Cathedral of Santa Maria dei Fiori). Marvel at the intricacy of the pink, white and green marble that covers the exterior, then gaze up at the striking cupola. You'll also see Giotto's bell tower (Campanile di Giotto), and the bronze baptistery doors by Ghiberti. In the afternoon transfer to Venice (Mestre) go to hotel dinner and overnight.

DAY 10: TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER VENICE 4HRS GUIDED TOUR

After breakfast, transfer to Tronchetto, from where you will take your private boat to St. Mark Square. After arriving at the square meet your local guide and enjoy a 4hrs guided tour. Wander through the surrounding neighborhood as your guide illuminates the history of Venice as a maritime superpower and incubator of Renaissance art. Admire iconic Venetian landmarks such as the Teatro la Fenice opera house, the magnificent Doge's Palace, the Rialto Bridge and the mysterious spiral staircase of



Scala del Bovolo. You will enjoy also a tour inside the St. Mark's Basilica. After your tour finishes you will have free time in Venice. In the late afternoon take your private boat from St. Mark square to Tronchetto. Dinner and overnight back in the hotel in Venice (Mestre).

DAY 11: WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER VENICE - BOLZANO (3H30MIN/ 270KM)

After breakfast, transfer to Bolzano. After arrival in Bolzano enjoy a 3hrs guided tour. The guided tour starts in Walther Square. The Piazza Walther was completed in 1808 by order of King Massimiliano di Baviera, and initially named after him. In 1901, it was dedicated to Walther von der Vogelweide (1170-1230), one of the great German poets and storytellers of the Middle Ages. In the same square you will admire the Cathedral of Bolzano, a late Medieval and a Romanesque Basilica (1180). After one century the site has opened to a new imposing construction, completed around 1420. The bell tower, with an open fretwork spire in sandstone, which stands 65m tall, was built by the Suevian architect, Hans Lutz von Schusseried, between 1501 and 1519. The tour will continue to Vicolo della Pesa, one of the oldest places in Bolzano once hosting the castle of the Prince-Bishops of Trento (destroyed in 1277 by Mainardo II di Tyrolo) and the church of Sant'Andrea (destroyed in 1785). One of the most picturesque buildings of the city is situated to the North of this square: la casa della Pesa (1634), a public weigh-house until 1780. See Via and piazza della Mostra with the prestigious palaces of Campofranco and the Portici (Arcades): once the heart of the Medieval village, they have kept their characteristics to date with their seamless continuity of shops, some typical and traditional, others chic and modern. You will also see Piazza del Municipio (Town Hall Square), via Bottai (Coopers street), via Joseph Streiter, Franciscan Church, via Argentieri and Piazza delle Erbe to continue to the Dominican church. The Dominican friars settled in Bolzano in 1272 and had their church built with one nave only inside a large convent comprising different chapels, some of them destroyed, and a magnificent cloister. The jewel of the entire complex is cappella di San Giovanni, a long and narrow side chapel with the most magnificent fresco cycle of the Giotto School in the province. Once visited the center, we will go to meet Ötzi the Iceman: a mummy from the Copper Age, 5300 years old. The permanent exhibition at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology is dedicated entirely to Ötzi, the Iceman. It is housed on three floors of the Museum and displays everything of interest about the world's most famous glacier mummy. The exhibition covers the circumstances surrounding Ötzi's accidental discovery on 19 September 1991, the international media response, the original finds themselves (the mummy together with his clothing and equipment), daily life in the Copper Age and multidisciplinary research carried out on the find of the century. A highlight of the exhibition is the life-like reconstruction of the Iceman, which vividly portrays how the Iceman may have looked during his lifetime. Dinner and overnight in the hotel in Bolzano.

DAY 12: THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER BOLZANO - INNSBRUCK (2H30MIN/ 125KM) INNSBRUCK - SALZBURG (3H30MIN/ 165KM)

After breakfast, transfer to Innsbruck. Arrival in Innsbruck and enjoy a 2hrs guided tour. Together with the tour guide you will start your walking tour in the pedestrian zone of Innsbruck where you will take a photo-stop at the "Golden roof" building – the emblem of the old town, which was Completed in 1500, the roof was decorated with 2,738 fire-gilded copper tiles.

Close by you will find the biggest and first Swarovski crystal shop because the Swarovski family originates from Innsbruck. Continuing we will see Innsbruck cathedral also the Imperial Palace of Innsbruck which is a great picture stop. After the tour, proceed to Salzburg. Go to hotel, dinner and overnight in Salzburg.

DAY 13: FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER SALZBURG HALF DAY TOUR

After breakfast, enjoy a half day guided tour in Salzburg. Begin your city tour in Salzburg's central Mirabell Square. Travel toward Mozart's Birthplace, where the renowned composer lived with his parents and sister until his teenage years. Continue over the Staatsbrücke, the main bridge of Salzburg's city center, into the UNESCO-listed Old Town. Marvel at the imposing facade of the Salzburg Cathedral and the district's Baroque architectural gems. Continue past the Nonnberg Abbey and see the impressive Castle Leopoldskron, featured in The Sound of Music. After learning about the history of the palace from your guide, head back to Mirabell Square. In the evening you will enjoy a classical concert in Mirabell Palace. Hotel and overnight in Salzburg.

DAY 14: SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER SALZBURG - OBERAMMERGAU - THE PERFORMANCE (3H30MIN/ 185KM)

After breakfast, transfer to Oberammergau. In the afternoon and evening you will enjoy the performance of the famous Passion Play. The stay in Oberammergau is part of the package for the Passion Play.

DAY 15: SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER OBERAMMERGAU - NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE (1H/ 45MIN) NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE - MUNICH (2H30MIN/110KM)

After breakfast, a day guided tour to the fabulous Castles of King Ludwig II: Linderhof, Hohenschwangau, and Neuschwanstein; travelling on to Munich via a visit to the World Heritage site of the Church at Wies. Arrive in Munich to hotel and your concluding dinner together.

DAY 16: MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER MUNICH HALF DAY TOUR AND AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO SYDNEY/UK

After breakfast, enjoy a half day guided tour in Munich. You'll cross Königsplatz, and pass the renowned art galleries Lenbachhaus, Old and New Pinakothek. You will see the former artists' quarter Schwabing and travel along the impressive Ludwig and Prinzregentenstreet, which are lined by magnificent buildings such as the Theatiner Church, Hall of Generals (Feldherrnhalle), House of Arts, Bavarian National Museum, and the Angel of Peace. In the afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight back home to Sydney or on-flight to UK.

DAY 17: TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER RETURN TO AUSTRALIA

(Arrival in Australia might be early morning Wednesday 28th September) Arrive in Sydney today with wonderful memories of your trip!

** Itinerary subject to change **

TOTAL ESTIMATED PACKAGE PRICES (per person twin share):

AUD \$8,990*
per person

*Price is based on minimum of 13 paying participants. Subject to change. Conditions apply.

Optional Single Room Supplement: **AUD\$ 1,595**



PROPOSED HOTELS (or similar):

12-15 Sept	Rome	Hotel Holiday Inn Rome Eur Parco dei Medici
15-17 Sept	Assisi	Hotel Cristallo
17-19 Sept	Florence	Nilhotel
19-21 Sept	Mestre	BW Air Venice
21-22 Sept	Bolzano	Hotel Premastaller
22-24 Sept	Salzburg	Dorint or Holiday Inn
24-25 Sept	Oberammergau	
25-26 Sept	Munich	Leonardo Olimpia Park

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy class airfares from Sydney/Melbourne to Rome & Munich to Sydney/Melbourne with Emirates Airlines (or similar quality airline)
- All airport & departure taxes and fuel surcharges (subject to change)
- 17 nights' hotel accommodation
- Daily Breakfasts and dinners in the hotels.
- Full day guided tours in Rome (04.05, 05.05)
- Full day guided excursion to San Gimignano
- 5hrs guided tours in Siena and Munich
- Half day guided tours in Assisi, Florence, Venice
- 3hrs guided tours in Bolzano
- 2hrs guided tours in Florence (10.05) and Innsbruck
- Wine Tasting during the San Gimignano excursion
- Classical concert in Mirabell palace
- Airport assistance on arrival
- Oberammergau 1 Night Package includes tickets, dinner on the day of the performance, holiday tax, textbook and bus service to and from the show.
- Transportation throughout in a luxury air-conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to all sights as mentioned in the itinerary
- Tips, gratuities & portage throughout

ENTRANCE FEES INCLUDED:

- Vatican Museums
- Colosseum and Roman forum
- San Calisto catacombs
- Basilica di San Francesco
- Museo Civico
- Uffizi Gallery
- St. Mark Basilica
- South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology
- Mozart birthplace
- Alte Pinakothek
- New Pinakothek
- Bavarian National Museum

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Beverages with meals
- Lunches
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Bishop Ian or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$1000 per person is required by 7th March 2022
3. Subsequent deposits will be required (will advise with notice)
4. Full payment is required by 15 July 2022.



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Travel

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