

CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF AUSTRIA, GERMANY & SWITZERLAND

November 2025

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Experience the magic as you explore the enchanting Christmas Markets of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. These festive markets date back to the late Middle Ages, originating in German-speaking Europe as winter gatherings where locals could buy seasonal goods. Today, they remain a cherished tradition, offering twinkling lights, the scent of mulled wine, and handcrafted treasures.

We fly to Vienna, then travel by motorcoach to Salzburg, Munich, Innsbruck, Oberammergau, St. Gallen, and Lucerne. Each city has unique and fascinating Christmas Markets, and several attractions are included such as Schönbrunn Palace, Basilica of Ettal Abbey, and Swarovski Crystal World. We fly home from Zurich. This is the first time that Wells Gray Tours has offered a trip to the famous Christmas Markets of Europe. Come and enjoy this festive experience!



INTERNATIONAL



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- 📍 **BC Interior:** November 22, 2025 - 14 days
- 📍 **Vancouver Island:** November 22, 2025 - 14 days
- 📍 **Lower Mainland:** November 23, 2025 - 12 days

► Fares per person

- 📍 from **\$10,535** double/twin, **\$11,725** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

► Early Booking Bonus

- \$300** discount on first 8 seats; **\$150** on next 4.

► Earn 200 Experience Points



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

Your specific departure point will be confirmed at the time of booking. Passengers travelling from the BC Interior, Vancouver Island & Lower Mainland regions will begin and end the tour as follows:

I BC Interior: We depart on Saturday, November 22 and drive to New Westminster for an overnight stay at the Inn at the Quay. We fly to Vienna the following day from Vancouver, arriving in Vienna on Monday, November 24. We fly from Zurich to Vancouver on Thursday, December 4 and overnight at the Fairmont Hotel YVR in the airport. We drive home on Friday, December 5. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back again when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We depart on Saturday, November 22 and travel to New Westminster for an overnight stay at the Inn at the Quay. We fly to Vienna the following day from Vancouver, arriving in Vienna on Monday, November 24. We fly from Zurich to Vancouver on Thursday, December 4 and overnight at the Fairmont Hotel YVR in the airport. We return home on Friday, December 5.

Departure from Victoria: For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return. Home pickup may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Departure from Up-Island: There is an additional cost for clients who wish to fly from/to Nanaimo or Comox Airport on this tour. Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please note that while we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.

L Lower Mainland: We fly from Vancouver to Vienna on Sunday, November 23. Our flight arrives in Vienna on Monday, November 24. We fly from Zurich to Vancouver on Thursday, December 4. Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack: Pickup and dropoff is by the main coach. Please refer to the BC Interior pricing and departure information.

FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I BC Interior	\$10,895 double/twin \$12,350 single	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add 0.5% GST. • There is an additional cost to fly from/to Nanaimo or Comox to join this tour.
V Vancouver Island	\$11,070 double/twin \$12,525 single	
L Lower Mainland	\$10,535 double/twin \$11,725 single	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

I 21 total: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 7 dinners

V 19 total: 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 7 dinners

L 18 total: 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transportation to/from Vancouver Airport from the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas
- Flights from Vancouver to Vienna
- Transfer from Vienna airport to hotel
- Coach transportation in Europe for 8 days
- Road & bridge tolls
- Transfer from Lucerne to Zurich Airport
- Flights from Zurich to Vancouver
- Current air transport taxes & security fees
- 1 checked bag per person

▶ Accommodation

I V 12 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes

L 10 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes

- Luggage handling at most hotels

▶ Key Highlights

- Walking & driving tour of Vienna
- Schönbrunn Palace
- Pastry & coffee at a Vienna café
- Guided walking tour of Salzburg
- Guided walking tour of Munich
- Basilica of Ettal Abbey
- Guided walking tour of Oberammergau
- Swarovski Crystal World
- Guided walking tour of Innsbruck
- Guided walking tour of St. Gallen
- Guided walking tour of Lucerne
- Audio system with ear buds for walking tours
- Lion Monument
- Lindt Home of Chocolate

Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.

▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Multilingual European tour guide
- Gratuities for guide & driver, local guides, & wait staff in Europe

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

Activity Level 2

Moderate Activity: As a traveller you like a variety of activities and walking up to 2 km with breaks such as a guided walking tour is very doable for you without assistance.

You can stand for prolonged periods, negotiate a variety of terrain from cobblestone streets to moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. Every city has a walking tour in the historic Old Town because streets are too narrow for motorcoaches. There is also lots of walking around the Christmas Markets. You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. Please be aware that on tours with flights you must handle your own luggage and walk longer distances in airports. You may need to handle your own luggage at hotels if luggage service is not available. This tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.

The tour director, European guide, and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.



Tour Size 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.



Vienna Christmas Market

ITINERARY

Saturday, November 22

Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel to New Westminster. We stay overnight at the Inn at the Quay, built on a pier jutting into the Fraser River. Every room has a view of the river and you can watch all the shipping traffic going by. Meet your fellow travellers during a get-acquainted dinner.

Note: While it may seem unnecessary to travel to the Lower Mainland the day before your flight, the Coquihalla can have long closures or flights can be cancelled by weather which would cause a missed international flight.

Meals included: ① Lunch, Dinner ② Dinner

Accommodation: ① ② Inn at the Quay

Sunday, November 23

Passengers from Vancouver join us today. We fly to Vienna, Austria.

Accommodation: Overnight flight

Monday, November 24

The flight arrives in Vienna. **Welcome to Austria!** Our coach driver and European guide meet us at the airport. The rest of the day is leisure time. Our hotel for three nights, Austria Trend Ananas, has a wonderful location in the city centre surrounded by shops and restaurants. It's a five-minute walk to the Naschmarkt and the tempting delights of its 170 stands. In the evening, get together with your tour companions to enjoy a Welcome Dinner and toast to a proper beginning of your trip.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Austria Trend Hotel Ananas

Tuesday, November 25

Known as the "City of Music," **Vienna** inspired the creative genius of Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss. Once the centre of the mighty Habsburg Empire, Austria's magical capital on the blue Danube is a showcase of gilded architecture. Our driving and walking tour passes many landmarks of Vienna. We see the neo-renaissance Vienna Opera House and awe-inspiring St. Stephen's Cathedral. The afternoon is free time to explore the Christmas Markets near the hotel. Dinner is in a typical Heurigen restaurant, a traditional Austrian wine tavern that serves freshly bottled wines from its own vineyards, accompanied by simple, regional dishes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Austria Trend Hotel Ananas

Wednesday, November 26

The lavish **Schönbrunn Palace** was the main summer residence of the Habsburg rulers for 300 years. Schönbrunn which means "beautiful spring" was continually expanded and improved to the colossal palace today with over 1400 rooms and expansive gardens. Afterwards, shop in the delightful **pedestrian Kärntnerstrasse**. Your guide hosts a stop at one of the classic cafés that helped shape Viennese culture, and you can enjoy a piece of decadent Sachertorte or Apfelstrudel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Austria Trend Hotel Ananas

ITINERARY continued

Thursday, November 27

Leaving Vienna, our next stop is **Salzburg**, known as the “Rome of the North”, for its many magnificent monuments from both the Baroque and Renaissance periods. Designated as a World Cultural Heritage Site, Salzburg was ruled for centuries by princes and archbishops. We take a guided stroll through the city centre – a pedestrian zone where there are many historic sites related to Mozart. Highlights of our walk include Mozart’s birthplace, St Peter’s Church, and Salzburg Cathedral. There is free time to browse the Christmas Market, then we continue to **Munich** where we settle for a three-night stay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Drei Lowen

Friday, November 28

With the benefit of a local guide, we enjoy a driving tour around the capital of Bavaria with stops such as Nymphenburg Palace with its magnificent gardens, the Olympic Stadium, the Englischer Garten, the football stadium Allianz-Arena (home of Bayern München) and the BMW building. A walking tour features the historic Glockenspiel on the Marienplatz and the twin-towered Frauenkirche (Our Lady’s Church), the most familiar landmark of old Munich. Enjoy a traditional lunch in a **Munich brewery pub**: white sausage with Brezn and a glass of beer gives you enough energy for the afternoon when you have time to discover the Christmas Markets.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel Drei Lowen

Saturday, November 29

This is a day at leisure. Our suggestion: Go Christmas Market hopping - how many markets can you visit in one day? Regardless of how many you manage to see, you should definitely sip a cup of hot mulled wine to warm up.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel Drei Lowen

Sunday, November 30

We head south from Munich into Upper Bavaria. A stop is made at the **Basilica of Ettal Abbey**, founded in 1330 as a meeting place for an order of knighthood and still home to 50 brothers. Soon we arrive at **Oberammergau** where the Passion Play is performed every 10 years. The town is also famous for its beautifully painted houses and detailed wood carvings. A walking tour unveils the fascinating stories behind the artwork displayed on the buildings. We continue to **Innsbruck** for a two-night stay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

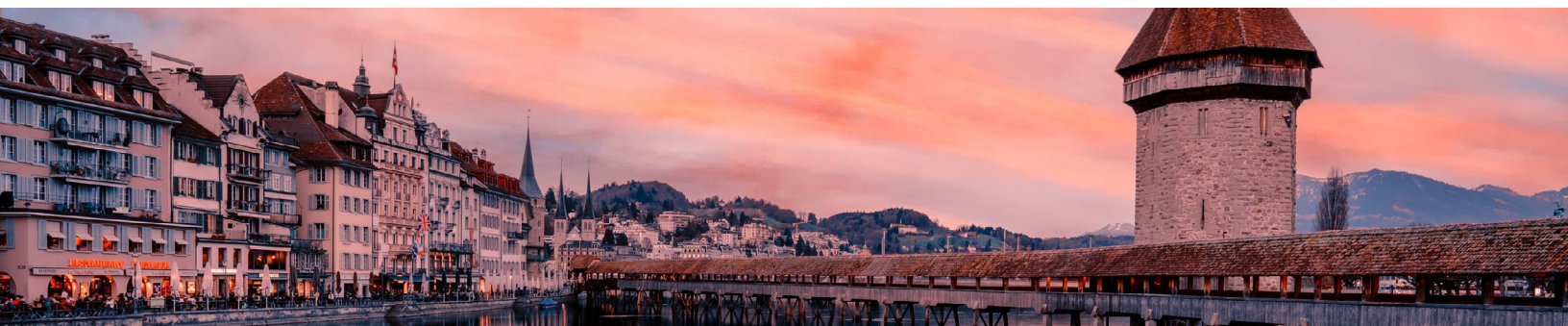
Accommodation: Hotel “Grauer Bär”

Monday, December 1

In Innsbruck, we visit **Swarovski Crystal World** which features crystals, and light and sound designs. This is followed by a walking tour of the “Jewel of the Alps” such as the “Goldenes Dachl”, a roof of gilded copper shingles symbolic of Innsbruck’s Old Town; Church Hofkirche, dating to 1553; and the Triumphal Arch of 1765. Browse through Innsbruck’s Christmas Markets this afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel “Grauer Bär”



ITINERARY continued

Tuesday, December 2

We cross the border into Switzerland. The first stop is the university city of **St. Gallen** and a guided tour of the Old Town is planned, featuring many Baroque and Renaissance-era bay windows. The historic centre is closed to vehicles which makes a pleasant contrast to the bustle of some cities. There is time to explore St. Gallen's Christmas Markets. Afterwards, we continue to **Lucerne** for a two-night stay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Wilden Mann Luzern

Wednesday, December 3

Lindt Home of Chocolate is our first experience in Lucerne, a special treat for chocolate lovers. The visitor centre offers an interactive journey through the history of chocolate, from the cocoa bean to the finished bar, then taste a variety of Lindt products. Next there is a guided walking tour through the Old Town, past the Kornmarkt (grain market), the Old Town Hall, and the restored houses at the Hirschenplatz and the Weinmarkt, decorated with paintings and guild flags. Walk across the covered Kapellbrücke with the chapel in the middle and see the **Lion Monument** which commemorates the heroic deaths of Swiss mercenaries at the Tuileries in 1792. The afternoon is leisure time; there are Christmas Markets in Lucerne or for a change of pace you may wish to take the cable car up Mount Pilatus. Savour a farewell dinner tonight as we say goodbye to Switzerland, Germany, and Austria and all their wonderful Christmas Markets.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Wilden Mann Luzern

Thursday, December 4

It's less than an hour's drive to Zurich for our flights to Vancouver. Passengers from Vancouver are transferred home while passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island stay at the Fairmont Hotel YVR, conveniently located above international arrivals.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation:   Fairmont Hotel YVR

Friday, December 5

Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel home.

Meals included:  Lunch

THE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Experience the magic as you explore the enchanting Christmas markets of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. These festive markets date back to the late Middle Ages, originating in German-speaking Europe as winter gatherings where locals could buy seasonal goods. Today, they remain a cherished tradition, offering twinkling lights, the scent of mulled wine, and handcrafted treasures.

In Vienna, the Christkindlmarkt at Rathausplatz is one of Europe's most fascinating with its grand illuminated City Hall backdrop and over 150 wooden stalls selling artisanal gifts and traditional treats. Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace, hosts its Christmas market beneath the stunning Hohensalzburg Fortress where choirs fill the air with carols and stalls offer roasted chestnuts and fluffy Kaiserschmarrn.

In Munich, the Marienplatz Christmas Market brings Bavarian charm to the heart of the city with its giant Christmas tree, wooden toys, and sizzling bratwurst. Innsbruck, nestled in the Alps, features a fairytale market surrounded by snow-capped peaks and medieval buildings, perfect for sipping hot Glühwein.

Finally, Lucerne, with its lake and mountain views, transforms into a festive paradise, offering Swiss chocolate, handcrafted ornaments, and the magical glow of lantern-lit streets.

Experience the warmth of the season in these breathtaking Christmas markets!



Innsbruck

TOUR NOTES

Documentation: A passport is required and must be valid for three months after December 4, 2025, the date you fly home. A visa is not required for Canadian travellers to Austria, Germany or Switzerland. Effective sometime in 2025, you will require a travel authorisation permit for Europe called ETIAS which is applied for on a website prior to tour departure. Details at final payment.

Currency & Expenses: Two currencies are needed during this tour. The official currency of Austria and Germany is the Euro and a Canadian dollar is worth about €0.66. The currency of Switzerland is the Swiss Franc and a Canadian dollar is worth about CRF .63. You should order Euros and Francs from your bank 2 weeks before departure, or plan to use ATMs. Credit cards are widely accepted. Another option is to bring Euros for both countries, then exchange as needed into Swiss Francs. Do not bring Canadian dollars. Gratuities have been included for all group meals and for the European guide and drivers and local guides.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes, currency exchange rates, or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Accommodation is booked in superior hotels, mostly 4 stars. Hotels are subject to change as this tour has

been planned nine months before departure. The number of single rooms is limited, so please book early if you prefer to travel single. In Europe, single rooms are usually smaller than twin rooms.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

Beverages: In many European countries, it is not standard practice to include beverages with tour meals. On this tour, tap water is included with each meal and other beverages can be purchased. A few dinners have a glass of beer or wine included.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights between Vancouver and Vienna or Zurich. Premium economy and business class may be available.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$1,790 and book your own flight which allows seat selection.

Flight delays due to weather: In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours Ltd. will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for weather delays.

Triples are not available on this tour.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due August 21, 2025. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Early Booking Bonus: Receive a \$300 discount on the first 8 seats and \$150 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after August 21, 2025.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 21, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From July 22 to August 21, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From August 22 to September 19, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From September 20 to October 20, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After October 20, there is no refund.

Flight delays or cancellations: Flights can be delayed or cancelled at the last minute, sometimes causing a missed connection. Wells Gray staff will try to assist with rebooking, but the airline usually wants to talk with the individual passenger. There may be an extra payment required if the issue is weather. Wells Gray Tours is not allowed to interfere with this process. Check that your travel insurance policy has a flight delay benefit because that is usually your best recourse for recouping additional flight costs.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock (Salzburg Christmas Market), Pexels (Schönbrunn Palace), Unsplash (Vienna Christmas Market), and Pixabay (Lucerne, Innsbruck).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 200 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until August 21, 2025.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

WE PLAN.
YOU PACK.
NO WORRIES!

www.wellsgraytours.com

1-800-667-9552



Offices are open weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Book an appointment or walk-in and visit us. _____

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