

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY CHORAL SOCIETY

2026 EASTERN EUROPEAN TOUR

PROSPECTUS

4 - 27 January, 2026

HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA, POLAND, CZECHIA,
GERMANY, AUSTRIA

Prepared by Andrew Wailes (Melbourne) and Claudia Arh (Salzburg), August 2025



Budapest, Dunakanyar, Szentendre, Košice, Zakopane, Kraków, Brno, Prague,
Pilsen, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Regensburg, Salzburg, Hallstatt,
Oberammergau, Hohenschwangau, Munich



TOUR SCHEDULE AND ITINERARY

Sunday 4 Jan – Tuesday 27 Jan, 2026

23 nights / 24 days

Tour route:

ARR Budapest (3) – Kosice (1) – Krakow (2) – Brno (2) – Prague (2) – Pilsen (1) – Ceske Budejovice (2) – Regensburg (3) – Salzburg (3) – Munich (4) DEP

Tour starting point: Individual arrivals in Budapest, (Capital, Hungary) **Tour participants are advised to arrive in Budapest on Saturday 3rd January to allow for recovery before tour starts**, or at latest early morning on Sunday 4th, flying into Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport. Originally called Budapest Ferihegy International Airport (Budapest Ferihegy Nemzetközi Repülőtér), in 2011 it was officially renamed **Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport** in honour of the Hungarian pianist and composer Franz Liszt.

Tour ending point:

München/Munich (Capital Bavaria, Germany)

Itinerary:

Sunday Jan. 4th After individual arrival at in Budapest, there will be a meeting point provided (probably the hotel where MUCS will be staying). In the morning there will be a suggested meeting point in the city for those who have already arrived for coffee and a city walk to allow people to join the group. In the afternoon, we will meet our CC&A tour manager, who will assist with the check-in to our hotel. In the evening there will be a special **Welcome to Hungary Dinner at a local tavern with Hungarian traditional Gypsy music (incl)**. Optional evening visit to the **Neo-Baroque Széchenyi Thermal Baths**. Overnight in Budapest.

Monday Jan. 5th Breakfast After enjoying a buffet-breakfast at the Hotel, we will meet our local licensed English-speaking guide for a **3 hour Budapest Introductory coach tour including photo stops**. This will include incl. the former twin cities Buda and Pest, **Fishermen Bastion, Royal Palace and Heroes Square**. At the conclusion of the tour, we will arrive at the famous **Central Market Hall** in Budapest (a food lover's paradise) for lunch in small groups. In the afternoon we will visit the **Hungarian Parliament for a guided tour** including the Hungarian Coronation Jewels in the Dome Hall, the Old Upper House Hall of the bicameral Hungarian Parliament, as well as the Lounge **(adm. and guided tour in English incl.)**. **Budapest.**



Evening: Concert at a suitable church in Budapest TBC, possibly the Mathias Church (Mátyás Templom), The University Church (Egyetemi Templom) or St Michael's Church (Szent Mihály templom). Free night for independent dinner in small groups or an optional visit to the Neo-Baroque Széchenyi Thermal Baths. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at Hotel in Budapest.

Tuesday Jan. 6th After breakfast we will embark on an excursion to Dunakanyar (the Danube Bend) with our local guide – a journey into the history of Hungary. The Danube Bend is a scenic region where the Danube River makes a dramatic, horseshoe-like curve before flowing south toward Budapest. This area, located north of the capital, is known for its picturesque landscapes of hills and forests, and is home to historic towns like Szentendre, and Visegrád. Besides Visegrád and its Camelot-like castle, there will be a visit to the town of Szentendre, a township of living art, with its cobbled-stone Main Square and the Plague Cross at its center. This charming little town, whose name means “Saint Andrew,” is known for its well-preserved houses and churches, many built in the Balkan style, as the area was originally settled by Serb refugees. Today, the town's best-known inhabitants are artists, and small galleries can be found on nearly every street corner. Free time in the afternoon for independent shopping and lunch in small groups. A free evening in Budapest for independent exploring and Dinner in small groups. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at Hotel in Budapest.

Wednesday Jan. 7th Check-out and load coach. Enjoy a scenic transfer across the Slovakian border to Košice, the cultural and historical hub of Eastern Slovakia. (approx. 270km / 3,5h drive). We will enjoy Lunch en route (tour manager to give recommendations). In the Afternoon we will check-in to our Hotel in Košice followed by some free time to settle. Later, we will meet our local guide for a 1.5h walking sightseeing tour through the charming historical center of Košice. Highlights include the magnificent St. Elizabeth Cathedral, the largest church in Slovakia and a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, Jakab's Palace with its romantic fairy-tale design, and a stroll along Hlavná ulica (Main Street), lined with beautifully preserved buildings, fountains, cafés, and local boutiques. Learn about the rich multi-ethnic past of this former royal town as you explore its cobbled streets and atmospheric squares. In the evening we will enjoy a group dinner at our hotel or at a local restaurant. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at booked accommodation in Košice



Thursday Jan. 8th After a sumptuous breakfast we will check-out from our hotel and depart for Poland. We will enjoy a scenic journey through the **Tatra Mountains** as we travel across the Polish border to **Kraków** (approx. 280km / 4,5h drive).

On the way we will stop in the famous ski resort town of **Zakopane**, the picturesque mountain destination known for its unique wooden architecture and vibrant highland culture.

We will enjoy a **traditional horse-drawn sleigh ride through the snowy landscape**, followed by a hearty **highland feast featuring local specialties, music, and the warm hospitality of the Goral people of the Polish Highlands**. In the afternoon we will continue our journey to **Kraków**, one of Poland's most historic and culturally rich cities. Upon arrival, we will check in to our hotel and enjoy some time to relax. There will be a free evening to allow people to explore the old town and enjoy and independent dinner at one of Kraków's many excellent restaurants, offering everything from Polish classics to contemporary cuisine. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at our hotel in Krakow.

Friday Jan. 9th After breakfast we will depart on an excursion to the famous **Wieliczka Salt Mine**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Poland's most remarkable underground landmarks. Explore a labyrinth of chambers, chapels, and sculptures carved entirely from salt, while learning about the history of this centuries-old mine (**adm. and guided visit incl.**). Individual lunch in small groups (tour manager to give recommendations). In the afternoon, return to Kraków for a **guided sightseeing tour through the city's historical heart**. Highlights include the **Wawel Castle** – the former residence of Polish kings – with its majestic courtyard and hilltop views, as well as the charming streets of the **Old Town (Stare Misto)**, where medieval churches including , the **Cloth Hall**, the **Main Market Square (Rynek Główny)** - one of Europe's largest and most beautiful town squares, and other vibrant squares that tell the story of Kraków's rich past such as **Ghetto Heroes Square** - a profoundly moving sight committed to honoring the legacy of World War II. In the evening we will enjoy a festive **Polish dinner with a traditional Polish folk show** – a lively evening featuring regional dishes, music, and colorful dancing that brings Polish culture to life.

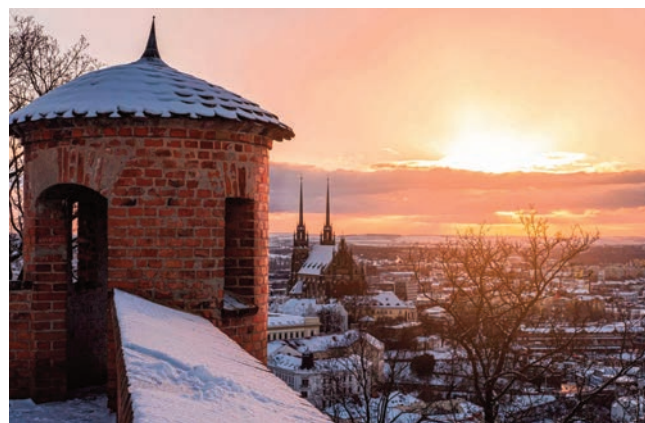
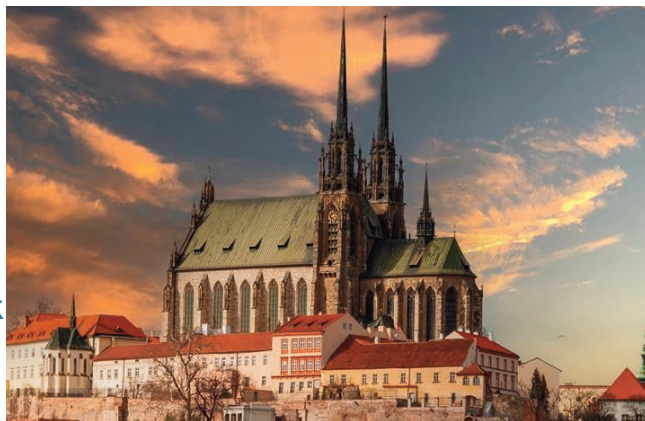
Saturday Jan. 10th After breakfast at the hotel, check-out early and load coach. Depart Poland for the Czech Republic. Travel through the rolling landscapes of southern Poland and northern Moravia before reaching **Brno**, the second-largest city in the Czech Republic and the historical capital of Moravia. Some free time for individual lunches in small groups (approx. 340km / 5h drive).



Upon arrival in Brno in the afternoon, check in to our hotel and meet our local guide for a [walking tour of Brno's historical center](#). Discover architectural gems such as the **Old Town Hall**, the **Capuchin Crypt**, and the picturesque **Zelný trh (Vegetable Market Square)**, surrounded by elegant Baroque buildings and lively cafés. Stop to admire the **St. Peter and Paul Cathedral**, perched atop Petrov Hill, offering sweeping views over the city. Enjoy a **free evening to explore the city and enjoy dinner in small groups**. Enjoy Brno's dynamic culinary scene, which ranges from traditional Moravian taverns to modern Czech cuisine. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at hotel in Brno.

Sundau Jan. 11th After breakfast, MUCS will perform during the **High Mass Service at the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in Brno** (TBC). Following the service there will be time for photographs and some free time to explore the city and enjoy independent lunches in small groups. In the afternoon we will continue exploring Brno with a [visit to the magnificent Špilberk Castle complex \(adm. incl.\)](#), once a royal fortress and later a notorious prison. Today, it serves as a museum and offers spectacular panoramic views over the city. **Špilberk Castle** was established in the 13th century by Přemysl Otakar II to protect both the Czech lands and the town of Brno. An occasional residence of Moravian margraves, the castle became a huge military fortress in the 17th and 18th centuries. The castle's large interior courtyard holds a fifteen-bell carillon, a lookout in the corner tower, and the Baroque Holy Trinity Chapel. Afterwards we can take a short walk through the nearby parklands or enjoy a coffee in one of the stylish cafés surrounding the castle hill [\(adm. incl.\)](#). Later we will enjoy [a guided visit to the Ossuary at St. James' Church, one of Europe's largest ossuaries](#). This solemn and atmospheric site, containing the remains of over 50,000 individuals, offers a powerful insight into Brno's medieval history and a moment of quiet reflection [\(adm. incl.\)](#). **Enjoy a free evening to further explore the city and dinner in small groups at one of Brno's many restaurants, bistros, confectionaries, cafés, pubs, bars and wine bars**. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at booked accommodation in Brno.

Monday Jan. 12th After breakfast we will check-out from our hotel and depart for **Prague**, the enchanting capital of the Czech Republic (approx. 200km / 2,5h drive). Upon arrival, we will meet our local guide for a [guided visit to the magnificent Prague Castle complex – the largest in the world – including St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, and Golden Lane \(adm. main circuit incl.\)](#). **Watch the changing of the guard each hour**. Later in the afternoon we will check-in to our hotel and enjoy a bit of time to relax and settle. In the evening we will enjoy a group dinner at our hotel or at a local restaurant. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at booked accommodation in **Prague**.



Tuesday Jan. 13th After breakfast, we will continue our guided exploration of Prague with a **two-hour tour of Prague's old-town** featuring the iconic **Charles Bridge** with its magnificent baroque statues and panoramic views of the Vltava River and the **Old Town Square**, home to the **Astronomical Clock** and surrounded by pastel-colored facades and historic townhouses. There will be some free time to explore the city and enjoy lunch independently in small groups at a local tavern, cafe or restaurant. **In the afternoon MUCS will perform a Concert at a local church, possibly at St. Nicholas Church (TBC).**

Evening: Enjoy a free evening to explore Prague at your own pace. For those interested, the night continues with an optional pub visit at own arrangement to experience Prague's world-famous beer culture in a lively and authentic setting. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at booked accommodation in Prague.

Wednesday Jan. 14th After breakfast we will check-out from our Hotel and depart for **Pilsen**, the historic city known worldwide as the birthplace of Pilsner beer. Upon arrival, **enjoy a guided visit to the Pilsner Urquell Brewery**, where the iconic lager was first brewed in 1842. Explore the historic brewhouse, the modern bottling plant, and the atmospheric cellars where we will have a chance to taste unfiltered Pilsner straight from oak barrels (**adm. incl.**). After some free time for lunch in small groups we will continue with a **guided tour of the Pilsen Historical Underground labyrinth**— a network of tunnels, cellars, and wells dating back to the 14th century. Discover how this fascinating subterranean world supported daily life in medieval Pilsen. Later in the afternoon we will check-in to our hote, followed by time for an early dinner in small groups. **In the evening MUCS will perform during the Evening Service, at St. Bartholomew's Cathedral (TBC).** Overnight/buffet-breakfast at booked accommodation in Pilsen.

Thursday Jan. 15th After breakfast we will check-out from our hotel and depart for **České Budějovice**, the capital of South Bohemia, known for its elegant architecture and brewing tradition (approx. 140km / 2,5h drive). After some time to explore the old town and enjoy independent lunch in small groups we will enjoy a **guided sightseeing tour of the city, including the Black Tower which offers panoramic views over the city, and a visit to the South Bohemian Museum, where you will learn about the rich cultural and natural history of the region (adm. Black Tower & South Bohemian Museum incl.).** Later in the afternoon, take part in a **guided tour of the Budweiser Budvar Brewery, one of the most iconic breweries in Czechia.** Discover the brewing process, history, and heritage of this world-renowned beer. Following the tour, enjoy **dinner at the brewery restaurant, where traditional Czech cuisine is paired with freshly brewed Budvar beer in a lively, authentic setting.** Overnight/buffet-breakfast at booked accommodation in **České Budějovice.**



Friday Jan. 16th After breakfast at our hotel we will depart for an excursion to **Český Krumlov**, a fairytale-like UNESCO World Heritage town nestled along the **Vltava River**. On arrival, your tour manager will lead an orientation walk through the cobbled streets, highlighting the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture, picturesque alleyways, and charming town squares. There will be some time to explore the charming town and enjoy an independent lunch in small groups at a local tavern or cafe. **In the afternoon, MUCS will perform a short a cappella concert, at the Church of St. Vitus (TBC). The most important church in Český Krumlov, and a national cultural monument.** In the evening we will return to **České Budějovice** for a free night to enable you to enjoy the vibrant nightlife of this thriving city. Enjoy an independent dinner in small groups at one of the city's many taverns, pubs or restaurants. Perhaps you'd like to visit **Masné krámy** - a legendary restaurant in České Budějovice, known for its unique atmosphere, traditional Czech cuisine, and a symbol of local hospitality since 1954. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at hotel in Ceske Budejovice.



Saturday Jan. 17th After another delicious and hearty breakfast, we will check-out from our hotel and depart the Czech Republic for **Regensburg**, one of Germany's most beautiful and best-preserved medieval cities (approx. 230km / 4h drive). There will be time to wander the beautiful cobblestone streets and enjoy an independent lunch in small groups - enjoy a mulled wine or coffee and cake in a cafe, or sample some hearty German food in a beer hall or sausage kitchen. After lunch we will check in to our hotel and meet our local guide for a **sightseeing tour of the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Highlights include the Stone Bridge, the Old Town Hall, and the Porta Praetoria, a remnant of Roman times.** Explore the narrow alleyways and elegant squares that reflect Regensburg's long history as a free imperial city. Enjoy a free evening for an independent dinner in small groups. If you're craving some excellent German food, then maybe try one of Regensburg's many **traditional Bavarian restaurants** for Schweinshaxe, Schweinebraten and Strudel, or cozy beer halls for roasted Bratwurst or Regensburgerwurstsauses, dumplings, and sauerkraut. If you thought Regensburg was just a historic pearl of Bavaria, you haven't yet experienced its vibrant nightlife. In the City where the Danube flows under elegant arches, the city comes to life in the evening. Thanks to a lively student scene and the highest density of pubs in Germany, you will find a variety that will make your evening unforgettable. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at our hotel in Regensburg.



Sunday Jan. 18th After an early breakfast at our hotel, **MUCS will perform during mass service at the famous Basilika of St. Emmeram (TBC).** Enjoy lunch at the **Historic Sausage Kitchen (Wurstkuchl)**, believed to be the oldest continuously operating public restaurant in the world, serving grilled sausages and sauerkraut by the river since the 12th century. After lunch, visit the **Old Town Hall**, including the **Torture Chamber and Imperial Diet Museum**, where we will gain fascinating insights into the workings of justice and governance during the Holy Roman Empire (**adm. incl.**) Around 1320/1330, the Reichssaal building was erected with the **Reich Hall** which had its heyday from 1663, when the Perpetual Diet met exclusively in Regensburg in the Old City Hall for almost 150 years. For centuries, not only did the heart of the Free Imperial City of Regensburg beat here, the Reichstag Hall is considered the forerunner of the German parliaments, the European Union and even the UN. The Old Town Hall in Regensburg was probably the most important building in Europe at that time. Time permitting, there may be a chance to visit the **Haus der Bayerischen Geschichte (House of Bavarian History)**. Enjoy a free evening and the chance to have an independent dinner in small groups before exploring the town further, or relax at our hotel. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at booked accommodation in Regensburg.



Monday Jan. 19th After another hearty Bavarian breakfast at our hotel we will depart for an excursion outside the city, beginning with **a visit to the famous Walhalla Monument, a great stone neoclassical hall of fame commissioned by King Ludwig I of Bavaria to honor notable German figures.** Set high on a hill above the Danube River, the site offers breathtaking views and a sense of national pride (**adm. incl.**). The temple building, which is clad inside and out with precious marble, rises above the massive tiered substructure with over 300 marble steps leading up to the great 'Hall of Expectation' containing the busts of people some 200 famous German men and women honoured there. After time for independent lunch in small groups, we will continue to **Weltenburg Abbey, a stunning Baroque Benedictine monastery founded in the 7th century and beautifully located on a bend of the Danube.** Take a **guided tour of the breathtaking abbey church and enjoy a taste of monastic tradition with a visit to the monastic brewery, reputedly the oldest brewery in the world.** Sample some of the Abbey's signature beers in the historic beer garden or tavern (**guided visit incl.**). Relax in the evening. Choose your own pace and cuisine with an independent dinner in small groups in the Old Town of Regensburg, or just enjoy an early night! Overnight / buffet-breakfast at booked accommodation in Regensburg.



Tuesday Jan. 20th After breakfast we will check-out of our accommodation and transfer to **Salzburg**, the baroque jewel of Austria, birthplace of Mozart, and setting of *The Sound of Music* nestled between mountains and the beautiful Salzach River (approx. 230km / 3,5h drive). We will enjoy a quick independent Lunch en route in small groups, and then later in the afternoon we will meet our local licensed English-speaking guides for **a 2h walking city tour through Salzburg**. The story-book city set below steep hills looks much as it did when Mozart lived here 250 years ago. Beside the fast-flowing Salzach River, your gaze is raised inch by inch to graceful baroque domes and spires, with the formidable cliff-top fortress and the rugged Austrian mountains beyond. Famous sights include the **Hohensalzburg Fortress**, **Mirabell Palace and Gardens**, the **historic Old Town (Altstadt)**, the birthplace of Mozart on **Getreidegasse**, the **Salzburg Cathedral**, the **Dreifaltigkeitskirche** and **St. Peter's Abbey**. There will be time for a cosy coffee and cake in one of Salzburg's famous cafes - Salzburg's most famous cafes include the historic **Café Tomaselli**, Austria's oldest cafe famous for its delicious selection of cakes and timeless elegance, and the traditional **Café Mozart** with its literary history on **Getreidegasse**. **Hotel-Sacher** serves up their famous Sachertorte. For modern coffee and a stylish atmosphere, the **220grad** cafes are very popular, while **Café Bazar** offers a classic experience with views of the fortress. A picture postcard at every turn, Salzburg in winter is like being in a fairy tale... In the evening we will enjoy a **group dinner at a typical Austrian restaurant, such as the famous Augustiner Bräu** in Mülln, known for its rustic atmosphere and hearty local cuisine. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at our hotel in Salzburg.



Wednesday Jan. 21st After another memorable breakfast, we will meet our local licensed English-speaking guide for **Sound of Music Tour**, and **a full-day excursion to the Austrian Lake District**. Following the footsteps of Maria von Trapp, you can see all the major *Sound of Music* sights in and around Salzburg. The tour will take you to the most important filming locations and the enchanting landscape of the **Salzkammergut region**. Later in the afternoon we will continue to the famous Lakeside Village of **Hallstatt** followed by some free time to explore. With its pastel-colored houses casting shimmering reflections onto the glassy lake, and with lofty mountains rearing up on all sides, Hallstatt's beauty borders on the surreal and the sublime. Small boats glide calmly across the lake from the train station to the village, situated precariously on a narrow stretch of land between mountain and shore. A perfect day in Austria will end with a free evening to allow for an independent dinner of your choice in small groups. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at hotel in Salzburg.



Thursday Jan. 22nd After breakfast, we will put on our winter warmies and transfer to **Grödig**, to enjoy **a ride on the spectacular Alpine cable car the Untersbergbahn (adm. incl.)** – Rising above Salzburg and straddling the German border is the rugged 1853m peak of the **Untersberg**. Spectacular views of the city, the Rositten Valley and the Tyrolean, Salzburg and Bavarian alpine ranges unfold from the summit. The mountain is a magnet for local skiers in winter, and hikers, climbers and paragliders in summer. From the cable car's top station, short, easy trails lead to nearby viewpoints while others take you deeper into the Alps. After we come down from the mountain we will enjoy a free afternoon in Salzburg. Perhaps you might like to visit the famous **Salzburg Cathedral** and see where Mozart was baptised, do some shopping on the bustling **Getreidegasse**, take the funicular up to the **Hohenfortress** or wander through the **St Peter's Cemetery and Catacombs**. **In the evening MUCS will perform a Concert or mass service, at the ancient Franziskanerkirche or St Peter's Abbey (TBC)**. The first church on the site of the Franziskanerkirche was erected in the eighth century. Between 1408 and 1450, a Gothic choir replaced the Romanesque choir. A slender Gothic tower was added between 1468 and 1498. The church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and served as the parish church of Salzburg until 1635. The Abbey of St. Peter dates back to the year 698, and remains the oldest continuously active monastery in the German-speaking world. Overnight/ buffet-breakfast at our hotel in Salzburg.



Friday January 23rd After breakfast we will check-out, load the coach and depart for **Munich, the capital of Bavaria** (approx. 140km / 2.5h drive). Upon arrival in Munich, we will enjoy **a self-guided visit to the BMW World Museum** - situated next to the **Munich Olympiapark**. The glass-and-steel building, in the shape of a double-cone tornado spiraling down from a dark cloud the size of an aircraft carrier, holds **BMW Welt**, truly a petrolhead's dream. Apart from its role as a prestigious car pick-up center, this king of showrooms acts as a shop window for BMW's latest models and a show space and museum for the company as a whole. Even if you don't get excited about cars you will find this place extraordinary! In the afternoon we will check-in to our hotel and enjoy some free time to settle in and relax. In the evening we will all enjoy **a Typical Bavarian dinner at a local restaurant with a chance to try some of the great beers that Bavaria is famous for...** Starkbier, Festbier, Weissbier, Hell, Dunkel, Pils. Its too hard to choose. Augustiner, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Löwenbräu, Paulaner, and Spaten. Only beer brewed by these six breweries can officially be called "Münchner Bier". Overnight/ buffet-breakfast at our hotel in Munich.



Saturday January 24th After another fabulous German breakfast, we will meet with our local licensed English-speaking guides for **a 2h walking city tour of Munich** (ext. only, no adm. incl.) - Tall tankards and high-tech cars, edgy art and Lederhosen – Munich is a city where traditional and modern sit side by side like few places on earth. The locals have a word for it – Gemütlichkeit – that untranslatable intermingling of coziness, well-being and laid-back attitude. It may be just the local character, but a large share of Gemütlichkeit must come from the fact that Munich is one of the most affluent cities on the planet. We will assemble at Marienplatz (the heart of Munich) and **MUCS will perform a short a cappella concert at the Peterskirche** (TBC). Peterskirche, or St. Peter's Church, is Munich's oldest recorded parish church and a significant landmark, known for its iconic 91-meter tower called "**Alter Peter**" (Old Peter). The Gothic-style church offers panoramic views from its 306-step tower, providing a stunning vista of the city and, on clear days, the distant Alps. After our recital we will walk to the **Viktualienmarkt**, the city's famous open-air food market offering a wide variety of Bavarian delicacies. The rest of the day will be a free afternoon in Munich inner city before the chance to explore some of Munich's amazing restaurants and beer halls for dinner in small groups. Perhaps you'd like more traditional Bavarian at somewhere like Ratskellar Munchen - a large cellar restaurant dating from the 19th century under the Neues Rathaus, with regional dishes & classic decor. Orv there is Haxnbauer Munich – a traditional restaurant that specialises in traditional pork knuckle. Alternatively you might like to visit the **Schranhalle** - a long, beautiful, wrought iron & glass market hall filled with gourmet food and wine from Italian to French and modern German. If you're not into the meat, try one of Munich's many excellent vegetarian restaurants like Prinz Myshkin or Max Pett. There is even a few Cat Cafe's to choose from! Overnight/buffet-breakfast at our hotel in Munich.



Sunday January 25th After breakfast we will depart Munich and travel south to the **Bavarian Alps** for a scenic day of cultural and historical discovery. Our first stop will be **Cloister Ettal**, a magnificent Baroque Benedictine monastery founded in 1330. Enjoy time to admire the impressive church, known for its ornate stucco work and large dome, and explore the peaceful surroundings. **To conclude the visit, MUCS will perform during Sunday High Mass service at the Abbey Church in Ettal** (TBC). We will then continue to the nearby village of **Oberammergau**, world-renowned for its Passion Play tradition and its beautifully painted façades on many of the town's buildings (Lüftmalerei). There will be time for a quick independent lunch in small groups in Oberammergau. Enjoy a short walk through the charming town center, with time to browse local woodcarving workshops and souvenir shops.

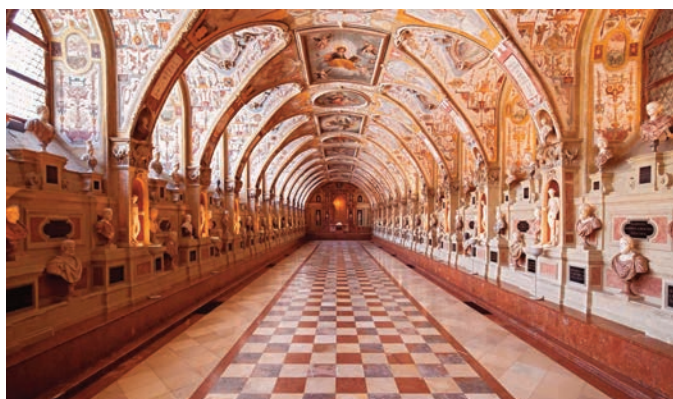


Later in the afternoon **we will transfer to Schwangau for a visit to the famous Hohenschwangau Castle (adm. and guided visit incl.)** - King Ludwig II of Bavaria grew up at the sun-yellow **Schloss Hohenschwangau** and later enjoyed summers here until his death in 1886. His father, Maximilian II, built this palace in a neo-Gothic style atop 12th-century ruins left by Schwangau knights. Far less showy than **Neuschwanstein**, Hohenschwangau has a distinctly lived-in feel where every piece of furniture is a used original. After his father died, Ludwig's main alteration was having stars, illuminated with hidden oil lamps, painted on the ceiling of his bedroom. After, free time to discover the surroundings and to take pictures of the nearby **Neuschwanstein Castle** (external only). After returning to Munich there will be a free evening for independent dinner in small groups, a night on the town or an early night. Overnight/buffet-breakfast at hotel in Munich.

Monday January 26th (Australia Day)

Morning: **Enjoy a free day in Munich inner city.** Check out the amazing churches: Frauenkirche, the oldest parish church; the Jesuit-style **Michaelskirche** (St. Michael's Church), the stunning Baroque masterpiece **Asamkirche**, and the elaborate **Theatinerkirche**. Other important churches are the Rococo **Heilig-Geist-Kirche** (Holy Ghost Church) and the monumental university church **Ludwigskirche** (St. Ludwig's Church), which together represent the city's rich religious architecture and history. There are some amazing monuments and places in Munich: **Odeonsplatz** is an attractive city square surrounded by a number of elegant historic buildings designed to offer a grand **entrance to the city including the Feldherrnhalle**: a monumental loggia inspired by the Loggia dei Lanzi in Florence, constructed in the early 1840s in honour of the Bavarian Army. It was here that the Beer Hall Putsch, Hitler and the Nazi party's attempted coup d'état, culminated in a gun battle between the police and the marchers. The **Theatinerkirche**, built in the 17th century in celebration of the birth of Prince Max Emanuel, a long-awaited heir to the Bavarian crown, and boasting an impressive Rococo-style yellow façade and twin towers, Munich's Theatine Church of St Cajetan is one of the best-known symbols of the city. **Hofgarten**: the "Court Garden" as it translates, is an Italian Renaissance-style garden and a peaceful place where visitors can escape from the hustle and bustle of Munich without leaving the heart of the city. It is located between the **Residenz**, the former residence of the Bavarian Kings, and the **Englischer Garten**, one of the biggest city parks in Europe. **In the evening we will enjoy a special Bavarian Farewell Dinner at the famous Hofbräuhaus (TBC).** Overnight/buffet-breakfast at hotel in Munich.

END OF TOUR



Tuesday January 27th - Departure Day

For those wishing to travel to the airport in a group, there will be one departure transfer by coach in the morning from our hotel to Munich Airport to catch your return flights back to Australia or those traveling onward. Munich International Airport is a Five Star Airport, with a wide range of services, shops and food options available.

END OF SERVICES

A FEW MUNICH SIGHTS AND SHOPPING IDEAS:

Created in 1972 for the XX Summer Olympic Games, **Olympiapark München** is still used today for sporting and cultural events. The **Sea Life Aquarium** and the olympic swimming pool are also located here. From the top of the 291 metre-high **Olympic Tower** you have a breathtaking view, while **Rockmuseum Munich** is located at a height of 200 metres. You should also pay a visit to "**Stachus**" when touring the city. Although the square has been officially named "**Karlsplatz**" since 1797, it is still called "Stachus" by the residents of Munich - even announcements on the suburban railway and on the underground use the old name. The medieval city gate, the buildings (built from 1796 to 1802), welcome a **winter ice skating rink**. Under the square is the "**Stachusbauwerk**" shopping centre, the largest underground building in Europe. Once at "Stachus" it is worth taking a stroll in the pedestrian zone to **Marienplatz** along **Neuhauser Straße** - the first and largest pedestrian zone in Munich's Old Town. Here, many retail shops and restaurants are to be found. **Marienplatz** is the central square in the city centre. On the square there is the "**Fischbrunnen**" (a popular meeting place) as well as the Golden "**Mariensäule**" Column from 1638, which has become a landmark. At the **Neues Rathaus** (New City Hall) a famous **Glockenspiel** chimes daily at 11 o'clock and at 12 o'clock. Overlooking the square is **Peterskirche** ("**Alter Peter**"), and you can climb the tower for the best view of Munich! Close by is the famously decorated golden **Asamkirche**, and **St. Michael's Jesuit Church**. All worth a look! The **Viktualienmarkt** (fresh food market) has been held on a daily basis since 1807, except on Sundays and public holidays, and in the past supplied the city with fresh food. There is also a beer garden (the stalls sell hot **Glühwein** in winter!) Munich's **Alte Pinakothek** is one of the most important painting galleries in the world, with over 700 paintings by German, Dutch, Italian, French and Spanish painters from the 13th to the 18th century in its permanent exhibition: Dürer, Bosch, da Vinci, Giotto, and El Greco are just a few of the artists on display. The **Deutsches Museum** is the world's largest museum of science & technology, with about 28,000 exhibited objects from 50 fields of science & technology.



Cost of Tour

Package rate per person / min. 45 participants:

In more-bedded room (3-5 beds) for students (max. 15 pax available): AUD \$7400.00

In dblb/twin room: AUD \$7975.00

Package rate per person / min. 35 participants:

In more-bedded room (3-5 beds) for students (max. 10 pax available): AUD \$8350.00

In dblb/twin room: AUD \$8825.00

Single Room supplement to be added to double/twin room for those wishing to have a single room for the entire trip: AUD \$2580.00

Included in cost of tour:

Above mentioned package includes the following services:

3 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Budapest

1 x welcome dinner at a Gypsy tavern in Budapest

Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 3h city bus tour with photo stops in Budapest

Admission and guided visit to the Hungarian Parliament

[Concert in Budapest Mathias Church \(TBC\)](#)

Guided coach excursion to the Danube Bend & Szentendre

1 x night/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Kosice

1 x dinner at hotel or local restaurant in Kosice

Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 1.5h walking city tour in Kosice

Traditional sleigh ride in Zakopane

1 x Highland Polish highland feast in Zakopane

2 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Krakow

1 x Polish folklore dinner and show in Krakow

Admission and guided visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mine

Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 2h walking city tour in Krakow

2 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Brno

Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 1.5h walking city tour in Brno

[Perform during mass service at the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul \(TBC\)](#)

Admission and self-guided visit to the Spilberk Castle Complex

Admission and self-guided visit to the Ossuary at St. James' Church

2 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Prague

1 x dinner at accommodation/local restaurant

Guided visit to Prague Castle (Main Circuit)

Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 2h walking city tour in Prague

[Concert at a local church, possibly at St. Nicholas Church \(TBC\)](#)

1 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Pilsen

Guided visit to the Pilsner Urquell Brewery

Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 1.5h walking tour of the Pilsen Historical Underground

[Participation in Evensong, possibly at St. Bartholomew's Cathedral \(TBC\)](#)

2 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Ceske Budejovice
1 x typical Czech dinner, possibly at the Budweiser Brewery
Guided visit to the Budweiser Brewery
Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 1.5h walking tour of Ceske Budejovice
Admissions to the Black Tower and the South Bohemian Museum
Guided visit to the Budweiser Brewery
Excursion to Cesky Krumlov with your tour manager
[Informal a cappella concert, possibly at St. Vitus Church \(TBC\)](#)
3 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Regensburg
1 x lunch at the Historic Sausage Kitchen (TBC)
Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 2h walking city tour in Regensburg (no adm. incl.)
[Perform during mass service at a suitable church, possibly at Basilika St. Emmeram \(TBC\)](#)
Admission to the Old Town Hall including the Torture Chamber
Excursion to the Walhalla Monument
Guided visit to the Weltenburg Abbey and brewery
3 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Salzburg
1 x dinner at a typical Austrian restaurant
Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 2h walking city tour in Salzburg
Local licensed English-speaking guide for a full day excursion to the Lake District and Hallstatt
1x ride with the Untersbergbahn
[Concert or mass service, possibly at Franziskanerkirche \(TBC\)](#)
4 x nights/buffet-breakfast at a tourist class hotel in Munich
1 x typical Bavarian dinner at a local restaurant
1 x farewell dinner at the famous Hofbräuhaus (TBC)
Admission to the BMW Museum in Munich
Local licensed English-speaking guide for a 2h walking city tour in Munich
[Informal a cappella concert at the Peterskirche \(TBC\)](#)
Excursion to the Abbey Ettal and Oberammergau
[Perform during Sunday high mass service at the Abbey Church in Ettal \(TBC\)](#)
Admission and guided visit to Hohenschwangau Castle
1 x tour manager throughout incl. her/his maintenances
1 x deluxe motor-coach throughout incl. her/his maintenances

Meals included: 23 Buffet Breakfasts, 2 lunches, 8 formal Dinners

Not included:

- Any beverages with group meals
- Any gratuities for local guides/tour manager/bus driver (optional)
(recommendations: EUR €3,00 p.p./day for the tour guide EUR €2,00 p.p./day for the driver)

PLEASE COMPLETE THE TOUR SURVEY ASAP TO INDICATE YOUR POTENTIAL INTEREST IN TOURING :

<https://www.trybooking.com/DEHPF>

TRANSPORT IN, AND DEPARTING FROM MUNICH

Most tourists arrive or depart Munich by either train or plane. **The Munich Airport (MUC) is about 40km from Munich centre**, and is served by the S-Bahn local trains. **The airport is serviced by the light-blue line S1 and the yellow line S8 of the Munich S-Bahn lines.** The train will take you right to the airport from the city, from either **Marienplatz** (St Mary's Square) or the **Hauptbahnhof** (Central Railway Station).

The Munich public transport authority is called MVV and you can look up connections on the English version of the MVV website: <http://www.mvv-uenchen.de/en/homepage/index.html>

There are two suburban-type railway train (= S-Bahn) lines, S1 and S8, that get you into town in around 45 mins. **There is a train every 10 minutes. The trains run from 4am to 1:30am.**

You can buy S-Bahn train tickets to the airport in Munich at ticket machines located at S-Bahn and U-Bahn stations, and at MVV>> or MVG apps on your smartphone. Tickets can be purchased with coins, notes, or cards from machines

You can buy either: **a single ticket for 1 person at about 14.30 €** (Single-Tageskarte-Gesamtnetz , in English: Single Day Ticket Entire Network or Single-Airport-City-Day-Ticket), or **a group ticket at about 18.50 €** (Partner-Tageskarte-Gesamtnetz, in English: Partner or Group Day Ticket Entire Network or Partner-Airport-City-Day-Ticket), **which allows up to 5 Adults to travel together on one ticket. Both tickets allow unlimited transportation on the MVV Network from the time they're stamped until 6 a.m. the next day.**

NB. City-Airport Tickets come out of the ticket machine already stamped and therefore are the only tickets that do not need to be stamped. These tickets cover not only S-Bahn trains, but also buses, underground trains (= U-Bahn), and trams (streetcars) within the MVV Network.

All ticket machines have menus in English. They accept both credit cards (without the need of a PIN code) and euro cash in the form of coins or banknotes up to 20€.

TAXIS to the airport:

Since the airport is not exactly close to the city center, another possibility is to take a taxi.

Not cheap but if you are in group, can be affordable and certainly a more comfortable option.

Approx. Price of Taxi from Airport to City:

Taxi from city to Airport: \$70.00 AUD

Train from city to Airport: \$12.00 to \$25.00AUD

Streetcar/metro ride in Munich \$6.00 AUD

Day ticket on streetcar/metro \$12.00 AUD

3km taxi ride in Munich \$21.00 AUD

NB: Ubers also operate in Munich.

Use as you would in Australia