



Christmas Around the World

December 2-8, 2019 / (7 days & 6 nights)



Experience the worldly holiday traditions of other cultures in this unique Omaha Christmas tour!



Day 1: We're heading to Iowa with comfort stops along the way to our first overnight in Des Moines at the Drury Inn. You'll enjoy their (included) light dinner along with cocktails to get to know your travel companions.

Day 2: After an (included) breakfast we will make our way to Omaha and enjoy an (included) Italian lunch. Then our first tour will be at the historic General Crook House for their Victorian Christmas display. Enjoy cider and cookies as you view holiday trees decorated with tradition ornaments. This evening we will visit the St. Johns Greek Orthodox Church for an (included) dinner and tour of the Byzantine Style church. You will be amazed by the décor of gold and traditional icons as you receive a presentation of the meaning of the décor and the history of the Greek Orthodox Church. Learn about how Christmas is celebrated in Greece and listen to Christmas carols in the Greek Language as you experience a traditional (included) Greek dinner.

Day 3: We will begin our morning with a visit to the little Lithuanian Bakery where you will enjoy coffee and their famous holiday torts. Next experience an Irish Christmas at Boys Town. Tour the restored 1920s home of Father Edward Flanagan, the founder of Boys Town. The house is filled with traditional Irish Christmas decorations to represent Father Flanagan's Irish heritage. This afternoon you will celebrate a German Christmas at the German American Society. Enjoy a holiday program of dancing, singing and food! Listen to traditional German holiday favorites by the Men's Choir and shop for crafts and items imported from Germany at the Christmas Market. Experience the German dancers as they perform various holiday dances from various regions of Germany. Next, we will be transported to Scotland with a visit to the historic 1903 Joslyn Castle. This 30-room stone mansion resembles a traditional Scottish Castle. As you enter the huge front doors, you will be amazed by the craftsmanship of the elaborate wood interior, which comes from all parts of the world and hear fascinating story of George and Sarah Joslyn and how the couple shared their extraordinary wealth with the community.

To round out our afternoon, we will experience a guided tour of exhibits that honor early Nebraska Czech and Slovak immigrants. After the tour enjoy home-made kolaches with coffee or explore the museum gift shop which features imported Czech crystal and porcelain items. Tonight, we enjoy beautiful costumes and tradition holiday songs as we attend Omaha's Madrigal Christmas Feaste. This unique form of dinner theater will transport you to the Renaissance years for a festive evening at an old English castle. From the rousing wassail toast to the last bit of Yorkshire pudding, you will be enchanted and filled with the spirit of Christmas. Madrigal singers perform on stage and around you table as you meet the queen's court and playful jester.



Day 4: This morning learn about a Ukrainian Christmas with a breakfast presentation by Ukrainian native, Olesia Reprichowskyj. Then we'll have a local guide give us an entertaining and informative Omaha City Tour. Lunch today is at the nearby historic Old Market Entertainment District where you will find unique shops including the retro Hollywood Candy Warehouse and Tannenbaum Christmas shop. Tonight, learn about how Christmas is celebrated in Mexico. Enjoy a traditional Mexican (included) dinner, dances and elaborate costumes from various regions and history of Mexico. Program begins with traditional Aztec dances with striking costumes. The final set is the tradition energetic Mexican polka dances with bright colorful dresses and large men's sombreros. Complete the evening with a musical performance of a Christmas Carol at the Omaha Community Playhouse, the largest community theater in the country. Experience Omaha's favorite holiday tradition as Scrooge takes the audience on a journey filled with beautiful costumes and music.



Day 5: After an (included) breakfast, we will start our day with the annual Holiday Poinsettia Show at Lauritzen Gardens. Be amazed at this spectacular floral display featuring a 20-foot tall poinsettia tree, model trains and other nostalgic decorations. We will then visit the Durham Museum for their annual Christmas at Union Station celebration where you will hear some of the most beautiful holiday music under the glow of the Midwest's largest holiday Christmas tree. We will head to our hotel to hear a special holiday performance by David Marsh. Dave presents an International Music of Christmas Program performed on traditional folk instruments from around the world. You will hear familiar songs played on unfamiliar instruments such as "O Holy Night" played on the hammered dulcimer, and "Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella" played on the Northumbrian Small pipes (English Bagpipes). We will end the evening with a Christmas Celebration Performance at the Hollard Performing Arts Center. Celebrate the magic, romance, and joy of the season as Broadway stars add to the lush sounds of the Omaha Symphony. A singing and dancing treat that you will remember for years to come. This is one of the top holiday events in Omaha.

Day 6: It's time to pack up and move north after an (included) breakfast with comfort stops along the way to our final overnight at the Riverside Casino Hotel. Everyone will receive \$5 Food Voucher and \$15 Free Play to test their luck!

Day 7: Enjoy an (included) breakfast buffet as we sort and load your luggage before we make our way home. We'll make one last stop at the Russell Stove Candy Store for any last-minute gifts. Then we will travel home with wonderful memories to share with family and friends of our Christmas Around the World tour.

Tour Highlights:



- Motor Coach Transportation
- 2 Tour Managers
- 6 Nights' Lodging
- Luggage Handling
- Victorian Christmas at General Crook House
- Greek Orthodox Church tour and dinner
- Christmas at the Lithuanian Bakery
- Irish Christmas at Father Flanagan's Boys Town
- German American Society Holiday
- Scottish Christmas at the Joslyn Castle
- Omaha Czech Museum
- Madrigal Christmas Feaste Dinner Show
- Ukranian Christmas Breakfast
- Guided City Tour of Omaha
- Old Market Entertainment District
- Mexican Chomari Ballet Folklorico
- Community Playhouse – "A Christmas Carol"
- Lauritzen Garden Holiday Poinsettia Display
- Ethnic Holiday Festival - Durham Museum
- Mormon Trails Center – Gingerbread House Display
- International Music of Christmas Program
- Holland Performing Arts Center – "Christmas Celebration"
- Riverside Casino
- \$15 Free Play
- \$5 Food Voucher
- 14 Meals

**Register Early
Seats fill fast!**

*Every Tour Personally Hosted By:
Patty Chmielewski & Michael Bell*

Price per Person:
\$1,199 Double
\$1,099 Triple/Quad
\$1,349 Single

ChmieBell TOURS
 15972 Havelock Ct. - Apple Valley, MN 55124 - (612) 749-6330