
GEEO ITINERARY

European Christmas Markets 12/3/2025

Day 1: Berlin Arrive at any time. After settling into your hotel, attend a welcome meeting before enjoying an included local dinner as a group.

Arrive at any time. The tour starts in Berlin, and the nearest airport is **Berlin Brandenburg (BER)**. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you consider arriving in Europe at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference, overcome any jet lag, and avoid any disruption to your trip due to flight delays or cancellations. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Berlin before the program begins. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, enjoy an included dinner with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. **Joining Instructions** There are a variety of options to get to your hotel from the airport in Berlin. Train You must buy your train ticket in advance at one of the vending machines in the train stations and validate your ticket in the stamping machines, which mark the ticket with the time and place of use. You do not need to show a ticket to get on the train. However, there are many ticket inspectors in Berlin who issue instant fines, so remember to purchase (and validate) your ticket. The Airport Express (FEX) and regional trains run several times an hour between Berlin's city center and the airport station BER Terminal 1-2. The cost is approximately €3-5. The airport train station is located directly beneath Terminal 1 of BER. Take the Airport Express Train (FEX), RE7, or RB14 to S+U Gesundbrunnen Bhf station. The ride is about 30 minutes. From S+U Gesundbrunnen Bhf, it is about a 7-minute walk to the hotel. Taxi / Uber Taxis are available at both Terminal 1 and Terminal 5. They are metered, and you can use the MyTaxi app to order and pay for them. The ride to the hotel should take approximately 20-30 minutes, depending on traffic, and will cost around €50-70. Rideshare apps like Uber are also available in Berlin, and are generally a bit cheaper than a taxi. Check your app for exact pricing. Bus While buses are available at Terminal 1-2, the route to the city center requires multiple transfers and takes much longer, approximately 1.5-2 hours. It is easier and more straightforward to take the direct Airport Express Train or a taxi. If you decide to take a bus, you can purchase your ticket at the machines before boarding or via mobile apps. The cost for the bus journey is around €3-€4. **Accommodation:** AC Hotel by Marriott Berlin Humboldthain Park (or similar) **Meals included:** Dinner * *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

Day 2: Berlin Set out on an orientation walk with your tour leader to get your bearings. End your day with visits to the Christmas markets in Gendarmenmarkt square

During an orientation walk in Berlin with your tour leader, see famous sights like the Berlin Wall Memorial, Brandenburg Gate, and the historical Museum Island. Enjoy a Bratwurst/Currywurst tasting and do some shopping in Alexanderplatz. During your free time, opt to visit the East Side Gallery, Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin's world-class museums, and the Berlin Television Tower. There is plenty to see in Berlin, and booking an extra day or two in Berlin before your program begins is highly recommended. End your day with visits to the Christmas markets in Gendarmenmarkt square. Search for handmade ornaments or gifts to bring home, and opt to try Glühwein (mulled wine) to warm yourself up as you wander through the little stalls. There isn't a more festive way to enjoy the holiday season than by wandering through the wooden stalls of century-old markets as music plays and snow falls. **Accommodation:** AC Hotel by Marriott Berlin Humboldthain Park (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 3: Berlin/Nuremberg/Munich Travel by train to Nuremberg to visit one of the oldest Christmas markets in the world. Later, travel to Munich where you

can enjoy more markets with your tour leader.

This morning, travel by train to Nuremberg to visit one of the oldest (arguably the most famous) Christmas markets in the world. Make sure to try some Nuremberg Lebkuchen, a German cake or cookie that is similar to gingerbread, before wandering through this charming market filled with wooden stalls, old-fashioned carousels, and (if you're lucky) some lazy snowflakes. In the late afternoon, travel to Munich where you can enjoy more markets with your tour leader, and then take advantage of your free time to explore Bavaria's capital on your own. **Approximate travel time:** 2.5–3 hrs by train (Berlin-Nuremberg), 1.5–2.5 hrs by private vehicle (Nuremberg-Munich) **Accommodation:** AWA Hotel Munich (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 4: Munich/Salzburg Enjoy free time to explore Munich, then depart for Salzburg and stop at the Hellbrunner Christmas market.

Enjoy some free time this morning to explore Munich on your own. View the streets from above with a climb up the tower of Old St Peter's Church, go ice skating at Karlsplatz, or join a curling match on the Nymphenburg Schlosskanal, which is converted into Munich's longest curling rink during the winter. Window shop in Marienplatz, Munich's central square, visit the Munich Residenz, or tour St. Michael's, the largest Renaissance church north of the Alps. Depart for Salzburg in the afternoon and stop at the Hellbrunner Christmas market. This especially atmospheric Christmas market held at Hellbrunn Palace features over 700 conifers decorated with red Christmas balls and lights, immersing the area in a warm glow. In the evening, you'll have a chance to visit more of Salzburg's markets with your tour leader and group. **Approximate travel time:** 1.5–2 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Lasserhof (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 5: Salzburg/Vienna Take advantage of free time to see all that Salzburg has to offer, and then depart for Vienna, stopping at some local Christmas markets en route.

In the morning, opt to explore Salzburg's historic squares and the quaint little side streets of Salzburg's Old Town. Climb Festungsberg Hill to visit Hohensalzburg Castle, or check out the birthplace of Mozart and visit the museum there. Then, the group will depart for Vienna, stopping at some local Christmas markets en route. The drive will take about 6 hours including all stops; it normally takes 3-4 hours to reach Vienna from Salzburg with no stops included. Once in Vienna, take advantage of more free time to get acquainted with the city. Opt to explore Schönbrunn Palace or climb to the top of St. Stephen's Cathedral in the city center for unparalleled views. Ride the giant ferris wheel or head to the top of Danube Tower for gorgeous views of the city below. Feeling hungry? Find a cozy spot to shelter from the chill and order some Wiener Schnitzel with a beer. In the evening, opt to go out for dinner as a group and continue enjoying the Austrian capital city. For the next two nights, you will stay at Magdas Hotel. The global refugee and migrant crisis has displaced more than 60 million people around the world, and it's estimated that well over 100,000 refugees have settled in Austria alone. Magdas Hotel is changing the lives of these newcomers and their families by employing a staff consisting almost entirely of refugees. The social enterprise was also decorated by renowned local architects and volunteer artists, who found ways to use materials creatively while making a beautiful hotel. **Approximate travel time:** 6 hrs by private vehicle (including stops) **Accommodation:** Elaya Hotel Vienna City West (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 6: Vienna Set out on a walking tour of Vienna with your tour leader, and then visit Vienna's Christmas markets

It's all about Vienna today. Set out on an orientation walk around the city, and then take a break to enjoy some coffee and cake in one of the famous Viennese coffee houses. In the afternoon, wander around Vienna's Christmas markets with your tour leader and sip a warm mug of Glühwein for one last chance to experience the charming atmosphere of this European holiday tradition. The rest of the day is yours. Opt to visit famous landmarks in the city like the Vienna State Opera House, Belvedere Palace, the Kunsthistorisches Museum, or Vienna City Hall. **Accommodation:** Elaya Hotel Vienna City West (or

similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 7: Vienna Depart at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart at any time. The tour ends in Vienna, and the nearest airport is **Vienna International Airport (VIE)**. If you wish to extend your stay in Budapest, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:** Breakfast

****Itinerary Disclaimer:** While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*