







Explore Europe's enchanting Christmas markets

Enjoy the festive atmosphere and the cultural wonders of this journey.

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.

- Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach
- A complimentary wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners
 Welcome drink in Frankfurt
 17 meals including buffet breakfast daily (B) and 8 evening meals (D)
- Hotel porterage of 1 bag per person (where available)
 10 nights authentic, specially selected hotel accommodation
 Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)
- ALL tips for your Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides Local guides as described in the itinerary Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
- Explore the fabulous Christmas Markets in Frankfurt, Rothenburg, Würzburg, Nürnberg, Innsbruck, Salzburg and Munich! ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described



Frankfurt

Day 1

Maritim Hotel Frankfurt, Germany



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.

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

Day 2

Hotel Tilman Riemenschneider



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

Nürnberg 'My Time' and Christmas Markets

Day 3

Hotel Tilman Riemenschneider



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.

Romantic Road to Neuschwanstein Castle & Oberammergau

Day 4



Parkhotel Sonnenhof, Oberammergau



Travelling south we reach village of Hohenschwangau in Bavaria. 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 snowcapped mountains. The town itself is also famous for its beautifully painted houses and chalets.

The mighty Zugspitze

Day 5



Parkhotel Sonnenhof, Oberammergau



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.

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

Day 6

Parkhotel Sonnenhof, Oberammergau

B,D

This morning we have included a guided visit to the Oberammergau Passion Play Theatre & the 'My Time' to wander through the streets of beautifully painted houses and chalets. Later we visit nearby Linderhof for a guided tour of the extravagant French Rococo Palace - yet another of King Ludwig's amazing creations. This afternoon 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.

'My Time' in Innsbruck and to Salzburg

Day 7

Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg

B,D

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 three nights.

Salzburg sightseeing and 'My Time'

Day 8

Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg



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 the day is entirely free for you to enjoy this marvellous city with its winding cobblestoned 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.

Horse drawn carriage ride in Filzmoos

Day 9

Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg

Driving south, we stop at the ski resort of Filzmoos where we board a horse drawn carriage to enjoy a ride through this winter wonderland. Passing through the snowy woods, and surrounded by majestic mountains, we reach the remote Oberhofalm alpine hut which provides a perfect lunchtime stop. This evening we have arranged a special dinner in the St Peter Stiftskeller – Austria's oldest restaurant which dates back 1200 years! Be enchanted as we step back in time to the late 18th century.

Munich and 'My Time'

Day 10

Maritim Hotel Munich, Germany

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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.

Munich

Day 11

Maritim Hotel Munich, Germany

This morning it is time to say farewell as your tour ends.

Hand Selected Experiences

These are just a few of the very special hand selected experiences that will really make your touring experience exceptional and unique, and don't forget, with Albatross they are always included.



Wurzburg Starting point of the 'Romantic Road'



Nürnberg Christmas Markets



Rothenburg Medieval town



Zugspitze Funicular train



Linderhof Palace Guided tour



Neuschwanstein Castle Fairytale castle of 'Mad' King Ludwig



OberammergauVisit the village of Oberammergau



InnsbruckChristmas Markets



Salzburg Christmas Markets

Dates and Prices

Correct as of 02:01 on 18th May 2024

Start Date	End Date	Twin Price	Solo Price	
30 Nov 2024	10 Dec 2024	AUD\$6,487	AUD\$7,987	Sold Out
04 Dec 2024	14 Dec 2024	AUD\$6,487	AUD\$7,987	Space Available
07 Dec 2024	17 Dec 2024	AUD\$6,487	AUD\$7,987	Space Available

^{*} All 2024/25 dates, prices, itineraries and hotels are tentative and may be subject to change. Please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

Tour Suitability

- J Our Christmas, New Year and Northern Lights tours travel throughout the European winter months. The weather can get cold, and roads and pathways can be slippery. When outdoors, please take extra care when navigating slippery surfaces.
- We recommend sturdy waterproof shoes, thick socks, a woollen beanie, thermal underclothes, gloves and sunglasses. You will be comfortable when travelling as your first class coach is fitted with heaters and double glazed windows. Once you arrive at your hotel you will be greeted with a warm and comfortable atmosphere.

Thinking about what to wear? Please read our blog on Wardrobe essentials: https://www.albatrosstours.com.au/news-nest-travel-blog/wardrobe-essentials-for-a-winter-wonderland-tour-in-europe/

Please refer to our Tour Suitability section for more information.

Terms & Conditions

• Information provided is true and correct at time of issue. Airfares not included. For further details please contact your consultant or full terms and conditions may be found at www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions. Albatross Tours ABN 45 010 585 143. ATAS Accreditation No: A11341. CATO Accreditation No. 69562707