

## SHADOW SCHS CHRISTMAS MARKETS 2017

Christmas Markets pop up all over Central Europe during the first weeks of December. Each year, we feature a winter wonderland tour to Germany and Austria during the Christmas season. These outdoor markets feature unique decorations, beautiful handcrafted arts, and endless opportunities to sample some great food and countless varieties of glüwein, punch, and spiced drinks, served piping hot in souvenir mugs. But there is more to this tour than snow and markets! Enjoy visiting many destinations that, in the busy tourist season, are packed shoulder-to-shoulder with sweaty tourists. Traveling “off-season” means easy access to castles and sights in Salzburg, Schwangau, Munich, Nürnberg, and more. There has never been a better time to visit Europe’s winter wonderland destinations.

Your Adventure Starts Here!

TOUR ITINERARY – subject to change depending on SCHS Band performance venues

**Friday, December 15, 2017: Fly to Europe** –Join a group of likeminded travelers on an overnight flight to Europe. Roundtrip flights from Orlando, Florida are included in this package deal, however you’ll have the option to arrange your own flights if you so choose.

**Saturday, December 16: Passau** – Meet your Exploring Europe guide and driver to begin your Christmas Market adventure at the Munich Airport. Plan to arrive at the airport by 10:00 a.m. Enjoy a scenic journey through beautiful Bavarian countryside enroute to Passau. The Christkindlmarkt is set up right in the heart of the city in the Cathedral Square. Enjoy an afternoon exploring this charming town situated at the confluence of three rivers: the Danube, Inn and Ilz. Later, we’ll meet for a grand welcome Christmastime dinner. *Driving: 2 hours. Walking: light. Sleep 1 night in Passau. Dinner*

**Sunday, December 17: Nürnberg Christkindlmarkt** – Today, we will travel to nearby Nuremberg, home of Germany’s most famous Christmas Market. The entire town square is filled with over 180 wooden stalls, loaded with homemade crafts, local food, mulled wine and Christmas cheer. Each stall is decorated with red and white cloth and has become the model for all other Christmas markets in Europe. You’ll have the afternoon and evening to experience Nürnberg on your own. *Driving: 4 hours. Walking: moderate. Sleep 1 night in Nürnberg.*

**Monday, December 18: Castle Neuschwanstein and Reutte** – After breakfast, we will travel to southern Bavaria to the village of Schwangau. You will have an opportunity to enjoy the village atmosphere, hike in the spruce woodlands and enjoy the pristine lakeside. Also, enjoy a guided tour of Schloss Neuschwanstein, famous as the home of “Mad” King Ludwig II of Bavaria. This castle is the model upon which Walt Disney conceived “Cinderella’s Castle” at the Disneyland resort. Later, arrive at David’s favorite village and *weinstube* for a cozy evening meal. *Driving: 3.5 hours. Walking: moderate-strenuous. Sleep 1 night near Reutte. Dinner.*

**Tuesday, December 19: Innsbruck and Salzburg** - Our journey today dips down into the Alps for a visit to Innsbruck and its Christmas Markets. After lunch, we will travel the *autobahn* reaching Salzburg by late afternoon. Upon arrival, enjoy a walking tour of the famous old town and some free time to explore the Christmas Markets in several of the town squares. Later, we will meet for dinner at one of David's favorite Salzburg restaurants. *Driving: 4.5 hours. Walking: light. Sleep 2 nights in Salzburg. Dinner.*

**Wednesday, December 20: Salzburg** – This morning, enjoy a drive through the Saltzgammertgut countryside visiting several sights made famous by the movie, “The Sound of Music.” Return to Salzburg to explore the Christmas Markets, the castle, and town. Dinner and entertainment are left up to you tonight. You might want to consider a sleigh ride, a concert or poking around in the old town. *Driving: 2.5 hours. Walking: moderate.*

**Thursday, December 21: Munich** – it is a short drive to Munich this morning. Once in the city center, enjoy a guided walking tour linking the historic sights and attractions. You'll have the evening free to experience Munich's markets, festive squares, beerhalls and wine bars. *Driving: 2.5 hours. Walking: moderate. Sleep 2 nights in Munich.*

**Friday, December 22: Munich** - Munich, like Nuremburg, is known for its Christmas Markets and holiday cheer. Enjoy an event-free day in town. Tonight, we'll meet for a festive gourmet dinner at an authentic restaurant. *No driving. Walking: your choice. Dinner.*

**Saturday, December 23: So Long, Farewell** – Your tour ends this morning after breakfast. There are no scheduled activities today. Munich's airport is a well connected to the city center by train, taxi and our group bus. Your Exploring Europe guide will be available to assist with your travel plans. Merry Christmas!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Your tour price is approximately \$3300, air included.** Please note that the tour itinerary and price are subject to change. This tour is “shadowing” the Spruce Creek Band and their performances in Christmas Markets around Europe. Once the band's performance dates are scheduled, a definite itinerary will be published allowing you to see and hear the band in action. Airfare is another variable that cannot be settled until mid-March 2017 when airlines publish their fares for December travel.

\*\*\*\*\*

David McGuffin established *David McGuffin's Exploring Europe, Inc.* in 2001 to offer group and individual tours to European destinations. Since then, he has taken several thousand satisfied customers on memorable tours showcasing the great sights of Europe coupled with countless opportunities to experience Europe from an insider's perspective. This CHRISTMAS MARKET TOUR is a product of David's meticulous planning and time-tested travel strategies which ultimately produces a fun, informative, well-planned, and worry-free tour experience.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Roundtrip airfare from Orlando, Florida. Alternative airports may be available so please call or email for details.
- Transportation by deluxe coach and/or minibus from the airport in Munich and return.
- Seven night's accommodation in traditional hotels, guesthouses, and B&B's. All rooms have private en-suite baths.
- All tips and gratuities to guides, drivers, restaurant and hotel staff.
- All breakfasts and four of your dinners.
- Traditional and gourmet dining experiences at some of David's personal favorite restaurants. Eating well is a priority and you'll enjoy fine regional fare featuring the best the locale has to offer
- All tours and admissions at no extra cost: Innsbruck orientation ▪ *Christkindlmarkt* day in Nürnberg ▪ Castle Newschwanstein entrance and guided tour ▪ Salzburg orientation and walking tour ▪ *Salzammergut* driving tour and notable Sound of Music sights ▪ Munich orientation walking tour ▪ Christmas Markets in Salzburg, Innsbruck, Munich, Passau and Nürnberg ▪ traditional and fine dining experience in David's top choice restaurants ▪ and much more (itinerary specifics are subject to change).
- A fulltime Exploring Europe guide and local experts dedicated to bringing to life the historical and cultural experience of the tour destinations.
- David's printed tour handouts detailing each day's itinerary and experiences.
- Free luggage tags and David's custom designed drawstring backpacks.
- Our Unconditional Tour Price Guarantee that once locked in, with your deposit, will never change.
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance providing full coverage for emergency medical, baggage loss, and trip delay from the moment you depart for your tour.
- \$50 Tour Alumni discount for each David McGuffin tour you've taken prior to 2017.
- \$100 discount if making all payments by check, cash or bank draft. The \$400 initial deposit may be made by credit card and still qualify for this discount.
- Single rooms for solo travelers are available for an additional cost of \$450.
- Water is included with all group meals. Sodas, wine, beer and other drinks are your responsibility.