



The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

A Magical European Christmas Markets Tour

November 30 – December 8, 2024

\$4,450 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Did you know the Christmas tree, or Tannenbaum, first made its lyrical appearance in 1605? Or that bakers in 17th century Nuremberg began making a delicious treat called Lebkuchen, each competing with the other for the most festively decorated cakes using newly discovered spices from around the world. Many of our signature holiday traditions and customs - St. Nick, Christmas trees, candy canes, gingerbread and nutcrackers - come to us from Europe.

Enjoy the Christmas season as never before! We invite you to return to the days of yesteryear and take pleasure in a dusting of snowflakes, hot mulled wine, stirring carols and festive squares while exploring the Christmas markets of Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Day by Day Itinerary

Saturday, November 30 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this evening by scheduled service of Lufthansa German Airlines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Munich, Germany.

Sunday, December 1 – MUNICH / NUREMBURG (I,D)

As the sun begins to rise on the German heartland we arrive in Munich where we'll meet our Tour Escort who will accompany us on vacation. Leaving Franz Josef Strauss Airport, we'll be on our way to Nuremberg, where this afternoon you can revel in the Christmas spirit with a visit to the Christkindlesmarkt, Germany's most famous Christmas Market. The festively decorated Old Town with its red-and-white-topped booths welcome visitors from far and near. Be sure to sample the tasty local fare such as Nurnberger Bratwurschen (bratwurst) and Lebkuchen (gingerbread type cookie/cake) and browse the stalls filled with ornaments, toys and popular collector items, including the delightful Nuremberg Plum People, little figures made from prunes.

Monday, December 2 – NUREMBURG (Wurzburg) (B)

A leisurely day on tour will take us to the city of Wurzburg, occupying a picturesque position on the banks of the Main River, where a brief tour of the city will introduce us to the medieval statue-lined Alte Mainbrücke; the baroque architecture of the Residenz; and Neumünster Kirche with its beautiful red sandstone façade. In the heart of Wurzburg's Old Town, we'll find one of Germany's most picturesque and enchanting Christmas Markets in the shadow of Romanesque Dom St. Kilian, providing a charming Christmas card scene. A fine selection of local arts and crafts awaits in the historic Rathaus courtyard, where we can witness traditional German craftsmanship in action, including glass blowing, wood carving and engraving.

Tuesday, December 3 – NUREMBURG / ROTHENBURG (B,D)

This morning we depart Nuremberg and travel to the Romantic Road village of Rothenburg ob der Tauber. As we'll soon find out, this former imperial town is the perfect place to experience medieval and renaissance life. On arrival, we'll enjoy a brief walking tour of one of the loveliest and most well-preserved walled cities in the entire world. Following our tour, the afternoon will be set aside to browse through

Kathe Wohlfahrt's world-famous Christmas Store and begin exploring the Reiterlesmarkt, one of the most celebrated Christmas markets in Germany. Medieval charm and a dreamy Christmas atmosphere make the Reiterlesmarkt a very special event every year. For four weeks, visitors have the opportunity to stroll through the market square, the Grüner Platz and the Kirchplatz and feast on magically fragrant delicacies. You can find traditional German gifts such as cuckoo clocks, steins and wooden figurines as well as a local specialty that shouldn't be missed, the Schneeball, made from strips of sweet dough, fried and covered with powdered sugar or chocolate.

Wednesday, December 4 – ROTHENBURG / Landsberg / LINDAU (B,D)

Today we depart Rothenburg and travel to the medieval town of Landsberg am Lech, rich in history and stories, shaped by its location on the famed Lech River and the historical buildings that bear witness to a turbulent past. Visiting the Landsberg Christmas Market is like strolling through a Christmas wonderland, where handcrafted Christmas decorations, nativity accessories, and glittering jewelry make visitors' eyes sparkle. But it's not just a feast for the eyes – traditional treats like fragrant mulled wine, hearty bratwurst, and warm chestnuts please the palate and warm from within. This afternoon, we'll be on our way to Lindau im Bodensee, the largest German-speaking town on the shores of Lake Constance. As we'll see firsthand, a festive Christmas wonderland awaits us on Lindau Island. Nowhere can Christmas market fans find their heart's desire in such a relaxed manner and nowhere is the scenery more romantic: on the very shore of the Bodensee with the Alpine panorama shimmering in the distance.

Thursday, December 5 – LINDAU (Flawil & St. Gallen) (B)

This morning we travel along the shores of Lake Constance, taking us across the Austrian and Swiss borders to the village of Flawil to visit the Chocolate Factory Maestrani, for an introduction to the secrets and art of chocolate making. Come along on this sweet journey, watch your favorite Munz and Minor chocolate being made, and discover the secret of happiness in chocolate. Afterward, we'll travel to the city St. Gallen, home to a beautiful medieval center. The area couldn't be more fitting for the magical Christkindlimarkt decorated with 700 bright and shining

stars stretching from the Waaghaus, along the Bohl, all the way to the Market Square. In the charming wooden chalets we'll find all kinds of seasonal decorations; jewelry, local textiles, wooden toys and candles, and you can also treat yourself to delicious food and drink, such as waffles, Glühwein, delicious Swiss raclette, Swiss chocolate and St. Gallen bratwurst.

Friday, December 6 – LINDAU / Fussen / SEEFELD (B,D)

Today we depart Lindau and travel the German Alpine Road, across the Bavarian countryside where local farmers have made their mountain paradise into the great cheese manufacturing area of Germany. Our destination is the town of Fussen, the gateway to the Tyrol, for a panoramic view of Neuschwanstein Castle. Set amidst magnificent mountain scenery on the shores of Schwansee and built on the summit of a massive rock cliff, Neuschwanstein may be best known through its Walt Disney World replica. Leaving Fussen, we'll set our sights on the Alpine resort of Seefeld, Austria. Located on a plateau above the Inn Valley and surrounded by the splendor of the Karwendel and Wetterstein mountain ranges, we'll soon find out that Seefeld is one of Austria's most popular resorts, yet it has succeeded in retaining its typically Tyrolean small town character. The traditional and romantic Seefeld Christmas Market stretches across the pedestrianized main street in the heart of the village and offers a unique shopping experience for visitors of all ages.

Saturday, December 7 – SEEFELD (Innsbruck) (B,D)

A leisurely day on tour will begin with a rail journey from Seefeld to the capital of the Austrian Tyrol. On arrival, we'll enjoy an introduction to Innsbruck where we'll see the Wilten Basilica, one of the finest Rococo churches in the northern Tyrol, and the Triumphal Arch, which marks the beginning of the Maria-Theresien-Strasse. Once in the Old Town we'll see the 15th and 16th century houses, the Old Town Hall and Belfry, and the Golden Roof, a charming structure built by



Friedrich the Penniless to end jokes about his poverty. It's here where we'll experience the traditional, romantic and festive Christmas atmosphere of Innsbruck's historic Old Town. The colorful Christmas market stalls are nestled between attractive medieval buildings and the Golden Roof. The market stalls are a treasure trove for Christmas tree decorations, handicrafts, woolen goods and souvenirs, and the aroma of freshly made Kiachln (piping hot doughnuts laced with Sauerkraut) hangs in the air. We'll also wander down the Kiebachgasse, as the street is transformed into a fairy tale lane with numerous characters from famous fairy tales adorning the façades, bay windows and gables.

Sunday, December 8 – SEEFELD / Munich / CHICAGO (B,D)

This morning we depart Seefeld and travel to Munich's Franz Josef Strauss Airport in preparation for our return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of the *Magical European Christmas Markets Tour* to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way.

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Airline transportation by scheduled nonstop service of Lufthansa German Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- First class hotel accommodations.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portorage charges (where offered) for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Airline taxes and fuel surcharge, and all taxes for included ground services.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at the airports; gratuities to the Motor Coach Driver, Tour Guide, and Step-on Guides; meals other than those stated above; and Travel Protection.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or major credit card. Please call InterTrav at 630-377-5840 to arrange payment by credit card; 4% of the payment amount will be assessed on credit card payments.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this tour brochure and in advance of your tour's departure.

Cancellation: If after making your initial deposit you find it necessary to cancel from the tour for any reason, the deposit is non-refundable. For cancellation between 89 and 60 days prior to departure, there is a cancellation charge equal to 50% of the tour cost. For cancellation within 59 days of departure, the cancellation charge is 100% of the tour cost.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

No Liability: By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

AATP does not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program. AATP does not act as agent for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations, or any other travel related services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AATP is not liable for any negligent, intentional, or willful act by any such person or entity. In addition and without limitation, AATP is not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property, or any accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever arising out of or related in any way to any accommodations, transportation or other services, or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses that may be incurred. AATP, in its sole and exclusive discretion reserves the right to withdraw its affiliation with any individual tour operator should conditions warrant.

Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

For more information, contact our office at 815-753-2586 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

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