





# **Experience the stunning Bavarian & Swiss Alps**

Enjoy Christmas in the Bavarian Alps, visit fabulous Christmas Markets and see the famous Swarovski crystal covered Christmas tree.

At Christmas, relax over 5 nights in the beautiful 'Passion Play' village of Oberammergau and spend your days visiting romantic 'fairytale' castles, Bavarian villages, and Christmas markets, and a trip to the top of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze. See Zurich's massive illuminated Christmas tree at the Christmas market at the main train station. Relax on the famous Glacier Express as it cuts through Switzerland's mightiest peaks and explore Luzern, Montreux on Lake Geneva and Innsbruck. Stay 2 nights in the chic ski resort of Klosters and relax over 3 relaxing nights in a spa resort perched high in the snow-clad Alps, surrounded by massive, jagged peaks. Visit Zermatt and ride high on a train to the top of Gornergrat mountain for staggering Matterhorn views. What fun!

- Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach
- A complimentary wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners
  Welcome drink in Zurich
  25 meals including buffet breakfast daily (B), 1 lunch (L) and 11 evening meals (D)
- Hotel porterage of 1 bag per person (where available)
  13 nights authentic, specially selected hotel accommodation
  Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)
- Local guides as described in the itinerary
  ALL tips for your Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides
  Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
- Hand selected experiences including
  ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described
  Spend Christmas Day in the Bavarian Alps
  Explore the fabulous Christmas Markets in Zurich, Luzern, Montreux and Innsbruck



#### Zurich

Day 1

Hotel Glockenhof Zürich, Switzerland



Your tour commences this evening in Zurich. Tonight a welcome drink and dinner are included. This is an ideal opportunity to meet your fellow travellers.

## Luzern sightseeing, 'My Time' & Christmas Markets

Day 2

Hotel Glockenhof Zürich, Switzerland



We will spend the morning in the pretty lake-side city of Luzern, with its quaint covered bridges and ancient houses with decorative painted facades. Your afternoon is free to explore Zurich. The shopping is excellent, and there is so much to see. Make sure you visit Zurich's Christkindlmarkt market at the main train station. One of the largest indoor Christmas Markets in Europe, they are famous for their massive, illuminated Christmas Tree.

### 'My Time' in Montreux & Château Chillon

Day 3



Le Bristol Wellness Hotel, Leukerbad



First stop today will be in Montreux. Lunchtime is at leisure to explore Montreux' excellent Christmas markets that stretch all along the grand lakeside promenade and foreshore. Look out for the statue of Freddie Mercury, who spent his last years here. Afterwards, we have included a guided tour through the beautifully preserved Château Chillon. Made famous in Byron's poem 'The Prisoner of Chillon', this 13th century fortress juts out imposingly into Lake Geneva.

Later we drive along the scenic Swiss 'Valais' before dramatically winding our way high up into the mountains to the Alpine Spa town of Leukerbad, where we stay three nights.

### 'My Time' in Leukerbad

Day 4



Le Bristol Wellness Hotel, Leukerbad



Enjoy a totally free day. The mountains surrounding you are staggering and the whole town is famous for its giant spas fed by natural steaming hot spring water drawn from deep in the mountains. Maybe relax and enjoy the hotel's excellent spa and pampering treatment programme, explore the wonderful Alpine village, go on winter walks or catch cable cars up to the restaurants and bars perched high above on the pristine white, snow-covered ski fields. Wonderful!

#### **Zermatt & the Matterhorn**

Day 5



Le Bristol Wellness Hotel, Leukerbad



Driving deep into the mountains we reach Taesch, where we catch a cog railway train up to world-famous Zermatt. At an altitude of 1,620 metres (5,315 ft), the village is surrounded by huge peaks and dominating all is the mighty Matterhorn. Petrol-driven vehicles are banned from the village and as such the peace and quiet enhances the wooden chalets and small winding streets. Stunning! As a highlight we have included the Gornergrat funicular train to the highest open air railway station in Europe. On the restaurant terrace we will enjoy a warming hot drink while taking in the astounding views across 28 magnificent peaks all over 4,000 metres high!

# The scenic Glacier Express train to Chur

Day 6

Hotel Seven Alpina Boutique

**Ф** В, D

At Brig we board the famous Glacier Express train which takes us along the 'Valais' through Switzerland's finest mountain scenery to Chur. We have reserved seats in the panoramic carriages. Ranked as one of the world's top train trips you will cross some of the 291 bridges, the 2,033 metre Oberalp Pass and 91 tunnels. After a little free time to explore Chur, Switzerland's oldest city, we continue to the exclusive ski resort of Klosters, where we stay the next two nights.

### 'My Time' in Klosters & the mountains

Day 7

Hotel Seven Alpina Boutique

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A magnificent day to enjoy 'My Time' in the stunning scenery which surrounds you, and do as much, or as little, as you want! Whether you are a 'super active snow sports' person or a 'take it easy and relax' person there are numerous activities you can enjoy, and your Tour Manager will be at hand to assist and advise you. You can easily access all the main peaks by funicular trains, cable cars and chair lifts. At all 'drop off' points there are restaurants, cafés and restroom facilities – usually with extraordinary panoramic views. Maybe try your hand at Nordic skiing, snow shoe walking or simply stroll along winter footpaths? Alternatively enjoy your hotel's indoor pool and spa facilities.

## 'My Time' in Innsbruck, Christmas Markets & Oberammergau

Day 8

Parkhotel Sonnenhof, Oberammergau

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Driving into Austria's Tyrol region we stop to enjoy lunch time in the Winter Olympic resort of Innsbruck. You will have time to explore the old town with its famous 'Golden Roof' and picturesque Christmas Markets. In the afternoon we visit the massive ski jump at Bergisel. Taking a funicular train to the top you will find a café, ski jump memorabilia and a viewing platform where you can look right down the steep take off run. Amazing! Later we will drive over the incredibly scenic Garmisch-Partenkirchen mountain pass into Bavaria to the historic village of Oberammergau and our Christmas hotel, where we stay the next five nights. 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. On arrival we will be greeted with a welcome drink. All dinners, including traditional Christmas Eve dinner and a Christmas Day Turkey lunch are included over the next five days.

### Hohenschwangau Castle, 'My Time' in Fuessen, Wieskirche & a horse drawn carriage ride

Day 9

Parkhotel Sonnenhof, Oberammergau

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This morning we take you on a picturesque drive to the village of Hohenschwangau. Here you will enjoy a visit to enjoy a guided tour of Ludwig's family home, Hohenschwangau Castle. Lunchtime is at leisure in nearby Füssen. Füssen is delightful! Stretches of the original Roman defensive walls are still in place, and the cobblestoned, pedestrianised centre of town is filled with shops, restaurants, and historic houses, many elaborately painted. High above, the old castle of the Prince-Bishops of Augsburg dominates the town. On our return journey we make a special stop at the richly decorated Wieskirche (Church in the Meadows) with its incredible painted ceilings. Highlight of the day will be your horse-drawn carriage ride through the local countryside.

# Christmas Eve at the top of the world - the mighty Zugspitze!

Day 10

Parkhotel Sonnenhof, Oberammergau

B,D

In 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 freeskiers and snowboarders in Terrain Park Zugspitze. There is also the 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 Christmas hotel. The warm glow will continue as we enjoy a traditional Christmas Eve Dinner.

## Christmas Day - 'My Time' in a Bavarian village

**Day 11** 

Parkhotel Sonnenhof, Oberammergau



Christmas Day as it should be - relaxing, eating, drinking and definitely no Indiana Jones repeats, washing up and unwelcome long-lost relatives! Enjoy a Christmas Day Turkey lunch at your hotel. The rest of the day will be free in this delightful Alpine location. Perhaps go for a winter walk or take a cable car to the top of the ski fields

### **Linderhof Palace, Kloster Ettal & Oberammergau**

**Day 12** 



Parkhotel Sonnenhof, Oberammergau



Boxing Day! This morning we visit 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. Later we visit Linderhof, an extravagant French Rococo Palace yet another of King Ludwig's amazing creations. This afternoon we return to Oberammergau where we have included a guided tour through the amazing Passion Play Theatre.

# **Munich Sightseeing and 'My Time'**

**Day 13** 



Maritim Hotel Munich, Germany



After a leisurely start we travel to Munich. On arrival we have included a panoramic drive around the city, which will orientate you with the main sights, such as the neo-gothic town hall, and the wonderful church known as the Frauenkirche. Your afternoon is at leisure to explore this cosmopolitan city. This evening we have included a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

#### Munich

Day 14



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.



**Zurich** Christkindlmarkt



**Chateau Chillon Guided Tour** 



**Zermatt**Ride the Gornergrat
Cog Railway



The Glacier
Express
Panoramic Train



Horse and Carriage Ride Through the Local Countryside



Hohenschwangau Castle Guided Tour



**Zugspitze**Funicular Train &
Cable Car



**Linderhof Palace**Guided Tour



Oberammergau Passion Play Theatre Guided Tour

# **Dates and Prices**

Correct as of 00:22 on 02nd April 2025

Start Date	End Date	Twin Price	Solo Price	
15 Dec 2025	28 Dec 2025	AUD\$10,687	AUD\$12,187	Space Available

<sup>\*</sup> Dates, prices, itineraries and hotels shown may be subject to change on specific departures. Please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

### **Tour Suitability**

- 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 with good grip (hiking shoes, rather than sneakers), thick socks, a woollen beanie, thermal underclothes, gloves and sunglasses. Walking poles can be helpful to give you more confidence, if desired. Layering some light clothes is advisable, as you will often come in from the picturesque cold to warm spaces inside, so layering enables you to adjust to each environment for your optimal comfort. You will also be very comfortable when travelling as your modern touring 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