



**WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST**

Travel Solo Together

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS MARKETS!

Austria & Germany

with Women of the Midwest!

**November 30 - December 11, 2024**



Women of the Midwest, hello!

There is no better way to usher in the holiday season of Advent and Christmas than to travel with Women of the Midwest to Austria and Germany!

Our fairy tale adventure starts in Vienna. The scent of burnt umber alerts you that you have arrived at the home of the famous Viennese coffee. And, no matter how much you stroll and shop, there is always time to linger at an outdoor café over coffee and Vienna's celebrated Sacher Torte and conversation with your new travel friends.

What else is Vienna famous for? The music of the Strauss family! Experience the famous Blue Danube River of waltz fame; you might just find yourself dancing down the streets of the Waltz capital as your ears pick up strains of Austria's second national anthem wherever we are in Vienna.

We are not only greeted by the sounds of the Strauss waltzes, but we add the beautiful notes of Mozart when we arrive in Salzburg, where we visit the childhood home of this musical "boy genius." And, since Salzburg is also the home of the Von Trapp Family Singers, we can hum along to the charming tunes of Rogers and Hammerstein as we visit the scenes where Julie Andrews' movie was filmed.

Not only do we get to experience the magical Christmas markets, but we will also visit Regensburg, a medieval UNESCO World Heritage Site, Linderhof Palace, and Melk Abbey. The snow-covered Alps are the backdrop, and the beautiful cities we will visit are where you can find a Christmas gift for everyone on your list. We will shop for beautiful ornaments, wooden toys, Christmas mugs, paper-lighted stars and gingerbreads, nativity scenes, and sheepskin slippers.

Join me on the Merry Christmas Markets tour. This is the perfect adventure with a friend, sister, or mother and daughter. Come along, and enjoy! Frohe Weihnachten!

Sincerely,

Anne Moore, Women of the Midwest Ambassador



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



## Vienna by Night



### November 30, 2024 - Saturday

Traveling to Vienna

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

### December 1, 2024 - Sunday

Vienna

Welcome to the "City of Waltz!" Upon arrival, we meet our local tour director transfer to the town center with our private motorcoach. 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 hotel and spend an evening relaxing and unwinding. B (flight) | L

### December 2, 2024 - Monday

Vienna

After a filling breakfast, we are ready for city sightseeing by foot including visiting the Christmas markets of Vienna. This morning, we will be visiting the Christmas markets of Vienna. The markets are age-old traditions with

## Local Delicacies



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

### December 3, 2024 - Tuesday

Vienna

After breakfast, we head out to visit Schoenbrunn Castle. During the reign of Maria Theresa (1740-1780), Schönbrunn Palace became the glittering focus of court life. From then on, it played host to the leading statesmen of Europe. Emperor Franz Joseph and his wife Sisi had a total of 1441 rooms at Schönbrunn Palace at their disposal. We will have the opportunity to see 45 of these opulent rooms and immerse ourselves directly in the imperial age. Transfer back to the city center to enjoy an apple strudel show. In the afternoon, we will visit the beautiful Sisi Museum located inside the Hofburg, close to our hotel. B | T

### December 4, 2024 - Wednesday

Melk Abbey - Salzburg

Breakfast is served at a leisurely pace.

## Wooden Souvenirs



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. We will arrive at our centrally located hotel in the afternoon for an evening at leisure. B | L

### December 5, 2024 - Thursday

Salzburg

Breakfast is served, and we head out for a walking tour of the old town of Salzburg, the hometown of Wolfgang Amadeus. We will experience Residence, St. Peter's Monastery, Festival House, and Rock Riding School. We will also attend a beautiful 30-minute concert in the Salzburg Cathedral, visit Mirabell Palace, and walk the pretty gardens. In the afternoon, it is time for Mozart! We will visit 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,



## Bavarian Winter Landscape



family relationships, his passion for opera, and much more. Free time to enjoy this captivating and enchanting city by night. Salzburg will take your breath away; it is literally one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. B

### December 6, 2024 - Friday

#### Salzburg

After a delicious breakfast, we board our motorcoach and let ourselves be carried away, following in the footsteps of the Trapp family and humming along to the tunes of "The Sound of Music!" Our first stop is at the Oberndorf Chapel - birthplace of the famous Christmas carol "Silent Night, Holy Night." Lunch is served in the area of Lake Wolfgang. The villages of St. Wolfgang, St. Gilgen, and Strobl have a special charm you will not find anywhere else. In St. Wolfgang, the homely atmosphere with candles and torchlights is captivating. St. Gilgen presents itself as a baroque Advent scene with artistically designed market stands. The idyllic village of Strobl is transformed into a picturesque village of nativity scenes during the Christmas season. On our return to Salzburg, we will stop to take photos at Fuschl and Leopoldskron Castles. The evening is at leisure. Oh, what a day! B | L

### December 7, 2024 - Saturday

#### Salzburg

More "Sound of Music" awaits as we head out to visit Hellbrunn Castle and the Hellbrunner Advent Magic. You will have the entire afternoon and evening to enjoy Salzburg on your own. We are

## Gingerbreads



happy to assist with a dinner concert. B

### December 8, 2024 - Sunday

#### Oberammergau - Munich

After breakfast, we depart Salzburg and head towards Munich. On our way, we will stop in Oberammergau for a leisurely lunch. You will enjoy this town, famous for the Passion Play performances that take 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. Lunch is in Oberammergau before we continue to Linderhof Palace, beautifully set on the edge of the Bavarian Alps. A better backdrop is hard to imagine. Of the three palaces "mad" King Ludwig 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 Marienplatz with the world-famous Glockenspiel. B | L

### December 9, 2024 - Monday

#### Regensburg

After a filling breakfast, we drive to Regensburg (90 min.), 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 on foot, and we will visit the Christmas

## German Post Office



market at the Thurn & Taxis Palace. During Advent, the courtyard serves as a magical stage for one of Bavaria's most beautiful Christmas markets. Hungry anyone? Enjoy lunch at the historic "Wurstkuchl" (Sausage Kitchen). Located in a 900-year-old building, this is the world's oldest sausage kitchen, still serving more than 6,000 sausages daily. Our last stop in Regensburg is at a local hat maker. We will see and learn the technique behind some of the most elegant hats you can imagine. The quality is the highest you can find! Return to our hotel in the late afternoon. B

### December 10, 2024 - Tuesday

#### Munich

We start our day admiring the world-famous collection of nativity scenes at the Bayerisches National Museum. Next, the Residenz Christmas market. The organizers of this market have recreated a farming village in the Emperor's Court, the former Bavarian Seat of Government. Tonight, we have arranged a farewell dinner at a very special restaurant. B | D

### December 11, 2024 - Wednesday

#### 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 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



### Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$4,595

Per person in a single room: \$5,595

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share"-service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. Deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on August 2, 2024, and is non-refundable. The balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% fee.

### EARLY BIRD BONUS - ZERO CREDIT CARD FEES:

Pay for your tour in full upon registration and minimum six months prior to departure using your credit card!

**SAVE 3.5%!**

*This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 22 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.*

### Included:

- 10 nights during the tour in Austria and Germany at hotels mentioned above or similar (4-star)
- 10 x breakfast
- 4 x lunch, including a beverage
- 1 x dinner, including beverages
- Apple strudel tasting
- All transportation as per tour program
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- Headphones where required
- Porterage at hotels (one bag per person)
- Professional English-speaking tour guide, November 30 - December 11, 2024
- Step-on guides where required
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, November 30 - December 11, 2024
- All local taxes and fees as of November 24, 2023

### Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 **3+** 4

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, some stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. We walk between 4-5 miles over the course of a day. Add to this the walking you do outside the group activities. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

### Group airfare:

Group airfare becomes available by the end of January 2024. All registered travelers will be notified.

### 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.*

### Hotel Accommodations (announced 30 days prior to dep.):

Vienna - Hotel Wandl or similar  
Salzburg - Hotel Imlauer Pitter or similar  
Munich - Hotel Hilton City or similar

### Not Included:

- Airfare
- Airline baggage fees (first checked piece up to 50 lbs is FREE)
- Gratuities (estimate \$12-15 per person per day in total)
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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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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11/24/2023