

# AUSTRIA & GERMANY: CHRISTMAS MARKET TOUR

with St. Mark's United Methodist Church

November 25 - December 4, 2023



Dear Friends,

St. Mark's United Methodist Church is thrilled to host this enchanting journey! There is no better way to usher in the holiday season of Advent and Christmas than to travel to Austria and Germany!

We begin our tour by landing in Vienna, where our fairy tale starts to materialize. Not only do we get to experience the magical Christmas markets, but we will also tour the beauty of Tyrol and Bavaria. The scent of burnt umber alerts you that you have arrived at the home of the famous Viennese Coffee. And, no matter how much we stroll and shop, there is always time to linger at an outdoor cafe over coffee and Vienna's celebrated Sacher Torte. We will get to see the Blue Danube River of waltz fame and we will be greeted by the "Sound of Music." The snow-covered Alps are a backdrop to our Christmas Market journey. You will find a Christmas gift for everyone on your list as we shop under the sparkling lights in the city squares of Salzburg, Munich, and Regensburg.

Beautiful ornaments, wooden toys, Christmas cards, mugs, paper-lighted stars and gingerbreads, nativity scenes, and sheepskin slippers ...these are just a few of the famous offerings at the markets.

If you have ever wanted to combine the magic of Christmas with a European flair, then this is the perfect journey for you!

Come along! Join us, do not hesitate!

Sincerely,

St. Mark's United Methodist Church



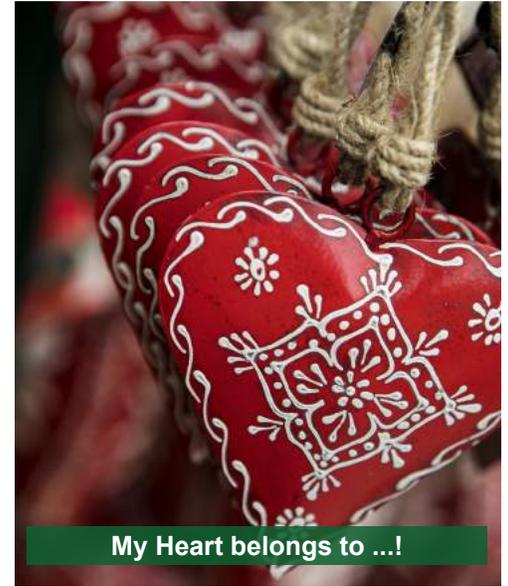
Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.



Fairy Tale Winter Landscape!



Pretzels!



My Heart belongs to ...!

### November 25, 2023 - Saturday

#### Traveling to Vienna

Our European fairy tale adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Vienna. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal services as you start your dream vacation.

### November 26, 2023 - Sunday

#### Vienna

Welcome to the "City of Waltz!" Upon arrival, we meet our local tour director and with our private motorcoach, we transfer to the center of town. Vienna embraces both the contemporary and classic and is one of Europe's most beautiful capitals with an exciting cultural, music, and theater heritage. You will fall in love with this city at first sight! If you are a coffee lover, you have one more reason to delight in Vienna as the city definitely is the "coffee town of all coffee towns!" Lunch today is served at a typical Viennese bistro, followed by a visit to the Spanish Riding School with the Lipizzaners, also known as "the dancing white horses of Vienna." The Spanish Riding School is the only school in the world to practice classical riding for over 450 years. Check-in to our centrally located hotel and an evening at leisure to relax and unwind. **L**

### November 27, 2023 - Monday

#### Vienna

After a filling breakfast, we are ready for

a city sightseeing by foot including visiting the Christmas markets of Vienna. The markets are age-old traditions with forerunners of the present-day events dating back to the Middle Ages when, in 1298, Albrecht I, granted the citizens of Vienna the privilege of holding a "Krippenmarkt" (Crib's market). Our first stop is at the Christmas market in front of the City Hall. The unique backdrop gives this market a charm of its own! We continue by foot to the Christmas market of Stephansplatz, a market with more than 30 stalls focusing on high-quality local products. Free time for lunch before we walk back to our hotel. A guided tour of the world-famous State Opera is arranged later in the day. Dinner and an evening at leisure. **B**

### November 28, 2023 - Tuesday

#### Melk Abbey - Salzburg

Breakfast is served at a leisurely pace. We board our motorcoach for a short one-hour drive to visit Melk Abbey. Towering high above the town of Melk on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube, the bright yellow Benedictine abbey contains the tomb of Saint Coloman of Stockerau and the remains of several members of the House of Babenberg - Austria's first ruling dynasty. The library is one of the most impressive features with roughly 100,000 volumes and a ceiling fresco by Paul Troger. There is a beautiful church and several important paintings to be found, but the real treasures are the two Melk Crucifixes, one said to contain a piece of Christ's cross. Our journey continues to Salzburg with a leisurely

lunch along our scenic route. Next, get ready to step into the world of the Trapp family as we check in to our very special hotel. The evening is at leisure. **B**

### November 29, 2023 - Wednesday

#### Salzburg

Breakfast at our own pace before we spend the entire day in the center of Salzburg, the hometown of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The highlights today include a visit to the beautiful Christmas market at the Salzburg Cathedral and a visit to the "Geburtshaus," the house where Mozart was born in 1756 and lived with his parents until 1773. The house is now transformed into a three-floor exhibit, showcasing Mozart's life: how he grew up, his start in music, who his friends and patrons were, family relationships, his passion for opera, and much more. We will also visit a local violin maker's workshop to learn about the restoration work and maintenance of local masterpieces, tonal adjustments, and how to make new instruments. The evening is yours to enjoy in one of Europe's most enchanting and captivating cities. **B**

### November 30, 2023 - Thursday

#### Salzburg

After a hearty breakfast, we start our "Sound of Music" tour. Today includes a drive by Fuschl Castle, a photo stop at Lake Wolfgangsee, and visits to Mondsee Church, Hellbrunn Castle, Frohnburg, and a guided tour of Leopoldskron Castle. After a leisurely lunch, we head to the center of Salzburg to enjoy a walking tour of the Mirabel



Wonderful Vienna!



Local Wood Carvings!



Hum Along!

Garden and St. Peter's Monastery. Dinner at your own before we call it a day. **B**

### December 1, 2023 - Friday

#### *Oberammergau - Ettal - Munich*

After breakfast, we depart Salzburg and head towards Munich. On our way, we will make a stop in Oberammergau for a leisurely lunch. You will enjoy this town, famous for the Passion Play performances taking place every ten years. The area is noted for its woodcarvers and you will find numerous shops dedicated to this craft. Many carvings depict biblical figures, angels, Madonnas and nativity scenes, in harmony with the religious themes. Next stop is in Ettal to visit Linderhof Palace, a beautiful castle set on the edge of the Bavarian Alps. A better backdrop is hard to imagine. Of the three palaces "mad" King Ludvig II had built (Hohenschwangau, Neuschwanstein, and Linderhof), this one was the only one he saw completed. Munich is reached in the afternoon and we will check in to our hotel in the center of town. In the evening, we have arranged a walking tour to the nearby old-town Christmas market at the Marienplatz with the world-famous Glockenspiel. **B**

### December 2, 2023 - Saturday

#### *Regensburg*

We will enjoy our breakfast, and then take a short train ride to Regensburg, a medieval UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of Germany's oldest towns. Crusaders used the 12th century stone bridge to cross the Danube en route

to the Holy Land. We have arranged an old-town sightseeing by foot and we will visit the Christmas market at the Thurn & Taxis Palace. During Advent, the courtyard serves as a magical stage for one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Bavaria. Hungry anyone? Enjoy your lunch at the historic "Wurstkuchl" (Sausage Kitchen) of Regensburg. Located in a 900-year-old building, this is the world's oldest sausage bistro, still serving more than 6,000 sausages to its guests daily. The menu is simple: Sausages (comes in portions of six, eight, or ten!) along with sauerkraut and mustard - a meal for a king! We return to Munich in the late afternoon and the evening is at leisure. **B**

### December 3, 2023 - Sunday

#### *Munich*

Breakfast is served, and the morning is free to relax before we head out to enjoy the prominent Residenz Christmas market. The organizers of this market, have recreated a farming village in the Emperor's Court of the Munich Residenz, the former Bavarian Seat of Government. They say the prettiest gingerbreads in Germany are made and sold here; we will taste and judge! We continue to the Bayerisches National Museum with the world-famous collection of nativity scenes. Tonight, we have arranged a farewell dinner at a very special restaurant. This will be a fun way to say a fond farewell to our fellow travelers - Merry Christmas! **B | D**

### December 4, 2023 - Monday

#### *Munich - Return Home*

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Transfer to Munich airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States.

**B | In-flight meals**

*Itinerary subject to change!*

**B = Breakfast**  
**L = Lunch**  
**D = Dinner**



Merry Christmas!



To register contact:



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www.executivetravel.com

SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

[Executivetravel.com/st-marks-united-methodist-church-exclusive-tours/](http://Executivetravel.com/st-marks-united-methodist-church-exclusive-tours/)

**Package Price:**

Per person in a shared double room:	\$2,995
Per person in a single room:	\$3,595
Per person in a shared triple room:	\$2,945

Triple rooms consist of 2 double beds.

Remember our "Pair & Share" service for solo travelers.

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The balance is due on August 15, 2023, and is non-refundable. Cash, check, and credit card payments are accepted (no processing fees).

**Travel Insurance:**

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

*This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 30 travelers. Should we, for any reason, not be able to guarantee this departure, we will offer a refund of all funds paid to Executive Travel for land, air, and travel insurance 90 days prior to departure.*

**LEVEL 1 2 3 4 - This Journey is level 3:**

Between the scheduled sightseeing tours included in the program and personal exploration, you can expect to walk 4 miles or more over the course of a day, typically on pavements.

This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes are recommended.

**Group Airfare:**

Group airfare will be available by the end of January 2023. All registered travelers will be notified.

Estimate \$1,400 per person, economy class, including taxes and fees.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. Premium seating (upgrades) can be purchased and confirmed at this time. Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure, and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft or availability for upgrades.

Mileage credit for individuals on group air contracts is not guaranteed. Schedule, taxes, and fees are subject to change.

**Included:**

- Roundtrip private motorcoach St. Mark's Church-Omaha Airport
- 8 nights hotel accommodation at local 4-star hotels
- 8 x breakfast
- 1 x welcome lunch
- 1 x farewell dinner
- All transportation with private air-conditioned motorcoach
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- Professional local tour guide during all days in Austria and Germany
- Baggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Headphones where required
- Executive Travel Host, November 25 - December 4, 2023
- Detailed travel documents (hard-copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as of July 8, 2022

**Accommodation:**

- Vienna: Hotel Wandl
- Salzburg: Leopoldskron Castle Hotel
- Munich: Munich Holiday Inn City

*Final accommodation will be advised 90 days prior to departure.*

**Not Included:**

- Airfare
- Airline baggage fees (first checked bag up to 50 lbs is free)
- Travel insurance, please ask us
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to sites other than mentioned
- Gratuities to local tour guides and drivers (estimate a total of \$10-\$15 per day)
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found at [executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours](http://executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours).

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