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Bavarian Christkindl Markets Tour

Monday, December 9th - Saturday, December 14th, 2024

Tour meets in Munich, Germany and ends in Salzburg, Austria

Join us for a festive trip through a Bavarian winter wonderland! Magical Christmas markets, gondola rides, lunch in Alps, and all of the seasonal drinks you could hope for (and of course, delicious German beer). We'll be popping down to the Alps for a lovely mountain-top lunch and beer tasting, as well as visiting the Christmas markets in four historic Bavarian cities, including Nuremberg, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Munich, and Salzburg. In these historic cities, we'll don our gay apparel and immerse ourselves in the local Christmas season traditions: meandering through chalets strung with garlands and twinkle lights, browsing locally-made artisan gifts and Christmas decorations, sampling lebkuchen, enjoying warm mugs of glühwein, and mugs of feuerzangenbowle lit on fire. The jovial atmosphere and gemütlichkeit are sure to get you in the weihnachtsgeist (Christmas spirit)!

We've partnered with local guides such as The Thirsty Historian to build a custom Christmas market and city tour experience to give you the type of local cultural experience of fun, drinks, food that you've come to expect from Drinkable Destinations.

Now, let's get to the fun stuff with the run down on the tour.

Highlights:

- Christmas markets in the cities of:
 - Munich, Germany
 - Nuremberg, Germany
 - Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
 - Salzburg, Austria
- Welcome dinner at the classic Augustiner Keller Bierhall with an exclusive barrel tapping
- Guided walking Christmas market and city history tours with The Thirsty Historian
- Cable car ride to the top of the Bavarian Alps with lunch and beer tasting at Germany's highest brewery and distillery, Karwendalbräu Mittenwald
- Historic city caves and beer cellar tour in Nuremberg with beer tasting and lunch at Hausbrauerei Altstadtthof (brewery and restaurant)
- An evening of food, drinks, games, and fun at the Tollwood Winter Festival at the Theresienwiese (Oktoberfest grounds) in Munich
- Sampling special Christmas season food and drink, including glühwein, lebkuchen, schneeballs, and feuerzangenbowle

Full itinerary:

DAY 1 (Monday, December 9th):

Meet in Munich, check in at Royal Bavarian 25 Hours Hotel.

Evening: Introduction and welcome group dinner with a barrel tapping at Augustiner Keller Bierhall. Stay in Munich.

Day 2 (Tuesday):

Morning: Break camp and transfer from Munich to Nuremberg via high speed train. Store luggage at the hotel. Walking tour en route to Hausbrauerei Altstadtthof for caves and cellars tour, beer sampling and lunch.

Afternoon: Continue guided walking Christmas market and city history tour of Nuremberg. Free time for shopping.

Evening: Free. Stay in Nuremberg.

Day 3 (Wednesday):

Morning: Day trip by private coach to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, a medieval walled city with a historic Christmas market.

Afternoon: Group Lunch, guided city tour, free time for markets and dinner.

Evening: Travel back to and stay in Nuremberg.

Day 4 (Thursday):

Morning: Departure from Nuremberg via high speed train to Munich.

Afternoon: Lunch with short walking tour of Munich and Christmas markets. Free time for shopping.

Evening: Food, drinks and fun at the Tollwood Winter Festival at Theresienwiese (Oktoberfest grounds).

Day 5 (Friday):

Morning: Depart via train to the Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Mittenwald region of the Bavarian Alps. Cable car ride to the top of the mountain above Mittenwald to Karwendalbräu Mittenwald, Germany's highest brewery, distillery and restaurant.

Afternoon: Group lunch followed by a guided day through Mittenwald and Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Evening: Travel back to and stay in Munich.

Day 6 (Saturday):

Morning: Depart via train to Salzburg in Austria. Store luggage at hotel and begin walking tour.

Afternoon: Continue guided walking tour with free time for shopping.

Evening: Group comes back together after free time for Farewell dinner. Stay in Salzburg.

Rates:

\$3800/person based on double occupancy lodging.

\$700 single supplement for solo travelers.

Pricing may fluctuate with the extreme fluctuations in exchange rate.

Deposit:

\$875/person

Fully refundable until 9/2/24.

Included in the tour price:

- All breakfasts and seven (7) meals, as described in the itinerary.
- Six (6) nights of lodging in four star rated or boutique-style, centrally located hotels.
- Ground transportation via train and private coach, as described in the itinerary.
- All drinks and beer during group meals and tours, as described in the itinerary.
- All tours, attractions and admissions, as described in the itinerary.
- Local Tour Guide and/or Drinkable Destinations Host during all structured tour days.
- All taxes and tips on all included hotels, meals, guide services and transportation.

Not included in the tour price:

- Airfare and other transportation to the tour starting point and from the tour ending point. (see Terms and Conditions below for additional notes about flights).
- Meals not specified in the itinerary.
- Personal expenses such as laundry and phone calls.
- Shopping purchases
- Expenses for any activities not included in the itinerary.
- Passport or visa fees.
- Travel insurance coverage to cover tour cancellation or interruption, lost luggage, accidental death, medical expenses, emergency medical evacuation, or unavoidable flight delays. **Please note: many personal health insurance plans don't cover their participants while they are traveling out of the country.**

Hotel Information:

Dec. 9th, 12th & 13th - Royal Bavarian 25 Hours Munich, Germany [Website](#)

Dec. 10th & 11th - Hotel Victoria Nuremberg, Germany [Website](#)

Dec. 14th - Motel One Salzburg-Mirabell, Salzburg, Austria [Website](#)

You do not need to contact the hotels about your reservation. We will give them our guest list when we've confirmed the tour (at this time, they are all under the name Justin Schmitz). However, feel free to contact the hotel about any specific questions you have about their facilities or requests.

Group Size:

We believe small group sizes make for better experiences. Small groups allow our guests to form closer relationships with us and our local tour guides, and gives us more intimate access to places, restaurants and attractions. There is one downside to small group sizes; a higher cost per person. We know from experience, however, that this is the way to go for high quality tours.

Minimum: 8

Maximum: 12

Terms and Conditions

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS:

To reserve a spot on the Christkindl Market Tour, you must agree to ALL Tour Terms and Conditions listed below. A deposit of \$875 or full payment of \$3800/person for double occupancy lodging or \$4500 for single occupancy lodging will secure your spot on the tour.

Final payment is due on Tuesday, September 3d, 2024. Please mark this on your calendar; we will also send a reminder email two weeks in advance.

By submitting a deposit and/or payment, you are confirming that you AND ANYONE WHOSE NAME YOU MAKE A RESERVATION UNDER understands the nature of the tour and the inclusions.

Why do I include the above statement? We do everything we can to lay out the details and inclusions of the tour. However, we cannot control whether a spouse, partner or companion does not read and understand the nature of the tour. We have not had any problems with this on our international tours yet but we have seen this in other tour scenarios.

Paypal is my payment services provider and you will be sent a Paypal invoice via email for the deposit. If you prefer to use a credit card for payment, you will be able to submit it through Paypal via the invoice.

Your final tour payment is due on Tuesday, September 3rd (9/3/24), in one payment. Please mark your final payment due date on your calendar. The due date will be listed on your confirmation email and tour invoice. Missing the final payment deadline may result in your spot being given to someone on stand by.

If you sign up for the tour after 9/3/24, the entire tour price must be paid in full immediately.

Contact for reservations:

Justin Schmitz

tours@drinkabledestinstions.com

+1 920 740 8791 (this number works on WhatsApp, too)

STANDBY:

If the tour is already full, we will accept reservations on a standby-basis. Should space become available, the notified participant has the choice to join the tour by paying in full by credit card or forfeiting the space.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:

Life happens and things come up that may make it impossible for you to join the tour you've made a payment on. Sometimes folks need to cancel for a multitude of reasons. Please inform us of your cancellation in writing as soon as possible.

Non-refundable cancellation fees are reflective of payments we have already made for your attendance on the tour and loss of time to sell your spot. Our cancellation policy is firm and we cannot make exceptions even in the event of terrorism, medical emergencies and other situations out of our control.

Refunds will be processed within 30 days of the written cancellation notice.

Once the tour begins, there are no refunds for:

- arriving late.
- leaving the tour early.
- for being removed from a tour.
- unused portions of the tour including meals, attractions, tour and hotels.

We highly recommend travel insurance. Travel insurance plans can cover common scenarios in which you may need to cancel your trip (illness, family emergencies, etc). It can also cover medical emergencies while you are on the trip.

Our cancellation and refund schedule is below:

Full payments and deposits are 100% refundable until 9/2/24.

Deposits are non-refundable on and after 9/3/24.

Full payments are 50% refundable within 97 - 30 days of the tour.

Full payments are non-refundable within 29 days of a tour.

TOUR CONFIRMATION:

This tour requires a minimum of 8 participants in order to operate. Please do not buy your airline tickets until you've received the TOUR CONFIRMATION. When we have at least 8 participants signed up, we will send out a Tour Confirmation.

IF you do buy airline tickets prior to reception of TOUR CONFIRMATION, please purchase refundable or cancellable tickets.

CANCELLATION BY DRINKABLE DESTINATIONS:

We reserve the right to cancel a tour due to not meeting our participant minimum or for other reasons. In the event that WE cancel the tour, FULL REFUNDS OF DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS will be processed within 30 days of our notification.

Refunds of your deposits and payments will constitute full settlement and we will not be held liable for any other expenses including non-refundable airfare, passport fees and other arrangements a participant has made before, during or after a tour. We HIGHLY RECOMMEND travel insurance.

WEATHER, CLOTHING AND PACKING FOR THE TRIP:

Important Note: The Christmas Markets are all outdoors. Most of our tour will take place outside, walking through the cities and markets we're visiting. The weather in Germany during this time of year is typically pretty mild; in the 30's and 40's. Not too cold to walk around but you'll definitely need a jacket. Pack layers such as long underwear, hat, gloves, wool socks and insulated (and broken in!) shoes or light boots.

Unlike traveling in Europe during warm months, the cold air will keep your clothing fresher so you can pack lighter than you might expect. Also, you want to have space in your baggage for all the goodies you'll be bringing home.

Speaking of baggage, we will be transferring cities using the extensive train network in Germany. German trains are generally fast, clean and relatively spacious and we will have reserved seating. We will be taking trains from/to Munich to Nuremberg and to Salzburg from Munich. Both these trains are direct with no transfers. It is very important that you are able to handle all of your luggage yourself when we walk to the train stations for transfers to a new city. We book hotels that are within a 5-15 minute walk of the train stations. We personally like to use travel backpacks but we know that is not for everyone. A good combination of luggage for

most people would be a roller suitcase that you are able to pick up and take into a train with a medium sized travel backpack. You can use that medium sized backpack for shopping so you don't have to carry shopping bags and other items in your hands while we are out walking and touring for the day.

If you are shopping for a travel backpack, [Osprey is a great brand](#). We both own Osprey travel packs and have been really pleased. When we referred to medium backpacks above, we're looking at a bag in the 40-60 liter size and they are good for weekend trips and your general daily carrying needs. For 60-80+ liter bags, now you are getting into a travel backpack you can pack everything in for your trip.

FLIGHTS:

We will be meeting in Munich, Germany and finishing our tour in Salzburg, Austria. Flights to/from Munich and Salzburg to the US (and specifically Chicago) are generally comparable. Whatever service you use to shop and book your flights, they will generally have a drop down menu option for ONE WAY, ROUND TRIP OR MULTIPLE CITY when defining your search parameters. If you have any questions or need additional guidance for booking your flight to/from multiple cities, please feel free to ask us at tours@drinkabledestinations.com or Justin's phone at 920 740 8791.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH ISSUES:

Our tours are very active and participants need to be of a moderate fitness level. International tours will include a lot of walking particularly to attractions, public transport, hotel, meals, etc. Participants need to be able to walk and/or be on their feet for 1-2 hours at a time and can keep up with the group. WE DO NOT USE BUSES OR PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION FOR TOURS WITHIN THE CITIES, it is all walking and some public transit (subway, tram, bus). We do use buses/private transport for some transfers between cities when train travel is not easy or efficient.

Part of the experience is using the incredibly convenient public transport in Germany! We will be taking some public trains and buses to move from city to city and to some attractions.

You will need to be able to carry your own luggage from the hotels to transport stations so please keep that mind when choosing how much to pack and the type of luggage you're bringing. Travel backpacks may be the most convenient for some but luggage with roller wheels will also work.

Please disclose any medical conditions while registering for the tour. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate participants requiring wheelchair assistance on our European tours. The places we are visiting are very old and not designed for accessibility and the participant may miss out on many of our activities. With that being said, we will be evaluating our tours for accessibility and strive to open them up to those with mobility issues in the future. We want EVERYONE to be able to experience our tours!

We will not be responsible for any medical cost you may incur in a medical incident or emergency while on our tour. **We HIGHLY RECOMMEND securing a travel insurance plan; your personal health insurance policy may not cover incidents while out of the USA.**

SOLO PARTICIPANTS:

These tours are priced for double occupancy. Solo participants will have to pay a supplemental fee to cover the additional cost of lodging. The current fee is the maximum supplemental we will charge. German hotels typically have single rooms for less cost than double rooms but the final cost will depend on what single rooms are available.

By request, we can try to match same-sex solo participants to share a room. This is not guaranteed and if we can't find a match, solo participants will be subject to the single supplemental fee. You must inform us in advance of any medical or personal issues that could negatively affect someone's else's enjoyment of the tour. If you do not inform us, we reserve the right to change your booking to a single and for you to be charged for the new room and half of the other room.

PASSPORTS:

A current passport is required of each traveler. Be sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of the tour, even though three months may be all that is required. It can take three weeks to get a new passport without paying for it to be expedited. Plan ahead. Also, "As of November 1st, 2016, customers applying for or renewing their passport must remove glasses for their passport photo. Last year, more than 200,000 passport customers submitted poor quality photos which we couldn't accept. **The #1 problem was glasses.** We had to put their passport applications on hold because we couldn't clearly identify them from their photo. If the photo of you in your unexpired passport has glasses, don't worry about it. You don't have to get a new passport now. Next time you renew your passport, though, you'll have to take your glasses off."--U.S. Dept. of State.

TOUR CHANGES:

We reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary, hotels, restaurants, brewery tours, etc due to forces outside our control. We may even change it because we have found a superior experience!

We reserve the right to correct pricing errors. We always hope to keep our tour prices the same from the moment we start taking reservations, however, since our tours are planned so far in advance, we may have to adjust the price due to reasons beyond our control such as extreme currency fluctuation.

Wi-Fi:

Complimentary WiFi is available at most hotels and many businesses, but not guaranteed.

TRANSFERS:

Transfers between the airport and our first and last hotels are not included unless listed specifically on the itinerary.

All other transfers between cities and attractions from the start of the tour until the end of the last day of the tour are included in the cost.

PARTICIPATION:

We reserve the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant at any time. Participants may be removed from a tour for displaying abusive or threatening behavior to other participants or to the public, for harassment of any kind, impeding on the enjoyment of the tour by other participants or not being suitable for group travel.

If a participant is removed from a tour, we will not refund any payments for the tour or cover any expenses for the participant to return home.

Our tours are designed around beer, wine and spirits experiences. However, participants are required to know their limits and enjoy alcohol in moderation and responsibly.

AGE RESTRICTIONS:

Our tours are adult experiences with adults expecting to travel with other adults. Tour participants must be 18 or over.

HOTELS:

We will stay at nice, clean hotels in the 3-4 star range. Some hotels will be small independent affairs (like a brewery guesthouse or boutique-style) while others will be international chains.

Boutique and historic hotels may have very small rooms with twin beds very close to each other and some hotels may not have TV's and elevators. If we've chosen a boutique or historic hotel, it is because we believe it adds to the overall experience of the tour and keeps us in the city centers.