

# Classical Vienna & Festive Markets

**Trip style:** Festive breaks

**Destination:** 📍 Austria

**Trip code:** VNA05-LEL12

**Grades:** .il 2

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌳 547kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Vienna is a Christmas-lovers dream. You'll find twinkling wooden huts, steaming-hot glühwein (mulled wine), and larger-than-life chandeliers and Christmas trees dotting the streets across the Austrian capital. Perfect for soaking up the magic of a culture-rich city turned winter wonderland, this holiday includes a journey by steam train to pretty Mariazell, a winter walk through the beautiful Vienna Woods, a traditional Austrian Heurigen evening, and an evening concert with classical music.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Streets illuminated by lights and giant chandeliers
- Travelling by steam train to Mariazell
- Exploring the gorgeous Vienna Woods
- Visiting Schönbrunn Palace and the Christmas markets
- Listening to classical music at an evening concert
- Enjoying a traditional Austrian Heurigen evening with music

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Heathrow, including baggage and transfers (flights available from other airports - price may vary)
- Guided sightseeing with a local leader
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 5 nights' accommodation in Vienna
- 5 breakfasts & 5 dinners
- All in-destination transport

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1:** Arrival Day

Meet your local guide at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Relax together this evening and enjoy our set menu dinner.

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### **Day 2:** City tour, Christmas markets, and Classical Concert

A guided walk through Vienna reveals the city's impressive art, music, and architecture. You'll get to see all the big-name highlights, including St Stephen's Cathedral and Michaelerplatz, home of the impressive 13th century Imperial Palace known as the Hofburg. We'll also visit City Hall to browse the many Christmas market stalls. After dinner, we'll head to the magnificent Vienna Kursalon or similar to enjoy interpretations of music by Strauss and Mozart.

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### **Day 3:** Vienna Woods and Heurigen evening

Distance: 8 mile (13km) Ascent: 984 ft (300 m) Descent: 984 ft (300 m) After breakfast, we'll head to Vienna Woods for a leisurely three-hour hike to take in the winter scenes outside of the city. We'll wind up at Tulbinger Kogel before visiting Heiligenkreuz Abbey for a guided tour. We'll also discover the spa town of Baden, famous for its pretty Biedermeier houses. Tonight, our dinner will be at a typical tavern, or Heurigen, for a traditional Austrian set menu three-course dinner served with a glass of local wine, accompanied by local musicians.

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### **Day 4:** Steam train to Mariazell

We'll sit back and relax as we take a leisurely journey by steam train to Mariazell, the small town that's also the country's most famous pilgrimage spot. Here we'll have time to soak up the traditional festive stalls before returning to Vienna.

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### **Day 5:** Schönbrunn Palace & Christmas market

We'll travel on the high road around Vienna, looking down on the city at a scenic stop before arriving at Klosterneuburg. This beautiful town just outside of Vienna is famous for its breathtaking abbey. Then back in the city, we'll embark on an audio-guided tour of the majestic Schönbrunn Palace, once the summer residence of the Habsburgs. There will be ample time to visit the Christmas market here, too.

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### **Day 6:** Departure Day

Time to depart Vienna and return home with lovely festive memories.

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## **Parkhotel Schönbrunn - Vienna**

The delightfully-restored former guest house of Emperor Franz Joseph, this 4-star hotel is just a short walk away from Schönbrunn Palace. Opened in 1787, it hosted many a lavish ball in its opulent rooms. Nowadays, it has beautifully-appointed and comfortable guest rooms with modern amenities, a traditional Viennese coffee house for afternoon coffee and cake, and a bar for an evening cocktails. The restaurant serves a set menu including local specialities..