Austrian Holiday Tour

Ever wondered what celebrating the December Holidays would be like in Vienna, Salzburg, or Innsbruck, Austria? Why not plan to join us for an 8-day Holiday Tour to Austria departing Charlotte, NC on December 28, 2018 and returning on January 4, 2019. This is the most festive time of year in Vienna and Salzburg where we will celebrate New Year’s Eve (with fireworks, free concerts, hot spiced cider and wine, and dancing in the streets). There will also be Holiday Markets open in all three of the Austrian cities we will visit. We have confirmed airline connections and excellent hotels in all locations, we will have our own private motor-coach, and we also have secured the best guide in Europe (John Lionet) who will be our tour manager throughout the itinerary in Austria!

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Created & Edited by Bob Blanton
Design & Layout by Debbie Bowen

www.gaston.edu
**Austrian Holiday Tour**

**December 28, 2018 - January 4, 2019**

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**DAY 1**

**Friday, December 28**

**Flight to Vienna**

- Depart Charlotte on your overnight flight to Vienna.

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**DAY 2**

**Saturday, December 29**

**Arrive in Vienna**

- You arrive in Vienna in the afternoon where you are met by your Tour Manager and transfer to your hotel in the city center.
- In the afternoon you visit the **Prater Park** where there is a Christmas and New Year market in the main square by the famous **Big Wheel – the Riesenrad**. This was the location for a famous scene with Orson Welles and Joseph Cotton in the film *The Third Man*.
- Dinner this evening will be in a local restaurant.

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**DAY 3**

**Sunday, December 30**

**Vienna**

- This morning will be a guided walking tour of the city, taking in some of the historical landmarks.
- You will see the **Imperial Hofburg Palace**, the famous **Riding School** with the white **lippizaner horses**, and **St. Stephens Cathedral**, one of the most important Gothic structures in Austria with a stunning interior and wonderful acoustics.
- You can opt to take the elevator or climb the steps to the **Bell**

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New Year’s Eve in Salzburg a memorable experience.
• There will also be variety of indoor concerts and musical performances, although tickets may need to be purchased in advance.
• There is a real party atmosphere in Salzburg’s historic city and in the countdown to midnight, dancing the Blue Danube Waltz in the historic squares is a must! As New Year arrives, there will be a spectacular fireworks display which will illuminate the city and castle.

**DAY 5**
**Tuesday, January 1**
**Salzburg**
• Today will be free. Traditionally New Year’s day in Salzburg is welcomed with an open-air orchestra and waltz dancing on the Residenzplatz while numerous market stalls offer little snacks and drinks.

**DAY 6**
**Wednesday, January 2**
**Salzburg—Innsbruck**
• This morning you have a walking tour of Salzburg which will include a visit to the house where Mozart was born and Tower for a fantastic view across the city.

**Tower** for a fantastic view across the city.

• In the afternoon you have a tour of the Palace of Schonbrunn, the ‘Versailles’ of Austria and the official residence of the Habsburg Emperors until Austria became a republic at the end of the First World War.
• The tour will include the residential and ceremonial rooms of the Imperial Family and there are also extensive gardens which include a maze and zoo.
• A fantastic Christmas and New Year Market is held in the courtyard at Schonbrunn and as dusk settles, seasonal music plays, making this a magical place to be.

**DAY 4**
**Sunday, December 31**
**Vienna - Salzburg** *(New Year Eve in Salzburg)*
• This morning you make the coach transfer to Salzburg, the city of Mozart. As you approach the city you see the spectacular surrounding Alpine foothills where some of the scenes in the Sound of Music were filmed.
• This afternoon will be free for you to explore the Old Town where the smell of hot mulled wine, gingerbread and roasted almonds fills the air.

• Today is New Year’s Eve and the city streets will be filled with live music, the ringing of the bells, lots of eateries selling traditional pastries and drinks, and a brilliant fireworks display above the Castle at midnight, all making the atmosphere magical and memorable.
DAY 7
Thursday, January 3
Innsbruck
• Today is free to explore Innsbruck and its historic Old Town.
• The main shopping street is home to the Maria-Theresien Strasse Christmas & New Year Market.
• Don’t miss a visit to the elegant Café Sacher located in the Imperial Palace, where you can enjoy a traditional Austrian Torte in an old-world Habsburg atmosphere.
• For a spectacular view of the city, have a drink, lunch or dinner in the Lichtblick Restaurant with its 360 degree view of the city.
• This afternoon is the perfect time to take the Funicular Railway to Hungerburg and from there the cable car to the Nordkette Mountain for a spectacular panoramic view of the city. There is a memorial here to the famous Austrian Himalayan climber Herman Buhl.
• Our farewell dinner will be in an Innsbruck restaurant this evening.

DAY 8
Friday, January 4
Fly home
• This morning you depart from Innsbruck and travel to Munich Airport for your homeward flight to Charlotte, arriving later the same evening.
**What IS Included in the Tour Package**

- Round trip flights from Charlotte, NC to Vienna, returning from Munich on Aer Lingus.
- One check-in bag weighing up to 50 lbs.
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which are subject to change until time of ticketing).
- Accommodations in centrally located hotels (double-occupancy).
- All breakfasts at your hotel.
- Farewell dinner in a local restaurant.
- Private airport transfers and city transfers in Austria (Vienna to Salzburg & Salzburg to Innsbruck).
- Full time tour manager throughout your stay in Austria, plus Gaston College Tour Director.
- Guided tour and admission to Schonbrunn Palace.
- All admission fees and excursions noted in itinerary.
- Guided walking tour of Salzburg.
- 100% Financial Protection through our Travel Trust Association License.

**What is NOT included in the Tour Package**

- Travel insurance.
- Public transport in Austria.
- Lunches and dinners, drinks with meals.
- Tips for restaurants, drivers or guides.
- Valid passport (Visas are not currently required for US citizens).
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage (one checked bag up to 50 lbs. is allowed).
- Single room supplements (if requested).
- Personal expenditures such as telephone calls, snacks, drinks with meals, laundry, etc.

**All-Inclusive Tour Price**

Land and air package: $3,495 per person, double-occupancy hotel with transportation and fees (based on 16 paying tour members).
Reservation Form

Austrian Holiday Tour
December 28, 2018 - January 4, 2019

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, DETACH AND SEND TO GASTON COLLEGE STUDY TOURS AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

Send a $500 (per person) deposit by check or credit card (credit card payments can be made at 704.922.6435). Deposits must be received on or before SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 to Bob Blanton at the address below.
Deposits are non-refundable unless space is resold.

Full name (as it appears on your passport):
____________________________________________________

Current address: ______________________________________
____________________________________________________

Telephone number: _________________________________

Email:_______________________________________________

Valid passport number (for airlines):_______________________

Expiration date: _______________________________________

Note: Many foreign countries now require that your passport be valid at least 6 months after you end your visit. Make sure yours will meet this requirement.

I wish to room with: ___________________________________
_____________________________________________________

I require a private room at additional cost: _________________
_____________________________________________________

Special dietary/health needs (for hotels/airlines): ____________
_____________________________________________________

☐ I am covered by my own health/hospitalization insurance policy while overseas. You must provide proof of coverage.

☐ I plan to purchase additional health/hospitalization insurance (on my own). Trip Mate is our preferred company.

Bob Blanton, Study Tours Director
Box 76, Gaston College
201 Highway 321 South
Dallas, NC 28034-1499

Gaston College
Opportunities For Life

Dallas Campus
201 Highway 321 South
Dallas, NC 28034
704.922.6200
704.922.2323 (f)