

German & Austrian Christmas Markets



See the beauty of the Rothenburg Christmas Markets

10 Festive Days Frankfurt to Munich – Escorted Tour

Imagine exploring Europe's greatest and most nostalgic Christmas Markets stirring in anticipation of the festivities ahead. Enjoy visits to Neuschwanstein Castle and the extravagant Linderhof Palace, take in the views from the summit of the massive Zugspitze and savour the warm, local hospitality.



DAY 1

Frankfurt

Your tour commences this evening in wonderful Frankfurt: a city of contrasts – from modern skyscrapers to beautifully maintained old buildings. There is so much to see and do in the city centre. Dinner tonight is included in your hotel, but first enjoy a welcome drink. This is an ideal opportunity to meet your fellow travellers. **Meals: D**

Your Frankfurt Hotel – Maritim Hotel

This first class hotel is in a superb location near the city centre.



DAY 2

Würzburg Christmas Markets, 'My Time' in Rothenburg Ob Der Tauber and a Night Watchman torchlit walk

We arrive into the baroque city of Würzburg, starting point of the 'Romantic Road', mid morning. You will have plenty of free time to explore the enchanting Christmas Markets in the Altstadt (old town). We arrive mid afternoon in nearby Rothenburg, the finest medieval city in all of Europe. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy the delightful cobblestoned streets, ramparts and turrets of picture-postcard Rothenburg. Make a point of walking through the famous 'Christmas Shop' known for its stunning displays. The Christmas Markets, set in the narrow alleys are perhaps the quaintest you will ever see. This evening, after dinner in



Take a Night Watchman tour through the medieval streets of Rothenburg

Image taken by Albatross traveller J. Allen

your hotel, we have included a special treat – a torchlight tour with the Night Watchman through the beautifully preserved ramparts and winding streets.

Meals: B,D

Your Rothenburg Hotel – Tilman Riemenschneider

This 4 star hotel is superbly located within the old medieval walls, and close by all of the main attractions of the old town.



continued

"All in all this was an excellent tour which I enjoyed immensely. The authentic European hotels, Christmas markets and the beautiful townships made this tour just magical." Deb



Magical Markets

by Julia Higginbotham

Travelling on the German and Austrian Christmas Markets tour transported me to another world. While wandering down the cobblestoned streets of an old town square, I was surrounded by impressive architecture, the beautiful voices of carol singers, the smell of German fare cooking and twinkling lights. There were vibrant wooden stalls filled with decorations, food, drinks and keepsakes enticing locals and tourists alike.

Being able to experience this amazing European tradition and bask in the culture was unforgettable. However, there was more to the tour than just shopping at Christmas Markets! I fell in love with quaint villages, learnt the history of many towns and cities and saw some beautiful scenery.

The highlights of this tour for me were the city of Salzburg, travelling to the Zugspitze summit for a day in the snow and most of all experiencing the culture firsthand at such a festive time of year. The authentic and cosy accommodation, wonderful Tour Manager and Driver plus a great itinerary made my holiday unforgettable. Thank you Albatross Tours!



Be enchanted by Salzburg

DAY 3 Nürnberg 'My Time' and Christmas Markets

Today we visit medieval Nürnberg with its massive stone towers and gates, which was once the setting for enormous Nazi rallies and the War Crimes trials. Nürnberg now boasts extensive pedestrian walkways and the most splendid Christmas Markets in Europe. A truly magical European Christmas atmosphere where local choirs sing and the smell of mulled wine, roasting sausages, chestnuts and sweets fill the air. This huge market has a unique law that only traditional Christmas artifacts are allowed for sale. We return to Rothenburg mid afternoon and the rest of your day is free
Meals: B

DAY 4 Romantic Road to Füssen, Neuschwanstein Castle and Oberammergau

Travelling south we reach Bavaria late morning and spend lunchtime at the end of the 'Romantic Road' - in the town of Füssen. Take time to walk through the very picturesque and historic town. Our afternoon visit is to the nearby village of Hohenschwangau. After a brisk walk uphill you will enjoy a visit to one of the most inspiring and famous castles in the world - 'Mad' King Ludwig's romantic Neuschwanstein Castle. At the Castle you will enjoy a guided tour inside the King's apartments, staterooms, halls and throne room all reminiscent of a Wagner operatic saga. Later we continue to the historic village of Oberammergau - famed for its 'Passion Play' performances which have been staged every 10 years since the 1600's. Oberammergau is set in the picturesque Ammer Valley beneath snow capped mountains. The town itself is also famous for its beautifully painted houses and chalets. **Meals: B,D**

Your Bavarian Hotel - Parkhotel Sonnenhof

This superior 3 star, family run hotel is built in the wooden Alpine style and is located within an easy walking distance of both the centre of town and the mountain lifts.



DAY 5 The mighty Zugspitze

Driving to nearby Garmisch-Partenkirchen we board a funicular train which takes us across snow laden fields to the base of the mighty Zugspitze. At this point the train enters the mountain and tunnels its way up to Zugspitzeplatt station at an altitude of 2,600 metres. Here you can be entertained by the alpine hustle and bustle and marvel at the acrobatic stunts of the free skiers and snowboarders in Terrain Park Zugspitze. There is also a marvellous SonnAlpin Glacier Restaurant to enjoy a relaxing brunch.

Later we will catch the cable car to the summit of the Zugspitze mountain, Germany's highest peak. At an altitude of nearly 3,000 metres the views are quite stupendous. Take in the unmatched 360° panorama with a view of more than 400 peaks in Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Germany, or enjoy lunch in the Gipfelalm rustic summit lodge. We then catch the Eibsee cable car all the way down to the lakeside where our coach meets us and takes us back to our hotel. **Meals: B,D**

DAY 6 Linderhof Palace, Kloster Ettal, Oberammergau's Passion Play theatre and 'My Time'

This morning we visit nearby Linderhof for a guided tour of the extravagant French Rococo Palace - yet another of King Ludwig's amazing creations. Later we stop at Kloster Ettal. This monastery in a lovely shaded valley dates back over 700 years and is one of the finest examples of Rococo architecture in existence. Following a guided visit to the Passion Play Theatre, the rest of your afternoon is free in Oberammergau to wander through the streets of beautifully painted houses and chalets. **Meals: B,D**

DAY 7 'My Time' in Innsbruck and to Salzburg

Departing Bavaria we cross the Garmisch Pass and descend into the spectacular Inn Valley and reach the winter resort of Innsbruck before lunchtime. You have plenty of time to explore the delightful Old Town and see the famous 'Golden Roof'. The Christmas markets are beautifully located in the old city central square. Later we continue to Salzburg - the baroque city of Mozart sitting beneath its enormous Festung (Fortress) where we spend two nights. **Meals: B,D**



Stand high above the Alps at the Zugspitze summit

Image taken by Albatross traveller J. Higginbotham

Your Salzburg Hotel – Hotel Stadtkrug

This 4 star hotel is located in the centre of the old town, a few minutes' walk to all the notable sights of town.



DAY 8

Salzburg sightseeing and 'My Time'

This morning we enjoy a walking tour with a local guide who will introduce you to this enchanting city, including several locations used in the film 'The Sound of Music'. The rest of day is entirely free for you to enjoy this marvellous city with its winding cobblestone streets, churches, Christmas decorations and shops – all a short walk away. Take time to visit the huge castle for a fascinating view and don't forget to soak up the atmosphere of the famous Salzburg Christmas Markets. **Meals: B**

DAY 9

Munich and 'My Time'

Travelling north we cross into Germany and arrive into Munich for our last night together. Rebuilt since the war the central walking precinct is a mass of people and activity. The shopping is excellent. Perhaps take lunch in one of the numerous cafés or a giant Beer Hall? A perfect place for some Christmas shopping (and yes there are Christmas Markets all around the old Town Hall). Your farewell dinner tonight will be enjoyed in a local restaurant. **Meals: B,D**

Your Munich Hotel – Maritim Hotel

This 4 star hotel is in a superb location in the city centre, a few minutes' walk to the main pedestrian shopping mall.



DAY 10

Munich

This morning it is time to say farewell as your tour ends. **Meals: B**

Why not join us for a Christmas tour? Our exciting Christmas tours are specially designed to start soon after our Pre-Christmas tours end.



Discover local market treasures
Image taken by Albatross traveller L. Bonomini



Indulge in a 'snowball' in Rothenburg
Image taken by Albatross traveller M. Sargent

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