

THE MAGICAL WHITE CHRISTMAS TOUR
PRAGUE- CESKY KRUMLOV - BUDAPEST—
BRATISLAVA - VIENNA
Daily Itinerary 23 December – 11 January 2011

Included Features:

Meals: Daily Full Buffet Breakfast & Daily Dinners, New Year's Dinner includes some drinks

Tours: All Sightseeing Tours and Entrance fees, Danube cruise with drinks

Cultural: Premium tickets to Prague Opera, Wow Black Theatre, Vienna concert, New Year's Day concert in Budapest

Day 1: Thursday 23 December Depart Sydney / Melbourne with Emirates for Prague

Day 2: Friday 24 December Dubai - Prague – arrive on the most festive day of Christmas for Czech people

Arrive Prague at 14:00 and transfer to our centrally located 4 star Hotel K & K Fenix just a few steps from Wenceslas Square, the cities main and most fashionable boulevard. Informal introductions & Orientation tour

6 PM Christmas Dinner at the local restaurant

Day 3: Saturday 25 December Christmas Day - Prague

10:00 AM we meet our local guide for a Grand Bus / Walk Tour of Prague. Uncover the rich history of this beautiful city. See 1000 year old Prague Castle, St Vitus Cathedral, Lesser Town, Charles Bridge, Astronomical clock, once the envy of all Europe..

4:45 PM meet in the hotel lobby for a short walk to the stylish Garden at the Opera restaurant before attending opera.

19:00 Tonight we attend the stunning **Prague State Opera** to enjoy **Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake Ballet!**

Day 4: Sunday 26 December Prague

10:00 AM we will continue with walking tour of Prague & the famous Jewish Quarter - The history here dates back to 13th century – once the biggest Jewish ghetto in Europe. We visit the Jewish cemetery created in 15th century & the Spanish Synagogue built in 1868 often described as the most beautiful synagogue in Europe. After the tour we'll enjoy late lunch early dinner - 3 course meal at the Novomestky Pivovar – Prague's first microbrewery and the chance for you to sample the delights of its own brand light and dark wheat beer.

8PM Wow Theatre – enjoy poetry, humor and irony without using words. The show will capture your heart!

Day 5: Monday 27 December Prague

A full day at leisure. Enjoy the festive magic and the traditional Christmas markets full of stands where you can buy food, gifts and decorations. Stroll the city, enjoy the architecture and discover history dating back to Holy Roman Empire. Make sure to sample the Czech sausages & the local beer from one of many street vendors!

6.45 PM meet in the hotel lobby for a short stroll to a local restaurant for a traditional 3 course Czech dinner .

Day 6 Tuesday 28 December Prague - Cesky Krumlov

10 AM we depart Prague for 3 hour drive through the scenic Bohemian countryside, to the medieval town of Cesky Krumlov in South Bohemia. This stunning village is one of the most perfectly restored in Central Europe. We spend 2 nights at the Leonardo & Seneca Hotel. **6 PM** Dinner at the local restaurant

Day 7 Wednesday 29 December Cesky Krumlov

10 AM guided tour of this very unique town. Marvel at the 82% of the town's building that are officially registered as cultural monuments. Wander through the cobblestone, traffic free streets, past colourful houses that lead up to the finest castle in the land. Afternoon at leisure. **6 PM** Dinner at the local restaurant.

Day 8 Thursday 30 December Cesky Krumlov - Budapest

9 AM Today we travel through the farming Czech country into Hungary and on to Budapest. We'll spend 5 nights at the luxury Spa Hotel Thermal located in the heart of Budapest, on Margaret Island on the river Danube .This tranquil, picturesque island is named after the daughter of King Bela IV, who lived in a Dominican convent on the island in the 13th century. The ruins of the convent still stand near the Franciscan church. Explore the 100 year old park, the open air theatre and UNESCO listed water tower.

After an orientation tour you can relax and unwind in one of the thermal pools where the healing properties of the waters are as preventative as they are soothing and revitalizing.

Every night in Budapest we dine at one of the two hotel's restaurants offering a superb buffet dinner - one with gypsy band and the other featuring a harp player; both sure to please lovers of folklore.

Day 9 Friday 31 December New Year's Eve Budapest

10 AM meet in the lobby. Today we start with a 5 hour Grand City Tour of Budapest. We visit the famous sights of the Capital, Heroes' Square, the Castle District, the Matthias Church, Fishermen's Bastion, Royal Palace etc. We'll have free time at the neo Gothic Central Market Hall and marvel at the variety of fresh produce, flowers & souvenirs.

Later in the afternoon take time out to relax and get ready for the evening's spectacular Gala dinner at our hotel.

20:00 New Year's Eve Gala Dinner with entertainment

Day 10 Saturday 1 January– New Year’s Day Budapest

Enjoy late breakfast and then day at leisure. Take advantage of the Hotel’s exceptional spa facilities, steam rooms, thermal bath and pool, spa treatment. Take a stroll around the island’s centuries-old trees, hidden statues and ruins.

12 noon Enjoy **New Year’s Day concert** at the hotel. Complimentary wine and drinks will be provided.

8 PM The day will finish with 1 hour spectacular **Danube cruise** with glass of champagne on the famous Danube River.

Day 11 Sunday 2 January Budapest

10 AM Today we’ll take an excursion into Hungary’s history. We’ll visit the breath taking *Danube-bend* and its cities Esztergom and the Basilica -the largest church in Hungary where King Stephen was crowned 1000 years ago. *Visegrád* where you’ll see the fascinating panorama of the Danube valley and finally we’ll stop at the Baroque village of Szentendre. The village is famous for its colonies of artists, painters and sculptors both past and present. The crooked cobblestone streets abound in shops offer all sorts of *souvenirs*, embroidered tablecloths and shirts, pottery, wines and paprika that you can take home. Here you’ll have the chance to taste a real Hungarian goulash or the traditional Hungarian fish soup “Halaszle”.

Day 12 Monday 3 January Budapest

Indulge in a spa treatment that is included in our package & relax in the thermal pool before we depart at

10:30 to the spectacular neo-gothic Parliament House, landmark of Budapest and home of the 1000 year old Holy Crown and coronation jewels. After the 1 hour tour we’ll visit the pedestrian part of the city, the fashionable Vaci St .

Day 13 Tuesday 4 January Budapest – Bratislava

10 AM Today we depart on a 3 hour drive to Slovakia’s capital, the historic Bratislava, which was also capital of the Hungarian Empire for 200 years. We check into our luxury 5 star Radisson Carlton Hotel in the heart of the old tow that is filled with beautifully restored baroque city palaces. Orientation tour. Free afternoon.

6 PM Dinner at the Hotel’s restaurant

Day 14 Wednesday 5 January Bratislava

10 AM meet in the lobby. We start with the tour of the historic Opera house built in 1886. Followed by the bus and walk tour. Enjoy the unique atmosphere of historical and modern city with it’s winding streets of the pedestrian Old Town, see the Medieval Michael’s Gate and Tower, Bratislava Castle, St Martin Cathedral and some beautifully reconstructed palaces. We visit the Primate’s Palace and its most famous chamber the Hall of Mirrors that has played host to many significant events. We’ll drive 13 km west of the city to Devin castle destroyed in 1809 by Napoleon’s army, today lies in ruins and is one of the most important monuments in Slovakia.

7 PM Dinner at our Radisson Hotel.

Day 15 Thursday 6 January Bratislava - Vienna

12 noon Enjoy free morning before we depart for 60 km drive to Vienna. No other 2 capital cities are as close together in the world! We check into Hotel City Central, ideally located in the heart of Vienna. Orientation tour of the area. Free afternoon.

6 PM we meet in the lobby and walk next door to the elegant Kronprinz Rudolph restaurant for dinner.

Day 16 Friday 7 January - Vienna

10:00 AM meet in the lobby for a 5 hour Grand City Tour of Vienna including inside visit of Shonbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the Habsburgs.

7 PM short walk for Dinner to Vienna’s oldest restaurants the historical Griechenbeisl – favored by the famous personalities, whose framed autographed photos on the wall ensure that their presence lives on.

Day 17 Saturday 8 January - Vienna

Breakfast. A full day at leisure. Visit the museum quarter, The Spanish Riding School morning exercise at the Hofburg Palace, explore the shops or just relax over an authentic Vienna coffee and cake in a sidewalk café.

6 PM we’ll meet in the lobby for a short bus drive to the City Park and the famous Kursalon – where the first Johann Strauss’ concert took place in October 1868. Dinner at the stylish Johann Restaurant is followed by Mozart and Strauss concert. The Salonorchester Alt Wien, one of the best-known interpreters of classical Viennese music, presents an evening full of Viennese charm with the lilting sound of waltzes, polkas, arias and duets, as well as operetta and piano concerto melodies.

Day 18 Sunday 9 January - Vienna - Vienna Woods

9:30 Optional Vienna Boys Choir at the Hofburg Palace Chapel

10: 30 AM meet in the lobby for a 5 hour tour of the most beautiful sights of the southern part of the Vienna Woods.

Highlights include the medieval cloister of the Cistercian Abbey at Heiligenkreuz, the former hunting lodge Mayerling, (where the only son of Emperor Franz Joseph , Crown Prince Rudolf committed suicide with his mistress Baroness Vetchera) and, finally, some free time in the delightfully compact, historical spa town of Baden.

7 pm Farewell Dinner at Kronprinz Rudolf restaurant – next door to our hotel

Day 19: Monday 10 January Vienna - Dubai

11:0 0 AM we depart for Vienna airport for our 14:35 PM flight to Sydney / Melbourne via Dubai,

Day 20 Arrive Sydney Tuesday 11 January at 22:30