

Alabama Public Television presents...
European Christmas Markets

December 12 – 20, 2024



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9 Days • 11 Meals: 7 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Prague's Christmas Markets, Prague Castle, Choice on Tour: Vltava Boat Tour or Jewish Heritage Tour, Train Ride to Dresden, Dresden's Christmas Markets, Vienna's Christmas Markets, Schönbrunn Palace, Viennese Candy Workshop, Bratislava, Locally-Hosted Dinner, Budapest's Christmas Markets, Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2 – 4	Hotel Grandium, Prague
Days 5, 6	Intercontinental Hotel Wien, Vienna
Days 7, 8	Up Hotel Budapest, Budapest
<i>On some dates alternate hotels may be used.</i>	

Day 1: Thursday, December 12, 2024 Overnight Flight Set out on a grand holiday adventure through the winter wonderland of the Imperial Cities of Central Europe – Prague, Vienna and Budapest. Along the way, immerse yourself in festive Christmas markets, enjoy traditional entertainment, sample local cuisine, and glimpse this region's rich history.

Day 2: Friday, December 13, 2024 Prague, Czech Republic - Tour Begins Arrive in Prague, the "City of 100 Spires." Behold ancient landmarks and medieval architecture. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 3: Saturday, December 14, 2024 Prague Feel the magic and wonder of Prague dressed up for the holiday season. Your introduction to this fairy-tale city begins with a panoramic tour. Explore the "Castle District," including the gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and the majestic Prague Castle. Next, take in the iconic, statue-lined Charles Bridge, a picturesque structure stretching over the Vltava River. You decide how to further explore Prague because **it's your choice!** Learn more about the city's Jewish heritage and visit Europe's oldest active Synagogue* on a heritage tour **-OR-** let a boat reveal a different side of Prague on a Vltava river cruise. The remainder of your afternoon and evening is at leisure for you to take in the best Prague has to offer independently – don't miss the famous Christmas market in Prague's Old Town Square where brightly decorated wooden huts are filled with the work of local artisans, and traditional food and drink is prepared right in front of you. (B)

Day 4: Sunday, December 15, 2024 Prague - Dresden, Germany - Prague, Czech Republic Hop aboard a train for Dresden, Germany, known as "Florence on the Elbe." Meet a local guide for a tour highlighting its' baroque splendor and architectural treasures such as Frauenkirche, the Cathedral of our Lady and the Royal Palace. Visit the world's oldest Christmas market – the Striezelmarkt – which has been delighting travelers and locals alike since 1434. Take time to explore the stalls overflowing with ornaments, sample local sweets and have time for lunch on your own before returning to Prague. (B)

Day 5: Monday, December 16, 2024 Prague - Cesky Krumlov - Vienna, Austria Depart Prague and travel through the scenic countryside on your way to Vienna, Austria. En route, make a stop in the medieval town of Cesky-Krumlov. Lined with towering Baroque architecture, explore the quaint-preserved streets independently and have time for lunch on your own. Continue to the one-of-a-kind Marchfelderhof Restaurant, a favorite since the 1800s of locals, visitors and the famous alike. Indulge in dinner at this iconic spot rich with Viennese tradition. Arrive in the grand city of Vienna, capital of Austria, aglow with holiday lights. (B, D)

Day 6: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 Vienna This morning, meet your local guide and visit the magnificent Schönbrunn Palace, the summer retreat of the Habsburg dynasty for more than 200 years. Continue on to Vienna's city center and behold the beautiful architecture, scenic parks, and gothic spires that fill the city. Learn more about Vienna's sweet confectionary history when you visit a candy workshop where candies are still being made according to traditional recipes dating back over 150 years. An afternoon at leisure allows time to visit the Christkindlmarkt, perhaps the biggest and most famous in the city, at the neo-gothic Rathaus City Hall. Tonight, you may choose an option to hear Vienna's past come alive and experience a classical music performance featuring the works of Mozart and Strauss. (B)

Day 7: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 Vienna - Bratislava, Slovakia - Budapest, Hungary Say hello to Bratislava, the former Imperial capital of the Habsburg Empire. Enjoy free time to have lunch and explore some of the city's 4,000-year-old history independently - don't miss the charming Christmas markets! Continue to the village of Dunaalmas in the Hungarian countryside



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IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. **(See registration form for consent.)**

and immerse yourself in typical country life of the village. Learn how to make traditional strudel before enjoying a community-hosted dinner. Arrive in Budapest, the "Queen of the Danube" and your home for the next 2 nights. Enjoy the evening on your own. (B, D)

Day 8: Thursday, December 19, 2024 Budapest Join a local expert for a panoramic tour of the city, where you'll discover the incredible neo-gothic marvel of Matthias Church atop Buda Castle Hill, the Fisherman's Bastion, the historic Old Buda and Gellert Hill, and the Parliament House. This afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore Budapest on your own. Perhaps you will visit the cozy Christmas market at St. Stephen's Basilica with its ice rink and gorgeous tree, or head to the city's largest market at Vörösmarty Square brimming with food and crafts stalls where local musicians often perform. This

evening join your fellow travelers to toast the end of a festive trip at a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 9: Friday, December 20, 2024 Budapest - Tour Ends Say goodbye to these regal cities as your tour comes to a close today. (B)

Experience It! Christmas Markets

Few things invoke the feel of old-world holiday traditions more than the spectacular European Christmas Markets. From November until Christmas these outdoor markets dot the Imperial Cities like a string of ornaments on a tree. Be transported back in time to a winter wonderland of open-air market stalls brimming with ornaments, handmade crafts, specialty food and warming beverages. Watch people spin on the ice of the outdoor rink in Vienna, see its lovely carousel and twinkling light installations. Prague is particularly lovely in the advent season when its squares are festively transformed and you can shop and sip to your hearts content as classical musicians perform and choirs sing timeless songs of the season. Good cheer abounds in Budapest's largest market which glistens against the backdrop of the city's gorgeous St. Stephen's Basilica. Indulge in a timeless European holiday on this very special Christmas Markets tour.

For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1224151>

PLEASE NOTE:

Book Now rates valid until Jun 13, 2024, valid on air inclusive packages only.
IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Effective for travel in May 2025, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS visa waiver, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://www.etiasvisa.com/>

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Included breakfasts are buffet breakfasts.

*Prague Synagogue is closed on Saturdays (due to Shabbat) and on Jewish holidays.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

This tour features multiple long transfers exceeding 2 hours, in particular the transfer to and from Dresden, Germany. The transfer from Prague to Vienna, Austria with stops in between, can take up to 10 hours.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

While visas are not required for USA, Australian, UK or Canadian citizens for a stay of up to 90-days, we recommend you inquire with your Consulate for further information. Visitors are required to show proof of travel medical insurance to travel to the Czech Republic. The health insurance must cover medical services abroad with specific coverages. Please visit <https://travel.state.gov> (the U.S. State Department) for the latest details with regards to entry requirements. If you have **purchased our Travel Protection Plan**, your coverage meets this requirement.



For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of June 06, 2024 are based upon availability. Final payment due by October 13, 2024. Deposits are refundable up until June 13, 2024.

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For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1224151>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.