



# Christmas Markets of Budapest, Vienna & Prague

11 days | 14 days with Salzburg extension

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 cafe 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 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Traditional Christmas markets from Budapest to Prague
- Hungarian Parliament Building
- Matthias Church
- Danube River
- Belvedere Palace
- Ringstrasse
- Prague Castle
- St. Vitus Cathedral

## Tour pace

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

## Group size

15-38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Budapest today.

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## Budapest → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Budapest

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Hungary! Meet your Tour Director and 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 free time in Budapest or add an excursion.

+ Wine Cellar Dinner & Unicum Tasting

### Day 4: Free day in Budapest

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Budapest or add excursions.

+ Budapest: A Walk Behind the Iron Curtain

+ Budapest Bath & Spa Visit

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## Vienna → 3 nights

### Day 5: Transfer to Vienna & Christmas market visit

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel west through the Danube basin en route to Vienna, Austria.

- Make a photo stop at Schönbrunn Palace, the Rococo Hapsburg home
- Spend free time exploring a local Christmas Market

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

*Please note: On some departures the photo stop at Schönbrunn Palace will be replaced with entrance to Schönbrunn Palace on day 6 depending on the day of the week.*

### Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Vienna & Christmas market visit

*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.

- Step inside Belvedere Palace, home to the world's largest collection of paintings by artist Gustav Klimt, and admire the palace's impressive gardens
- Travel down the Ringstrasse, passing the Parliament building, Vienna State Opera, and Kunsthistorisches Museum
- See the grand Hofburg Palace, the Hapsburg's preferred winter residence
- 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.

*Please note: Belvedere Palace will be replaced with Schönbrunn Palace if the guided sightseeing falls on a Monday.*

+ Traditional Viennese Heurigen Evening

### Day 7: Free day in Vienna

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Vienna.

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## Prague → 3 nights

### Day 8: Transfer to Prague

*Included meals: breakfast*

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 at the city's Christmas markets, where you'll enjoy traditional mulled wine and cookies

Enjoy free time in Prague or add an excursion.

+ Château Sychrov

### Day 10: Free day in Prague

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Spend a free day in Prague or add an excursion. Then, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner this evening.

+ Walking Tour of Prague's Jewish Quarter

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## Flight Home

### Day 11: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to visit Salzburg, Austria.

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## + Salzburg extension

It's the birthplace of Mozart and setting for The Sound of Music, but that's not all that makes Salzburg sing. Join your Tour Director and spend a couple days exploring this Austrian city, where Baroque churches and a UNESCO-listed old town will leave you in awe.

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## Salzburg → 3 nights

### 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*
- Ride the Mönchsberg Lift and enjoy panoramic views of the city and its fortress
- Spend free time visiting the city's Christmas markets

Enjoy a free evening in Salzburg or add an excursion.

+ Mozart Concert & Dinner

### **Day 13: Free day in Salzburg**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Salzburg on your own.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

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## **Flight Home**

### **Day 14: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/VIM](https://goaheadtours.ca/VIM) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Wine Cellar Dinner & Unicum Tasting

\$149CAD (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

During a visit to the Zwack Unicum Heritage Visitors' Centre in Budapest, you'll learn about the fascinating legacy of 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. Explore the on-site museum and view the staggering collection of miniature bottles before sampling the aperitif. Then, head to a nearby wine cellar to enjoy a Hungarian dinner accompanied by wine pairings chosen by a local sommelier who'll be on hand to tell you about each selection. One of the wines you'll have the opportunity to taste is Tokaji, a hard-to-find varietal that's deeply rooted within the Kingdom of Hungary. The wine is so closely tied to the country that it's even mentioned in the Hungarian national anthem. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 4: Budapest: A Walk Behind the Iron Curtain

\$135CAD/\$145CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

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 Liberty Square, 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.

## Day 4: Budapest Bath & Spa Visit

\$129CAD/\$139CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the morning)

The area's thermal springs were a major attraction to the Romans who once inhabited the area around the Danube. Today, Budapest locals and visitors alike indulge in the luxurious pools and relaxing treatments on offer. You'll enjoy full use of a local spa's facilities, including a thermal pool swimming pool, sauna, and steam room. You may choose to upgrade your experience by adding a beauty, body, skin, or face treatment.

## Day 6: Traditional Viennese Heurigen Evening

\$165CAD/\$175CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

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 on to a picturesque village and sit down at local restaurant where 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.

## Day 9: Château Sychrov

\$205CAD/\$215CAD\* (6 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Head into the Czech countryside for an experience exclusively available to Go Ahead travelers. Built in the classic Neo-Gothic style, the 17th-century Château Sychrov is an aristocratic residence owned by the Rohan family for over 200 years. You'll step inside the opulent château after it closes to the general public. 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 Rohan family while learning about their daring escape from persecution in France. After you finish touring the manicured grounds, head to the on-site restaurant. Here, you'll attend a private recital of classic Czech music performed by some of Prague's most talented musicians and enjoy a private dinner featuring regional specialties and local beer or wine. Please note: This excursion runs from January through mid October. The château does not have heat or air conditioning, therefore we recommend dressing accordingly based on the season. When the Orangerie is closed, dinner will served in a different wing of the Château.

## Day 10: Walking Tour of Prague's Jewish Quarter

\$159CAD/\$169CAD\* (3.5 hours, departs in the afternoon, lunch included)

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.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 12: Mozart Concert & Dinner

\$215CAD/\$225CAD\* (4.5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Step inside the 1,200-year-old St. Peter Stiftskeller, located within St. Peter's Abbey, to 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 during a three-course dinner. Please note: The temperature in the room can be hot in the summer, therefore we recommend dressing accordingly based on the season.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)