

VIP-Alpine Tours presents

# MAGICAL ALPINE CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF AUSTRIA AND GERMANY 2019

November 29 – December 6, 2019 // 8 days - 7 breakfasts - 2 dinners

Chiemsee  
St. Wolfgang  
Salzburg  
Hallstatt  
Berchtesgaden  
Gmunden  
Passau  
Regensburg



Willkommen! Discover the magical Christmas markets of Austria and Germany with a delightful and cultural journey from VIP Alpine Tours. Relish in the European holiday spirit with a leisurely tour visiting quaint villages and Christmas markets. Tour includes five-nights' stay in St. Wolfgang, Austria, and two-nights' stay in Regensburg, Germany so you only have to unpack twice! Return home with Old World gifts and unforgettable memories of a wonderful European journey.

## Day 1 – Friday, November 29

Depart mid-morning from Munich airport by motorcoach to Lake Chiemsee, also known as the Bavarian Sea. We will journey by boat to Fraueninsel Island which will be entirely aglow with Christmas decorations and lights as well as sweet and spicy aromas filling the air. You'll have a chance to shop and explore for unique arts, crafts and products unique to the island and lake. We will continue to our hotel in St. Wolfgang where we will enjoy a memorable welcome reception and dinner with our fellow travelers and tour host, Christina Ernst.

## Day 2 – Saturday, November 30

Start the day with ample time to explore the St. Wolfgangsee Christmas Market as well the surrounding markets of St. Gilgen and Strobl via boat. The local Christmas market is walking distance from our hotel and offers culinary delicacies, mulled wine, arts and crafts, wood carvings and more. Mid afternoon we travel to the picturesque Austrian village of Hallstatt for some sightseeing and photo opportunities. We will then continue to one of Austria's best-kept secrets—and one of Christina's favorite Christmas markets in the Austrian Alps. The Mountain Christmas market of Gosau is set at the base of the mountains in magical Old World farmhouses. Enjoy listening to brass bands while you stroll through the farmhouse rooms, each filled with unique locally handmade crafts and culinary delights. Evening return to our hotel in St. Wolfgangsee.

## Day 3 – Sunday, December 1

After breakfast we will depart for Mondsee, Austria, where the wedding chapel from the "Sound of Music" movie creates a magnificent backdrop for this lakeside Christmas market. Take your time wandering through the quaint streets and shops. Mid afternoon we will drive through Austria's beautiful and tranquil Alpine countryside and lakeside villages until we reach our next destination, Gmunden on Lake Traunsee. Step back in time as we visit the festively decorated fairytale castle of Schloss Ort. The Christmas market here is unique with many regional handicrafts. Overnight, St. Wolfgangsee

## Day 4 – Monday, December 2

A cultural and medieval adventure awaits us today! We will travel to Salzburg, one of the best preserved medieval city centers in Austria. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is steeped deeply in history and culture. Take time to visit the many unique shops and Christmas market, or perhaps just relax and take a horse and carriage ride. This afternoon we will continue to the chapel in Oberndorf where Silent Night was composed and visit the museum in Arnsdorf. If time permits, we will visit the Christmas market at Castle Hellbrunn. Overnight, St. Wolfgangsee

## Day 5 – Tuesday, December 3

Travel into Germany and visit the charming mountain town of Berchtesgaden which is tucked away against the sheer walls of the Austrian Alps. Many of the quaint, colorful buildings date back to the 1500s and have beautiful paintings of history and folklore. You will have ample time to shop, eat and sightsee. No visit to the region is complete without a drive into the countryside and view the picture-perfect church in Ramsau. Overnight, St. Wolfgangsee

## Day 6 – Wednesday, December 4

After breakfast, depart Austria's Lake District and head back into Germany. Sit back and enjoy the breathtaking views of snow-capped mountains and rolling hills and quaint villages before stopping in Passau. You will have time to stroll through the quaint and cobblestone streets to shop and sightsee. We will then continue north along the Crystal Road through the Bavarian Forest, stopping en route at a crystal shop and factory for some last-minute shopping. Afterwards, we will continue to Regensburg for our overnight stay that includes dinner.

## Day 7 – Thursday, December 5

Today is yours to do as you please! Regensburg is one of the best preserved medieval cities in Germany. History and tradition spring to life here, and there is something for everyone—from the delightful to the unusual. Meander through the cobblestone streets or explore the Christmas market at Europe's largest inhabited palace. Take time to enjoy a drink in one of the city's 500 bars, or climb to the top of the steeple at the old cathedral, that took almost six centuries to complete. Overnight, Regensburg

## Day 8 – Friday, December 6

Early morning transfer to Munich's airport for your return flight home. It's time to say "Auf Wiedersehen" to the charming Alpine Christmas markets and the friends we will have made. We wish everyone a happy holiday and hope to see you on a future tour!

### TOUR DETAILS

**\$2,195** per person for double occupancy, **\$395** single supplement, airfare not included

Completed application required for each participant

\$500 nonrefundable deposit required, final payment by September 18, 2019

Limited to 38 travelers

8 days, 7 nights and breakfasts, 2 dinners

Sightseeing and excursions planned as per itinerary, weather and road conditions permitting

Deluxe motor coach transportation, taxes and admission fees as noted are included

Round-trip airfare from the USA (best airfare available and pre-post stays through our full service travel agency) and tips for tour director, driver and guides not included. Recommended tips are 3% for the tour director, 2% for the bus driver and 2% of the tour total, per person

We advise taking travel insurance in case of unforeseen sickness or accidents. Contact us for details

Motor coach is not equipped to cater to physically challenged persons. Participants must be able to walk without assistance

Itinerary subject to change

**TOUR TIP: Arrive early or extend your stay in Munich or other cities. Let our travel team assist with you travel plans including flights, hotels, river cruises and travel insurance.**