

Revd Dr Tom Woolford

Zum Hirschen Hotel & Oberammergau 3 – 10 August 2022

Leaders: Revd Dr Tom Woolford (23)

Itinerary

Wednesday 3 August Outbound flight to Munich

Manchester: LH 2501 1050 / 1350

You will be met on arrival by Conny, our Imst representative and transfer together to the Zum Hirschen hotel. Arrival estimated at 1730 hours. Dinner each evening at 1900.

Thursday 4 Pitztal Valley excursion

0915 departure Our first stop entering the Pitztal valley, is the alpine village of Wenus where we see their renowned Christmas crib collection. We have **group worship** and enjoy an organ recital in the village church. We continue up through beautiful scenery to an elevation of 2,232 metres. Our destination is the glacial mountain lake of Riffelsee, to which we ascend by cable-car (cost included). At the top, there is a mountain restaurant, or a fifteen-minute easy walk will take you to a traditional mountain hut serving lunch and drinks. There are a variety of walks of different length around the lake. After about two hours, or longer if you prefer, return down the mountain. We will include as brief stop at the SOS village in Imst.

Tyrolean evening in the owner's farm Dinner is served in a barn setting with a show of traditional Tyrolean entertainment. The walk is ten minutes but the hotel provides a tractor and trailer to assist. If you choose not to participate, you can have dinner at the hotel.

Friday 5 Travel to Oberammergau

0900 departure. No need to check-out of rooms. Just travel with an overnight bag. We are providing a packed lunch before the performance. Early season performances begin at 1430 and finish at 2230 (but from 17 August, performances begin at 1330 finishing at 2130)

Saturday 6 Oberammergau village

A free day to explore Oberammergau and find lunch.

1400 we meet at the railway station for our journey back to the Tyrol. Arrival at your hotel in the early evening.

Sunday 7 A walk in the village

1000 start. Our representative will conduct a guided walk introducing us to the village. The rest of the day is free.

Monday 8 Innsbruck and Stams Abbey

0900 departure. We drive along Inn valley to the Tyrolean capital, Innsbruck, for a two-hour guided tour of this delightful city. We walk through the Imperial Gardens, and pass the State Theatre and Imperial Court Church. Entering the old town beside the court yard of the Imperial Palace, we have a guided tour of St. James Cathedral. We see the famous Golden Roof, and depending on the weather and fitness of the group, we may continue to the Inn Gate and Hotting, the oldest part of the city. Free time to shop and find lunch. This afternoon, a guided tour of Stams Abbey.

Tuesday 9 A free day with local options

Ideas for free time in Imst include taking the chairlift up the mountain for lunch; joining the toy train to visit Nassereith; discovering 20 historic fountains in the town; or for the more adventurous, a walk in the Rosengarten Canyon.

Wednesday 10 August Departure to Munich

To Manchester: LH 2502 1610 / 1715

1100 Departure to Munich airport with a planned check-in time of 1330. You will travel unescorted to the airport, but McCabe staff will meet you at Munich airport to assist with check-in.

Group Worship

On Thursday, we have planned a group service in the village of Wenns. A local organist will give a recital and we are preparing an order of service – not least because the organist wants to know the hymns! We plan to have worship booklets ready by Easter 2022 and will send you a copy. Nearer the time, we will help co-ordinate leadership of the service. Including the organ recital, we are planning for 45 minutes. Both of your parties will just have seen the play, so this is a good opportunity to reflect on the experience.

It will not be easy to join together for worship in Oberammergau but we will give you the programme of the two local churches during the season (with your final travel instructions) four weeks before you travel. For instance, it will be possible to visit the Lutheran church, beside the theatre, during the dinner break.

Overnight Oberammergau arrangement

FRIDAY PLAY DAY Travel to Oberammergau

0900 departure. No need to check-out of rooms. Just travel with an overnight bag. You will be met in Oberammergau by the McCabe Oberammergau team. Rooms may not be ready, but you will be able to drop your bag and know where you are staying.

Packed lunch We are providing a packed lunch before the performance as we think this is the best use of time. You can relax at your accommodation before the performance, or explore the village. Early season, the first half begins at 1430 and finishes at 1700 (but from 17 August the time moves forwards to 1330 – 1600).

Passion Play Performance

All McCabe guests have top grade tickets and groups will be seated together in the theatre – so you can meet at the same entrance. Performance tickets will be given to you at your Guest House along with a textbook. You will be required to write your name on the ticket and take ID to the theatre as identity checks will be made.

Dinner in the interval is at allocated restaurants, so you are likely to be split as a group, as some guest houses provide meals and others do not. You will have a map showing your accommodation and restaurant locations. The meal break is three hours so there is no rush. The second half begins at 2000 and finishes at 2230 (but from 17 August the time moves forwards to 1900 – 2130).

Restaurants and cafés tend to close early as so many villagers are involved in the play, but we will find out which tend to stay open later.

SATURDAY AFTER THE PLAY Oberammergau village

You will have to check-out of rooms at breakfast time, but you can leave your bag in the hallway and McCabe staff will collect and load the coach. Today is an opportunity to explore Oberammergau and find your own lunch. There is no performance today, so the village will be quiet and easy to find a place for lunch. 1400 We meet at the railway station for departure.

Zum Hirschen hotel in the village of Imst

Imst is the hub of the area with lots of shops and cafés, and in the summer the centre is pedestrianised at the weekend for a market. A major feature are spring water fountains, with a total of thirty-five in the town, around twenty of which are historic. SOS Kinderdorf, a community for orphans and children began here in 1951.

The Zum Hirschen Hotel is a McCabe favourite from the previous two Passion Play seasons. A larger hotel, with multiple dining areas and a winter garden bar area. The indoor pool is underground and good for laps and the outdoor natural pool is small in a quiet garden. Villagers frequent the coffee shop and outdoor terrace café. We have included the opportunity to attend a traditional Tyrolean evening (quite rare these days) and on other nights the hotel often has music in the dining room.

Free time suggestions for Imst

Fountains of Imst

If you look at a few pictures, it will quickly become clear that water is always present in and around Imst. Water has always played an important role here. There is very good reason that the village fountain was once an important meeting place in daily life. Imst occupies a special position here: not only that one fountain is more beautiful than the other, there are a total of 20 lovingly designed fountains in the town. Particularly noteworthy are the Upper Fountain Circle in the Upper Town (12 fountains) and the Lower Fountain Circle in the Lower Town (8 fountains).

Gurgltal Valley Train

Free with guest card. This toy train runs on wheels and takes about 50 passengers. Start at the hotel and a thirty-minute ride takes you to the village of Nassereith where there are nice walks, a lake, restaurants and a church to visit. We recommend a stay of a couple of hours and take the local bus back.

Hoch Imst chair lift

Free with Guest card. Two-person chairlift takes you in two stages to the summit at 2,000 metres. Eat at the UNTERMARKTER ALM at the mid-station, and from here it is an easy hour or so walk back down to the hotel. Also, from the mid-station it is an hour's walk to the LATSCHWENHUTTEN for a remote alpine lunch experience. There is no restaurant actually on the summit, but the more adventurous can hike to the MUTTEKOPFHUTTEN about an hour way.

Suggested day out: 0955 bus (free with guest card) from hotel to chair lift. Lunch on mountain. Chairlift down and bus back to hotel, or walk back in an hour or so from the middle station.

Chair lift seasons:

Lower chair lift has a longer season:

1 – 24 May	Thursday – Sunday only
28 May – 6 Sept	Daily
10 Sept – 7/10	Thursday - Sunday

Upper chair lift:

25/6 – 6 September	Daily
10 Sept – 7/10	Thursday – Sunday

Rosengarten Canyon

This is a challenging walk only for confident and fit walkers. The path is sometimes steep, uneven and slippery, so we advise against it if the weather is at all inclement. BUT the entrance is very close to the hotel so do go and have a look, walk a little way, then return.

With its weathered crags and pinnacles, Rosengartenschlucht Canyon is one of Austria's most spectacular natural sights. Rosengarten, literally Rose Garden, is a narrow chasm, incised into the rock by the cascading waters of Schinderbach Creek. The scenic, 2-kilometer long trail across the canyon is edged by Schinderbach Creek's frothing white torrents and takes you from Johannes Church in Imst up to the Blue Grotto at Hochimst via a series of wooden boardwalks and stone steps. It is a shaded and beautiful place rich in specialized plants, wildlife and geology that gives you a good sense of canyon scenery. On this walk you'll also experience tunnels carved through rocks, waterfalls and amazing views. The gorge is open and freely accessible anytime; it may become impassable in inclement weather (storm, hail, heavy rain). Allow 1 - 2 hours to reach Hoch-Imst, where you can get on a bus, or walk back.