

INSIGHT VACATIONS

The Art of Travelling in Style

**CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF CROATIA,
SLOVENIA & AUSTRIA**





KEY


1 Central
Hotels + Nights

1 Scenic
Hotels + Nights

● Place Visited

○ Optional Place
Visited

▨ Trip Option

 Cruise

 Train

 Join/Leave Options

 Included Flights

 UNESCO
Heritage Site

Day 1 | Welcome to Zagreb



Transfers to your hotel depart from Zagreb airport at 11:30 and 14:00. Relax and settle in or perhaps head for the nearby King Tomislav Square and try ice skating. At 17:30, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner with the opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers over a pleasant evening with wine.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Sheraton Zagreb Hotel.

Day 2 | Zagreb Sightseeing



Join your Local Expert to explore the two-tiered capital of Croatia. Take a walk and see the art Pavillion, the academy of Sciences and Art and pass Zrinjevac Park. We then board the city's funicular to St. Mark's Church and the Lotrščak Tower, take a walk back down through the Stone gate and back to the Square. The afternoon is at leisure. Relax and enjoy your hotel's amenities or perhaps take an Optional Experience to the Zagorje region to learn about the local traditions and visit the house of Marshall Tito?

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Sheraton Zagreb Hotel.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Croatian Countryside Experience - Journey through the beautiful rolling countryside of the Zagorje region with our Local Expert to the charming village of Kumrovec. We'll visit the simple peasant house of the late Marshal Tito for a local perspective into this region's complicated and bloody history. The surrounding properties have been restored to represent the village life of 100 years ago. Later, we'll enjoy a farm-to-table meal with drinks in a picturesque restaurant much favoured by the locals. Magnificent views of the rolling, vine-clad hills and Veliki Tabor Castle come as a bonus!

Adult: 76.00 EUR

Day 3 | The Postojna Caves and Ljubljana



Leave the Croatian capital and head to neighbouring Slovenia and visit the world-famous Postojna Caves. Step aboard the cave train and descend into a subterranean world of stunning stalactites, stalagmites, columns and curtains. Marvel at the five-metre tall Brilliant, the cave's most beautiful stalagmite. Later, arrive to charming Ljubljana and tonight enjoy a dinner of Slovenian specialities with wine.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hotel Lev Ljubljana.

Day 4 | Ljubljana Sightseeing



Your Local Expert will reveal the Baroque elegance of the Slovenian capital. The medieval castle stands as an ancient guardian, the City Hall and Cathedral of St. Nicholas testify to its historical importance, while the Triple Bridge spans the river adorned with cafes and restaurants. Spend time at the Christmas markets, rich with the heady aromas of sweet treats and drinks. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Lev Ljubljana.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Excursion To Lake Bled - Drive through the pretty Slovenian countryside to the tranquil shores of Lake Bled. Surrounded by stunning views of the Julian Alps, an oarsman steers his traditional wooden 'pletna' across the turquoise glacial waters towards the tiny island that rises in the middle. Ascend the 99 stone steps to the pilgrimage church where the famous "wishing bell" has been ringing out since 1534. After making your wish, enjoy coffee and a delicious pastry by the lake, followed by some free time for unforgettable photo-ops!

Adult: 69.00 EUR

Day 5 | The Slovakian Capital of Bratislava



Today's journey takes you through Austria. In Graz see the Castle Hill and Town Hall in the well-preserved, UNESCO World Heritage listed historic city centre on your orientation. Walk among colourful buildings, take a stroll along River Mur and explore the festive market stalls. Travel past the Foot of the Alps as you make your way towards Bratislava. Spend your night in the charming Slovakian capital and take a walk in the Old Town to sample the delicious offerings of the Christmas markets.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Bratislava.

Day 6 | Bratislava Sightseeing and Vienna



Bratislava might be one of the smaller capitals in Europe but it has a long and rich history influenced by various cultures and nations. Explore Bratislava with Insight Choice. Choose to join a Local Expert to see the main sights of the city. Enjoy the vistas from the Bratislava Castle then take a walk in the charming Old Town among 19th century palaces and see the Slovak National Theatre, Michael's Gate and the Old Town Hall. Alternatively, an avid foodie takes you around the market on a Christmas food tour. Enjoy time at leisure and maybe try some of the Slovakian dishes for lunch before travelling to nearby imperial Vienna.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Hilton Vienna Park.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Gala Viennese Concert - Enjoy a wonderful concert of Viennese Classical music performed by highly acclaimed soloists and dancers. During this special evening, enjoy a glass of champagne along with some of the most famous works by Johann Strauss and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Adult: 64.00 EUR

** On occasion, dinner will be included for EURO 123.*

*** On 24 & 25 December, the price of both options will increase due to holiday rates.*

Day 7 | Vienna sightseeing



At this time of year, the Austrian capital is a place of nostalgia and romance, with concerts, nativity displays and many official Advent Markets selling a vast array of seasonal gifts and mouth-watering treats. Tour Schönbrunn Palace and marvel at its frescoed ceilings, crystal chandeliers and gilded ornaments. Then ready your camera for a dazzling drive around the famous Ring Road. This grand boulevard is built along the lines of the old city walls and showcases many of the capital's architectural masterpieces, including the Opera House and Hofburg Imperial Residence. You also see the City Hall and its surrounding parklands, festively decorated in a sea of lights – the perfect setting for the Viennese Christmas Market.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Hilton Vienna Park.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Hidden Treasures Of Old Vienna Walk - A leisurely walk with an expert historian unveils the hidden squares and tucked-away corners of the old city. See the Hofburg Palace, which was the official residence of the Habsburg Empire for more than 600 years. Admire the beautiful baroque Church of St. Peter's and the Column of the Holy Trinity. See the most important House of Mozart, where "Marriage of Figaro" was composed. Finally, visit St. Stephen's Cathedral where your local expert explains its importance to Austrian culture and history.

Adult: 35.00 EUR

Day 8 | Depart Vienna



Your journey comes to an end in Vienna this morning.

Meals: Breakfast