



# SWISS ALPS & AUSTRIA

## SWITZERLAND

Switzerland may be neutral but it is certainly not flavourless. The fusion of German, French and Italian ingredients has formed a robust national culture, and the country's alpine landscapes have enough zing to reinvigorate the most jaded traveller.

Goethe summed up Switzerland succinctly as a combination of 'the colossal and the well-ordered'. You can be sure that your trains and letters will be on time. The tidy, just-so precision of Swiss towns is tempered by the lofty splendour of the landscapes that surround them.

## JUNGFRAU REGION

Some of Switzerland's most magnificent views are found around the peaks of the Jungfrau, Mönch and Eiger, their rugged flanks made even more awe-inspiring by the greens, and golds of nearby hills and valleys. The best rail trip (it's the highest railway in Europe) cuts through both the Eiger and the Mönch before terminating at the tip of the majestic Jungfrauoch.

## AUSTRIA

Austria has few peers as a year-round holiday destination, with plenty of winter sports in the Alps, some of the most impressive and overblown architecture in Europe and an unrivalled musical tradition that even *The Sound of Music* couldn't sully. Innsbruck's snow-capped peaks frame its fascinating historic buildings.



# 10 DAYS

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Swiss Alps Hike
- Canyoning \*
- White Water Rafting \*
- Innsbruck
- Salzburg
- Schonbrunn Palace
- Danube Tower
- Hofburg Palace
- Imperial Vienna
- Prater Amusement Park
- Vienna Charity Bowl

## INCLUDED

- Round-trip airfare
- Hotel Accommodation
- Private bus
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- Tour Director
- Guided sightseeing tours
- Walking Tours
- Entrances to attractions
- Awards dinner
- Post-game Party
- Practices & Game

## OPTIONAL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Price TBC – pay locally
- Canyoning
- White water rafting

### Day 1 > Fly to Switzerland

### Day 2 > Interlaken

Arrive this morning at Geneva airport and we transfer to our base for the week in Interlaken to check into our hotel the Chalet Oberland. Take a stroll this afternoon through the centre of this town which is situated between the picturesque lakes of Thun and Brienz. Marvel at the snowy peaks of the surrounding mountains.

### Day 3 > Hike to Wengen

*Morning football practice in Interlaken*

Wengen - one of the most beautiful alpine villages in the Bernese Oberland. Lying at an altitude of 1300 m (4265 ft) at the foot of the magnificent Jungfrau mountain range, Wengen is the starting point of the wonderful train ride to Jungfrauoch - Top of Europe (3454 m / 11,333 ft) - a highlight of any Swiss holiday.

Wengen is well known for its pure mountain air. Lying on a sheltered terrace facing southwest, Wengen guarantees many hours of sunshine. Many guests coming to Wengen, one of the few villages in Switzerland not reached by road, and find the tranquillity they are looking for all year.

### Day 4 > Optional Outdoor Activity

#### Canyoning &/or White-Water Rafting

Explore deep twisting gorges, rappel down cliffs, jump and slide down waterfalls and swim through hidden pools with professional guides, detailed instruction and equipment.

The mighty Lütchine river offers some of the best white-water rafting in the Swiss Alps. Straight from the start below the Eiger North Face, continuous class III-IV rapids surge down from the mountains and out into the Interlaken valley and the Lake of Brienz.

*BBQ dinner (weather permitting)*

### Day 5 > Innsbruck

Follow your Tour Director through a backdrop of towering snow-capped mountains that transform this down-to-earth cobble stoned city into a world class ski resort. Venture through Old Town (Altstadt) and pass clusters of identical rustic white stuccoed homes trimmed in brown that blend into the environment. Come face to façade with the glittering Little Golden Roof, sheltering the balcony where Maximilian I Habsburg and his love Bianca promised to stay together forever. Look closer and count 2,657 squares of shiny copper shingles. Discover Triumphbogen, the arch commemorating many Habsburg marriage matches made in political heaven. Head for the hills on a visit to the steep ski jump on hill Bergisel, the site of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympic Games. Imagine what it would be like to soar over it as you bask in Alpine grandeur.

### Day 6 > Transfer to Vienna

- Morning practice in Innsbruck

Along your journey to Vienna, stop in Salzburg to visit Mozart's birthplace on the second floor of Getreideg.9 in Old Town. Peruse a collection of the boy wonder's toys including his first viola and violin. Relive scenes from 'The Sound of Music' at the yellow castle the infamous von Trapp family called home.

- Evening walkthrough in Vienna

### Day 7 > Game Day Charity Bowl

Billed as 'the greatest football show in Austria' fans and players will not be disappointed. Held annually this charity bowl attracts thousands of spectators and TV coverage for the day long event packed with cheerleaders, marching band, fireworks, parades and a great post-game barbecue and party.

### Day 8 > Vienna Sightseeing

Join a professional licensed tour guide on a sightseeing adventure around Vienna, the city of brilliant musicians, Baroque art and architecture, and velvet-clad coffeehouses. Along your journey, you'll sense the power and decadence of the city's early ruling family, the almighty Habsburgs. Wander down the infamous Ringstraße, the series of boulevards circling the city, commissioned by Emperor Franz Josef in 1857. Pass the world-famous Opera House and the 450-foot Gothic St. Stephan's Cathedral, Vienna's most adored symbol. Encounter the Neoclassical Parliament, where the Austrian National and Federal Councils congregate. See where the Habsburgs' winter retreat at the Hofburg (Imperial Palace). Inside lies the Imperial Treasury, which includes religious relics like the nails from the Crucifixion and the thorns from Christ's crown. End the adventure with a visit to Schönbrunn Palace, where the Habsburg's ruled until 1918 and six-year-old Mozart serenaded Marie Antoinette.

### Day 9 > Amusement Park & Awards Dinner

Today is yours to explore Vienna at your leisure. You could visit Schonbrunn Palace, former residence of the Hapsburg Empress, Maria Theresia. Built in Neoclassical style and set in its own beautiful grounds you may visit the splendid interior and its sumptuous furniture.

This evening we shall travel to the top of the spectacular Danube Tower for impressive views over the lights of the city before taking dinner at the world famous Prater amusement park with its beer halls and thrilling attractions it will be a fun way to remember the trip as we enjoy our special awards dinner.

### Day 10 > Return Home

# VIENNA GUIDE

## SIGHTS

**St. Stephan's Cathedral** This large Gothic church is best known for its 446-foot south tower. It's free to wander around the cathedral, appreciating the latticework and the gilded altar. For an entry fee you can also visit the catacombs.

**Hofburg Palace** In the heart of Vienna sits the Hofburg Palace complex. Explore the grounds, and visit the interior of the massive building, with its various styles of architecture influenced by the many rulers intent on making their mark over the years.

## MUSEUMS

**Josephinum** This offbeat museum, also known as the Museum of Medical History, features a gory, creepy collection of human bodies modeled in wax. See what's going on under our skin, and also check out some old-fashioned medical instruments and a few unsettling descriptions of nasty looking medical operations.

**House of Music** Discover the world of music at this captivating hands-on museum. You can conduct a virtual orchestra, see instruments from many eras, and learn all about great composers who've lived in Vienna, like Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms.

**Kunsthistorisches Museum** The Kunsthistorisches Museum (Museum of Fine Arts) is the best art museum in the city, with paintings by the old masters, including Velazquez und Brueghel.

**Sigmund Freud Museum** Located in the apartments where Freud lived and worked from 1891 to 1938, this interesting museum has all kinds of artefacts. Papers, notebooks, photos, possessions and more are all on display, offering an in-depth glimpse into Siggys life.

## SHOPPING

**Mariahilfer Strasse** This is where a good chunk of the Viennese do their shopping. Still on the elegant side, it has a nice array of shops selling books, clothes, shoes, electronics, and much more.

**Flohmarkt** Considered one of the best flea markets in Europe, this is a don't-miss spot for shoppers. Several blocks of stalls offer everything under the sun, from antiques to electronic goods to standard flea market junk. It gets very crowded with locals and tourists alike.

## EATING

**Café Hawelka** Café Hawelka is a cool, dark, old-fashioned Viennese coffeehouse. A popular spot for artists through the years, this is one of the city's most famous coffeehouses and is popular with students.

**Tunnel** A casual place popular with students and backpackers, Tunnel has live music every day and good, inexpensive food. It's located in the Josefstadt district.

**Naschmarkt** Naschmarkt at Linke Wienzeile is an open air food market. There are some great snack stalls, and the prices go down the further you get from the city center. Savor the flavors of the city...

## NIGHTLIFE

**Classical music concert** Vienna is known throughout the world for its music; a classical concert is the quintessential Viennese cultural experience. There's a seemingly endless list of concert venues around town, so pick a performance and enjoy.

**Ruprechtsplatz** The area around Ruprechtsplatz near the Danube canal is where the nightlife happens. Come here for bar hopping and see where it leads.

**Volksgarten Clubdiscothek** Join the party at this huge club complex featuring a large outdoor garden in the summer and several dance floors inside. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere outside for a while and then head in to the dance floors, where DJs spin house for the grateful clientele.

**Roxy** Roxy on Faulmangasse plays soul, funk and jazz from Thursday till Saturday. It originally opened in 1960 and has since undergone a lot of renovations. Today its wood paneling and red lights give it a cool, nostalgic vibe.

**Rhiz** Join the alternative crowd and friendly staff at this fun club offering live bands and DJs. In the winter the inside gets packed with people enjoying the music; in the summer the outdoor garden brims with folks taking advantage of the fresh air..