

## ALPINE WONDERLAND & OKTOBERFEST

### Innsbruck with daily excursions



*View of Innsbruck from Nordkette mountain*



*famed Oktoberfest in Munich*



*fairytale Neuschwanstein castle*

#### PROGRAM:

##### **Arrive Munich – Innsbruck:**

Upon arrival in Munich, we will meet our Tour Escort who will help us to board our private motor-coach. Sit back, relax and take in the scenery on your drive to Innsbruck, Austria. Upon arrival enjoy some free time to discover this wonderful city and perhaps have lunch on your own at one of the many outdoor cafes to enjoy some local cuisine. Later check into your centrally located 4\* hotel which will be the base for the next seven nights.

Tonight join your fellow travelers for a Traditional "Welcome Dinner" at the hotel. (D)

##### **Neuschwanstein Castle & Oberammergau:**

After a delicious breakfast we drive through the heart of Bavaria to Neuschwanstein, Germany's most famous and fairytale castle. Located on a rugged hill above the village of Hohenschwangau near Füssen in southwest Bavaria, it makes for spectacular "post card" picture opportunities. This magnificent castle is probably the best known of King Ludwig's many monumental achievements and we will be hosted on a guided tour of the interior. Afterwards, we drive to nearby village of Oberammergau – famous for its Passion Play – which involves more than 2,000 local performers. The Oberammergau Passion Play was first performed in 1634 and is the result of a vow made by the inhabitants of the village that if God spared them from the effects of the bubonic plague then sweeping the region they would perform a passion play every ten years since then.

Dinner at hotel. (B, D)

##### **Innsbruck City Tour & Wattens Crystal Worlds:**

Breakfast. Afterwards, we set off to discover the old town of Innsbruck, including all of the major sights such as the famous Golden Roof or the Bergisel Stadium (site of the Olympic ski jump). Innsbruck's beautiful old town center has historic buildings dating back more than 800 years. The city, besides being known for hosting the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics, is extremely scenic, situated in the Inn Valley between two dramatic mountain chains.

In the afternoon we drive to Wattens, just a short ride from Innsbruck, where we are going to visit the famous Swarovski Crystal Worlds. Since its opening back in 1995, Swarovski Crystal Worlds in Wattens tops the list of Austria's most-visited attractions. The dazzling crystalline world was created by Austrian artist André Heller to mark the 100th anniversary of Swarovski Company. A giant's head, spewing water into a pond greets you at this fantastical playground, which is set in its own spacious grounds, an amazing wonderland of gardens. Arrive back in Innsbruck late afternoon with free time to explore on your own.

Dinner at hotel. (B, D)

##### **This is Oktoberfest:**

Today we will visit the famed "Oktoberfest" in Munich. Enjoy yourself with hundreds of other people singing, dancing and having fun at the world greatest folk festival: the Oktoberfest. There will be time to sample the great pretzels, the foaming festival beer, the spit-roasted chicken, beef, and all the other delicious foods available at this, the "world's biggest celebration!" You will have a reservation for lunch at one of the many tents and enjoy "Gemütlichkeit", that Bavarian blend of fun, relaxation, and good cheer! Listen to live brass bands playing traditional Bavarian music and enjoy yourself with hundreds of other people from all over the world, dancing and singing the hours away. Return to Innsbruck in the evening. Overnight. (B, L)

#### **Dolomite Mountains:**

Our journey today takes us south over Europe's highest road-bridge, across the Brenner Pass and into Italy to the magnificent Dolomite Mountains. Our journey today takes us to the magnificent Dolomite Mountains. A panoramic scenic drive through the chic resort of Cortina, Val Gardena, and the quaint village of Ortisei, with photo stops alongside spectacular alpine meadows, pristine valleys, and sparkling-clear lakes. Lunch is included at a local restaurant in Val Gardena.

Time permitting, a stop in Brixen makes the ideal spot for coffee and cake to round-out our day before returning to Innsbruck. (B, L)

#### **Salzburg, Austria:**

Today we drive to Salzburg, home of Mozart and "The Sound of Music". A UNESCO World Heritage Site and surrounded by scenic Alpine mountains, Salzburg has some renowned baroque architecture and one of the best-preserved city centers.

Salzburg is storybook Austria. Standing beside the fast-flowing Salzach River, your gaze is raised inch by inch to the Altstadt's mosaic of graceful domes and spires, the formidable cliff-top fortress and the mountains beyond. It's a view that never palls. You will set off on a guided walking tour, during which we will learn about the city's most important sights. Afterwards, there will be some free time for shopping in Getreidegasse. Return to Innsbruck. Tonight, enjoy another dinner at our hotel. (B, D)

#### **Eagle's Nest & Lake Königssee:**

Today, we cross back over into Germany to Berchtesgaden. Framed by six formidable mountain ranges, the Berchtesgadener Land is a drop-dead-gorgeous corner of Bavaria steeped in myths and legends. Local lore has it that angels given the task of distributing the earth's wonders were startled by God's order to get a move on and dropped them all here. These most definitely included the Watzmann, Germany's second-highest mountain, and the pristine Königssee, perhaps Germany's most photogenic body of water.

Much of the area is protected within the Berchtesgaden National Park, which was declared a 'biosphere reserve' by Unesco in 1990. Visit Hitler's mountain retreat "Eagle's Nest", a lodge built for Hitler and now a major tourist destination, and Dokumentation Obersalzberg, a museum that chronicles the region's sinister Nazi past. Afterwards, enjoy a relaxing boat cruise on Lake Königssee, the deepest and cleanest lake in Germany, including a lunch at Gaststätte St. Bartholomä. Return to Innsbruck. Overnight. (B, L)

#### **Innsbruck day - Top of Innsbruck and Tyrolean evening dinner:**

After breakfast we take the Nordkettenbahnen (funicular/cable car) from Innsbruck city center to the TOP of Innsbruck.

The Innsbruck cable car trip takes us from the city centre to the Hafelekar - the top of the Nordkette mountain.

The cable car ride is broken up into 3 stages: The Hungerburg funicular departs from Congress station in to the stage 1 up to Hungerburg. We disembark at Hungerburg to stage 2 and change to the Seegrube cable car.

The Seegrube, at an altitude of 1,905 m invites us to relax, unwind and take in nature at its very best. The Seegrube restaurant offers traditional, homemade dishes in a historical ambience. Enjoy typical austrian and regional food beside by breathtaking mountain views. Then, we continue to stage 3 and take the Hafelekar cable car to Top of Innsbruck. Once we have reached the Hafelekar mountain station, we have the opportunity to walk up to the Hafelekarspitze (2334 m) which is a 15 minutes walk.

The breathtaking 360° view leaves a lasting impression. Thanks to a direct connection from the city, we can enjoy this unique experience within a morning (about 3 hrs totally). The afternoon is up to you and free for own activities.

Tonight, we enjoy a fun-filled Tyrolean evening with the Gundolf family at the new Alpensaal and der Messe.

Enjoy typical Austrian cuisine and let the Gundolf Family entertain you with an amazing folk show. Overnight in Innsbruck. (B, D)

#### **Time to bid farewell:**

Time to say "Auf Wiedersehen" to Austria & Germany and transfer to Munich Airport for flight back home. (B)

**INCLUDED SERVICES:**

- Deluxe motor-coach throughout as per itinerary including all necessary fees for parking, road tolls etc.
- Service of a Professional Tour escort (English-speaking) for all tours as mentioned in program above
- All necessary costs for tour escort and bus driver
- 8x nights' accommodation at Hotel in Innsbruck 4\*
- Daily International breakfast buffet at hotel
- 4x 3-course dinners at hotel
- Tyrolean evening in Innsbruck with the Gundolf family incl. a 3-course dinner, 1 beverage of choice and Tyrolean Folk show
- Oktoberfest reservation in one of the giant party tents incl a Voucher worth of ½ chicken and 2 tankards of beer
- 1x 2-course lunch at Gaststaette St. Bartholomae Konigsee
- 1x 2-course lunch at a local restaurant in Val Gardena (Dolomites Mountains)
- Tap water included with all dinners and lunches (expect Oktoberfest)
- Guided city tours with English-speaking local guides in Innsbruck and Salzburg
- Panoramic tour of Munich with your Tour guide
- Entrance fees and guided tours at:
  - Neuschwanstein castle incl. the Shuttle bus to the castle
  - Eagles Nest (Bus & elevator from Obersalzberg to Eagles Nest and return)
  - Boat ride at Lake Konigssee to St. Bartholomae and back
  - Oberammergau Passion play museum
  - Swarovski Crystal Worlds
- Nordkette funicular/cable-car ride from Innsbruck Congress station to the Top of Innsbruck (Hafelekar) and return
- All other visits according to the tour program above
- Porterage of luggage at Hotel Innsbruck in/out
- All Taxes and charges for ground services (VAT, local taxes etc.)