

*THE TRAVEL PLANNER* presents...

# European Christmas Markets

November 26 – December 3, 2023



For more information contact  
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**8 Days • 11 Meals:** 7 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS...** Prague's Christmas Markets, Prague Castle, Choice on Tour, Train Ride to Dresden, Dresden's Christmas Markets, Vienna's Christmas Markets, Schönbrunn Palace, Viennese Candy Workshop, Bratislava, Locally-Hosted Dinner, Budapest's Christmas Markets, Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion

**ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

Days 1 – 3 K&K Hotel Central Prague, Prague  
 Days 4, 5 Grand Hotel Wien, Vienna  
 Days 6, 7 Up Hotel Budapest, Budapest

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

**Day 1: Sunday, November 26, 2023 Prague, Czech Republic - Tour Begins** Arrive in Prague, the "City of 100 Spires." Behold ancient landmarks and medieval architecture. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

**Day 2: Monday, November 27, 2023 Prague** Feel the magic and wonder of Prague dressed up for the holiday season. Your introduction to this fairy-tale city begins with a panoramic tour. Explore the "Castle District," including the gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and the majestic Prague Castle. Next, take in the iconic, statue-lined Charles Bridge, a picturesque structure stretching over the Vltava River. You decide how to further explore Prague because **it's your choice!** Learn more about the city's Jewish heritage and visit Europe's oldest active Synagogue\* on a heritage tour **-OR-** let a boat reveal a different side of Prague on a Vltava river cruise. The remainder of your afternoon and evening is at leisure for you to take in the best Prague has to offer independently – don't miss the famous Christmas market in Prague's Old Town Square where brightly decorated wooden huts are filled with the work of local artisans, and traditional food and drink is prepared right in front of you. (B)

**Day 3: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 Prague - Dresden, Germany - Prague, Czech Republic** Hop aboard a train for Dresden, Germany, known as "Florence on the Elbe." Meet a local guide for a tour highlighting its' baroque splendour and architectural treasures such as Frauenkirche, the Cathedral of our Lady and the Royal Palace. Visit the world's oldest Christmas market – the Striezelmarkt – which has been delighting travellers and locals alike since 1434. Take time to explore the stalls overflowing with ornaments, sample local sweets and have time for lunch on your own before returning to Prague. (B)

**Day 4: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 Prague - Cesky Krumlov - Vienna, Austria** Depart Prague and travel through the scenic countryside on your way to Vienna, Austria. En route, make a stop in the medieval town of Cesky-Krumlov. Lined with towering Baroque architecture, explore the quaint-preserved streets independently and have time for lunch on your own. Continue to the one-of-a-kind Marchfelderhof Restaurant, a favourite since the 1800s of locals, visitors and the famous alike. Indulge in dinner at this iconic spot rich with Viennese tradition. Arrive in the grand city of Vienna, capital of Austria, aglow with holiday lights. (B, D)

**Day 5: Thursday, November 30, 2023 Vienna** This morning, meet your local guide and visit the magnificent Schönbrunn Palace, the summer retreat of the Habsburg dynasty for more than 200 years. Continue on to Vienna's city centre and behold the beautiful architecture, scenic



## Per Person Land Rates\*:

**Double \$2,919; Single \$3,619; Triple \$2,889**

**Included in Price:** Hotel Transfers

**Not included in price:** Round Trip Air

\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

parks, and gothic spires that fill the city. Learn more about Vienna's sweet confectionary history when you visit a candy workshop where candies are still being made according to traditional recipes dating back over 150 years. An afternoon at leisure allows time to visit the Christkindlmarkt, perhaps the biggest and most famous in the city, at the neo-gothic Rathaus City Hall. Tonight, you may choose an option to hear Vienna's past come alive and experience a classical music performance featuring the works of Mozart and Strauss. (B)

**Day 6: Friday, December 1, 2023 Vienna - Bratislava, Slovakia - Budapest, Hungary** Say hello to Bratislava, the former Imperial capital of the Habsburg Empire. Enjoy free time to have lunch and explore some of the city's 4,000-year-old history independently - don't miss the charming Christmas markets! Continue to the village of Dunaalmas in the Hungarian countryside and immerse yourself in typical country life of the village. Learn how to make traditional strudel before enjoying a community-hosted dinner. Arrive in Budapest, the "Queen of the

Danube" and your home for the next 2 nights. Enjoy the evening on your own. (B, D)

**Day 7: Saturday, December 2, 2023 Budapest** Join a local expert for a panoramic tour of the city, where you'll discover the incredible neo-gothic marvel of Matthias Church atop Buda Castle Hill, the Fisherman's Bastion, the historic Old Buda and Gellert Hill, and the Parliament House. This afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore Budapest on your own. Perhaps you will visit the cosy Christmas market at St. Stephen's Basilica with its ice rink and gorgeous tree, or head to the city's largest market at Vörösmarty Square brimming with food and crafts stalls where local musicians often perform. This evening join your fellow travellers to toast the end of a festive trip at a farewell dinner. (B, D)

**Day 8: Sunday, December 3, 2023 Budapest - Tour Ends** Say goodbye to these regal cities as your tour comes to a close today. (B)

## Experience It! Christmas Markets

Few things invoke the feel of old world holiday traditions more than the spectacular European Christmas Markets. From November until Christmas these outdoor markets dot the Imperial Cities like a string of ornaments on a tree. Be transported back in time to a winter wonderland of open-air market stalls brimming with ornaments, handmade crafts, specialty food and warming beverages. Watch people spin on the ice of the outdoor rink in Vienna, see its lovely carousel and twinkling light installations. Prague is particularly lovely in the advent season when its squares are festively transformed and you can shop and sip to your hearts content as classical musicians perform and choirs sing timeless songs of the season. Good cheer abounds in Budapest's largest market which glistens against the backdrop of the city's gorgeous St. Stephen's Basilica. Indulge in a timeless European holiday on this very special Christmas Markets tour.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**A deposit of \$395 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of May 26, 2023 are based upon availability. Final payment due by September 27, 2023. Deposits are refundable up until May 26, 2023.**

**PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS**

Passports are required at your own expense for travel outside of Australia. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity beyond the return date from the destination. Some countries require a visa in addition to a valid passport for entry into the country. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate embassy or consulate for specific information and entry requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend that our guests take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visa. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

*Effective for travel after November 2023, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS travel authorization, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://etias.com/etias-requirements/etias-for-australian-citizens>.*

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Included breakfasts are buffet breakfasts.

\*Prague Synagogue is closed on Saturdays (due to Shabbat) and on Jewish holidays.

**The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3.** This means you're an on-the-go traveller. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transport (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

This tour features multiple long transfers exceeding 2 hours, in particular the transfer to and from Dresden, Germany. The transfer from Prague to Vienna, Austria with stops in between, can take up to 10 hours.

Whilst visas are not required for USA, Australian, UK or Canadian citizens for a stay of up to 90-days, we recommend you enquire with your Consulate for further information.

Visitors are required to show proof of travel medical insurance to travel to the Czech Republic. The health insurance must cover medical services abroad with specific coverages.

*The minimum coverage of the insurance has to meet the Czech Republic standards for tourist travel. These standards can be found by contacting the Czech Republic Embassy in Australia.*

Australian Business Number 32 600 161 671



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BOOKING NUMBER: 1157881

TOUR: European Christmas Markets *featuring Prague,  
Vienna & Budapest*

DEPARTURE DATE: November 26, 2023

GROUP NAME: THE TRAVEL PLANNER

### **Available Options**

Personalise your tour by adding an optional activity below. Our recommended options have been carefully chosen to help enhance your individual experience. Complete the provided Prepaid Options Form to reserve your options.

*Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than 15 days prior to departure. Prices are subject to change.*

Children under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

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## **Vienna**

### **Sound of Vienna Concert**

**\$91 AUD**

Enjoy an evening full of music. A special orchestral event in a local venue sparks off a unique firework of the most beautiful compositions from the king of waltz, Johann Strauss, as well as beloved Mozart. Excellent musicians, opera singers and magical ballet dancers present an evening full of Viennese charm with beautiful waltzes, polkas and operetta melodies performed at their highest level. *Duration: Approximately 3 hours.* Please note a minimum of 20 passengers is required. Transport is included.

