Christmas Markets of Central Europe aboard the Danube Express

https://www.irtsociety.com/journey/christmas-markets-of-central-europe/



Overview

The Highlights

- Travel through three European countries, with two 5-star hotel nights in Budapest, three nights on board the *Golden Eagle Danube Express*, and two 5-star hotel nights in Munich.

- Sample bountiful Christmas Markets in Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg, and Munich

- Enjoy a Christmas concert of classic Viennese folk songs

- Ride on a ‘Fiaker’ (horse-drawn carriage) and sample traditional Pirker gingerbread by St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna

- Tour iconic palaces: Hofburg Palace, Schönbrunn Palace, and Mirabell Palace

- Sample Munich's Bavarian traditions with mouth-watering Brätwurst and freshly roasted chestnuts

- Dynamic guided city tours across Central European cities

The Tour

Explore one of Central Europe's finest traditions — the 600-year-old holiday spirit of “Christkindlesmarkts,” or Christmas Markets. Enjoy a magical foray across Hungary, Austria, Germany, and the snow-capped Alps, all while relishing top-level service and dining aboard the *Golden Eagle Danube Express*.

Itinerary

Day 1: Budapest

Arrivals day in Budapest, where you will be met and privately transferred to the Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace (or similar) for a two-night stay. Enjoy a welcome reception dinner this evening where you will meet your fellow travelers.

Day 2: Budapest

Budapest is actually two cities separated by the Danube. The old city of Buda and the imposing Royal Palace dominates the city with stunning views across the Danube to the commercial heart of Pest.

Discover the city’s magnificent landmarks before spending the afternoon at leisure Make sure to take the opportunity to stroll through the many Christmas Markets scattered around the city. You may want to visit the historic Great Market Hall, with its endless variety of delicious foods and wines, or warm up and head to one of the city’s famous thermal baths for a rejuvenating Christmas dip.

Day 3: Vienna

Late morning, you will be transferred to Budapest Nyugati station to enjoy a drinks reception before boarding the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* for departure.

As you settle in and enjoy your first delicious lunch onboard, the train will weave its way out of Budapest, before winding through Hungary’s whimsical wintery landscapes and arriving at our first stop – Vienna, Austria.

This evening, enjoy an exclusive after-hours visit to Schönbrunn Palace, where the opulent halls

of the Habsburgs provide an unforgettable introduction to one of Europe's most elegant Christmas destinations.

Day 4: Vienna

Vienna is a beautiful city to explore at any time of the year, but wintertime is an extra special experience. Exquisitely illuminated with hanging lights of the Christmas markets, Vienna's squares are brimming with culinary treats, handmade gifts, and quaint ornaments.

Enjoy a private concert in a magnificent Baroque setting before exploring the city's celebrated festive markets, historic palaces and cultural treasures.

Day 5: Salzburg

Like a picture from the pages of a fairy-tale, Salzburg perfectly captures the charming coziness of the festive season. The city sits snuggly in the northern foothills of the Alps, against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks, cut in half by the curves of the Salzach River. The Christmas markets, Advent concerts, and local traditions continue to charm visitors in the magical city of Mozart.

Explore the city's Baroque treasures, discover its rich musical heritage and enjoy time within one of Europe's oldest and most beautiful Christmas markets. Surrounded by historic squares and festive lights, Salzburg captures the magic of Advent unlike anywhere else.

A special private seasonal performance offers a memorable celebration of Austrian Christmas traditions.

Day 6: Salzburg - Munich

This morning, continue your festive discoveries with visits to charming Alpine Christmas markets and the historic site where *Silent Night* was first performed.

As the train journeys through Bavaria's winter landscapes, arrive in Munich, where centuries-old brewing traditions and festive celebrations remain at the heart of local life. This evening, enjoy a traditional Bavarian dinner and raise a glass to the season.

Day 7: Munich

Munich's historic Christmas markets have delighted visitors for centuries, filling the city with warmth, color and festive energy.

Explore beautifully decorated market stalls, discover handcrafted gifts, regional delicacies and seasonal traditions before reflecting on your journey during a farewell dinner celebrating the joys of Christmas and the friendships made along the way.

Day 8: Munich

Following breakfast in the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for flight departures.

Dates & Prices

2026 Dates

December 3 - December 10

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Deluxe Class	$11,600	$17,450	25%
Superior Deluxe Class	$15,000	$24,500	25%

Prices are shown in USD and are based on quarterly exchange rates. Prices are subject to change quarterly.
All prices are per person.

2027 Dates

December 3 - December 10

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Deluxe Class	$13,100	$19,700	25%
Superior Deluxe Class	$17,000	$27,600	25%

Prices are shown in USD and are based on quarterly exchange rates. Prices are subject to change quarterly.
All prices are per person.

2028 Dates

December 3 - December 10

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Deluxe Class	$13,750	$20,550	25%
Superior Deluxe Class	$17,750	$28,850	25%

Prices are shown in USD and are based on quarterly exchange rates. Prices are subject to change quarterly.
All prices are per person.

More

For a first-hand report of Angela Walker's journey on the *Golden Eagle Danube Express*, click here .

Included in the tour price:

- Arrival and departure transfers

- A generous drink allowance, including wine, with lunch and dinner

- All gratuities

- All off-train touring, with personal headsets to make it easy to hear your guide

- Complimentary tea, coffee, and bottled drinking water are available in your cabin 24 hours a day

- An on-board doctor, with medical facilities, is available, should the need arise

- 24-hour service attendant

- Porterage of bags; your bags will be stowed for you on the train and transported to your hotel at the end of your trip