

Explore Europe's best Christmas markets!

Europeans do Christmas like no one else, and this is your opportunity to experience Christmas time in some of the most stunning cities in the world! Sparkling lights, magical Christmas Markets, cosy coffee shops, carollers, and mug of mulled wine while taking in the beauty of Eastern Europe... We will explore not just Christmas markets, but palaces and castles, and get to experience cultural traditions and Christmas preparations, from city to city.

Oh, and do some last minute Christmas shopping!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Christmas Markets:** shop on the stunning seasonal markets in Zagreb, Budapest & Vienna
- **Cosmopolitan Vibes:** see the modern side of Croatia in its capital – Zagreb!
- **Breathtaking Nature:** admire the beautiful Plitvice National Park
- **Buda and Pest:** explore diverse and beautiful Budapest
- **Danube Cruise:** see the city of Budapest lit up at night on a river cruise
- **Royal palaces:** learn about the Habsburg monarchs as you explore the beautiful Schonbrunn Palace
- **Apple Strudel:** take a master class in how to make a traditional Viennese apple strudel!
- **Cobblestone Exclusives:** attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone Freeway Travellers



The Destination

Zagreb, Croatia

Day 1 TOUR START DATE | Zagreb (-/-/D)

Welcome to Croatia! Upon arrival in Zagreb, you'll be met at the airport by your Tour Leader and chauffeured to your hotel, located in the heart of the city center.

*Your **Tour Leader** will be with you throughout your entire trip – every step of the way. More than just a guide - they will be your personal travel host, along with your private driver and vehicle. Together, they'll make sure you get where you need to go, and be available to stop when you need along the way. Not to mention, they'll show you the best places to eat, and help you with all the small details, from using the bank machines to showing you where to find the best gifts at the market - and negotiating for the best price! They'll share the best of Ukraine, tell you about its history, and show you the modern Ukraine. And if there are any problems, they will make sure everything gets worked out. You're in good hands!*

After check-in and some free time to freshen up, we will provide you with a **city orientation**, so you will know the closest exchange places, ATMs, and best souvenir and convenience stores. Later on, we will enjoy a delicious **Welcome Dinner** in one of our favorite restaurants with traditional Croatian food!

Day 2 | Zagreb (B/-/D)

Today we'll get to know Zagreb - the largest city and capital of Croatia. Take a walking **City Tour**, and explore the historic old-town with its medieval feel. We'll even stop for a traditional Croatian coffee en-route! Visit the open-air markets in Dolac, to stock up souvenirs and taste some of the wonderful cuisine that Croatia has to offer!

After lunch, we will take you on an **Advent Panoramic Tour**, covering the Downtown area, where you can see the most picturesque of Zagreb's Christmas markets, and sights such as the wintery Tomislavac Ice Park, Strossmayer Square, and Zrinjevac Square, where we will stop and enjoy the atmosphere with a glass of traditional hot wine....

The rest of the day is yours for shopping! Zagreb's Christmas Markets have been named the Best Christmas Market in Europe - three years in a row! These beautiful markets cover both the Upper and Lower parts of the city with their glistening lights, and we will take you to both. Enjoy dinner together before an evening at your leisure.

Day 3 | Zagreb (B/L/-)

Today we will take a daytrip to the famous **Plitvice National Park**.

This collection of lakes and pools, provide some of the most spectacular natural scenery in Croatia, and are only more beautiful in winter. The lakes are renowned for their distinctive colors, ranging from azure to green, grey or blue, but also wintery whites and solvers. We'll walk around the upper and lower lakes, exploring small bays under the snowy pine trees, and walking past frozen waterfalls, while feeling at one with nature.

HOTEL:

'Academia' Hotel or similar | Zagreb

<https://www.hotelacademia.hr/en/>

3 Nights



The Destination

Budapest, Hungary

Day 4 | Zagreb - Budapest (B/L/-)

Today, we will set off for the beautiful capital of Hungary, Budapest.

On the way we will stop in **Varaždin**, a city known as the Baroque Capital of Croatia, and considered one of the most romantic cities of Northern Croatia! We will wander around this stunning town, and a stop for lunch, before continuing our journey to Hungary.

Upon arrival to **Budapest**, we will get acquainted with the city on a **Panoramic Tour**, showing you the most notable sights, such as Citadella Hill and Heroes Square. After getting oriented with this beautiful city, recoup your energy: we will check in at the hotel, and take some time to rest and relax after the journey. In the evening, we'll introduce you to Budapest's stunning Christmas Markets! Walk under glistening lights along beautiful boulevards, and grab some delicious food and mulled wine as you wander!

Day 5 | Budapest (B/-/D)

Time to explore beautiful Budapest! Take a panoramic **tour** of the sights of the “**Budim**” Side of the City. See the stunning architectural monuments of Budapest such as Budim Castle, St. Matthias Church and the **Fisherman's Bastion**.

In the afternoon, we will take a stroll on the contrasting “**Pest**” Side of Budapest: explore more of the Jewish Quarter, St Stephen's Church, and Vaci Street. Then, time to head to the stunning **markets!** The most famous of these are on the “Pest” side of the city – in Vorosmarty Square and Basilica area. We'll leave you to explore, shop, and get some gluhwein!

This evening – a special treat! You are invited to dinner in a Traditional **Hungarian Csarda**. Taste local food, and see some Traditional Hungarian **dancing** and singing in a **Folk Show** by local artists, to round off the day!

Day 6 | Budapest (B/-/D)

Take a **free day** to explore beautiful Budapest...

You can take an optional half day tour to the delightful Hungarian countryside, to visit the **Castle Godollo**, the second largest Baroque Palace in the world, and be spectators of a stunning Horse Show. Alternatively, take some time to enjoy some of the famous city **baths**, do some shopping, or visit a museum. Visit the Ice Rink in Budapest City Park, and glide around the Ice Rink Palace and Vajdahunyad Castle.

In the evening, prepare yourself for a stunning **River Cruise** down the Danube River, and a final farewell dinner.

HOTELS:

'Ibis Styles' Hotel or similar | Budapest

<https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-2997-ibis-styles-budapest-center/index.shtml>

3 Nights



The Destination

Vienna, Austria

Day 7 | Budapest - Vienna (B/L/-)

Today we will head out of Budapest to beautiful Vienna... Upon arrival, we will embark on a **panoramic tour** of the city, including a drive through the most famous street in Vienna: The Ringstrasse. After check in, take some free time to explore this stunning city.

That evening, we will explore the most famous Christmas Market in Europe, in a spot where Vienna has held its Christmas market for centuries – directly in front of the **Vienna Rathaus**. Soak up the atmosphere, try some local delicacies, while surrounded by Vienna's beautiful buildings.

Day 8 | Vienna (B/L/-)

In the morning we will visit the famous **Schonbrunn Palace** – the summer residence of the Habsburgs, and today, one of the most important cultural monuments in Vienna. The stunning palace and palace gardens illustrate the tastes, interests, and aspirations of various successive Habsburg monarchs.

After your history lesson, you will be indulged in an **Apple Strudel** making masterclass, and of course - tasting session! Watch a professional pastry chef hand-bake an original Viennese apple strudel. You will not only learn how to make this divine Viennese dessert, but you will also be given the original Viennese Apple Strudel recipe to try out for yourselves at home. Free afternoon: Optional visit to the Vienna Zoo - the oldest in the world – or the Klimt Atelier villa, where Gustav Klimt spent last years of his life. Free evening to soak up some Viennese culture - go to see an optional Lipizzaner Show or a Classical Music Concert.

Day 9 | Vienna (B/-/D)

Today you have a **free day** in Vienna, and can choose from the many attractions Vienna has to offer! Choose from a fine selection of Museums (Kunsthistorisches and Naturhistorisches Museums, Sisi Apartments, House of Butterflies, Freud Museum, Royal Treasury or Belvedere, where you can see Gustav Klimt's "Kiss").

We will point you in the direction of the local market to stop for lunch. In the afternoon, you have some free time for shopping, relaxation, and to enjoy some Austrian coffee, or wander the Christmas Markets some more.

In the evening we will head for **Prater**, one of the oldest amusement parks in the world, and have the chance to experience some of their rides! You can wander the historic rides, and retro Ferris wheel, and enjoy another perspective of the city riding the Praterling. That evening, a final **farewell Dinner** in one of Vienna's finest restaurants to end your trip with a bang!

Day 10 TOUR END DATE | Vienna (B/-/-)

After a free morning to stock up on souvenirs we will transfer you to the airport where, sadly, we will have to say our goodbyes!

HOTEL:

'Ibis Mariahilf ' Hotel or similar | Vienna

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/0796/index.en.shtml>

3 nights



Tour Details

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Airport Transfers
- All land transportation
- Escorted tour with full time Tour Leader
- Tour in English
- 2 meals a day
- 9 nights in hand-Selected hotels
- All Events included in the Itinerary
- Internet in hotels when possible
- Interaction with local artists, craftsmen, and performers
- Special events exclusively for Cobblestone travellers
- Cobblestone Freeway t-shirt



NOT INCLUDED:

- Extra days before/after the tour
- Events and Services not included in the itinerary or marked as **Optional**
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not listed in Itinerary
- Flights not listed in Itinerary
- Tips for guides / drivers/ maids
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry & Telephone Services

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Extend your trip
- Upgrade your room / Get a single room

On our Cobblestone Freeway Tour, enjoy:

Delicious, hand chosen local food, and more inclusions than most other tour operators



Enjoy exclusive Folk dance/ music performances



You will be escorted by a full-time Cobblestone Freeway Tour Leader



EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS TOUR 10 Days / 9 Nights

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