



# New Year's Eve in Lucerne: Germany, Switzerland & Austria

14 days | 16 days with Budapest extension

Germany, Switzerland, and Austria have something for everyone. Start by admiring Heidelberg's Gothic spires and savoring decadent Black Forest cake. Then, raise a toast on New Year's Eve in Lucerne, where pristine lake and mountain views serve as the ideal backdrop for your celebrations. Later, dive into musical history, learn about past royalty, and admire striking Art Nouveau architecture in the Austrian capital.



## Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 6 dinners with beer or wine, including a celebratory New Year's Eve dinner with Champagne toast
- 9 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- New Year's Eve in Lucerne
- Heidelberg Castle
- The Black Forest
- Kapellbrücke
- Hohenschwangau Castle
- Nymphenburg Palace
- Melk Abbey
- Belvedere Palace

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

## Group size

15-38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Frankfurt today.

## Heidelberg Region → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Frankfurt & transfer to the Heidelberg Region

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Germany! Transfer to the Heidelberg region and settle in to your hotel. Then, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Heidelberg

*Included meals: breakfast*

Immerse yourself in the romantic cityscapes and Baroque architecture of Heidelberg on a guided tour.

- Wander through Heidelberg's elegant Market Square in the city's Old Town
- Explore the grounds of Heidelberg University, the oldest university in Germany
- Take a funicular ride to the city's rose-colored hilltop castle for panoramic views of the Old Bridge and the Rhine River below

## Swiss Alps → 2 nights

### Day 4: Rhine Falls, the Black Forest & New Year's Eve celebration

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

On the way to Switzerland, journey to thundering Rhine Falls and through the Black Forest, the setting for many of the Grimm Brothers' famous fairytales.

Then, continue on to the Swiss Alps to ring in the new year with your fellow travelers at a special dinner where you'll enjoy a Champagne toast.

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Lucerne

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get an up-close look at the lakeside city of Lucerne, Switzerland's idyllic Alpine town, on a guided sightseeing tour.

- View the Lion Monument, a tribute to the Swiss Guards who sacrificed their lives in Paris during the French Revolution

- Pass hand-painted facades that line the cobbled streets of the Old Town
- Cross the medieval Kapellbrücke, a covered wooden footbridge spanning the Reuss River, and view the Water Tower
- See the Jesuit Church, the first large Baroque building of its kind to be built north of the Alps in Switzerland

Spend a free afternoon in the Swiss Alps. Then, opt to watch tonight's fireworks display along Lucerne's waterfront.

## Austrian Alps → 1 night

### Day 6: Austrian Alps via Liechtenstein & Innsbruck

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Cross into Liechtenstein, a tiny Alpine principality dating back to the Holy Roman Empire.

- Visit the capital of Vaduz
- Pass the royal family's hilltop castle, still in use as a royal residence

Continue on to Innsbruck, site of two winter Olympic Games, where you'll enjoy a guided walking tour.

- See the famed Golden Roof and the City Tower in Innsbruck's historic Old Town
  - Pass the Hofburg, a former Hapsburg imperial palace, and walk into its cobblestoned courtyard
  - Enter the Baroque Cathedral of St. James
- Then, travel to the Austrian Alps and sit down for an included dinner.

## Munich → 2 nights

### Day 7: Munich via Hohenschwangau Castle

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Head into the mountains of Bavaria making stops along the way to Munich.

- Make a photo stop at Neuschwanstein Castle, the fairy-tale retreat of "Mad" King Ludwig II
- Revel in scenic views of the Alps as you relax during free time for lunch in the town below Neuschwanstein

- Enter Hohenschwangau Castle, the former summer and hunting residence of the Bavarian royal family

Then, continue on to Munich and sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Munich

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get to know the Bavarian capital on a guided tour.

- Travel past the Englischer Garten and fashionable Schwabing district
- Enter the Nymphenburg Palace, the Baroque home to past Bavarian royalty
- Walk from Odeonsplatz through the Hofgarten to view the Residenz, once home to the Wittelsbach dukes of Bavaria
- Explore Marienplatz, Munich's medieval heart, and see the famed Glockenspiel

Enjoy a free afternoon in Munich or add an excursion.

+ Dachau

## Salzburg → 2 nights

### Day 9: Transfer to Salzburg & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Head to Salzburg, Austria, a city famed for its churches and musical history. There, 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 Alter Markt in the city's Old Town
- 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

Sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 10: Free day in Salzburg

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Salzburg or add excursions.

+ Mozart Concert & Dinner

+ Berchtesgaden: Salt Mines & Village Visit

## Vienna → 3 nights

### Day 11: Vienna via Melk Abbey

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel east through the Danube basin en route to Vienna.

- Stop in Melk for a guided tour of the town's Baroque abbey, which is situated on rock overlooking the Danube River
- Explore its Baroque pavilion, library, and chapel
- Continue on to Vienna and make a photo stop at Schönbrunn Palace, the Rococo Hapsburg home

*Please note: On some departures the photo stop at Schönbrunn Palace will be replaced with entrance to Schönbrunn Palace on day 12 depending on the day of the week.*

### Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Vienna

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get transported back to the Age of Empires on a guided tour of Vienna.

- 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

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 13: Free day in Vienna

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Enjoy a free day in Vienna or add an excursion.

Later, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner.

+ Hofburg Palace & the Spanish Riding School

Pest. Follow your local guide on a sightseeing tour through this peaceful and progressive metropolis.

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## Budapest → 2 nights

### Day 14: Transfer to Budapest & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Budapest today, then discover the major landmarks of both sides of the city—Buda and Pest—with a local guide.

- Trace this nation's stormy history at Heroes' Square
- Tour the lavishly decorated interior of the 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 a free evening in Budapest or add an excursion.

+ Budapest Home-Hosted Dinner

### Day 15: Free day in Budapest

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Budapest or add an excursion.

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

+ Budapest Bath & Spa Visit

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## Flight Home

### Day 16: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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## Flight Home

### Day 14: Departure

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to Budapest, Hungary.

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## + Budapest extension

Continue along the Danube to the Hungarian capital, a merger of two towns called Buda and

# 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.com/WW8](https://goaheadtours.com/WW8) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 8: Dachau

\$55/\$65\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Once a typical German town, Dachau served as the first Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Visit this somber site, which has since been transformed into a Holocaust memorial museum that serves as a testament to the strength of the human spirit. You'll take a self-guided audio tour through Dachau's poignant exhibits, which are echoed by the memorials to the victims that adorn the grounds.

## Day 10: Mozart Concert & Dinner

\$149/\$159\* (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.

## Day 10: Berchtesgaden: Salt Mines & Village Visit

\$85/\$95\* (5 hours, departs in the morning)

Drive through the Bavarian Alps to the mountain village of Berchtesgaden, where you'll tour the 450-year-old salt mines that brought wealth to Bavaria and Salzburg. Take an underground boat ride on Mirror Lake before enjoying free time for lunch in the village. Please note this excursion only runs January - April and November - December.

## Day 12: Traditional Viennese Heurigen Evening

\$119/\$129\* (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 13: Hofburg Palace & the Spanish Riding School

\$109/\$119\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Follow a local guide as you explore the 13th-century Hofburg Palace, which is distinguished as the former imperial residence of Vienna's Hapsburg emperors. Court history comes to life as you admire the Baroque architecture, authentic furnishings of the Imperial Apartments, extensive silver collection, and palace museum. Later, learn about the UNESCO-recognized, 400-year-old cultural practice of classical horsemanship as you take a guided tour of the historic Spanish Riding School. This equestrian institution was

established in 1565 and is where world-renowned Lipizzaner stallions are shown.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 14: Budapest Home-Hosted Dinner

\$79 (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local at their home in Budapest to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Budapest. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Hungarian culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

### Day 15: Budapest Bath & Spa Visit

\$95/\$105\* (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.

\*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.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)