



Shrines
of Europe

10 day program

„The German-speaking Shrines of Europe“

The “Shrines of Europe” is a network of the most important Marian Shrines in Europe including Fátima (Portugal), Lourdes (France), Loreto (Italy), Czestochowa (Poland), Einsiedeln (Switzerland), Altötting (Germany) and Mariazell (Austria).

Take the opportunity to visit the three german-speaking Shrines in a 10-day-tour and combine your trip with a visit to the famous passion play village Oberammergau, the fairy-tale castles of the Bavarian King Ludwig II, the Mozart-city Salzburg and the Austrian Capital Vienna.

Suggestion for your itinerary:

1st day: Arrival per flight in Zurich; Transfer to Einsiedeln (approx: 40 minutes transfer time). Check in at the hotel and overnight in Einsiedeln.

2nd day: Explore Switzerland's most important Marian Shrine. At 8 a.m. you will celebrate a mass in the Basilica, at the Lady Chapel. Celebrating an individual mass is on request.

Afterwards you will discover the Monastery Church and Baroque Library during a guided tour.

Further Options - Guided Tours :

- Panorama, monumental panorama painting, «The Crucifixion of Christ»
- Diorama Bethlehem with 450 figures, Christmas crib
- Look behind the scene of the Show Cheese factory Milchmanufaktur
- Guides tour at the Ski-Jumping Hills
- Cruises on MS Angelika on Lake Sihl

Further Options - Individual:

- Gingerbread museum Goldapfel
- Visit the Show Cheese factory Milchmanufaktur
- Walk on Einsiedeln Way of Cross
- 4.30 p.m. Vesper and Salve Regina in the Basilica

Overnight in Einsiedeln

3rd day: After breakfast you will continue to the Bavarian village Oberammergau (transfer time approx. 4 hours), world-famous for the Passion Play (next Passion Plays in 2020). On the way you will stop at Neuschwanstein Castle or Linderhof castle, two of the beautiful castles built by the Bavarian Fairy Tale King Ludwig II. In the late afternoon you will visit the famous passion play theatre and learn more about the history of a village turning into actors every ten years.

Overnight in Oberammergau

4th day: After breakfast you will continue via the German Alpine Road with a beautiful view to the Bavarian Alps. On the way you have the possibility to stop at lake Chiemsee (approx. 2 hours from Oberammergau), take a boat to the Men's Island and visit the third of the "Fairy Tale Castles" built by Ludwig II. Continue to Altoetting (approx. 1,5 hours driving time). Overnight in Altoetting



Shrines
of Europe

5th day: Start the day in Altoetting, with a mass at the Chapel of Grace with the Black Madonna of Altoetting, the most important Marian Shrine in Germany. Afterwards your guide will take you on a guided tour and explain you more about the traditions of the more than 500 year old history of pilgrimages to Altoetting. In the afternoon, the museum "Jerusalem Panorama" a monumental round painting dating back to 1903 takes you back in time to the ancient Jerusalem and the Crucifixion of Christ. In the Treasury you can discover precious objects such as the Golden Horse or the bridal wreath of the Austrian Empress Sissi. Make sure to take enough time for a personal prayer at the Chapel of Grace and soaking up the atmosphere at the baroque Chapel Square, one of the most beautiful places in Germany. Overnight in Altoetting.

6th day: After breakfast you continue your journey to Salzburg. On the way you will have a photo-stopp (guided city tours and longer stops are of course possible) at the world's longest medieval fortress in Burghausen (just 20 minutes from Altoetting) and have a photo-stopp, as well as the famous "Silent-Night-Chapel" in Oberndorf close to Salzburg. In this tiny chapel the famous christmas song "Silent Night, Holy Night" was performed for the first time, before it spread around the globe. After 1,5 hours driving time from Altoetting you will reach Salzburg, the city of Mozart. Explore the inner city during a guided city tour. Overnight in Salzburg

7th day: After breakfast you will continue to Mariazell (3 hours driving time) the most important Marian Shrine in Austria. Upon arrival in Mariazell you wil celebrate an evening mass in the Basilica. Overnight in Mariazell.

8th day. Enjoy Mariazell. Discover the Austrian Pilgrimage city: A guided city tour gives you a first overview. Visit the gingerbread manufacture with their special honey gingerbread – a local product that Mariazell is world famous for. The treasury of the Basilica is also worth a visit. Alternatively you can enjoy the beautiful nature with hiking paths, lakes and mountains round Mariazell. Enjoy the great view from the mountain "Bürgeralpe" or a walk at the lake "Erlaufsee".

9th day: After breakfast you will continue to the Austrian Capital Vienna (2,5 hours driving time). Take a bus-tour through the Austrian Capital with a local guide and explore the world-famous city. Overnight in Vienna.

10th day: departure



Shrines
of Europe

Altötting, Germany – Heart of Bavaria – Shrine of Europe

For more than 1250 years, this town has been the spiritual centre of Bavaria and for more than 500 years the most significant place of pilgrimage in Germany in veneration of the Virgin Mary. More than 1 million pilgrims and visitors per year seek the "Black Madonna", a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary. Opposite the altar, the hearts of the Bavarian Dukes, Kings and Electors are stored in richly decorated silver urns as a special sign of the deep and loyal ties to the Bavarian national Shrine. Among them also the heart of the fairy tale king Ludwig II:



Today, Altoetting is a vibrating pilgrimage centre with festive church services, candlelight processions and around Pentecost the arrival of numerous pilgrimage groups on foot.

A visit to Altoetting should include a visit to the Jerusalem Panorama – a monumental cyclorama showing the Crucifixion of Christ as well as the Treasury and Pilgrimage museum which houses the bridal wreath of the famous Austrian Empress "Sissi" which she donated to the Madonna of Altoetting. The St. Mary's Association – "Exhibition of dioramas" shows 22 dioramas which are representing the history of pilgrimage in Altötting.

Contact:

Pilgrimage and Tourist Office
Ms. Ulrike Kirnich
Kapellplatz 2a, 84503 Altötting, Germany
0049 8671 506239
ulrike.kirnich@altoetting.de touristinfo@altoetting.de

Copyright picture: H. Heine/ Verkehrsbüro Altötting

Einsiedeln, Switzerland – Shrine of Europe Culture, nature and tradition

Einsiedeln is the most important pilgrimage destination in Switzerland, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The monastery of Einsiedeln is the most important baroque building in Switzerland. The abbey church, the Lady Chapel with the Black Madonna and the library are the destination of thousands upon thousands of people who flock to Einsiedeln every year.



The high valley of Einsiedeln located in the heart of Central Switzerland is characterised by moors and Lake Sihl, the biggest reservoir in Switzerland in terms of area. Alongside fascinating guided tours of the Abbey and village, a visit to the newly-opened Show Cheese factory, the gingerbread museum, the Panorama and Diorama, are important attractions.

Welcome to Einsiedeln.

Contact:

Pilgrimage and Tourist Office
Kapellplatz 2a
84503 Altötting

Phone +49 (0)8671/5062-19
Telefax +49 (0)8671/506254

touristinfo@altoetting.de
www.altoetting.de



Shrines
of Europe

Einsiedeln Tourismus
Susanne Staiger

Hauptstrasse 85
CH-8840 Einsiedeln
www.einsiedeln-tourismus.ch
Tel. +41 44 418 44 88
susanne.staiger@einsiedeln-tourismus.ch

Copyright picture: Caroline Hurschler

Mariazell, Austria – Shrine of Europe

The Basilica of Mariazell has two centers: the sacred Chapel of Grace and the high altar. The late Romanesque statue of the Virgin Mary carrying the child on her right arm is also called "Magna Mater Austriae" - "Magna Hungarorum Domina" - "Mater Gentium Slavorum". Next to the world famous Basilica many churches and sacred places invite to rest and to reflect.



Contact:

Tourism Mariazellerland

Hauptplatz 13

A - 8630 Mariazell

Tel: +43 3882 2366

Fax: +43 3882 3945

tourismus@mariazell-info.at

Copyright picture: mariazellerland-blog