

Advent Choral Tour to Austria

Advent Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service. The destination is Munich, Germany

Day 2

Munich / Neuschwanstein / Salzburg (D)

Arrive in Munich

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Salzburg. Time permitting, stop en route to visit Neuschwanstein Castle (made famous by the Walt Disney model in Anaheim), built by the infamous Ludwig II (including entrance and uphill transport)

Continue on to Salzburg for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace, is a delight from the first sight of the outline of the Hohensalzburg Fortress, the symbol of the power of the prince-archbishops. The city's picturesque streets with their wrought-iron signs, its spacious squares with sculptured fountains and the noble architecture of its buildings inspired by bishops with a passion for construction, leave memories which linger for years

Day 3

Salzburg

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a morning guided tour of Salzburg including Mirabell Palace and Gardens, Mozart Square, the Dom (cathedral), University Church, entrance to the Mozarthaus (Mozart's birthplace) and a cable car ride up to the Fortress (for an unparalleled view of the city below)

Lunch on own

In the afternoon, enjoy a visit to the parish church of Oberndorf, where Franz Gruber composed the carol *Silent Night, Holy Night*"

Sing a short Advent recital in the Silent Night Chapel

Also visit the Salzkammergut (Lake District with a total of 76 lakes), one of the most impressive regions in the heart of Austria. Emperor Franz Josef once declared the region to be 'an earthly paradise'. Favorite waterside beauty spots include the picturesque villages of Hallstatt and St Wolfgang

Return to Salzburg for dinner on own and overnight

Day 4

Salzburg / Munich

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Full-day excursion to Munich's Christkindlmarkt (Christmas Market) on the famous Marienplatz. Here you will traditional Christmas at its very best with beautifully decorated Christmas trees, lights that light up the large squares, and all manner of stalls selling crafts, sweets, cakes, food, mulled wine and other delights

Lunch on own

Perform an Advent Concert at Munich's Christkindlmarkt

Return to Salzburg for dinner and overnight



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Day 5 **Salzburg** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Perform an Advent Concert at Salzburg's Christkindlmarkt

Lunch on own

Afternoon recital in the Salzburg Dom

Evening dinner on own and overnight



Day 6 **Salzburg / Melk / Vienna** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Vienna

Stop en route to visit the world-famous Abbey of Melk, which crowns a rocky bluff overlooking the Danube more than 150 ft. above the river, the apogee of Baroque architecture in Austria. In the 11th century, Leopold III von Babenberg handed over his castle to the Benedictine monks who converted it into a fortified abbey. The spiritual and intellectual renown of Melk spread throughout Europe. Several Hapsburg rulers and famous people such as Napoleon stayed in this abbey, which succeeded in conserving its art treasures throughout all the years of its history

Sing an Advent Recital in Melk Abbey's Baroque Chapel

Lunch on own

Continue on to Vienna for dinner on own and overnight



Vienna is still considered the music capital of the world. It is a city of refined tastes, grace, style and unmatched artistic accomplishments. For a thousand years, Vienna was the capital of the far-flung Holy Roman and Hapsburg empires. Though its people and ways have changed, Vienna has retained its imperial monuments, not as reminders of past glories, but as living symbols of its present freedom

Day 7 **Vienna** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of *Historical Vienna* includes the Ringstraße, Imperial Palace, State Opera, Town Hall, Burgkapelle (home of the Vienna Boys Choir), Palace Stables, Strauß Monument, and entrance to Schönbrunn Palace, built by the Hapsburgs in imitation of Versailles

Lunch on own

Advent concert at the Christkindlmarkt in front of the Rathaus

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 8 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Vienna's airport for return flight



This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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