

## FAMILY TOUR: "IMPERIAL AUSTRIA"

Immerse yourself in Austria's imperial history!

### VIENNA – SALZBURG – BAD ISCHL – SCHLADMING/GRAZ

12. – 17. March 2017

**ruefa**  
Wo Träume Urlaub werden.



For centuries, the Habsburgs had their main residence in the center of Vienna. Walk in the footsteps of the Habsburgs, visit the splendid baroque Schönbrunn and Belvedere Palaces, or stroll along the magnificent Ring Boulevard and take a look at the heart of the former vast Habsburg empire, the Imperial Palace. Get a sense of the luster and glory of the old empire by visiting St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Spanish Riding School, the Giant Ferris Wheel at the Prater, as well as the sarcophagi in the Imperial Vault.

It is the playful lightness that makes Salzburg, the miniature metropolis, so distinctive. The enchanting silhouette of the Fortress, Cathedral and church steeples in this baroque city north of the Alps. So beautiful that it is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. So famous that its attractions are among the most famous in the world.

#### **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

#### **Arrival in Vienna**

Individual arrival in Vienna and transfer (in selfmanagement) to the hotel. Check-in. The rooms are available for you from 3 pm at day of arrival. The rest of the day is left open for independent explorations of the surrounding area. Overnight stay at the hotel in Vienna.

#### **Monday; 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

#### **Halfday tour: Vienna (downtown)**

Breakfast at the hotel. You will be greeted by our local tour guide. Your qualified guide will accompany you and will show you the sights of Vienna's downtown like the St. Stephen's Cathedral or the boulevard "Ringstraße".

"It is my will..." - with these words, Emperor Franz Joseph ordered the building of the Ringstrasse in 1857. Nobles and rich citizens hurried to build pompous palaces along this magnificent boulevard. Many of these former private homes can still be admired today (mostly, however, only from the outside). The style in which the buildings were built went down in history as the Ringstrasse style (a type of Historicism). It is marked by a pluralism of styles: numerous architectural forms of previous epochs were imitated. The most beautiful boulevard in the world is home not only to many of Vienna's best-known sights, such as the Imperial Palace, the Kunsthistorisches Museum and the Natural History Museum, the Vienna State Opera and Parliament. Magnificent palaces, extensive parks and important monuments also line the "display window" of the former Danube monarchy.

St. Stephen's Cathedral is the symbol of Vienna. Construction commenced in the 12th century. Today, it is one of the most important Gothic structures in Austria. St. Stephen's Cathedral is 107.2 meters long and 34.2 meters wide. It has four towers. The tallest of these is the south tower at 136.44 meters. The tower room, from which there is a gigantic view across Vienna, is reached via 343 steps. A total of 13 bells hang here. However, the best-known bell of St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Pummerin, is located in the 68.3 meter-tall north tower. It is the second-biggest free-swinging chimed church bell in Europe. On the roof of St. Stephen's Cathedral, colorful roof tiles were laid to create the Royal and Imperial double-headed eagle and the coat of arms of the city of Vienna. The interior of St. Stephen's Cathedral was changed again and again over the centuries, right through to the Baroque period.

The rest of the day is left open for independent explorations. Overnight stay at the hotel in Vienna.

### **Tuesday; 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

### **Full day tour: Imperial Vienna**

Breakfast at the hotel. You will be greeted by our local tour guide. Afterwards visitation of the "Hofburg" (visit of the Imperial Apartments and the Sisi Museum). Until 1918, the Hofburg was the center of the gigantic Habsburg empire. Originally planned as a lavish "Imperial forum", the grounds were built up majestically by the Habsburg emperors – from the 13th century "Alte Burg" to the most recent addition from around 1900. Today, the Hofburg in Vienna is the official seat of the Austrian President. No traveler should pass up the opportunity to visit the Hofburg: Here you will find more than two dozens collections of international standing. You will also discover cafés, restaurants, squares and parks to while away the time. Welcome to an imperial march through history, art and luxury, welcome to the Hofburg.

Afterwards enjoy a menu (traditional Austrian dishes) at the famous Viennese Gasthaus "Schutzhaus Zukunft" auf der Schmelz - situated in the middle of the allotment gardens with the same name.

In the afternoon you will visit one of the most famous sights in Vienna – Schloss Schönbrunn. Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the imperial family, is one of Europe's most impressive Baroque palace complexes. Emperor Franz Joseph, who later married the enchanting Sisi and reigned from 1848 to 1916, was born here in 1830. The monarch spent his last years entirely in the palace, which became the property of the new Republic of Austria only two years after his death. Today, the palace is part of UNESCO's cultural heritage due to its historic importance, its unique grounds and its splendid furnishings. The rooms, shown to the public on guided tours, are mostly decorated in Rococo style. Most of the walls and ceilings are covered with white-lacquered surfaces with ornamentation covered with gold leaf. Overnight stay at the hotel in Vienna.

### **Wednesday; 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

### **Vienna – Baden – Mayerling – Salzburg**

Breakfast at the hotel and Check-out. Afterwards you will travel on to Salzburg. On the route you will visit Baden bei Wien and the Schloss Mayerling, the former imperial hunting lodge.

Baden in Austria is a beautiful spa town with tradition. Already 2000 years ago the old Roman liked the hot water from the hot sulphur springs and that is also the origin of this nice small town. Not only the old Roman, but also later the nobility and even some Austrian Emperors enjoyed a healing bath in the hot sulphur water. They liked also the close location to Vienna even if the trip in those times took nearly a day. You can recognise this long history as a spa town wherever you go at Baden in Austria. There is a lot to discover in this lovely town like several buildings with history where already Emperors spent their vacations.

Karmel Mayerling is the place where Crown Prince Rudolph was found dead (as well as his mistress Mary Vetsera), under circumstances which even today remain unclear. The Carmelite convent of the Karmel Mayerling was built directly over the spot where, on January 30, 1889, the tragedy of Mayerling transpired. Original furnishings from the hunting lodge of Crown Prince Rudolph have been preserved and can be seen during the tour. Wall charts illustrate and recount the dramatic hours of the tragedy.

Onward travel to Salzburg (lunch break on the route). Check-in. The rest of the day is left open for independent explorations. Overnight stay at the hotel in Salzburg.

**Tuesday; 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Full day tour: Salzburg**

Breakfast at the hotel. You will be greeted by your guide, who will accompany you and will show you the sights of Salzburg. Most of the sights can be seen on a stroll through Salzburg's historic city center: the Residence, the Carillon, the Cathedral, the Franciscan Church, Mozart Square, the Horse Pond, Hofstallgasse, Hohensalzburg Fortress, St. Peter's Monastery. The spirit of days gone past can be felt at every turn: the ages have left their mark on the churches, towers, façades, balustrades and galleries. Even the street names commemorate the people and events that shaped its history. A number of palaces in the city and its vicinity beckon invitingly: Mirabell Palace, whose Marble Hall is used for wedding ceremonies, and the Mirabell Gardens, one of the most spectacular photo scenes in Salzburg.

After the lunch break your guide will show you the fortress of the city. Hohensalzburg Fortress is Salzburg's best known landmark, sitting majestically high up above the city. It's just one of many castles, palaces and stately homes you can visit in Salzburg. The Festungsbahn funicular railway takes you right up to the largest preserved fortress in central Europe. They are up to 250 metres in length and up to 150 metres wide. Overnight stay at the hotel in Salzburg.

**Friday; 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Salzburg – Bad Ischl – Schladming/Graz**

Breakfast at the hotel and Check-out. Afterwards you will travel on to Bad Ischl. The little town of Bad Ischl in Upper Austria, the former summer capital of the great Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, has been associated with the Habsburg imperial dynasty for at least 700 years. The Imperial Villa in Ischl, the Emperor's summer residence, was described by Franz Josef I as "heaven on earth" for himself and his family.

The Villa was originally a wedding present from his mother, Archduchess Sophie, on the occasion of his marriage in 1854 to his teenage Bavarian cousin Elisabeth. Their engagement had taken place in Ischl the previous year. "Sisi", as she was known to the family, became renowned as Elisabeth, Empress of Austria, the most famous beauty of the 19th century, and still fascinates a world-wide public.

In the course of the afternoon you will arrive in Schladming or Graz.

Arrival Schladming: Congress Hall

Arrival Graz: City Hall, Family-Credential/Accreditation

**\*\*\* end of the journey \*\*\***

**BOOKING DEADLINE FOR "IMPERIAL AUSTRIA" FAMILY TOUR: 31. OCT. 2016**

**Additional Information**

**Special Olympics**

**World Winter Games Austria 2017**

Opening ceremony	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	in Schladming	WM-Stadion-Planai
Closing ceremony	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	in Graz	UPC Arena

**For individual room reservation: 17. – 25. March 2017**

Contact: <http://www.austria2017.org/en/sei-dabei/familien>

## \*\* PRICES \*\* SERVICES \*\*INFORMATION \*\*

<b>Package price per Person</b> (with accommodation in a double room)	€	<b>690,-</b>
Single room supplement per person for 5 nights	€	200,-
Surcharge per person by 25 – 29 participants	€	50,-

### Included services

- All bus journeys and transfers in the programme from Vienna / to Schladming or Graz
- 3x overnight stay with breakfast at the Austria Trend Hotel Ananas 4\* in Vienna  
2x overnight stay with breakfast in Salzburg (centrally located 4\* Hotel)  
Based on double rooms (category: classic/ standard) with bathroom
- 13th March  
Guided (English) Vienna sightseeing city tour (halfday) – as envisaged in the programme  
Included entrance fees: none
- 14th March  
Guided (English) Vienna sightseeing city tour (fullday) – as envisaged in the programme  
Included entrance fees: Hofburg" (Imperial Apartments + Sisi Museum)  
Schloss Schönbrunn (Grand Tour)  
Lunch (settled 3-course-menu excluding drinks) at the Gasthaus „Schutzhaus zur Zukunft“
- 15th March  
English speaking tour guide from Vienna / to Salzburg  
Sightseeing programme as envisaged in the programme  
Included entrance fees: Guides city tour in Baden  
Guided visitation of „Karmel Mayerling“
- 16th March  
Guided (English) Salzburg sightseeing city tour (fullday) – as envisaged in the programme  
Included entrance fees: Funicular railway (city – fortress –city) + Hohensalzburg Fortress
- 17th March  
English speaking tour guide from Salzburg / to Schladming or Graz  
Included entrance fees: Imperial Villa in Bad Ischl
- Customer money safeguarding in accordance with travel agency insurance ordinance

### Not included services

Booking fee (€ 18,- per person) | Visa for Austria (if needed) | Arrival and departure to/from Austria | all beverages and further meals | personal spending and tips | further visitations | further entrance fees | travel- and cancellation insurance

**Minimum number of participants:** 30 participants (Surcharge per person by 25 – 29 participants)

### Price level June 2016 / Subject to modification

Following conditions apply: General travel terms and conditions (Arb 1992) in their respective current versions. Furthermore the current terms and conditions of the respective service provider.

All prices are quoted in Euro. Prices are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs and taxes. We reserve the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Furthermore we also reserves the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it to make such alterations in the itinerary or with the tour inclusions as it deems necessary or desirable and to pass on to tour members any expenditures or losses caused by delays or events beyond its control. Itineraries and arranged sightseeing are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned, but alterations may occur after the final itinerary has been issued.

**Special cancellation conditions apply** (replace item A.7.1.c. 1. of the general travel terms and conditions)

25%	from booking up to 40 days prior to departure,	35%	up to 30 days before departure
50%	up to 14 days before departure,	100%	from 13 days prior to departure and no show

We, the **Verkehrsbüro-Ruefa Reisen GmbH**, are registered tour operator in the tour operator list of the Federal Ministry of Economy with the entry number 1998/0290. Customer payments for package holidays booked at Verkehrsbüro-Ruefa Reisen GmbH are protected by a guarantee of the Erste Group Bank AG with the number no. 594115. This guarantee applies when booked journey services in total or partly cannot be rendered due to the insolvency of the tour operator and for necessary expense for the return journey arising from the insolvency of the tour operator. The liability of the insurer to the customer is limited to the cost of travel paid and in case of a claim is restricted by the overall sum insured. If the sum insured should not suffice for the satisfaction of all claims, they will be satisfied with their aliquot share. Within 10 days after booking (however not earlier than 11 month prior to the agreed ending of the travel) a deposit of 20% of the travel price will be due to be paid to Verkehrsbüro-Ruefa Reisen GmbH the open balance not sooner than 20 days prior to the departure date. All claims have to be filed with the insurer within 8 weeks from the time when the insolvency of the tour operator becomes known otherwise it will result in the loss of the rights for a claim: **AWP P&C S.A. Niederlassung für Österreich, Pottendorfer Straße 23-25, A-1120 Wien, Tel.: 0043-1-525 030**

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