

# A Festive Winter Waltz



*Hosted by Peter & Kathleen Van de Graaff!*  
*Classical Germany, France, Switzerland & Austria!*  
*December 1 - 10, 2021*

You are cordially invited to join **Peter and Kathleen Van de Graaff** as they host their tenth classical, tailor-made journey with Earthbound Expeditions. This time, we are off to **Germany, Austria, Switzerland** and **France**! Stroll through Innsbruck's charming old town center, adorned with Christmas lights and markets. Enjoy several classical and advent concerts, talks and lectures with like-minded travelers. Sip fine French wines in a medieval Alsatian cellar, and soak up the ambiance of the Swiss & Austrian Alps. Discover the great museums and concert halls of Munich and Strasbourg and dine with the locals in charming restaurants. Join Peter and Kathleen for a Festive Winter Waltz in 2021! Space is limited.

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

2 Nights	Strasbourg, France
2 Night	Lucerne, Switzerland
2 Nights	Innsbruck, Austria
3 Nights	Munich, Germany



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EXPEDITIONS**

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## JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Hosted by classical music hosts Peter and Kathleen Van de Graaff ♦ Multiple classical and advent concerts ♦ An excursion to the Mad Kings **Linderhof Palace and Oberammergau**, home to the world famous passion play ♦ The merry Christmas markets of Munich, Innsbruck, Lucerne and Strasbourg ♦ A private tour of the Fine Arts Museum of Munich ♦ The sumptuous Schloss Nymphenburg in Bavaria ♦ A cog-wheel train excursion above Innsbruck ♦ Multi-course local dining ♦ A wine tasting in a medieval cellar ♦ Numerous insider walking tours with knowledgeable expert local guides ♦ The towering gothic cathedral of Strasbourg ♦ The St. Nicholas and Krampus Festival ♦ A small group of fellow like-minded travelers who share your passion for art, culture and classical music!

## IT'S INCLUDED!

- ♪ Fully guided by an Earthbound Expeditions program director.
- ♪ Ten nights' accommodation in charming European style three-star superior and four-star hotels. All in the town centers and within walking distance of major sites.
- ♪ All breakfasts and nine additional multi-course meals.
- ♪ Transportation by private motor coach while in Europe.
- ♪ Three classical concerts plus an advent performance
- ♪ Talks on the lives of the great composers
- ♪ Visits to historic and colorful Christmas markets.
- ♪ A wine tasting with the producer in Alsace.
- ♪ Museum, castle, palace and cruise entrances as listed in your itinerary.
- ♪ Gratuities for your driver and guide.
- ♪ Walks with entertaining local guides in the cities visited.
- ♪ A small group of soon-to-be-friends.

## TRIP FACTS

11 Days/ 10 Nights (land)

\$ 4,595 per person double occupancy

\$1,175 Single Supplement (waived if a roommate is found)

Optional group flight departs the USA: November 30, 2021

Trip officially begins in Strasbourg: December 1, 2021

Trip ends in Munich: December 10, 2021

Group Flight will be offered from Chicago: TBA by Feb. 1, 2021

**Not Included:** Gratuities for room service, meals not mentioned, travel insurance, alcoholic beverages and any activities not specifically listed.

**SAVE \$250:** Pay by check and save \$150 ✱✱ Travel Alumni always save \$100



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Visit the village of Colmar, France

*"The music is not in the notes, but in the silence between."*

— Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

## *YOUR FESTIVE JOURNEY BEGINS!*

### **Day 0: Tuesday, November 30 – Depart home city for France!**

Remember, you'll need to depart the U.S. no later than today. Strasbourg is absolutely lovely and has many fine and historic museums. If you have a bit of extra time, may we suggest that you fly in a day or two early.

### **Day 1: Wednesday, December 1- Journey officially begins in Strasbourg**

Bonjour and bienvenus a la Belle France! Your festive classical adventure officially begins this evening at 6 pm. Meet your hosts Peter and Kathleen Van de Graaff and Earthbound Expeditions guide for an introduction, orientation and a special Alsatian feast.

*Sleep in Strasbourg (D)*



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*Spend two nights exploring Lucerne, Switzerland*

**Day 2: Thursday, December 2 – Towering cathedrals and the Strasbourg Christmas Market**

We'll begin with a morning walk which will include a tour of the Cathedral Notre-Dame de Strasbourg. Built on an ancient Roman temple, it is considered to be among the finest examples of “high” or “late” gothic architecture. At 426 feet, it remained the tallest church in the world until 1880, when it was finally surpassed by the Cologne Cathedral. Described by Victor Hugo as a “gigantic and delicate marvel,” the cathedral’s splendor is visible far across the plains of Alsace and can be seen from as far off as the Vosges mountains, the “Black Forest,” on the other side of the Rhine.

The afternoon is yours to discover the Strasbourg Christmas Markets, the largest in France, a tradition dating back to 1570! Other options this afternoon? Enjoy a wine tasting in a historic cellar, visit the Musee Alsacien, or discover “La Petite France,” a cozy neighborhood of timbered fairy-tale buildings with Christmas shops and gingerbread bakeries. Join your hosts Peter and Kathleen for a late afternoon concert. *Sleep in Strasbourg* (B, L)

**Day 3: Friday, December 3 – South to Switzerland via Charming Colmar**

This morning we are off to the charming, canal-lined town of Colmar. With its half-timbered medieval buildings, astonishing renaissance mansions and numerous canals, the old town is simply stunning. Surprisingly, its old quarter looks more German than French. Upon arrival, you'll be treated to a walking tour highlighting the region's history, culture and cuisine. The afternoon is yours to explore Colmar's Christmas markets, cheese shops and chocolate shops.

Then we are off to Lucerne, one of the prettiest towns in Switzerland. This lakeside town is known for its preserved medieval architecture and bridges across the Reuss River; the most celebrated is the Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke), a 670-foot wooden bridge originally built in 1333. We'll settle into our hotel by late afternoon, and dine on fondue this evening.

*Sleep in Lucerne* (B, D)



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*Innsbruck, Capital of Tyrol, Austria*

#### **Day 4: Saturday, December 4 – A day in Lucerne**

Take the morning to discover Lucerne’s fresco-lined town squares, medieval churches and stunning lakeside with mountain views.

Must-sees include the Lion of Lucerne, a giant dying lion carved out of sandstone rock above a pond at the east end of the medieval town. The monument was hewn in remembrance of Swiss guards killed during an attack on the Tuileries in 1792.

Lovers of Wagner won’t want to miss the Richard Wagner House Museum. Wagner spent six years in this stately manor, surrounded by a magnificent park and situated directly on the lake. It was here that he completed the score to “Meistersinger von Nürnberg” and “Siegfried,” continued working on the “Götterdämmerung” (Twilight of the Gods) and, in between, composed the “Huldigungsmarsch” (Homage March). “Siegfried Idyll” was performed for the first time on the stairs of the manor for his wife Cosima’s birthday on December 25, 1870.

Gather for an included delicious Swiss lunch this afternoon followed by an evening concert.  
*Sleep in Lucerne (B, L)*

#### **KRAMPUS DAY: Swiss, German and Austrian Alps**

Around December 5<sup>th</sup> each year, Krampus runs precede the festival of St. Nikolaus throughout the Alps. The tradition is that St. Nikolaus comes with not just a single Krampus but with a group of up to ten of these devil figures. They are frightening (especially for children) with their horns and terrible masked faces. The Krampus masks (known as Larven) show the artistic dexterity of the hand-carving in the Innsbruck region. A proper Krampus Larve must have large horns, usually carved from the horns of a goat, Ibex or Chamois.



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*Enjoy multiple classical concerts in historic settings!*

**Day 5: Sunday, December 5 - East to Innsbruck, Austria and the St. Nicholas parade**

This morning, enjoy a short and stunning drive to one of Europe's most beautiful cities - Innsbruck. We'll arrive just in time for the joyous Saint Nicholas parade, a fun local event that brings out every child in Innsbruck. There is an excellent chance you'll also hear the clanging cowbells of Krampus, the fur-covered mountain devil who is out to discipline children who have not been so good. An added treat is the evening trumpeters who play traditional Austrian holiday music from the terrace of the Golden Roof each evening at 5 pm.

*Sleep in Innsbruck (B, D)*

**Day 6: Monday, December 6 - A day in Innsbruck: Feast of Saint Nicholas**

Today we explore Innsbruck. The name Innsbruck means "bridge over the Inn," referring to the Inn River, which flows through the city. For nearly a millennium, Innsbruck has been an important center of commerce and traffic. Its strategic location is at the junction of two major routes across the Alps which link Italy, Germany and Austria. Along with our entertaining local guide, we'll learn how Innsbruck became the capital of Tyrol in 1429 and the two "golden" centuries which followed. The Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I turned the city into a booming cultural and economic center, his crowning achievement being the construction of the Golden Dachl (Golden Roof), Innsbruck's most famous landmark to this day. Weather permitting, we'll board the Hungerburg Funicular which departs from the town center for a spectacular Alpine view point. Enjoy lunch together and then a free afternoon in the capital of Tyrol. *Sleep in Innsbruck (B, L)*



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*Explore the heart of historic Munich*

**Day 7: Tuesday, December 7 – Munich via the Palace of the Mad King**

En-route to Munich, we'll stop to admire the dreamlike castle of **Linderhof**, built on orders of the Bavaria's Mad King Ludwig II. Linderhof is the smallest of the three palaces built by King Ludwig II and the only one which he lived to see completed when it opened in 1886. It also has close ties to Richard Wagner, featuring a hut inspired by Wagner's directions for the First Act of the "Die Walküre." There is also the Venus Grotto, inspired by Wagner's opera, *Tannhäuser*.

Next, we'll stop for an included lunch in the famous village of *Oberammergau*, *home of the Passion Play*. *Here you'll have time to admire (and purchase if you like) the towns celebrated wood carvings.*

After checking into our centrally-located hotel, enjoy a quiet independent dinner in a nearby café or visit one of Munich's famous beer halls. *Sleep in Munich* (B, L)

**Day 8: Wednesday, December 8 - Palaces, the BMW Museum and the Olympic Stadium**

Accompanied by our Bavarian local guide, we set out to discover Munich. We'll tour the Marienplatz and its glorious glockenspiel, and also visit the Schloss Nymphenburg, the summer palace of the royal Wittelsbachs. Construction of this Baroque palace began in 1664 and took more than 150 years to complete. After touring the palace, we'll stop briefly to see the BMW world headquarters and 1972 Olympic Stadium where Mark Spitz won his seven gold medals. And then enjoy a traditional lunch together. A classical concert is included this evening. *Sleep in Munich* (B, L)



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*Tour the Schloss Nymphenburg, in Munich*

**Day 9: Thursday, December 9 - The Alte Pinakothek**

Spend a morning with Rembrandt, Rubens and Davinci during your guided tour of the Alte Pinakothek. One of the oldest galleries in the world, the Alte Pinakothek houses a significant collection of Old Master paintings. The name Alte Pinakothek refers to the time period covered by the collection - from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century.

After, enjoy a farewell lunch in one of Munich's restaurants that serve up Bavarian specialties. The afternoon is yours to experience Munich and do a little bit of last-minute shopping. A concert will be offered this evening. *Sleep in Munich (B, L)*

**Day 10: Friday, December 10 - Return home with a lifetime of memories -**

Our winter waltz ends after breakfast. A complimentary group airport transfer will be offered to the Munich airport. Auf Wiedersehen!

**QUESTIONS & RESERVATIONS**

**800.723.8454**

[Info@earthboundexpeditions.com](mailto:Info@earthboundexpeditions.com)



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## Meet Your Hosts!



### About Your WFMT Host, Peter van de Graaff

WFMT's Chief Announcer Peter van de Graaff draws music selections from all eras for the overnight program, with many works coming from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods. All selections are programmed from WFMT's library of over 75,000 CDs and records. Though Peter focuses on the standards, he doesn't hesitate to go beyond into the rich and varied music that comprises what we call "classical music." It's always

a journey with Peter, whether he's playing a collection of lullabies or pieces for Shakespeare plays – each of his programs spins a delightful yarn through the world of music.

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### *Proud Partners Since 2008*

Earthbound Expeditions offers customized overseas adventures for universities, museums, garden clubs, and numerous public radio stations. Earthbound Expeditions is committed to supporting environmental education, local small businesses and providing guests with a one-of-a-kind, authentic travel experience. Whenever possible, Earthbound reserves locally-owned hotels, utilizes the talents of local lecturers, and dines in family-owned establishments. Earthbound also supports projects like the Children's Eternal Rain Forest of Monteverde, Costa Rica, the Soweto Youth and Development Project of South Africa, the **Mama Rosie Orphanage in Cape Town and is assisting families and projects in Cambodia and the USA.**

#### **Environmental Commitment**

The Carbonfund.org motto, "Reduce what you can; offset what you can't" fits perfectly with Earthbound Expeditions' long established philosophy of supporting locally-owned businesses, promoting education and embracing the concept of "slow" travel.



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## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

**Physical requirements:** In order to make the most of your custom journey and join all included activities, you should be able to walk at a moderate pace, independently, for one to three miles, often over uneven cobblestones. You should also feel comfortable standing for an extended period of time during walking or museum tours or visits to other sights. Naturally, you may always choose to bow out of an activity and enjoy the sites while sipping a tea or coffee in a café. You can also hire a taxi, pedicab or horse-drawn carriage at your own expense to get you to the next attraction. Remember, you'll also need to be able to maneuver your luggage through the airport. Some museums may not have an elevator, so you'll need to climb a few stairs in order to participate.

**Dress:** In general, we suggest “casually smart” dress and a good pair of walking shoes. You may leave your formal attire and family jewels at home. If attending classical concerts, men may wish to bring nice slacks and a blazer. Women will feel more comfortable in slacks or a casual dress or skirt. Over the years, we have noted that Europeans and North Americans are dressing less formally for classical events.

**Reservations:** A \$500 per person deposit is due at time of sign up. Deposits are refundable for 60 days from your deposit date, minus a cancellation penalty of \$75 per person. Final payment is due 75 days before departure. Deposits and payments can be made by check or credit card. Click here for full [terms and conditions](#).

**Travel Insurance:** Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

**Concerts and Events:** If a planned concert or event is cancelled for any reason, another concert or event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Concerts are subject to change.

**Hosted Journeys:** The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

**Insurance coverage.** We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.



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# MUNICH & THE GREAT COMPOSERS

## **Mozart and Munich**

Mozart spent time in Munich. He once hoped to become the court composer here, but the Elector-Prince and Duke of Bavaria at the time, Karl Theodor, refused to give him the position. Theodor was renowned as a cultivator of culture and music and owned the best orchestra in Europe at that time, the orchestra of the so-called "Mannheim School." Mozart composed a commissioned piece for this orchestra at Shrovetide 1781, the opera seria "Idomeneo," which had its premiere in the Cuvilliés Theatre. Even so, Theodor objected to Mozart's appointment as court composer due not to his compositional abilities, but to his perceived lack of organizational skills. The wealthy bourgeoisie of Munich even collected money in an attempt to keep Mozart in the city, but it was no use. Mozart moved on to the larger and more lucrative Vienna.

## **Ludwig II adored Wagner**

The relationship between another Wittelsbach monarch and a famous composer is legendary: the relationship of Ludwig II and Richard Wagner. Munich was the location for the premieres of the operas "Tristan und Isolde," "Die Meistersinger," "Rheingold" and "Die Walküre." Ludwig II frequently enjoyed private performances alone in the National Theatre. He loved Wagner so much that he wanted to build him his own opera house to tower across the Isar, not far from the present-day Maximilianeum. But the people of Munich thought the opera house too expensive; therefore, Wagner had to build his own festival arena in Bayreuth in Franconia.

## **Richard Strauss: Directing and playing cards**

The only true-blue Munich native in the history of the great composers is Richard Strauss. His mother came from the beer brewing dynasty Pschorr, one of the richest families in Munich. Strauss also grew up here, abandoning his study of philosophy and art history to devote himself to composition. He celebrated his first successes in Munich with compositions strongly influenced by Richard Wagner. In 1886, he signed a contract as musical director of the Munich Court Opera. He later moved to Berlin and Vienna and travelled all over the world, as far as North America. Many anecdotes are still told about Strauss. Apparently, even when directing his own works, he is said to have kept a close eye on the clock, as he did not want to be too late for his card games afterwards.



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