



A SAMPLE ITINERARY

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Created by
Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

AUSTRIA

Day 1 – in flight (meals provided en route)

Please arrive early for your international flight (please double check with Friendship Ambassadors for check-in times and requirements). Try to get some rest on board. To minimize the effects of jet lag, we advise to avoid sugars, caffeine, salts and alcohol. Drink a lot of water to keep hydrated!



Day 2 – Welcome to Austria (B en route, D)

Arrive today around noon (depending on final air arrangements) to Vienna, capital city of Austria. At the airport you will be welcomed by your guide, who will assist you with the transfer to the hotel. After you check in to your accommodations, there will be some time to freshen up before we head to Grinzing or Heiligenstadt on the outskirts of Vienna, for our welcome meal with wine and music. While the Innere Stadt with its imperial majesty may be Vienna's trademark,

the outlying wine districts of Grinzing and Heiligenstadt are the soul of the Viennese. Beethoven himself used to summer in Heiligenstadt when the city had not yet grown out to meet it. Ringing these towns are vineyards that produce a delightful new wine, and the owners of the vineyards built small wine taverns at the foot of them to sell this wine and hearty Austrian peasant food. Even if you do not partake of the water glasses of new wine, the Heuriger must not be missed with its traditional, almost Bavarian music and delicious food.



Day 3 – Vienna (B, D)

After breakfast, join your guide for a sightseeing that will lead you through the imperial wonders of this bustling metropolis. The afternoon is free for you to discover. A performance schedule will be scheduled for you in the evening.

Day 4 – Eisenstadt & Rust (B, L)

After an early breakfast, we will take a day trip to Eisenstadt, one of the most famous cities of the county Burgenland. It received its own character in 1373 and achieved greater status in 1622 when it became the residence of the Esztehazy's, a powerful Hungarian family. It is now famous for its connection with the seminal 18th-century musician and composer Haydn. His marble tomb can now be

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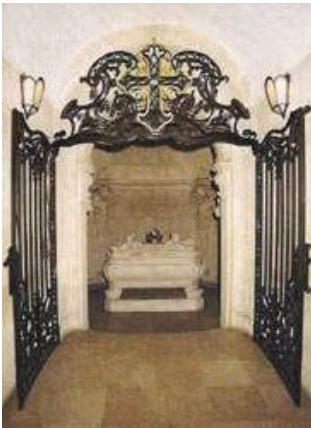
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seen in the Bergkirche. The church itself is remarkable for the Kalvarienberg, a unique Calvary display round the other side of the church. We'll walk through the series of dungeon-like rooms where life-sized figures depict the Stations of the Cross. The Eszterhazy Palace dates from the 14th century, and its highlight is the frescoed Haydn Hall, the former marble floor of which was replaced by an aesthetically inferior but acoustically superb wooden floor, and so is rated the second best concert hall in Austria after the Musikverein. After a guided tour of the palace, lunch awaits you in a nearby restaurant. Transfer to today's concert venue for a rehearsal and an early evening performance. After the concert transfer back to Vienna with dinner on your own.

Day 5 – Vienna (B)

After breakfast this morning, the entire day is free to enjoy Vienna - many optional tours are available. Just a couple of suggestions: the famous Prater amusement park, or the Vienna Woods – ask your guide for recommendations!

Day 6 – Travel to Salzburg (B, L)

Refreshed after the night sleep, we take an early breakfast and check out to leave for Salzburg. On the way we stop at Melk. Lying in the lee of its imposing monastery-fortress, Melk is an essential stop on the Danube trail. Historically, the site of Melk was important for both the Romans and the Babenbergs. In 1089 the Babenberg margrave Leopold II donated the castle to the Benedictines, who converted it into a fortified abbey, which now dominates the town from its commanding hill site, and provides an excellent view from the terrace. The inside of its church is Baroque gone mad, with



endless prancing angles and gold twirls, but is still very impressive. After our visit we continue our way to Salzburg; lunch will be provided en route. Arrival is expected early evening. After check in,

you'll have some time to wander on the streets of Salzburg; if possible, we will arrange a visit to a concert.



Day 7 – Salzburg (B, D)

In the morning, we join our local guide for a walking tour of the city to cover all top attractions, including the Sound of Music venues (alternatively, this can be a formal Sound of Music tour which also includes the out-of-town sights associated with the motion picture). Lunch is on your own; the afternoon is for you

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to rehearse at the concert venue. Early evening performance follows with dinner provided after.

Day 8 – Salzburg and surroundings (B, L)

In the morning we leave for the Hallein to visit to St. Wolfgang and Hallstadt. The Wolfgangsee's major sight is the pilgrimage church, built in the 14th and 15th centuries. This incredible church is virtually a gallery of religious art, with a number of altars (Gothic to Baroque), a showy pulpit, a fine organ and many statues and paintings. Apart from the scenic setting here is the house where Mozart's mother was born. Hallstadt is set in idyllic, picture-postcard scenery, wedged between the mountains and the lake. The Catholic parish church was built in the 15th century and has Gothic frescoes and two winged altars: the better one shows saints Barbara and Katharina, with Mary in the middle (1510). After the tour transfer back to Salzburg. (Optional visit to St Wolfgang). Tonight a festive farewell meal will be provided for the entire group.



Day 9 – Salzburg (B)

After breakfast this morning, the entire day is free to enjoy Salzburg.

Day 10 – back to the USA (B, L, Snack)

After breakfast check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your travel back to the United States.

Enjoy the memories!

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