

RELIGIÖSCHE FESTE IM BAYERN

Passionsspiele (Passion Plays) / Oberammergau (held every 10 years since 1633, last held in 2020)

OBERAMMERGAU—A typically Bavarian town about a 1½-hour drive south of Munich, this scenic village is home to the Passion Play. In 1633, the town's residents promised that if the plague passed them by, they would perform a Passion Play yearly in remembrance. They were spared, but alas, promises were made to be broken, and now it's performed only once every ten years, in the first year of the new decade from May-September. The play is in German (an easy-to-follow English outline can be purchased) and lasts all day, breaking only for a long lunch. The whole town is involved, and though it's not quite up to professional standards, it should be seen if only because it has such a long tradition. The play, judged by modern standards, is controversial, as it contains anti-Semitic images. Arrangements to see the play should be made a year in advance. During the 1990 Passion Play season, there were several problems when wholesalers promised tickets that, for one reason or another, were never delivered. Work only with established, reputable companies who have traditionally offered Passion Play programs.



PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU

More than 300 years ago the plague spared the tiny village of Oberammergau in the Alpine foothills. The grateful residents pledged to present a play dramatizing the Passion of Christ, in thanks for their deliverance. Every ten years this village with its quaintly painted houses swarms with visitors to the Oberammergau Passion Play.

History of the Play

The history began with the **black plague epidemic of the Thirty Year's War**. 1632 the chaos of war spread this plague over the most distant areas up to the alpine valleys. Even though guardians have been installed to avoid the penetration of the disease, a man who was working outside as a servant brought it in. Within one year a big part of the inhabitants became victims of the black plague. On 27th October 1633 the majors of the community decided as the chronic reports, that it is vowed to depict the tragedy of the **Passion Play every decade and from that time on they were no casualties.**

At Whitsun 1634 for the first time Passion Play has been performed on the cemetery next to parish church. Since there despite all dangers the Oberammergau people kept to their vow to play the Passion story.