



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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Design & Layout by Debbie Bowen*

Itinerary Overview

**Day 1 -
Friday, December 28**
Depart from Charlotte

**Day 2 -
Saturday, December 29**
Arrive in Vienna - Prater Park

**Day 3 -
Sunday, December 30**
Vienna - Walking Tour of City
- Hofburg Palace - Palace of
Schonbrunn

**Day 4 -
Sunday, December 31**
Vienna - Salzburg (New Year's
Eve in Salzburg)

**Day 5 -
Tuesday, January 1**
Salzburg - Walking Tour -
Sightseeing - Innsbruck

**Day 6 -
Wednesday, January 2**
Salzburg - Innsbruck - Walking
Tour - Sightseeing

**Day 7 -
Thursday, January 3**
Innsbruck - Funicular Railway -
Nordkette Mountain

**Day 8 -
Friday, January 4**
Fly home



Austrian Holiday Tour

December 28, 2018 - January 4, 2019



DAY 1 Friday, December 28 Flight to Vienna

- Depart **Charlotte** on your overnight flight to **Vienna**.

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.



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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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



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

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to the Cathedral where he was baptized.

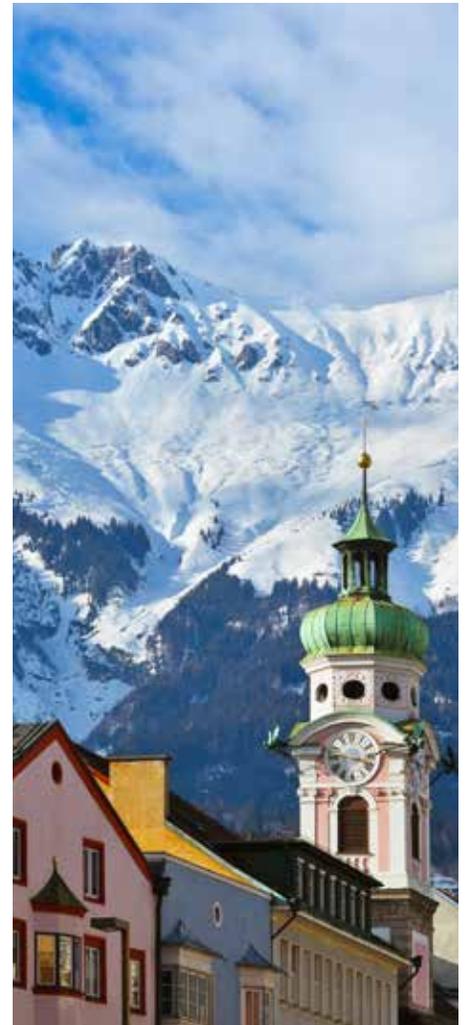
- There will also be time today for sightseeing on your own. Not to be missed is **Salzburg Castle**, the most prominent landmark in the city, which is reached by funicular railway from the center of the city.
- This afternoon you travel to **Innsbruck**, the capital of the Tyrol region and a center for skiers and winter sports enthusiasts. The snow-covered mountains rise above the city giving it a spectacular and beautiful appearance.
- On arrival you check into your hotel and the evening will be free to explore the historic **Old Town** and the famous **Golden Roof**, the city's most famous symbol, completed in 1500 for the Emperor Maximilian I. Surrounded by beautifully preserved medieval facades, traditional dishes such as Kiachln, a sweet pastry, and a mug of mulled wine will keep you warm.

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.



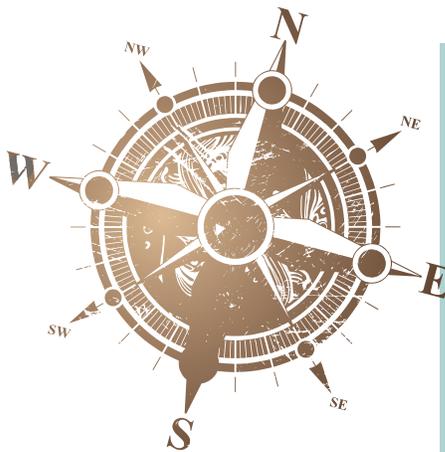


What IS Included in the Tour Package

- 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.
- Cost of Gaston College registration in **November, 2018**.



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, DETATCH 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
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Gaston College
Opportunities For Life

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Reservations

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

All prices based upon a minimum of 16 paying participants (prices are valid at the time of this printing, but are subject to change). Tours are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. *Checks should be made payable to Gaston College Study Tours, and payment should be sent directly to Bob Blanton, Gaston College Study Tours, Box 76, Gaston College, 201 Highway 321 South, Dallas, NC 28034.*

**Final Payment Deadline
SEPTEMBER 28, 2018**

