

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Christmas Markets of Budapest, Vienna & Prague

11 DAYS: Sunday, December 9-Wednesday, December 19, 2018
\$3,029 per person double occupancy; \$3,559 for single reservations

Kick off the holiday season a little differently this year.

Head to Eastern Europe's popular and festive Christmas markets to peruse stalls of handmade crafts perfect for everyone on your list. When you're not shopping, you'll have plenty of time to explore the streets of ancient Buda and modern Pest, get a taste for the Viennese café culture, and scan artsy Prague's spire-studded skyline.

Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels, 9 breakfasts, 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 3 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Traditional Christmas markets from Budapest to Prague, Matthias Church, Hungarian Parliament Building, Danube River, Schönbrunn Palace, Ringstrasse, Prague Castle,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 3 hours daily across mostly flat terrain with some cobblestone streets, hills and stairs.



Overnight Flight

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Budapest today.

Budapest

Day 2: Arrival in Budapest

Included meals: Dinner

Welcome to Hungary! Meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Budapest

Included meals: Breakfast

Discover the major landmarks of both Buda and Pest in the city that straddles east and west on a guided tour. Then, take time to wander through the city's Christmas markets on your own. • Trace this nation's stormy history at Heroes' Square • Tour the lavishly decorated Hungarian Parliament building • Cross the Danube and ascend Castle Hill • Take in the breathtaking views from Fisherman's Bastion • Visit the medieval Matthias Church, once the site of Hapsburg coronations Enjoy a free evening in Budapest or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Unicum Liqueur & Wine Tasting with Dinner \$95/pp

Go right to the source to take a taste of Hungary's national drink, Unicum liqueur. A secret formula of more than 40 herbs, the recipe has been protected by the Zwack family since 1790 and its story follows the turbulent history of the area. When the family escaped communism and lived in exile in the U.S., a trusted friend in Milan kept up production. You'll learn more about this fascinating legacy at the Zwack Unicum Heritage Visitors' Centre in Budapest, where you can sample the apéritif and view the museum's staggering collection of miniature bottles. Then, enjoy a Hungarian dinner accompanied by wine pairings chosen by a local sommelier who'll be on hand to tell you about each selection. Must book 20 days before departure.

Day 4: Free day in Budapest

Included meals: Breakfast

Spend a full free day in Budapest or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Budapest: A Walk Behind the Iron Curtain \$69/pp

Discover the turbulent, tragic, and heroic history of the communist period in Budapest on today's excursion. Your guided sightseeing tour passes the Parliament building, which was the starting place of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and still shows signs of damage from the Soviet invasion. Visit the nearby statue of Imre Nagy, Hungary's Prime Minister during the revolution, who is an enduring symbol of freedom. Liberty Square is just a stroll away, home to the U.S. Embassy, a statue of Ronald Reagan, and the only remaining monument to communist troops. From St. Stephen's Basilica, take the historic Metro Line 1 up the iconic Andrassy Avenue. Stop for an included coffee and piece of cake amidst the Neo-Renaissance splendor of a historic cafe. End the day at the House of Terror, where you will take a guided tour through this chilling museum and view the moving monument to the victims of communism and fascism in Hungary. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$79).

Vienna

Day 5: Travel to Vienna

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Travel west through the Danube basin as you make your way to Vienna. Upon arrival, pay a visit to the Hundertwasserhaus Christmas market, where you'll have free time for lunch.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Vienna

Included meals: Breakfast

Get transported back to the Age of Empires on a guided tour of Vienna, filled with bright holiday lights and seasonal specialties at its many Christmas markets. • Enter Schönbrunn Palace, the Rococo Hapsburg home with impressive gardens • Travel down the Ringstrasse, Vienna's tree-lined thoroughfare • See the Parliament building, the Vienna State Opera, and the grand Hofburg Palace, the Hapsburg's winter residence • Visit some of the city's festive Christmas markets • Peruse stalls of handmade crafts in search of gifts perfect for everyone on your list Enjoy a free evening in Vienna or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Traditional Viennese Heurigen Evening

\$99/pp

After a brief drive, your first stop is Vienna's Prater Ferris Wheel. Take a breezy ride to the top, which offers a one-of-a-kind view of the city. Next, continue to the picturesque village of Grinzing. At a local restaurant, you'll indulge in a festive night of music, food, and entertainment. Dinner will feature dishes typical of traditional Austrian Heurigen, or wine taverns. During your meal, you'll have the chance to try some of the tavern's own locally made wine—the perfect addition to your cozy, Old-World setting. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$109).

Day 7: Free day in Vienna

Included meals: Breakfast

Spend a full free day in Vienna.

Prague

Day 8: Travel to Prague

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Drive through the pastoral landscapes of Bohemia on your way to Prague, one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Prague & Christmas market visit

Included meals: Breakfast

Discover why Prague is known as the City of One Hundred Spires on a guided tour. • Visit Prague Castle, from which Charles IV governed the Holy Roman Empire • Admire the soaring Gothic vaults of St. Vitus Cathedral • Walk down to the Malá Strana district to sip a coffee at a local cafe • Cross the elegant Charles Bridge for breathtaking views of the city • Stroll through Old Town Square to view the 15th-century Astronomical Clock End your guided tour at the city's Christmas markets, where you'll enjoy traditional mulled wine and cookies.

Day 10: Free day in Prague

Included meals: Breakfast

Spend a full free day in Prague or add excursions. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

Optional Excursion

Château Sychrov

\$145/pp

Built in the classic Neo-Gothic style, the 17th-century Château Sychrov is an aristocratic residence that cannot be missed. Soak in the beauty of the castle on a private tour, admiring the colorful walls, intricate wood carvings on the ceilings, and built-in furniture as you make your way through the rooms. From the

beds to the bureaus, each area of the castle has perfectly preserved pieces of 19th-century decor on display. See famous paintings of French royalty and the former residents, the Rohan family, while learning about their daring escape from persecution in France. After you finish touring the manicured grounds, attend a private recital of classic Czech music performed by some of Prague's most cherished musicians. Then, conclude the magical evening by enjoying a private dinner at an on-site restaurant featuring regional specialties and local beer or wine. Please note: The château does not have heat or air conditioning, therefore we recommend dressing accordingly based on the season. Must book 20 days before departure.

Optional Excursion Walking Tour of Prague's Jewish Quarter \$85/pp

Head to Josefov, Prague's Jewish Quarter, nestled between the Vltava River and Old Town Square. You'll enjoy a lunch of regional specialties at a nearby restaurant and join a local guide for a walking tour of the Quarter's remains, which survived devastation during World War II and oppression during the Communist era. Afterward, pay a visit to the Jewish Museum of Prague, housed in a collection of former synagogues, one of which displays the names of all the Czechs sent to concentration camps. You'll learn about the Golem myth, a story forever entwined with Prague's Jewish history, and see sites once frequented by Franz Kafka, the enigmatic author of "The Trial" and "Metamorphosis." Please note: This excursion involves a significant amount of walking and standing. On some departures, this excursion will begin with the walking tour of the Jewish Quarter and end with lunch at a local restaurant. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$95).

Day 11: Departure Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or continue on to Salzburg.

Add an extension to Salzburg from \$549 3 nights

Salzburg

Day 11: Salzburg via Český Krumlov Included meals: Breakfast

On the way to Salzburg, stop in the village of Český Krumlov for a tour of its UNESCO World Heritage-protected medieval quarter.

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Salzburg Included meals: Breakfast

Head to Salzburg, a city famed for its churches and musical history, where a local guide leads you on a walking tour of the Old Town. • View the University of Salzburg and the churchyard of St. Peter • See the Kapitelplatz, Residenzplatz and age Market, in the city's Old Town • Enter the 17th-century Salzburg Cathedral, built in the Baroque style • Pass through scenery from the beloved film "The Sound of Music" • Take the funicular to the hilltop Hohensalzburg Fortress, one of Europe's Largest Medieval Castles Enjoy a free evening in Salzburg or add an excursion

Optional Excursion Mozart Concert & Dinner \$115/pp

Step inside the 1,200-year-old St. Peter Stiftskeller, located within St. Peter's Abbey. Enjoy an evening of fine dining and music. Mozart composed over 600 works in his short life, and tonight, you'll hear his masterpieces accompanied by opera singing as you sample local delicacies. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$125).

Day 13: Free day in Salzburg**Included meals: Breakfast**

Spend a full free day exploring Salzburg on your own. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

Day 14: Departure**Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.