



The town of Oberammergau in Germany is preparing to perform the Passion Play in 2010 to uphold their sacred vow made in 1633. Over 2000 villagers, or over half the population, will be involved in the five performances each week starting in mid-May and running until the beginning of October. This world-famous event will once again attract thousands of people eager to witness this remarkable cultural and religious spectacle.

Rostad Tours will be offering an intriguing assortment of tours that will include two nights in Oberammergau and tickets to the play. Most tours will be two weeks in length and will combine the Passion Play with other fascinating places such as Salzburg, Vienna, Prague, Venice, Florence, Rome and Switzerland. Some will even venture to Paris and Amsterdam in the west, or to Budapest and Warsaw in the east. There will also be several departures that include leisurely cruises of seven to fourteen days along scenic European rivers. We think you will find both the choices and value to be outstanding.

Right now we are waiting for confirmation of the number of tickets and dates from the official Passion Play office in Oberammergau. At the time of printing, no company has received confirmation of any tickets for the 2010 Passion Play. We will release information about our Passion Play tours to the public in May 2008, at which time you will be able to reserve your place at this historic event by making a deposit which will be fully refundable until August 31, 2009. Stay tuned!

Destination Downunder

This fall we are pleased to offer an extensive 31-day trip to the South Pacific, combining unique scenery with the most memorable adventures in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. It's designed for travelers who want an in-depth experience "Downunder" at a comfortable pace.

After three relaxing days in tropical Fiji, you fly to Brisbane to enjoy Queensland's capital before boarding the luxurious Sunlander train for a 32-hour journey along the coast to Cairns. One day in the Kuranda Rainforest and another on the Great Barrier Reef will highlight your stay in Cairns.

One memorable experience will certainly be discovering the amazing Australian outback, that vast isolated area that has profoundly shaped Australia's history and culture. Imagine viewing Uluru (aka Ayers Rock) at sunrise or enjoying an Outback BBQ under the brilliant stars of the Southern Hemisphere.

One of the world's great coastal drives, the Great Ocean Road will take you from the charming colonial city of Adelaide with its world famous Barossa Wine Valley to the cosmopolitan Melbourne. Whether it's lunch on a tram car or watching the fairy penguins parade across the sand to their bedtime burrows, your visit to Melbourne will be memorable.

No Australian trip would be complete without a visit to Sydney, one of the world's most beautiful cities. Your tour of Sydney will acquaint you with its must-see sights and famous beaches. You'll enjoy a harbour cruise - imagine viewing Sydney's famous Harbour Bridge and trademark Opera House from that perspective! One day will be entirely free - perhaps to shop in The Rocks, visit the Taronga Zoo, attend a performance at the Opera House, or climb the Harbour Bridge for that amazing view! The choice will be yours.

continued on page 2



Destination Downunder

(continued from page 1)

Then it's a quick flight to New Zealand for eight glorious days. Concentrating on the North Island, you will visit the geothermal and Maori cultural centre of Rotorua with its steaming geysers and bubbling mud pools. You'll discover the subtropical Bay of Islands on the northern tip where the waters of the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean crash together at Cape Reigna. You'll admire the sand along 90 Mile Beach, visit Waitangi where the nation was born, and wander the Kauri forests containing trees as old as 200 years and measuring up to 5 meters in diameter.

Why not join this memorable tour and discover the unequalled beauty, culture and peoples of the South Pacific?



Fuel Surcharges

One of our biggest headaches these days is the fuel surcharge being imposed by airlines. This is an arbitrary amount set by each individual airline and not subject to any type of government regulation. Depending on the airline and the number of flights, current surcharges are now ranging from \$60 to \$420, with the average around \$250 per ticket. We first started applying fuel surcharges in June 2004 and they have been growing ever since. We normally try to include most taxes and fees in our prices but because these surcharges are changing on a regular basis, we have been adding the current surcharge when we send the final invoice to our tour members. Furthermore, many times the surcharge increases between when we invoice our clients and when the airline ticket is actually written, so we have been forced to absorb any subsequent increases.

Of course we understand that the airlines' costs have increased due to the price of oil, however, the price per barrel has not been under \$50 since 2005 and we think it is time for airlines to increase their airfares to better reflect the new reality. Do you think companies that make

lemonade add a surcharge if the cost of lemons goes up? No, they simply increase the cost of their lemonade. Instead, airlines have kept their airfares fairly constant, sometimes even lowering them, but just increase their fuel surcharge to suit their fancy. They advertise low airfares and then surprise you with fees, taxes and surcharges.

We believe that the airfares quoted and advertised by airlines should include taxes and surcharges. This even applies to Airport Improvement Fees, something the airports thought up a few years ago as a "temporary measure" and have grown rather fond of increasing. Complaining to the airlines does not help, but perhaps we should all write our local MP. You have our blessing to complain to whom-ever will listen.

While writing this article, we received an email "Flash" from Air Canada announcing a domestic seat sale with discounts of up to 50%. In the same memo, they also announced an increase in the domestic fuel surcharge. *Who thinks up this stuff?*

Winter Forecast

No, we are not going to predict the weather for next winter (although we can pretty much guarantee snow). This is just to give you advance notice of the tours we are working on for next January through March. Of course we will have several tours to the Holy Land, as we are happy to report that this is once again one of our most popular destinations. We also plan to have tours to Costa Rica, South-East Asia (Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong), South America (Peru, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil) and Cuba. If you are interested in any of these destinations, please let us know and we will be sure to send you the first brochures that come off the printer.



Golf Tourism

Over the past few years, our Strider Golf Adventures division has been arranging tours that offer an intriguing combination of sightseeing and golfing. These tours are ideal for active people who want to enjoy playing their favourite sport while discovering new places, cultures and cuisines. Destinations have included Thailand, Italy, France, Portugal, South Africa, Australia and most recently, Chile and Argentina.

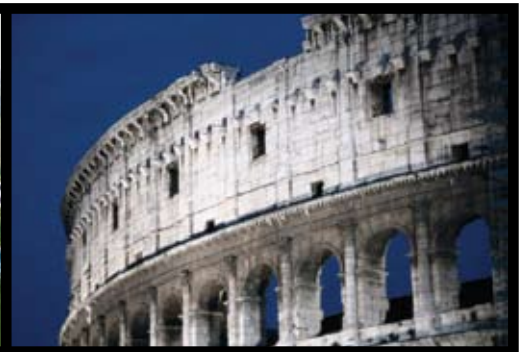
The response has been fantastic and we are pleased to offer two more exciting tours this fall. The first one departs in October

and goes back to Italy, but this time visits Rome, Naples and Sicily. You will play five rounds of golf and other highlights include Pompeii, Mount Etna, four wine-tastings, visiting seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites and being there during the fall harvest season.

The second tour is an encore performance of our wildly successful South African golf tour from 2006. This tour visits Cape Town, the Cape Winelands, the Garden Route, Kruger Park and Sun City. The sport is quite popular in South Africa and has generated some truly world-class

golfers such as Gary Player, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen and Rory Sabatini. Besides eight rounds of golf, highlights include wine-tasting, spectacular cultural shows, scrumptious African cuisine and of course the thrill of wild animal safaris in Kruger Park and Pilanesberg Game Reserve.

If you are not a golfer, we have tours to both of these destinations that would be less expensive and more appropriate. However, if golf is one of your passions, contact us for a brochure and experience a new approach to travel.



Hand Luggage

We are noticing a few people on our tours trying to take hand-luggage that resembles a small suitcase on wheels. While these may be practical for business travellers carrying heavy documents and laptops or those trying to avoid having checked baggage, they are a very poor choice to take with you on a tour for several reasons:

- 1) Because they can be pulled comfortably along flat surfaces (such as at an airport), people tend to fill them up to capacity. However, the wheels and other hardware make these bags fairly heavy, even when empty. Once you add your camera, reading material, travel documents and whatever else you need, they can be far too heavy to manage.
- 2) You must climb steps to get on and off motorcoaches which can be very difficult with a heavy and awkward "carry-on".
- 3) Motorcoaches also have very narrow aisles, meaning you have to carry it to your seat, hopefully without banging any heads along the way.
- 4) Motorcoaches have very small overhead bins compared to airplanes and they do not have under-seat storage.
- 5) If you are on a walking tour of a city or archaeological site, you may like to bring a few things with you such as extra camera batteries, a coat or an umbrella. This is much simpler to do if you have a nice small carry bag or back-pack. Suitcase wheels don't work well with steps and cobblestones.

Please leave this type of bag at home and bring something along which you can easily manage in any situation. You and your travelling companions will be glad you did.



Bible Lands Discovery

CAIRO • GIZA • MOUNT SINAI • AQABA
 WADI RUM • PETRA • MOUNT NEBO
 AMMAN • BETH SHEAN • GALILEE
 NAZARETH • MEGIDDO • CAESAREA
 JERUSALEM • BETHLEHEM
 MASADA • DEAD SEA

October 20 - November 6, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev Don & Chris Olsen
 Al Thompson

October 27 - November 13, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev Harry Steele
 & Barb Gregg

November 3 - 21, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Pastor Bill &
 Mary Ann Wiegert

November 3 - 21, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Jean Van Wyk &
 Tricia Bechthold

November 8 - 25, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev Bill & Lena Brown

November 8 - 25, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev David &
 Rev Alice Durksen

Land of the Pharaohs

CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA, LUXOR, KARNAK
 TEMPLE, ABU SIMBEL, ASWAN, KOM
 OMBO, EDFU, VALLEY OF THE KINGS AND
 QUEENS • FEATURING A SEVEN-NIGHT
 NILE RIVER CRUISE

October 16 - 31, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev Jim Thompson

**Wonders of Egypt -
 the Land of the Pharaohs**

CAIRO • ALEXANDRIA • LUXOR
 KARNAK TEMPLE • ABU SIMBEL • ASWAN
 KOM OMBO • EDFU
 VALLEY OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS

October 30 - November 14, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev Harold & Ella Martin

**Classical Greece
 and the Aegean**

ATHENS • ISTANBUL • MYKONOS
 PATMOS • EPHEBUS • RHODES • CRETE
 SANTORINI • MYCENAE • EPIDAUROS
 OLYMPIA • DELPHI • CORINTH
 FEATURING A SEVEN NIGHT CRUISE
 THROUGH THE AEGEAN

September 23 - October 7, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev Herbert Michael &
 Holly Mitchell

September 30 - October 14, 2008

Journeys of the Apostles

ISTANBUL • ANKARA • CAPPADOCIA
 KONYA • PAMUKKALE • PHILADELPHIA
 SARDIS • IZMIS • PERGAMUM • EPHEBUS
 THREE NIGHT CRUISE • PATMOS
 RHODES • CRETE • SANTORINI
 ATHENS • CORINTH • MYCENAE

October 1 - 20, 2008
 Tour Host: Rev Johan Olivier

**Turkey and the
 Early Christian Church**

ISTANBUL • ANKARA • CAPPADOCIA
 KONYA • ANTALYA • PAMUKKALE
 IZMIR • EPHEBUS • PERGAMUM
 TROY • GALLIPOLI

October 14 - 30, 2008

**Wonders of History, Marvels for
 Faith – Turkey & Israel**

ISTANBUL • DARDANELLES • TROY
 PERGAMUM • IZMIR • EPHEBUS
 PAMUKKALE • ANTALYA • CAESAREA
 AKKO • TIBERIAS • GALILEE
 CAPERNAUM • NAZARETH • JERICHO
 BETHLEHEM • JERUSALEM • DEAD SEA

October 15 - November 2, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev James & Liliias Statham

**Magical Mozart
 and Majestic Mountains**

HEIDELBERG • BLACK FOREST • LUCERNE
 LIECHTENSTEIN • OBERAMMERGAU
 LINDERHOF • INNSBRUCK • SALZBURG
 MELK • DANUBE RIVER • VIENNA
 TELC • PRAGUE • WURZBURG
 ASCHAFFENBURG • AMORBACH

September 9 - 24, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Rev Kristiane Charlton &
 Petra Richardson

Glorious Spain and Portugal

MADRID • AVILA • ESCORIAL
 TOLEDO • CORDOBA • GRANADA COSTA
 DEL SOL • GIBRALTAR • SEVILLE
 ALGARVE • LISBON • SINTRA

September 22 - October 8, 2008

Wonders of Italy

MILAN • LAKE DISTRICT • VERONA
 VENICE • PISA • MONTECATINI TERME
 SAN GIMIGNANO • SIENA • FLORENCE
 TIVOLI • SORRENTO • NAPLES • POMPEII
 CAPRI • AMALFI COAST
 ROME • VATICAN CITY

October 13 - 28, 2008

**From the Ancient Kingdom of
 Wales to Juno Beach**

CAERNARFON • SNOWDONIAN RAILWAY
 BRECON BEACONS • TINTERN ABBEY
 PLYMOUTH • GARDINER • DORCHESTER
 CAEN • JUNO BEACH • BENY-SUR-MER

September 15 - 29, 2008
 Tour Host: Gladys Ricker

Castles, Highlands and Lochs

STIRLING • EDINBURGH • ST. ANDREWS
 SCONE PALACE • INVERNESS • CULLODEN
 SPEYSIDE • LOCH NESS • ISLE OF SKYE
 MULL • IONA • HIGHLAND GAMES
 BURNS COUNTRY

July 23 - August 4, 2008
 Tour Host: Rev Dr Jim Cooper

Bonnie Scotland

EDINBURGH • ROSLYN CHAPEL
 ABBOTSFORD • NEW LANARK • BURNS
 COUNTRY • LINDESFARN • SPEY VALLEY
 INVERNESS • LOCH NESS • SKYE • OBAN
 IONA • TROSSACHS • STIRLING

September 10 - 22, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Dr Alex Lawson &
 Rev Deborah Rivet

A Scottish and English Mosaic

GLASGOW • STIRLING CASTLE
 EDINBURGH • AYR • YORKSHIRE
 COVENTRY • STRATFORD • COTSWOLDS
 OXFORD • WINDSOR • LONDON

September 16 - 30, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Dr Austin & Jean Fennell

Ireland's Charm & Heritage

DUBLIN • CAUSEY FARM • WATERFORD
 KERRY • DINGLE PENINSULA • CLIFFS
 OF MOHER • GALWAY • CONNEMARA
 DRUMCLIFF • BELLEEK • ENNISKILLEN
 DERRY • ANTRIM COAST
 BELFAST • BOYNE VALLEY

September 15 - 29, 2008

Destination Downunder

FIJI • BRISBANE • SUNLANDER TRAIN
 CAIRNS • GREAT BARRIER REEF
 AYERS ROCK • ALICE SPRINGS • ADELAIDE
 GREAT OCEAN ROAD • MELBOURNE
 SYDNEY • BLUE MOUNTAINS • AUCKLAND
 ROTORUA • LAKE TAUPU
 BAY OF ISLANDS • 90 MILE BEACH

October 23 - November 22, 2008
 Tour Hosts: Vic & Suzanne Cabel

Great Wonders of the South Pacific

RAROTONGA • AUCKLAND • ROTORUA
 CHRISTCHURCH • MOUNT COOK
 QUEENSTOWN • MILFORD SOUND
 SYDNEY • CAIRNS • GREAT BARRIER REEF
 KURANDA RAINFOREST

November 9 - 28, 2008

**St. Lawrence River
 Adventure**

KINGSTON • 1000 ISLANDS
 FORT WELLINGTON • UPPER CANADA
 VILLAGE • OLD MONTREAL • TROIS
 RIVIERES • QUEBEC CITY
 WHALE WATCHING CRUISE
 INCLUDES A 6-NIGHT ST. LAWRENCE
 CRUISE ON THE CANADIAN EMPRESS

September 21 - 30, 2008
 Tor Hosts: Dorothy & Art Longair

South Africa Adventure

CAPE TOWN • CAPE WINELANDS
 GARDEN ROUTE • FEATHERBED NATURE
 RESERVE • CANGO CAVES • ZULULAND
 LAKE ST. LUCIA • HLUHLUWE GAME
 RESERVE • SWAZILAND • KRUGER
 NATIONAL PARK • PRETORIA • SOWETO

October 30 - November 17, 2008

**Southern Italy's
 Golf and Gastronomy**

ROME • NAPLES • POMPEII • AMALFI
 COAST • FERRY TO SICILY • PALERMO
 CEFALU • VILLA ROMANA • AGRIGENTO
 SYRACUSE • CATANIA • TAORMINA

October 17 - November 1, 2008

**Golf, Wine and Wildlife
 of South Africa**

CAPE TOWN • TABLE MOUNTAIN • CAPE
 WINELANDS • CANGO CAVES • GARDEN
 ROUTE • KNYSNA • KRUGER PARK • BLYDE
 RIVER CANYON • BOURKE'S POTHOLE
 PRETORIA • SOWETO • WITH AN
 EXTENSION TO SUN CITY - THE WORLD'S
 MOST UNIQUE RESORT.

November 6 - 25, 2008

RIVER CRUISES

Glories of Imperial Russia

ST PETERSBURG • KIHZI ISLAND
 THE VOLGA-BALTIC WATERWAY
 GORITZY • YAROSLAVL • UGLICH
 MOSCOW • RED SQUARE • THE KREMLIN

September 24 - October 7, 2008

Treasures of France

PARIS • VERSAILLES • CHARTRES
 MONT ST. MICHEL • ST. MALO
 LOIRE VALLEY • BOURGES • BURGUNDY
 WINE REGION • LYON • VIENNE
 TOURNON • VIVIERS • ARLES • AVIGNON

October 10 - 26, 2008

Tour Hosts: Rev Karl &
 Rev Heidi Sievert

Imperial Jewels of China

BEIJING • THE GREAT WALL • XIAN
 CHONGQING • SHIBAOZHAI TEMPLE
 LESSER THREE GORGES
 THREE GORGES DAM • WUHAN
 SHANGHAI • FEATURING A DELUXE FIVE-
 NIGHT CRUISE ON THE YANGTZE

October 19 - 31, 2008

Tour Host: Rev Kurt Redschlag

Eastern European Odyssey

NUREMBERG • REGENSBURG • PASSAU
 LINZ • MELK • VIENNA • PRATISLAVA
 BUDAPEST • MILGRADE
 ROSSE • BUCHAREST

October 18 - November 3, 2008

Tour Hosts: Rev Bud & Beulah Penner



Ask your Tour Hosts about their next tour!

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