

THE JEWEL IN THE HAPSBURG CROWN

AUGUST 30TH - SEPTEMBER 7TH 2019

As scintillating and sparkling as a jewel in a Hapsburg crown, the magnificent city of Vienna brings you deep into the heart of old-world Eastern European elegance.

The cosmopolitan Austrian capital will beguile and enchant with its beautiful architecture, which comes to full expression at Schönbrunn Palace, the exquisite summer residence of the Hapsburgs. Touring the city, we explore the remarkable capital of the Austro-Hungarian empire, an empire that literally spanned the globe. The proud historical legacy of the Hapsburg dynasty is embodied in the grand buildings and fabulous museums of Vienna.

We'll also enjoy a couple of day trips outside the city – along the Danube, and into the Vienna Woods – and attend performances by the Vienna Boys' Choir and the Lippizaner Stallions of the world-famous Spanish Riding School. But perhaps a highlight for many will be attending a performance at the Vienna State Opera House.

Vienna was also the city that introduced coffee to the rest of Europe and you will have plenty of opportunities to sample the fabulous coffee concoctions and delicious pastries at the many sidewalk coffee houses around the city – and everything can come with whipped cream, or *mit schlag*, as they will ask you.



MELK BENEDECTINE ABBEY

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY:	\$3950
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 890

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 7 nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- EXPENSES:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe guide throughout, local guide for Schönbrunn Palace and the Spanish Riding School
- TICKETS:** Best seats for performances at the State Opera, the Spanish Riding School and for the Vienna Boys' Choir

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH - Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city.
OVERNIGHT: PLANE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST - Your arrival at Vienna International Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. Here you can unpack, relax, and begin to explore the elegant, old-world Austrian capital and its beautiful architecture. We'll meet this evening for dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST - Morning sightseeing with a local guide introduces this jewel of the Hapsburg Empire and gives you an overview of all that the city has to offer. Our tour ends with a guided visit to the Spanish Riding School, home of the famed Lippizaner Horses. The afternoon and evening are free for individual exploration. **(B) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND - A full day excursion out of the city today takes us through the UNESCO-listed Wachau Valley. Heading west out of the city along the Danube river, we enter the Wachau Valley at the ancient city of Krems, where the Krems river meets the Danube. We stop and have lunch at Durnstein Castle (now a fabulous hotel) on the terrace overlooking the river. After lunch we'll board a river boat for a short ride (1 ½ hours) on the Danube to Melk, where we will visit the Benedictine Abbey that dominates the town. From here we'll return to the city by bus, passing through the vineyards and forests of the region. The evening is free in the city. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**



SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - A free day in Vienna to explore the gorgeous old capital. You may decide to visit the Hofburg Imperial Palace, built in 1279, which today houses the offices of the Austrian president, discover the Sigmund Freud Museum, housed in the building where Freud lived and worked for 50 years, or take in St. Stephens Cathedral, originally a Romanesque sanctuary and one of the greatest Gothic structures in Europe. Rich in culture (not to mention one of the world's largest wine-growing cities), Vienna oozes romance and invites long, leisurely walks. Be sure to stop at one of its famous coffeehouses for a curb-side view of the city passing by – kaffee mit schlag anyone? Early this evening we will gather again at the hotel before heading off to a performance at the Vienna State Opera. **(B) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH - Our excursion today takes us southwest of the city and into the Vienna Woods. We'll stop first at Mayerling which is the site of the hunting lodge where Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria and his lover, Baroness Mary Vetsera, died in a murder-suicide pact in 1889, scandalizing the society of the time. From here we'll visit the oldest continuously occupied Cistercian Monastery in the world, the nearby Abbey of Heiligenkreuz, founded in 1133. Our final stop for the day is the Seegrotte in nearby Hinterbrühl. The Seegrotte is the largest subterranean lake in Europe, created in 1912 when the Gypsum mine flooded. We'll take a boat ride on the lake before returning to our hotel in Vienna. Dinner is included at a local restaurant this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**



LIPPIZANER HORSE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH - Another free day today – perhaps pay a visit to the world famous Prater amusement park, home of the iconic Ferris wheel, familiar from so many movies. **(B) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH - We'll spend the morning at the Schönbrunn Palace, the exquisite summer residence of the Hapsburgs, where we'll enjoy a guided tour of the interior and have time to stroll the gardens before heading back into the city. This afternoon, we'll attend a performance by the Vienna Boys' Choir. We will then adjourn to our hotel for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: VIENNA**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH - Morning transfers to the Vienna International Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner