

AUSTRIAN WHITE CHRISTMAS SAALFELDEN

10 STUNNING DAYS – VIENNA TO LUZERN – ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

IMAGINE... A festive Christmas over four days in the enchanting Austrian Alps, Vienna and Salzburg Christmas Markets, Silent Night Chapel, Kitzbuhel old town, medieval Rattenberg, the Danube and Melk Monastery, Innsbruck, sleigh ride, traditional Christmas meals and much, much more!



DAY 1 - 19 DECEMBER VIENNA

Your tour commences this evening in the Imperial city of Vienna. If you have arrived today on your international flight, experience tells us it is best to keep active through this afternoon and Vienna is such a wonderful city at this time of year with so much to see and do. Dinner tonight is included in your hotel. But first enjoy our welcome drink in the hotel bar. This is an ideal chance to get to meet and know your fellow Christmas travellers. (D)

Your Vienna Hotel - Hotel Stefanie. Originally dating back over 450 years, the current building is a charming, traditional First Class Viennese-style hotel. The Stefanie is perfectly located in the heart of Vienna near the Danube Canal and within easy reach of the Opera, St Stephen's Cathedral and the pedestrian mall. Your hotel offers 130 rooms with very tasteful décor, private facilities, TV, radio and hairdryer with an excellent restaurant and bar.

DAY 2 - 20 DECEMBER VIENNA

Our panoramic city tour this morning will bring to life all the sights, gardens and monuments of this Imperial City, from the State Opera House and the Hofburg Palace to the spire of St. Stephen's Cathedral. Later we take a delightful drive winding up through the Vienna Woods to the 'Hellental' where we take a privately-guided tour through the Heiligenkreuz Monastery. We also visit the memorial Chapel in Mayerling before heading back to the old city for lunchtime. This afternoon we have included entrance and a guided tour through the State Apartments of the magnificent Royal summer residence – the Schönbrunn Palace. We have timed this day so that it is dusk when you complete the Palace tour – perfect for the Christmas Markets in the main courtyard. This evening is at leisure. (B)

DAY 3 - 21 DECEMBER VIENNA

Your day is completely free. Relax and enjoy this enchanting city of museums and style. Christmas shopping? Try the excellent Christmas Markets outside the Town Hall where you will find mulled wine, ginger biscuits, music, fabulously decorated trees and folklore displays. You simply must indulge in the world of the traditional Viennese coffee houses. How about a tall aromatic coffee and a calorie-busting apfel strudel? Maybe a rich chocolate torten cake? Mmmm! Dinner tonight (included) is a special welcome treat as

we have reserved tables at the nearby Griechenbeisl Inn. A 'mere' 500 years old this beautifully preserved Inn has been a social gathering point of so many famous historical figures from Beethoven and Schubert to Wagner and Mark Twain (who have autographed the walls!) (B, D)

DAY 4 - 22 DECEMBER SAALFELDEN IN SALZBURGERLAND

Joining the Danube at Melk we have included entrance and a privately guided tour through the enormous Melk Monastery – an astonishing Baroque creation. Later we continue to the Salzkammergut – a land of clear alpine air and blue mountain lakes which formed the stunning back drop to the famous film the 'Sound of Music'. We stop here in the village of Mondsee, on Lake Mondsee, for a relaxing lunchtime and to visit the film's 'wedding church'. In the afternoon we drive deep into the Salzburgerland Mountains to Saalfelden – a picturesque little village near to Zell-am-See – for a truly festive Christmas. After a welcome drink on arrival you will stay four nights here. All dinners, traditional Christmas Eve Dinner plus Christmas Day Turkey Lunch are included. (B, D)

Your Saalfelden Hotel – the 4 star Gasthoff Schoerhof. Located outside of the town of Saalfelden the Schoerhof is a chalet style hotel with charming wooden panelling throughout the public areas and extremely comfortable rooms. The Schoerhof also has an excellent 'Wellness Centre' with a tastefully designed indoor pool, sauna, solarium and massage facilities. To really appreciate this hotel go to <http://www.schoerhof.at/english/index.htm>.

DAY 5 - 23 DECEMBER SAALFELDEN IN SALZBURGERLAND

We have included a full day excursion today. En route to Salzburg our first stop is at the nearby village of Oberndorf where we visit the famous 'Silent Night Chapel' on the site the Christmas carol was first performed. We then continue on to Salzburg – the Baroque city of Mozart sitting beneath its enormous Festung (Fortress). A walking city tour with an expert local guide will introduce you to this enchanting city, including several locations used in the film 'Sound of Music'. As a finale you will assemble amongst the fir trees in the small stone courtyard of the St Peter's Keller, dating back to the 1500's and Salzburg's oldest restaurant, for some hot chocolate and biscuits. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the city. The huge castle makes a



Salzburg

fascinating visit and don't forget to soak up the atmosphere of the famous Salzburg Christmas Markets. (B, D)

DAY 6 - 24 DECEMBER SAALFELDEN IN SALZBURGERLAND

There is nothing quite like a day in the mountains! First stop this morning is the fashionable ski resort of Kitzbuhel. Dating back hundreds of years the main streets still maintain all their old charm with beautifully painted houses, overhanging roofs and ornate gables. Perfect for that last minute Christmas shopping. Lunchtime we continue on through the steep hills and mountains to the year round lake side resort of Zell-am-See. Here you may wish to enjoy a stunning cable car ride (not included) up to the lofty heights of the Smittenhöhe which towers 6,450 feet over the township. The view from the top is considered one of the finest in the Alps. Later, back in the comfort of your hotel, the warm glow will continue through this evening as we enjoy a festive Christmas Eve dinner - Austrian-style. For those interested you can attend midnight mass in the village church (B, D)

DAY 7 - 25 DECEMBER SAALFELDEN IN SALZBURGERLAND

Christmas as it should be...in a wonderful location - relaxing, eating, drinking and definitely no Indiana Jones repeats, washing up and unwelcome long lost relatives! A Christmas turkey lunch is included today. Highlight of the day will be your ride in a horse-drawn sleigh through the local countryside. In the evening you will enjoy traditional music with dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 - 26 DECEMBER INNSBRUCK

We depart our Christmas hotel and follow the spectacular Inn Valley. We will soon stop for a break in the village of Rattenberg - a medieval gem and a perfect place to take morning tea amongst the old cobbled streets. Next will be a visit (entrance included) to the Swarovski 'Kristallwelten' (Crystal Worlds)...a weird and wonderful crystal experience. Just before lunchtime we continue the short distance to the winter resort of Innsbruck. After checking into our centrally located hotel you will have plenty of time to explore the Old Town and see the famous 'Golden Roof'. (B, D)

Your Innsbruck Hotel - Grauer B'aer. Superb location just 200 metres from the historic centre of the city. This is a hotel with style and tradition, a restaurant, a bar, sauna, steam-bath, solarium and a gym. 91 rooms, with private facilities, TV, radio, hairdryer.

DAY 9 - 27 DECEMBER LUZERN

Driving across the mountains and valleys of Austria we reach the city of Vaduz, capital of the Principality of Liechtenstein a tiny country on the border of Switzerland. Soon afterwards we head into Switzerland and arrive mid-afternoon in the lovely lake side town of Luzern with its' covered wooden bridges. Your farewell dinner tonight promises to be an unforgettable experience as we dine in a local Swiss Restaurant. Relax and soak up the unique atmosphere as you enjoy traditional Swiss fare and a Folklore show. (B, D)

Your Luzern Hotel - Wilden Mann Romantik Hotel. Your charming hotel is a member of the 'Romantik' hotel chain and is centrally located only 200 metres walk from the historic Chapel Bridge. Dating back 500 years and expanded through the 19th century, the Wilden Mann ('Wild Man') has a delightful, traditional décor and ambience. For more information see <http://www.wilden-mann.ch>

DAY 10 - 28 DECEMBER LUZERN

Sadly your Christmas tour is now complete, and its time to bid farewell. Maybe you will be joining one of our exciting New Year programmes. (B)

Why not join us for New Year in Switzerland, Italy, Bavaria, Paris or London?

Our 5 exciting New Year tours have been specially designed to start as this Christmas tour ends.

Albatross gives you more...

Highlights

- Christmas in the enchanting Austrian Alps
- Magnificent Schönbrunn Palace
- Christmas Markets in Vienna
- Heiligenkreuz Monastery
- Famous 'Silent Night Chapel'
- Swarovski Crystal World
- Melk Monastery
- Baroque city of Salzburg
- Horse drawn sleigh ride on Christmas Day
- Winter resort of Innsbruck

Inclusions

- All sightseeing, scenic drives and excursions described in the itinerary
- Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
- First class touring coach
- End of tour tips to Tour Manager, drivers and guides
- 9 nights selected accommodation
- Hotel portorage (1 bag per person)
- Buffet breakfasts daily
- Turkey lunch on Christmas Day
- 8 evening dinners including the special meal at the old Griechenbeisl Inn, Vienna, Christmas Eve Dinner and Farewell Dinner with music and drinks at the Stadtkeller
- Tea and coffee with all dinners
- Traditional music on evenings over Christmas and story telling
- Welcome drink in Vienna and Christmas Hotels, sleigh ride in Saalfelden, hot chocolate and biscuits in Salzburg
- Local guides – Vienna, Heiligenkreuz Monastery, Melk and Salzburg
- Entrances to Schonbrunn, Heiligenkreuz, Mayerling, Melk and Swarovski Crystal World

Tour Price

10 days only **\$3,219** pp twin share
Single supplement \$589 (land only prices in Australian Dollars)

Compare the Albatross Difference



Less time on coaches, average 112 kms travelled each day



Over \$1,200 value of extras already included no hidden costs



Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers

Silent Night Chapel

...come share our love of Europe

