



Austria 2012

■ September 16-28 • Group limited to 16

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all with private bath
- Magnificent Vienna – palaces and monuments of a faded empire
- Stately Innsbruck, capital of the vast Alpine wonderland of Tirol
- Travel by van or mini-bus • Outstanding frescoes of Klosterneuberg
- Soaring Alps, thundering waterfalls, deep valleys, icy glaciers
- Medieval villages on the Danube – Dürnstein, Melk • Outdoor markets
- Picture-perfect Hallstatt, beside its mountain lake • Explore a salt mine
- The baroque abbey of Melk • Medieval Salzburg, home of Mozart
- Cathedrals, castles, markets, cafés, art, fine dining, exceptional wines

Tour cost – \$3,895 per person sharing for land arrangements (airfare not included) • Singles add \$550*

Day 1 – Sunday, September 16

Our tour begins at 9:30 a.m. at the **Mövenpick Hotel**, near **Franz Josef Strauss Airport, Munich**. Within 90 minutes we are in the **Alps** at the lovely German village of **Mittenwald**. After free time in this typical Bavarian village, known for its colorful wall murals, we proceed to stately **Innsbruck**, with time to explore its historic, pedestrianized center. Late in the day we come to pretty **Hall in Tirol** and check into our comfortable, center-town hotel. We'll have a get-acquainted stroll through the narrow streets lined with charming, pastel-walled homes dating from the middle ages. After a **WELCOME COCKTAIL**, we have a typical Tirolean **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – HALL**

Day 2 – Monday, September 17

After an orientation today to Austria and its Alps, lakes and monasteries, we explore the deep valley of the swiftly flowing **Ötztaler Ache** river. We visit the village of **Ötz** and the resort town of **Sölden**, viewing soaring mountains, roaring waterfalls and icy glaciers. Late in the day we return to Hall for free time. **LUNCH** in the valley of the **Ötztaler Ache**. **OVERNIGHT – HALL**

Day 3 – Tuesday, September 18

Innsbruck, perched on the banks of the surging **Inn River**, has a wealth of natural, cultural and architectural treasures. Come along today to visit the **Wilten Basilica**, with its sumptuous rococo interior; **Schloss** (castle) **Ambras**, a fanciful renaissance palace; and the **Hungerburgbahn** funicular, leading to the leafy, lofty

suburb of **Hungerburg**. **OVERNIGHT – HALL**

Day 4 – Wednesday, September 19

Leaving Hall, we travel east, entering the narrow valley of the **Ziller River**. Soon we arrive at the thundering **Krimml Waterfall**, Europe's highest at 1,247 feet of vertical drop. Then we continue through scenic mountain backcountry, arriving in the afternoon at **Zell am See**, a postcard-pretty town on a lake at the intersection of the **Glemm** and **Kapruner** valleys. Here, after free time to explore the town, we enjoy **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – ZELL**

Day 5 – Thursday, September 20

Today we journey along the **Grossglockner Hochalpenstrasse**, Europe's most spectacular high Alpine road, traversing **Hohe Tauern National Park** with views of **Grossglockner**, Austria's highest mountain (12,460 feet). Along the way we stop at the **Kaiser-Franz-Josefs-Höhe Visitor Center**, with its Grossglockner exhibition. Returning to Zell, we have **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – ZELL**

Day 6 – Friday, September 21

The village of **Werfen** is only an hour north of Zell. Arriving in late morning, there is time to visit the magnificent fortress of **Festung Hohenwerfen**, perched on a rocky outcrop. We then move on to emerald-green **Wolfgangsee** (lake), backed by craggy mountains. We settle into our comfortable hotel in **St. Wolfgang**, then get to know this picturesque, old lakeside resort. **OVERNIGHT – ST. WOLFGANG**

Day 7 – Saturday, September 22

On a day trip out of **St. Wolfgang**, we first visit the pretty spa town of **Bad Ischl**, then push on to Austria's most perfect lakeside village – **Hallstatt**. You will love its rustic architecture, reflected in the still, green waters of **Hallstättersee**, and its romantic setting at the foot of the **Dachstein** range. After **LUNCH** we ride on a lake steamer, then via cable car climb to the salt mines at **Salzwelten Hallstatt**, which we visit via a small mining train. It is estimated that salt mining has been going on at Hallstatt for 7,000 years. **OVERNIGHT – ST. WOLFGANG**

Day 8 – Sunday, September 23

Salzburg is one of Austria's most perfect baroque cities. Today we get to know its lively old streets, magnificent churches (including its Italianate **cathedral**, called the “most perfect” renaissance building in the German-speaking world) and magnificent castle, **Hohensalzburg**, towering over the old city. As time allows we'll also follow in the footsteps of **Mozart**, whose birth house and later residence are major sights here. We return to St. Wolfgang for **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – ST. WOLFGANG**

Day 9 – Monday, September 24

Today we leave the lakes and mountains behind as we approach the **Danube River**, with its castles, vineyards and world-renowned monasteries. After passing through the pretty resort of **Gmunden**, we arrive at mid-day at **Wilhering**, whose abbey and church boast a riot of rococo decoration (think gilded stucco galore). Later it's on to the perfect riverside village of **Dürnstein**, encircled by medieval walls and crowned by a ruined fortress where **Richard the Lionheart** was imprisoned in 1192. We make Dürnstein our home for the next two nights. **OVERNIGHT – DURNSTEIN**

Day 10 – Tuesday, September 25

From Dürnstein we visit the **Wachau**, a stretch of **Danube** riverside known for its picturesque villages, vine-covered hills and ruin-encrusted peaks. The Wachau is a **UNESCO World Heritage** site. We pass through pretty wine villages, including **Spitz**; visit the world-famous baroque abbey and old town of **Melk** (**LUNCH** here); and stop in pretty old **Krems**, a delightful wine village of elegant town houses. **OVERNIGHT – DURNSTEIN**

Day 11 – Wednesday, September 26

We enter **Vienna** today after two visits: the elegant riverside town of **Tulln**, which grew up

from a Roman camp to become residence of a pre-Habsburg dynasty; and the romanesque abbey at **Klosterneuberg**, dating from 1114, with outstanding ceiling frescoes, a magnificent high altar and richly guided choir stalls. After lunch we enter **Vienna** after a short drive, and check into our city-center hotel. Later there will be time to get to know the heart of old Vienna on an escorted walk. We'll orient ourselves by riding a tram around the **Ring** boulevard, which encircles the old town, and visit the vast gothic cathedral, the **Stephansdom**. **OVERNIGHT – VIENNA**

Day 12 – Thursday, September 27

For those not extending their stay in Vienna after tomorrow, let's make the most of our day here. In the morning we visit the vast **Hofburg** imperial palace, a highlight of any trip to Vienna. After a festive **AUF WIEDERSEHEN LUNCH**, we continue our sightseeing with a choice: come along to the near Viennese suburbs to visit the sumptuous, opulent apartments of the **Schönbrunn Palace**, or view one of Europe's most important collections of art at the **Kunsthistorisches** (Fine Arts) **Museum**. Here, in addition to an extensive collection of Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities, you will find works by Dutch and Flemish masters, Italian classicists and many others. **OVERNIGHT – VIENNA**

Getaway day – Friday, September 28

This morning we fly home from Vienna's **Wien-Schwechat Airport**.

Notes

PRICE – \$3,895* per person sharing a room. Single supplement of \$550.

MEALS – All tours include breakfast daily and eight other meals (lunches and dinners), as indicated in **BOLD CAPS** in the itinerary.

OUR LODGINGS

Gasthof Badl, Hall in Tirol
Hotel Seehof, Zell am See
Hotel Zimmerbräu, St. Wolfgang
Hotel Sanger Blondel, Dürnstein
Pension Nossek, Vienna

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS – Subject to change according to availability.

* **TOUR PRICE** – Price of \$3,895 is an estimate only as fluctuations in foreign currency rates may make a surcharge necessary. Call us for details. Price quoted is for land arrangements only – airfare is not included.