

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours of the Passion Play Theatre for our individual visitors

'The History of the Passion Play' (approx. 45 mins)

Tuesday – Sunday, GERMAN: 2 pm * and 4 pm **

Tuesday – Sunday, ENGLISH: 11 am

* except on Saturday (1 pm)

** minimum of 3 people

Winterseason when the Passion Play Theatre is closed:

Wednesday and Sunday, 2 pm (GERMAN/ENGLISH)

Meeting point: Passion Play Theatre, Theaterstraße 8

Guided tours through the village for individual visitors

'Oberammergau and its History' (approx. 60 mins)

Every Saturday, 2 pm, GERMAN

Meeting point: Oberammergau Museum, Dorfstraße 8

TOPICS

Tours for groups

Guided tours with the following topics for groups of 10 or more people can be booked in advance by phone or at:

museum@oberammergau.de

www.oberammergauuseum.de

'Oberammergau and the Passion Play' (approx. 60 mins)

Passion Play Theater and the history of the Passion Play

'Oberammergau – a Village of Artists' (approx. 60 mins)

Oberammergau Museum – the history of woodcarving and reverse glass painting

'Oberammergau and its History' (approx. 60 mins)

Guided tour of the village

'Oberammergau – its History and the Passion Play'

(approx. 90 mins)

Combined tour of the village and the Passion Play Theatre

'The Romans in Oberammergau' (approx. 120 mins)

Early history in the Oberammergau Museum incl. hiking to Döttenbichl hill

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Info on temporary exhibitions at the Oberammergau Museum can be found in the current flyer and at:

www.oberammergauuseum.de

PASSION PLAY THEATRE
Theaterstraße 16a

OBERAMMERGAU MUSEUM
Dorfstraße 8



PILATUSHAUS
Ludwig-Thoma-Straße 10

Handicraft Live Workshop
Dorfstraße 20

TICKETS | INFO

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm

Open on public holidays, incl. Monday

Individual tickets

Museum OR Passion Play Theatre exhibition

adults: € 5 | concessions: € 4.50 | children: € 2

Combined tickets

Museum AND Passion Play Theatre exhibition

adults: € 9 | concessions: € 8 | children: € 3

Individual guided tours

Backstage Passion Play Theatre OR tour of the village

adults: € 9 | concessions: € 8 | children: € 3

Super tickets

Entrance Museum AND Passion Play Theatre exhibition AND

guided tour (Backstage Passion Play Theatre OR village)

adults: € 12 | concessions: € 11 | children: € 4

Passion Play Theatre Oberammergau

Theaterstraße 16a • D-82487 Oberammergau

Oberammergau Museum

Dorfstraße 8 • D-82487 Oberammergau

tel. +49(0)8822 - 32440 • museum@oberammergau.de

Please check www.oberammergauuseum.de for dates when the museums are closed.

OBERAMMERGAUKULTUR

PASSION PLAY THEATRE
OBERAMMERGAU MUSEUM

Oberammergau Museum 2025 | Design: Andrea Sorg



OBERAMMERGAU MUSEUM

The Oberammergau Museum, opened in 1910, has largely retained its authenticity and is one of the oldest, most important and beautiful cultural history museums in Bavaria. Woodcarvings have been produced in Oberammergau for over 500 years. The museum's exquisite collection displays a varied cross-section of artworks and hand-crafted objects from the 17th century to modern times. At experimental tables you yourself can explore the **world of timber** as a material.

Famous crib scenes – the art lover King Ludwig II even came to admire the **Historical Church Nativity Scene** – colourfully painted toys, expertly crafted genre carvings, figures of saints, crucifixes and contemporary sculptures have been assembled here to create an overall picture of the artistic expertise and craftsmanship of the region through the centuries. The genuineness of this historical presentation and the charm it exudes are both surprising and impressive, even in comparison to recently built museums. The museum traces the social and economic history as well as the biographies of local artists.

Graceful paper cribs, interesting portraits of a merchant family and small oil paintings by the famous **Lüftl painter** Franz Seraph Zwink (1748-1792) are on display in the museum. His main work, the impressive frescoes on the **outer façade of the Pilatushaus**, can be viewed at any time.

In the early history section, 'The Romans in Oberammergau', original finds from a Rhaetian sacrificial site on the **Döttenbichl** (a hill below the Kofel Mountain) from 100 BC to 50 AD can be seen. Apart from sacrificial offerings made by the local people, these include a number of weapons used by Roman legionaries. These are the oldest, datable Roman finds in Bavaria.

Unfortunately at the moment we can only show 7 of the exhibits from the famous **Oberammergauer Reverse-Painting collection**. The Murnauer brewer Johann Krötz (1858-1919) collected over one thousand of these paintings, largely from the Staffelsee and Oberammergau regions.

The artistic group 'Blauer Reiter' (Blue Rider), above all Wassily Kandinsky, Gabriele Münter and Franz Marc, were inspired by these pictures and in 1912 published them in the almanach 'Der Blaue Reiter'. It is these originals which are exhibited in the publisher's room.

Historical and contemporary films about Oberammergau, woodcarving and the Passion Play, as well as topics related to temporary exhibitions in the museum, are screened in the **Media and Events room**. The museum's education events and temporary exhibitions can be found at: www.oberammergaumuseum.de

PASSION PLAY THEATRE

The tradition of the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play began with a **vow** taken during the Thirty Years' War. At the time of the Swedish invasion, the Black Death, a devastating plague, had reached Bavaria and claimed the lives of more than 80 people in Oberammergau. In 1633, in the hope of gaining God's help, the village councillors vowed to '**perform the tragedy of the Passion every ten years**' if the village were spared any further deaths from then onwards. The Plague passed by and, in 1634, the people of Oberammergau fulfilled their vow for the first time. Performances were initially held on a simple wooden structure in the cemetery next to the parish church. The present theatre site has been used for performances since 1830.

The stage, repeatedly remodelled and brought in line with state-of-the-art technology, gained its present appearance in 1930. The some 4500 seats in the auditorium were roofed over in 1900 with an innovative wrought iron lattice construction that ensures a good view of the open-air stage from every one of the tiered rows of seats.

The much-praised unity of text, music, stage and costume design certainly owes its origins to the fact that, as woodcarvers with a long tradition, the people of Oberammergau always had a pronounced artistic sense of form and colour.

It is the continuity in performing the play nearly four hundred years now that is unique to Oberammergau and has made the Passion Play the largest and most famous in the world. This huge communal effort is only possible due to the whole village's willingness to re-enact the history of the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth every ten years, as a story of hope and redemption for the world.

The history of the Passion Play can be seen in an exhibition in the foyer of the Passion Play Theatre or as part of a guided tour that also includes a look behind the stage.

