

AUSTRIAN CHRISTMAS BREAK

8 MAGICAL DAYS – MUNICH TO MUNICH – ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

IMAGINE... A Festive Christmas staying eight days in a charming chalet style hotel in the enchanting Austrian Alps. Including the Salzburg Christmas Markets, Silent Night Chapel, Linderhof Palace, Oberammergau in Bavaria, a nostalgic, snow bound steam train ride to the chic ski resort of Mayrhofen, medieval Innsbruck, a sleigh ride, traditional Christmas meals, music, and much, much more!

DAY 1 - 21 DECEMBER MUNICH TO KIRCHBERG

Your tour commences this morning in central Munich. After meeting your Tour Manager, who will be with you for the next eight days, we drive south into the snow clad Tyrol region and Austria's most popular winter resort of Kitzbuhel. Still retaining the atmosphere of a Tyrolean village in its historic centre, old-style houses with projecting gables and painted exteriors compete for attention with shops selling Europe's most exclusive brand names. For lunch maybe take the cable car up the Kitzbuheler Horn and visit one of the 23 mountain restaurants. Mid afternoon we continue to Kirchberg which will be your home over the next seven nights. Located 10 kms from Kitzbuhel, Kirchberg is an excellent ski resort in its own right. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink and take the opportunity to get to meet your fellow Christmas travellers. Hot and cold buffet breakfasts and 4 course dinners with salad buffet and choice of menu are served daily. Highlight will be a Candlelit dinner, Christmas Eve Gala celebration dinner, live music on Christmas Day and Turkey lunch. During your stay your hosts will also take you on a guided torchlight village walk. (D)

Your Tyrolean Hotel – The Sunny Hotel Sonne. An excellent, chalet style 4 star hotel located a short walk above Kirchberg village. The atmosphere is charming with that traditional Austrian wooden décor, the views from the bar across to the mountains are amazing, rooms are spacious and the dining is excellent! We have also included free access to their excellent indoor pool, steam room and sauna. Located in a dramatic setting of snow covered Alps - where else would you want to stay for Christmas? For more information see <http://www.sunny-hotel-sonne.at/en>

DAY 2 - 22 DECEMBER KIRCHBERG

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.



Your Christmas Hotel, Sunny Hotel Sonne



Ziller Steam Train Ride

Photo courtesy passenger – Harry Smith



The rest of the day is free to enjoy the city. The huge castle makes a fascinating visit and don't forget to soak up the atmosphere of the famous Salzburg Christmas Markets. (B, D)

DAY 3 - 23 DECEMBER KIRCHBERG

Following the spectacular Inn Valley to Wattens we visit the Swarovski 'Kristallwelten' ('Crystal Worlds' - entrance included). Built into a small hill the entrance is through the mouth of a Goblin with huge crystal eyes. A weird and wonderful crystal experience lies within. Later we continue to the nearby winter resort city of Innsbruck where we spend the rest of the day exploring the Old Town with its famous 'Golden Roof' above the medieval town square and delightful Christmas Markets. Time to do that last minute shopping, indulge in the mulled wine and ginger biscuits and take in the music, fabulously decorated trees and folklore displays. Spoil yourself with a traditional tall aromatic coffee and a calorie-busting apfel strudel! (B, D)

DAY 4 - 24 DECEMBER KIRCHBERG

Christmas Eve – There is nothing quite like a day in the mountains! The highlight of today will be your ride in a horse-drawn sleigh through the local countryside, suitably warmed with some mulled wine while enjoying the dramatic, snow laden mountains and breathtaking scenery surrounding you. Afterwards maybe take a 'winter walk', hire skis or a toboggan and play in the snow. Tonight, enjoy a Christmas Eve Gala Dinner. (B, D)

DAY 5 - 25 DECEMBER KIRCHBERG

Christmas Day as it should be...in a wonderful location – relaxing, eating, drinking and some fun in the snow! Your day is at leisure to relax and savour the delights of Kirchberg. A Christmas turkey lunch has been included today, and this evening, enjoy live music in your hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 - 26 DECEMBER KIRCHBERG

Boxing Day - an exciting day! At nearby Jenbach we catch the historical Zillertalbahn steam locomotive to the chic Ski resort of Mayrhofen. Relax in the old wooden carriages as the train puffs its way up through the conifers



Domplatz - Salzburg

Albatross gives you more...

Highlights

- Christmas in the enchanting Austrian Alps
- Salzburg Christmas Markets
- Famous 'Silent Night Chapel'
- Linderhof Palace
- Swarovski Crystal World
- Passion Play village of Oberammergau
- Kloster Ettal Monastery
- Steam train ride to the ski resort of Mayrhofen
- Hot Chocolate and Ginger biscuits in Salzburg
- Medieval Innsbruck
- Christmas Eve Gala dinner
- Horse-drawn sleigh ride in the Austrian countryside

Inclusions

- All sightseeing, scenic drives and excursions described in the itinerary
- Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
- Luxury touring coach for excursions and touring
- End of tour tips to Tour Manager, drivers and guides
- 7 nights in the delightful Sunny Hotel Sonne
- Hotel portorage (1 bag per person)
- Buffet breakfasts daily
- 4 course dinners each evening with salad buffet
- Special Christmas Eve Gala dinner plus Candlelit dinner
- Turkey lunch and Carol Singers on Christmas Day
- Welcome drink, sleigh ride and hot chocolate with ginger biscuits in Salzburg
- Local guides in Salzburg, Linderhof Palace and guided village walk
- Entrance to Swarovski Crystal World
- Ziller steam train ride to Mayrhofen

Tour Price

8 days only **\$2,479** pp twin share

Single supplement \$299 (land only prices)

and snow covered meadows along the full length of the Ziller Valley. Arriving at midday you can relax, shop and take lunch amongst the numerous mountain view restaurants or perhaps catch the stunning cable car ride up to the lofty heights. (cable car ride not included). The views are excellent. (B, D)

DAY 7 - 27 DECEMBER KIRCHBERG

Driving over the mountains of Southern Bavaria we pass Mittenwald and visit Linderhof Palace to take a guided tour through King Ludwig's grand summer Residence. Our next stop is the Passion Play village of Oberammergau, with its ornately painted buildings where we have time for lunch. In the afternoon we stop at Kloster Ettal Monastery with its incredible painted ceilings. Dating back over 700 years this is one of the finest examples of Rococo architecture in existence. (B, D)

DAY 8 - 28 DECEMBER KIRCHBERG TO MUNICH

Sadly your Christmas tour is now complete, and its time to bid farewell as we make the morning transfer to Munich to arrive around midday. Maybe you will be joining one of our exciting New Year programmes which start in Luzern, Switzerland. (B)

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

Our 4 exciting New Year tours have been specially designed to start as this Christmas tour ends. See pages 35, 36, 38 or 40.

Compare the Albatross Difference



Less time on coaches, average 139 kms travelled each day



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



Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers

...come share our love of Europe