

AUSTRIAN WHITE CHRISTMAS TOUR 2016

16 Dec (Fri) VIENNA – the Imperial capital

Arrive in Vienna and check-in to your hotel, the 5-star Steigenberger Herrenhof. Your body clock will tell you whether you can start exploring the city on your own....or relax at the hotel and perhaps catch up on lost sleep. Tonight the tour group will meet in the hotel reception area and go for a welcome drink and dinner at the historic “Griechenbeisl” restaurant. (D)

17 Dec (Sat) VIENNA

This morning there will be a 2-hour guided walking tour in the historic centre of Vienna. Sites will include the Hofburg, the Opera House and St. Stephan’s Cathedral. The remainder of the day will be at leisure to enjoy the local shopping precincts (which are closed on Sunday). You also have a chance to take in the atmosphere of the Christmas Markets. Tonight is at leisure and you can sample a local restaurant for the evening meal. The Tour Manager will offer suggestions for popular ones near to the hotel. (B)

18 Dec (Sun) VIENNA

Once an outpost of the Roman Empire then a stronghold of Christianity, Vienna was the residence of the Imperial Court for six centuries and was lavished with grand palaces, buildings, gardens and thoroughfares by the Habsburg monarchs. This morning our guided tour will show more historic and modern sites of this “imperial” city. The tour will conclude with a visit and entry to Schonbrunn Palace and a walk through of some of the stately rooms and galleries. There will be plenty of time to explore the gardens, the small Christmas Market and to have lunch before returning to your hotel. Late afternoon we will depart for the short drive to Stift Klosterneuburg - where we will have a guided tour, wine tasting, followed by a typical evening meal. (B,D)

19 Dec (Mon) VIENNA - MELK - OBERNDORF - SALZBURG

Our first stop this morning is at impressive Melk Abbey, which is still a active monastery and public school. We have a guided tour of the former imperial rooms which have now become an interpretive museum telling the history of the monastery and the order of St. Benedict. We then continue to Oberndorf and visit the Stille Nacht Kapelle (Silent Night Chapel), where the carol was first performed in 1818. After that, we drive the short distance to our hotel in Salzburg, the Wyndham Grand. Tonight at leisure to explore around the hotel or even walk into the old city. Dinner is at your own leisure this evening. (B)

20 Dec (Tue) SALZBURG - the Sound of Music City

This morning we have a guided walking tour of this great city. We'll see historic buildings and learn about the powerful archbishops that made the city very wealthy, both monetarily and culturally. You then have plenty of time to explore the old town, enjoy the Christmas Markets and perhaps even take a tour of the fortress - Hohensalzburg. For those interested, this afternoon we also visit the small local Christmas Market at Hellbrunn Palace - where you can also see the glass gazebo featured in the "Sound of Music". Tonight we take dinner in the historic St. Peterskeller as we enjoy snippets of Mozart's operas by performed by members of the Salzburg Mozarteum. (B,D)

21 Dec (Wed) SALZBURG - BERCHTESGADEN - KOENIGSEE - SEEFELD

This morning we drive a short distance into Germany, and the town of Berchtesgaden. Here we take a guided tour of the salt-mines, which include travel by miniature train, a giant wooden slide and also a boat. See how salt was mined in the last centuries, before we visit nearby Koenigsee for lunch. In the afternoon we travel back into Austria, through the heart of the Alps, and to our Christmas destination – Seefeld, and the hotel Central. Now you can unpack for our 6 night stay, and after the welcome dinner tonight we also enjoy a wine and cheese tasting. (B,D)

22 Dec (Thu) SEEFELD - WATTENS - INNSBRUCK - SEEFELD

Our excursion today is to the capital of Tirol – Innsbruck. The first stop will be at the newly remodelled Swarovski Crystal World . In Innsbruck, the Christmas Markets are located in the Old Town square, surrounded by Middle-Age buildings and the landmark Little Golden Roof. Plenty of time here to browse the handicraft stores and have lunch before we return to our hotel. Tonight we have a fun evening with dinner and music in the Wildmoosalm mountain hut. (B,D)

23 Dec (Fri) SEEFELD - BRESSANONE - SEEFELD

The morning we travel over the infamous Brenner Pass and enter into Italy. Our destination is the town of Bressanone and we stop here to visit the Christmas Markets, the Cathedral and cloister and take lunch. An early afternoon return to Seefeld to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Perhaps go tobogganing on the nearby Geigenbuehel slope? Tonight we take dinner in our hotel. (B,D)

24 Dec (Sat) SEEFELD - at leisure

Another morning to enjoy this alpine wonderland. Sleep-in, try your hand at skiing or just wander the beautiful alpine village. This evening there will be festivities in our hotel, including the lighting of the Christmas Tree. This will be followed by a gala 5-course meal at our hotel. (B,D)

25 Dec (Sun) SEEFELD

Merry Christmas! Today is for relaxing and enjoying the facilities of our hotel and the surrounding beauty. Perhaps a sleep-in or a toboggan ride on the nearby slopes. Christmas day lunch will be taken in our hotel and the highlight of the day will be an afternoon sleigh-ride across snow covered fields (weather permitting), with a hot drink in the nearby woods. Dinner will be at your own leisure this evening. (B,L)

26 Dec (Mon) SEEFELD

A free day to enjoy this spectacular alpine scenery. Perhaps take a walk up to the Wildmoosalm for lunch? Or maybe take the funicular and cable car to the top of the Rosshutte from where you get a panoramic view of the Austrian and Bavarian Alps. Tonight a farewell dinner in the hotel. (B,D)

27 Dec (Tue) SEEFELD – MUNICH

After breakfast we take drive through the Austria/German Alps to Oberammergau and the Royal Castle of Linderhof - built by "Mad" King Ludwig of Bavaria. Here we have a short walk through the grounds and a guided tour of this most impressive but small palace. We then continue to the castles of Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein where we pause for lunch. Later afternoon arrival in Munich with time to check-in at our hotel - the Hotel Eden Wolff, opposite the main railway station. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner in one of the world's most famous beer-halls, the Hofbrauhaus. (B,D)

28 Dec (Wed) MUNICH – End of Tour

The tour ends after breakfast this morning. Those with flight or train connections will depart the hotel as necessary.

For more information: contact your travel agent or info@austriatraveldirect.com

www.austriatraveldirect.com

