

Christmas Markets Tour 2014



Prepared for:
Discover Travel &
Cruise Clients
Ph: 1300 463 472



NOT INCLUDED:

- Gratuities to Tour Director, Coach Drivers and local guides. Recommended tipping is Euro 4.00, 2.50 and 2.00 per person per day respectively
- International, domestic and internal Airfares
- Optional experiences, Travel Insurance, Visas and items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION:

Based on twin share in First Class hotels for 17 nights. Hotels are to be used as a guide only and are subject to availability and change at the time of booking. If the quoted hotel is unavailable, we will secure another hotel in the same category as similar as possible.

MEALS & SIGHTSEEING:

Included as per the attached itinerary.

TOUR DIRECTOR:

Services of a professional English speaking Tour Director throughout. Local expert guides where required & as noted on the itinerary

SERVICE CHARGES

Tips to restaurants where a meal is included by Insight Vacations. Service charges and local taxes on services provided by Insight. (Except local airport and border taxes)

TRANSPORTATION:

Exclusive use of air-conditioned coach from Day 1 – Day 18 (subject to conditions).

Important Note: 40 Seater Coaches are subject to availability, should one be unavailable a deluxe 49 seater coach will be allocated.

Local coaches used for included transfers /sightseeing arrangements only; Day 14, 15 and 16. Local coaches are 49 – 53 seaters.

Arrival and Departure transfers are based on one group arrival and one group departure transfer. Should members of the group require transfers outside these times, they will have to make their own transport arrangements.

DOCUMENTATION

Stylish wallet containing the itinerary, hotel list, optional experiences list, and baggage labels.

PORTERAGE

One piece of luggage per person, in and out of hotels provided

Your Itinerary



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Day 1 Tue 16 Dec 2014 ARRIVE MUNICH Westin Grand Arabella
Welcome to Bavaria! Upon arrival into Munich airport, you are met by your Tour Director and transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is then free to settle in and relax, or to begin exploring the city where the Christkindlmarkt, an entrancing festival of light and music is in full swing! Later, join your Tour Director for a Welcome drink and dinner at our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Wed 17 Dec 2014 MUNICH Westin Grand Arabella
An orientation tour this morning, shows us all the city's major sights – the Feldernhalle in the Odeonsplatz, the Palace of the Dukes of Wittelsbach, English Garden, Hofbrauhaus, St Peter's Church and famous Marienplatz, with its soaring Town Hall and Glockenspiel. The remainder of the day is then free at leisure for you to enjoy the vibrant festive markets that dot the city. Munich embraces the holiday season with a particular zeal, where on crisp winter days, the frozen canals in front of Nymphenburg Palace are filled with twirling ice skaters, while ancient churches ring out with organ music and Christmas carols. Or perhaps you may wish to take an excursion to the romantic royal castles of the Bavarian Alps? Tonight we visit the most famous beer hall in the world, the Hofbrauhaus, for a foaming stein of beer. Then move on to a local Bavarian restaurant where traditional German fare is served up in an atmosphere as homely as the food is hearty! (BB,HD)

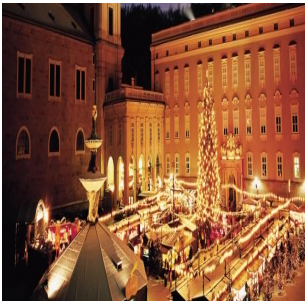
Day 3 Thu 18 Dec 2014 MUNICH – SALZBURG Castellani Parkhotel
Drive past the tranquil waters of Lake Chiemsee on your way to Salzburg in Austria, where the spires and domes of the old town are often draped in snow come December. Upon arrival a guided walk shows us the formal gardens of Mirabell Palace, the imposing fortress, Mozart's family house and the rosy hues of the 500 year old market in front of the cathedral. (BB,D)



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Day 4 Fri 19 Dec 2014

SALZBURG

Castellani Parkhotel

Salzburg is where the Von Trapp family story "The Sound of Music" was filmed. Relive this famous musical as we take you to see Maria's Monastery, St Peter's Cemetery, and other location sights. Then spend the rest of the day experiencing Salzburg's Christmas market, which is a feast for all the senses: the delicious scent of mulled wine wafts around booths adorned with precious, decorative, old and new items, from traditional handicrafts, fine baked goods, aromatic tree ornaments and various objet d'art for the Christmas season. Performances by traditional Salzburg choirs and children's school groups lure a crowd of visitors year after year. Be enchanted by the charm of Cathedral Square, the traditional booths, the strings of light and the quality of the diversified items on sale. Tonight, a funicular ride takes us to the heights of Hohensalzburg for spectacular views of the city from the fortress battlement. We then enjoy a dinner of Austrian specialities with views from Panorama Restaurant zur Festung Hohensalzburg. (BB,HD)

Day 5 Sat 20 Dec 2014

SALZBURG – VIENNA

Hilton Hotel Am Stadtpark

Drive along the Danube Valley and see the impressive Benedictine monastery at Melk, a masterpiece of baroque architecture. Then continue through the Wachau Valley, one of the most beautiful river valleys in Europe and on to the great Imperial Capital of Vienna. During Advent, Vienna is a place of nostalgia and romance, with concerts, nativity displays and Christmas markets. Visit the 'Christkindlmarkt' and buy handmade wooden toys, seasonal gifts, delicious gingerbread and warming Gluhwien (mulled wine) from traditional decorated wooden stalls. (BB,D)

Day 6 Sun 21 Dec 2014

VIENNA

Hilton Hotel Am Stadtpark

Vienna owes much of its present day charm to the long reign of the Habsburg's. Our sightseeing highlight this morning is a guided visit to Maria Theresa's Schonbrunn Palace and gardens. Then enjoy a drive around the famous Ringstrasse, a beautiful sweeping boulevard built in the 19th century to replace the city walls. Here you will see City Hall, St Charles' Church, the baroque architecture of the Opera House, the magnificent Hofburg Imperial Residence and Parliament building. The afternoon is then free to soak up the atmosphere or browse the elegant boutiques, pavement cafes and busy arcades of Karntnerstrasse. Tonight we enjoy a delicious highlight dinner featuring Viennese specialties at a Heurigen, a local wine tavern near Vienna, complete with Schrammel music! (BB,HD)

Day 7 Mon 22 Dec 2014

VIENNA – INNSBRUCK

Hilton Innsbruck

A scenic drive today takes us to the snow capped mountain ringed Tyrolean capital of Innsbruck. On our sightseeing tour, we see the architectural jewels of the city. Walk together amid the 14th century houses Old Town, see the Imperial Palace and delightful Golden Roof. Then a riot of rococo cherubs and angels greet you inside the Wilten Basilica. The rest of the afternoon is free among the typical Austrian cafes of the Old Quarter, with its narrow arcades and gabled shop fronts. (BB,D)

Day 8 Tue 23 Dec 2014

INNSBRUCK

Hilton Innsbruck

Today is at leisure for you immerse yourself in the festive atmosphere! The Christmas Markets in Innsbruck are counted as some of the most beautiful and romantic in the entire Alpine region. In the historic part of Innsbruck, in front of the famous Golden Roof and surrounded by beautifully preserved medieval facades, you will come across the Old Town Christmas Market. Strolling through the market you will find Christmas ornaments, handicrafts and other winter treats. Traditional dishes such as Kiachln and a mug of Glühwein, will keep you warm whilst mingling with the locals and making new friends. Tonight enjoy a Highlight dinner of traditional Tyrolean cuisine. (BB,HD)



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Day 9 Wed 24 Dec 2014 INNSBRUCK – ST MORITZ Hotel Crystal
Enter Switzerland this morning and drive along the beautiful Engadine Valley to the glamorous Alpine resort of St Moritz, with the majestic Grisons Alps towering above. This town has a vibrant lifestyle that attracts the rich and famous. Time to then relax and enjoy the marvellous scenery and fresh air. We enjoy a festive Celebration Christmas Eve dinner together tonight at our hotel. (BB,CD)

Day 10 Thu 25 Dec 2014 CHRISTMAS DAY IN ST MORITZ Hotel Crystal
A spectacular winter setting greets us as we awake Christmas Day! After a leisurely morning with your family and friends, we meet to enjoy a Christmas Day lunch together at a local restaurant. Afterwards, let's go "dashing through the snow" to marvel at the glittering forests and glaciers of the Engadine, all from the comfort of our horse-drawn sleigh. Truly a sparkling winter wonderland treat! (BB,HL)

Day 11 Fri 26 Dec 2014 ST MORITZ Hotel Crystal
Maybe opt for a late breakfast this morning, because the whole day is completely at leisure in this chic resort. Perhaps explore the town with your complimentary Mountain Pass, visit the spa quarter, see the museum house with its traditional 'sgraffito' façade or shop in the elegant boutiques. Another option is to board the Bernina Express for a scenic rail journey of such epic proportions that it has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (BB)

Day 12 Sat 27 Dec 2014 ST MORITZ – GLACIER EXPRESS – LUCERNE Hotel Astoria
An unforgettable journey begins the day as ice-capped mountains, stone-built villages and lush meadows slip by the windows of your Glacier Express train (2nd Class). Ascend through the spiral tunnels of the Albula Pass and cross the Landwasser Viaduct before heading down through the Oberalp Valley to rejoin the coach at Andermatt. Continue north to lovely lake-side Lucerne, a beautiful 14th century city still protected by medieval fortifications. Join your Tour Director to see the covered wooden Chapel Bridge and the sorrowful lion monument, hewn out of a limestone cliff to commemorate those Swiss Guards who died at the Battle of the Tuileries. (BB,D)

Day 13 Sun 28 Dec 2014 LUCERNE Hotel Astoria
This morning we take a spectacular gondola ride, where we enjoy magnificent panoramic views of snow-capped peaks in the Swiss mountains. Then back in Lucerne you are at leisure to admire the superb baroque Jesuit church, stroll along lake-side promenades, or shop for Swiss watches or delicious chocolate. This evening we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant. (BB,HD)

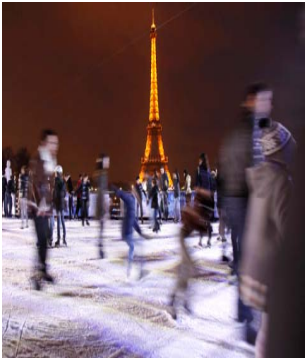
Day 14 Mon 29 Dec 2014 LUCERNE – PARIS Concorde Montparnasse
We drive to Basel before crossing the Rhine to enter France. Travel through the wine growing Burgundy region to glittering Paris, the vibrant heart of French life. Tonight head for the lively atmosphere of the Latin Quarter, to enjoy a delicious dinner of French cuisine served with wine in a typical Parisian bistro. Then board your coach to enjoy an illuminations drive to see Paris at her unforgettable best. The City of Light really sparkles at night! (BB,HD)



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Day 15 Tue 30 Dec 2014 PARIS

Concorde Montparnasse

After breakfast next morning, sightseeing with a local guide takes you by Notre Dame Cathedral with its tale of Quasimodo. Continue past the imposing façades of the Louvre and Garnier's splendid Opera House. See the obelisk in the centre of the Place de la Concorde and drive along the grand Champs Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe. Then ascend to the viewing platforms of the Eiffel Tower for spectacular views of the city. You are at leisure for the rest of the day to enjoy this elegant city as you wish. By night why not try one of the world famous cabaret shows for an evening of excitement and glamour? (BB)

Day 16 Wed 31 Dec 2014 NEW YEARS EVE IN PARIS Concorde Montparnasse

We visit the Palace of Versailles this morning. Our local guide gives us an intimate understanding of the history and daily life at the court of the French Kings. Admire the opulent interior of this extravagant palace and marvel at the vast, manicured ornamental gardens. The remainder of the afternoon is then free for you to relax or continue sightseeing before you celebrate and bring in the New Year! (BB)

Day 17 Thu 1 Jan 2015 PARIS

Concorde Montparnasse

Today is completely free for you to enjoy your final day in Paris at your leisure. There is certainly no shortage of things to do and see in this great capital! Perhaps ascend the hill at Montmartre by mini-train for superb panoramic views, stroll by the Seine, meet the enigmatic Mona Lisa in the Louvre or the impressionist paintings of the Musee d'Orsay, watch the passers by in a Parisian café or enjoy a shopping spree in the grand department stores or the elegant designer boutiques of the Left Bank? (BB)

Day 18 Fri 2 Jan 2015 DEPART PARIS

Our memorable tour comes to and end today as we transfer to the airport for our onward flight home! (BB)

MEAL KEY: (BB) = Buffet Breakfast, (HL) = Local Restaurant Lunch, (D) = Hotel Dinner, (CD) = Celebration Dinner, (HD) = Local Restaurant Dinner

PLEASE NOTE: Insight Vacations reserve the right to alter from the tour itinerary should circumstances dictate. Coach use is subject to EU regulations.