

The Traveling Professor Presents

AUSTRIA AND BAVARIA BY SCENIC RAIL

VIENNA • SALZBURG • HALLSTATT • INNSBRUCK • MUNICH

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Vienna

Check in to the luxurious and centrally located 4-star <u>Hotel am Konzerthaus</u>. Let's dive right into the Austrian spirit. This afternoon, after travelers arrive, we do a professionally guided culinary tour of the city. We then wind up at an authentic <u>heuriger</u>. It's a family-owned Viennese tavern with a grand buffet, local wine, music, and song. There is no better way to start than with good things to eat, delightful drink, and lots of fun. Make sure to leave room for the apple strudel dessert.

Day 2: Vienna

Each traveler will be issued a Vienna Card providing free local transportation throughout the city, Hop On/Hop Off Bus access, and VIP admission to all the best attractions in Vienna. Meet our guide in the lobby at 9:30 a.m. Join our professional and licensed guide on a walking tour of glorious Vienna. We plan to visit the historic center of the city. See the home of Mozart, the Spanish Riding School, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Haus der Musik, Sacher Café, Opera House, Capuchin Imperial Crypt, Michaelerplatz, festive markets and more.

Day 3: Vienna

A "free day". There is so much to do and see. The Museums Quarter has galleries rivaling those found in London, Paris or New York. Check out a demonstration at the Spanish Riding School. See "The Kiss" at the Belvedere Palace. The Sigmund Freud Museum is fascinating. The Hofburg and Schönbrunn Palaces and Gardens are some of the grandest in all Europe. Go shopping in the old-town squares. Set aside time to enjoy a famous Viennese pastry and coffee.

Day 4: Salzburg

Today we travel by luxury train from Vienna the classical city of Salzburg. After check-in and then lunch, meet our guide for a walking tour of the historic center. We'll see the birthplace of Mozart, Old Market Square, and take the funicular to the imposing Fortress. Mirabell Gardens, Saint Peter's Cemetery and Festival Hall Complex are all recognizable from "*The Sound of Music*".

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Day 5: Salzburg/Hallstatt

Today's out-in-the-country adventure takes us to the picture-perfect lakeside village of Hallstatt. Alpine houses line the curvy, narrow streets. A Discovery Cruise on Lake Hallstatt is a delightful introduction to this beautiful UNESCO World Heritage village. Then up, up and away on the funicular for a spectacular view. A trail leads to the Echern Valley glacier garden with glacial potholes and Waldbachstrub Waterfall.

Day 6: Salzburg

Salzburg of course is the home of "*The Sound of Music*". Today we do an entertaining music tour of the sights and sounds of the famed movie. This might be the most fun day of all.

Day 7: Salzburg

A "free day" in Salzburg. It is easy to walk anywhere you wish to go. The town is full of shops, cafes, beer halls, and markets. The <u>Salzburg Card</u> is issued to each traveler and gives access to the best attractions. For instance, take the <u>cable car high into the Alps</u> or visit <u>St. Peter's Monastery</u>. For those interested, we can arrange for an optional excursion to the "Eagle's Nest".

Day 8: Innsbruck

Another scenic train ride, this time to Tyrolian Innsbruck, the site of two winter Olympic games. After checkin at the best hotel in town, the <u>Hotel Innsbruck</u>, get ready for a fascinating walking tour of the city. We will wander Old Town Innsbruck and see the iconic Golden Roof. Walk through the Court Church & Emperor's Tomb. Of course, there is the Hofburg, Innsbruck's Old Imperial Palace. This evening be treated to a Tyrolian folk show with plenty of yodeling, knee-slapping, hooting, dancing and musical fun.

Day 9: Innsbruck

A "free day" in Innsbruck. The <u>Innsbruck Card</u> gets you around the city and admission to the best attractions. You will find it difficult to not give in to the urge to yodel when taking the funicular to experience scenic "Top of Innsbruck" from the <u>Nordkette</u> to view snow-capped peaks. The Grassmayr Bell Foundry & Museum is fascinating as well as the Olympic ski jump.

Day 10: Munich

Today it is off to Munich by scenic train. Check in at the convenient <u>Eden Wolf Hotel</u>. On this walking introduction to Munich tour, our professional guide traces the history of Munich. There are the monks and monasteries, the Bavarian Royal family, the Third Reich, and Munich's evolution from Alpine city to the modern cultural capital of today.

Day 11: Munich

It's a "free day" in Munich. We recommend putting on your lederhosen or dirndl and visiting one of the many German beer gardens or the Hofbräuhaus, the cradle of Bavarian tavern culture. If beer is not your thing, there is the amusing glockenspiel in the city center, the Marienplatz. There are plenty of markets, shops, neighborhoods, and museums to visit too. Of course, the <u>Munich Card</u> gives free transportation and admission to attractions all about the city. For those interested, a morning visit to Dachau, the notorious WW II concentration camp, can easily be arranged.

Day 12: Departure

With songs from "The Sound of Music" still playing in your head, it is time to say, "So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye". Let us help you get on your way to your next adventure. Thank you for traveling with us.

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ABOUT OUR SMALL GROUP TOURS

Since each tour is planned with traveler input, your tour may be slightly different. We always add in "off the itinerary" sites of interest. Adjustments may be made for crowd management, weather, special events, or conditions beyond our control.

We travel with a small group of 12-18 active adults. This offers the flexibility to do what we want to do, on our own schedule. Everyone is provided with City Cards with VIP, unlimited admission to all the great sites of the city, even those not on the itinerary. Every traveler is provided unlimited and free local public transportation.

Breakfast is included each day of the tour. Every day we plan a relaxing lunch and dinner. Please join us or go out on your own - we are glad to offer our best recommendations.

Well in advance of departure date, each traveler is supplied with a "final" detailed itinerary along with a complete and detailed information packet. It has advice on packing, money matters, passports, weather, etc. We make sure travelers are well-prepared. And of course, we are always available to personally answer any questions you may have.

For more information, including travel dates and pricing, see <u>https://travelingprofessor.com/Tours/Austria-and-Bavaria-by-Scenic-Rail</u>

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