

EUROPE'S PRE-CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Enjoy the world-famous Christmas Markets and Classical Music tradition of Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. One performance - orchestral, opera or ballet - is included at each stop.

November 30th: MUNICH The tour commences today in our 4 star boutique hotel in the heart of Munich. Get to know your fellow travellers at Welcome Drinks and Dinner. [D]

December 1st: MUNICH A sightseeing tour this morning of this thousand year old city. Munich is the capital of Bavaria with strong Wagner, Carl Orff and Richard Strauss associations. Munich is home to the Bavarian State Opera, the Bavarian State Ballet, and the Bavarian State Radio Orchestra. Details of our Classical Music performance will be provided closer to departure. The afternoon is free for the Christmas markets. [B]

December 2nd: MUNICH - Visit Nuremberg markets Ask any German which city has the very best Christmas markets and the unequivocal answer will be "Nuremberg". We have a mid-morning departure for the one hour train journey to Nuremberg, Bavaria's second city. The markets come alive as the lights come on. Back to our Munich hotel this evening. [B]

December 3rd: MUNICH - King Ludwig's Castle Visit An excursion by local rail today into the foothills of the Bavarian Alps to visit the fairy tale Neuschwanstein Castle, built by "mad" King Ludwig. Back to our Munich hotel. Will this be the night for a classical concert or an opera? [B]

December 4th: SALZBURG Our luggage is taken on ahead as we join Austria's flagship train, the Railjet, to Salzburg the city of Mozart and Maria von Trapp. On arrival we enjoy a walking tour through the Old City, and a funicular ride to the Hohensalzburg Fortress for a panoramic view across the city. Then some of the major Mozart sights and Christmas markets before our included dinner. [B,D]

December 5th: SALZBURG A day for Sound of Music fans, as we join a tour of the main locations used in the film. Another bash at the Christmas markets. [B]

December 6th: SALZBURG How about a day in the Austrian Alps? We take the Railjet again to the Hapsburgs Winter Capital, Innsbruck where after a short walking tour, we take a cable car up the Alps for lunch with a view across the city from 7,000 feet. Back to Salzburg, her markets, and our hotel. [B]

December 7th: VIENNA Today we join Austrian Rail's Railjet to Vienna, the Imperial Capital of the Hapsburgs and still – after more than two centuries – still the world capital of Classical music. It was home to Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Mahler, Brahms, Schubert, Bruckner, Korngold, Gluck and Strauss. Not a bad roll call! We settle into our city-centre hotel, where our luggage awaits. Vienna's fine buildings look magnificent by night, as do her Christmas markets. [B,D]

December 8th: VIENNA Our morning city sightseeing programme introduces us to this stately city - the Ring, the Hofburg and St Stephen's (setting of Mozart's wedding and his funeral). Watch the fountains and listen to the music. [B]

December 9th: VIENNA A free day in Vienna. Her Christkindlmarkt (Christmas markets) are world famous, as are her opera companies and orchestras. Will this be the night for our classical music performance? We will be advised as programmes are released. [B]

December 10th: VIENNA After a short rail journey we arrive in the Hapsburg's second capital – and home to Franz Liszt, Dohnányi, Kodály and Béla Bartók - Budapest. Our city sightseeing includes the Chain Bridge, Buda Castle, the Gothic St Matthew's Church, and the Fisherman's Bastion. Visit one of the famous historic coffee houses and the Christmas markets before re-joining our train to our hotel in Vienna. [B]

December 11th: PRAGUE Today's rail journey brings us in the early afternoon to magical Prague. Our afternoon stroll includes the nearby Old Town Square which has buildings from the fourteenth to the twentieth century. Enjoy the view over coffee in an outdoor café. [B,D]

December 12th: PRAGUE This morning we begin to discover this magnificent city. Prague was never bombed, and much of the Old City is untouched from the fourteenth century. The Castle, the Charles Bridge, Wenceslas Square, and the Jewish Quarter feature in our sightseeing. Classical music opportunities abound. Mozart loved Prague, and his love was reciprocated. [B]

December 13th: PRAGUE Enjoy your free day in this beautiful city, shopping or enjoying the music and the markets. Prague is the centre for world famous Bohemian crystal. [B]

December 14th: LEIPZIG Our luggage is taken on ahead as we join Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) for a panoramic rail journey down the gorges of the Vlatava River and on to the city of Bach, Mendelsohn and the Schumanns – Leipzig. Enjoy the markets before our included dinner. [B,D]

December 15th: LEIPZIG This morning's city sightseeing includes the Thomas Church where we pay homage at Bach's grave, the University of Leipzig which counts both Bach and Goethe among its alumni, and the Nicholas Church – famous for its role in the end of Communism. The afternoon is free for the Christmas markets.. [B]

December 16th: LEIPZIG - Visit to Dresden While Leipzig was the cultural capital of the Kingdom of Saxony, its princes ruled from the palace in their capital Dresden. Today we visit this stately city which is still being rebuilt from its near-total destruction one night in February 1945. Sensational museums, the Semper Opera House and plenty of Christmas markets. Back to Leipzig tonight. [B]

December 17th: BERLIN Our short rail journey today has us in Berlin before lunch time. Our afternoon's sightseeing introduces us to the city which divided Europe for 45 years - the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Unter den Linden. Tonight's classical music performance, if available, will be chosen from some of the world's finest orchestras and opera companies. [B]

December 18th: BERLIN More sightseeing today in the city with a greater concentration of museums than London, and one of the world's great zoos. Will the Berlin Philharmonic be in town? [B]

December 19th: BERLIN A final day for that last minute Christmas shopping. Couldn't find it in the markets? Visit the greatest department store in the world [in your Tour Director's humble opinion] – KaDeWe, a short walk from our hotel. Our farewell dinner tonight. [B,D]

December 20th: AUF WIEDERSEHEN Our tour ends after breakfast. If you are joining the White Christmas Week in the Swiss Alpine village of Grindelwald, there is an included transfer to Grindelwald in Switzerland.



ENJOY

Europe's pre-Christmas buzz.

Included Classical music performances - ideally one in each city, but this will depend on offerings once programmes are published.

Plenty of free time for shopping in Europe's legendary Christmas markets, department stores and boutiques.

TRAVEL

- All stops 3 or 4 nights
- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- 4 and 5 Star Hotels with buffet breakfasts
- 6 dinners, sightseeing and entrances as indicated
- Tips for local guides included
- Full luggage handling between cities
- 1 Classical Music / Opera / Ballet performance in each of the cities where we stay. Details will be advised when programmes are finalised.

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 21 DAYS

DEPARTURES:
NOVEMBER 30th 2024
NOVEMBER 30th 2025

COST:

\$12,500 per person twin share
Single supplement \$1,500pp

Land Content Only, commencing in Munich and ending in Berlin.

DEPOSIT

\$2,500 with booking, final payment 3 months before travel.



WHITE CHRISTMAS

POST-TOUR ADD-ON TO THE PRE-CHRISTMAS MAGIC TOUR:

Why not enjoy a White Christmas in a beautiful Swiss Alpine village (with opportunities to visit Christmas markets) after the Pre-Christmas Magic Tour?

On arrival on December 21st there is a transfer included to the picturesque Swiss Alpine village of Grindelwald, nestled under the North Face of the Eiger. Our hotel is rated 3+ stars and oozes Swiss charm. There are breathtaking Alpine views and a roaring log fire. We have reserved superior standard rooms with private facilities for our tour members.

Every morning there is a buffet breakfast, and every evening a four course dinner is provided for our tour members. This includes the festivities of a special Christmas Dinner, as Swiss tradition dictates on the night of Christmas Eve. There is a beautiful church 50 metres away with a midnight service on Christmas Eve should you wish to attend.

Grindelwald is a snow sports fan's heaven. But if you are not a snow bunny, there are a million other things to do. Grindelwald is a hub for the Swiss mountain train networks and there are many gondolas and cable cars to the Alpine peaks all around. It is an easy train ride to the cities of Berne, Basel and Zurich with their Christmas markets.

The village itself offers excellent shopping and a wide variety of restaurants and coffee shops for lingering lazy lunches, before returning to the hotel to read or snooze in front of the log fire.

- 8 nights accommodation in a superior standard room with private facilities in a 3 star hotel in the Swiss village of Grindelwald.
- 8 buffet breakfasts, 7 four course dinners (inc. Special Christmas Dinner on Christmas Eve).
- Transfer from Berlin to Grindelwald at the end of the Pre-Christmas Tour.

NOTE: Your hosts are on hand to provide sightseeing suggestions and assistance, but there are no escorted activities during this relaxing week.

FACT BOX:

DURATION: 8 DAYS

DEPARTURES:
DECEMBER 20th 2024
DECEMBER 20th 2025

COST:

\$AU 3000 per person twin share
Single supplement \$1,500



BOOKING CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Great Trains of Europe Tours
(ABN 75 325 01 0 987) are members of IATA #96836610

COSTS: Costs are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at 31st December 2023.

Exchange rate fluctuations in the price of any service provided, beyond the control of Great Trains of Europe Tours, may be passed on to travellers, right up to the date of departure.

A deposit of \$2,500 per person will guarantee a place (unless already filled, in which case you will be advised of your place on the waiting list. With a maximum tour size of 25 travellers, tours often fill early).

Full final payment is due 90 days before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" or by bank transfer as follows:

Heritage Bank, Toowoomba

BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34 Payment by credit card attracts a 1.5% surcharge.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation at any time after the deposit is paid will result in the forfeiture of the deposit. Any booking cancelled between 90 days and 45 days before departure will incur a 50% cancellation charge on land content. Bookings cancelled within 45 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: A condition of joining a Great Trains of Europe tour is either the purchase of travel insurance through Great Trains of Europe Tours, or documentary evidence of a sufficient level of travel insurance purchased elsewhere.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: A baggage allowance of 23kgs per person applies to all tour members.

HOTELS: Hotel star ratings, where provided, are those of the country in which the hotel is situated, and vary from country to country.

OTHER IMPORTANT ADVICE: The tour will proceed if a minimum of 15 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure.

In the highly unlikely event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be offered either (i) a full refund of all monies paid, (ii) a modified cost structure for a smaller group, or (iii) a place on an alternative Great Trains of Europe Tour.

Each tour is sold as a package and there can be no refund for any element of the tour (eg. a meal or an excursion) not utilised by the traveller by her/ his own choice. Tour costs have built into them the costs associated with researching tours, communicating with overseas suppliers, brochure preparation and marketing. Great Trains of Europe Tours does not claim nor imply that some of the inclusions in our tours may or may not be available at a lower price direct from the overseas supplier. Travellers are reminded, however, that purchases made direct with overseas suppliers may not be covered by Australian Travel Agents licensing protections.

Most photographs used in this brochure were taken by the Tour Leader on past tours, but some have been provided by hotels, rail companies or Tourism Boards. Photographs are indicative only. Great Trains of Europe Tours reserves the right to decline any reservation or booking request, and may at the Tour Leader's discretion terminate any person's involvement in the tour due to unruly or disruptive behaviour.

Great Trains of Europe Tours does not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or other events which are beyond our direct control such as, but not limited to war, terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, civil disturbance, industrial action, acts of government or of God, or mechanical failure such as aircraft, trains or coaches.

Great Trains of Europe Tours cannot be held responsible for changes to provision of services by local suppliers, but we will do all in our power to provide an alternative service of equal standard to that advertised, or make a cash refund of the difference on the spot.

CONTRACT: The contract between the traveller and Great Trains of Europe Tours, entered into by your signing the booking form, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.

"Stan's tours are the group tours for people who don't like group tours: they are well organised but not regimented; flexible with plenty of time; no rush, no bustle."



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Tours

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Jackie Wood, Melbourne

(5 time tour member on the Great Trains of Europe Tours)

Great Trains of Europe Tours BOOKING FORM

One form per person, please.

Tour Name: _____ Departure Date: _____

PASSPORT DETAILS

Full name (as in passport): _____

Address: _____

Passport No: _____ Date of Issue: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Nationality: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

MEDICAL / DIET

Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?

☐ YES ☐ NO If you answered YES, please outline briefly: _____

Are you able to walk 500 metres and climb 25 stairs without assistance? ☐ YES ☐ NO

NEXT OF KIN {to be contacted in event of an emergency}

Name: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____ Mobile: _____

TRAVEL INSURANCE

☐ Please provide me with travel insurance. ☐ I have a pre-existing medical condition.

{NOTE: Passengers over 75 years of age at end of a tour will need a medical clearance}

☐ I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

ACCOMMODATION

☐ Double ☐ Twin, sharing with _____

☐ Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.

☐ Single Room ☐ Single occupancy of double sized room {surcharge} ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Smoking

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

☐ Pre-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN ____/____/____ Date OUT ____/____/____

☐ Post-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN ____/____/____ Date OUT ____/____/____

FLIGHTS

☐ I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me. or ☐ I will make my own flight arrangements.

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ I enclose a cheque, payable to “Great Trains of Europe Tours” for \$ _____ or

☐ I have deposited \$ _____ in the “ Great Trains of Europe Tours” account at Heritage Bank, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Qld.,

4350, Australia as follows.

BSB 638 – 060 Account Number 11109734 Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence.

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature _____ Date _____



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