



Enchanting Gems of

# Austria

GRAZ & SALZBURG

60<sup>th</sup>  
The Sound of Music



SPONSORED BY

**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association  
April 23 – May 2, 2025

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

## Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

The splendor of Austria awaits on this exceptional, eight-night experience brimming with history, natural beauty and scrumptious cuisine! Enjoy four nights at first-class hotels in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage cities of Graz and Salzburg.

Take in Graz's charming ambience on a guided stroll and from atop its iconic hilltop. In music-filled Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart, see the landmarks of his life and delight in a memorable performance of his works with a three-course Austrian dinner.

Outings around the Styria region introduce you to mighty Riegersburg Castle, the renowned Lipizzaner stallions and regional delicacies. Other standouts include a cruise on picturesque Lake Hallstatt, a day in the Bavarian Alps to visit the historic Hitler's Eagle's Nest, and a 60th-anniversary guided tour to see iconic filming sites of the beloved musical, "The Sound of Music," around Salzburg and the Lake District.

With a professional Travel Director on hand to manage the details, you're free to focus on each day's excursions and guided tours, with plenty of opportunities for independent exploration built into the itinerary. Informative lecturers and guides offer rich details to enhance your understanding.

Be sure to make your reservation today to enjoy this special experience!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President, University of Illinois Alumni Association

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

### UNESCO World Heritage

1. City of Graz – Historic Center
2. Historic Center of the City of Salzburg
3. Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape



Apple strudel



Town Hall, Graz



# A World of Discovery



From Austria's culinary capital of Graz and Salzburg's "city of music" to Styria's lush farmland, experience the rich history and culture of this enchanted country. Enjoy stays at two first-class hotels on an eight-night, immersive journey that includes expert guided tours. Stroll through storybook historic districts, visit medieval fortresses and castles, and see the stunning Alps. A memorable high note is sure to be a guided tour to commemorate the 60th anniversary of "The Sound of Music!"

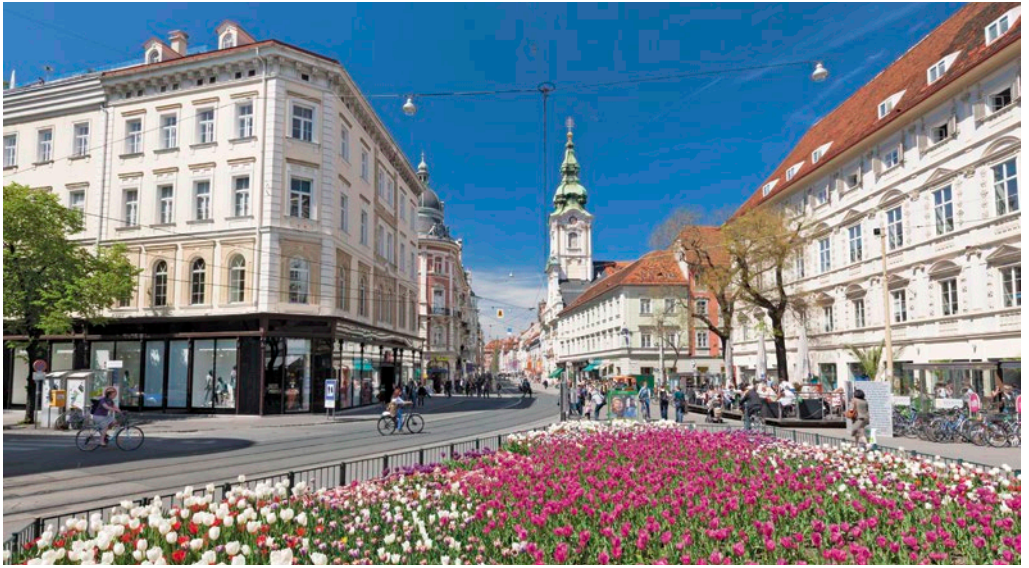
Top: Lake Hallstatt | Above: Traditional dancers, Salzburg  
Cover: Mirabell Gardens, Salzburg  
Mail panel: Mozart monument | Painted facades  
and Uhrturm clock, Graz  
Photos ©Österreich Werbung

## Inspiring Moments



- Delight in the **jewelbox cities of Graz and Salzburg** adorned with architectural styles from northern and southern Europe.
- Savor **tempting specialties** like Vulkan ham, rich chocolates and Styrian wines.
- Cruise on **breathtaking Lake Hallstatt** surrounded by dramatic alpine scenery.
- Enjoy the transcendent **music of Mozart**, and witness the landmarks of his life.
- See the legendary **Lipizzaner horses** at a breeding and training farm.
- Visit the historic Eagle's Nest and tour a salt mine in **beautiful Bavaria**.
- Celebrate **"The Sound of Music"** with a tour of iconic films sites around Austria.
- Experience three **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS  
ABROAD®



Graz

### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Graz, Austria. 🌍

### Day 2 | Graz, Austria

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to the Hotel Weitzer.

This evening, meet your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

### Day 3 | Graz

**Enrichment: History & Traditions of Graz & Austria.**

**Graz Walking Tour.** Take a guided tour past baroque and medieval architecture in the old town on your way to the top of tree-clad Schlossberg, once home to a 10th century fortress that affords a bird's-eye view of the historic center. See the 90-foot Uhrturm clock tower before strolling through the Hauptplatz main square to see the city's first opera house and visit the 15th-century Graz Cathedral.

**Free Time:** Savor the cuisine of Austria's culinary capital and explore Graz on your own.

Experience dinner in one of Graz's traditional Styrian restaurants in the city center.

### Day 4 | Eastern Styria

**Eastern Styria.** Venture to this lush countryside and farmland region, known for its chocolate, ham and Styrian wine. Take a guided tour of the medieval Riegersburg Castle before traveling to the Vulcano Farm. Find out about farm practices that result in some of the finest hams in the world, and enjoy a typical *jausenteller* lunch with meats, cheese and fresh farmhouse bread. Then, visit the Zotter Chocolate Factory, one of the premier chocolatiers in Austria and the world, for a guided tour and tasting.

**Free Time:** Back in Graz, discover regional specialties at a traditional Austrian restaurant on your own.

### Day 5 | Western Styria

**Western Styria.** Travel to Austria's "Styrian Tuscany" for a guided excursion around its lush wine region. First, see the eclectic St. Barbara Church in Bärnbach. Continue to the Lippizaner stud farm in Piber to see the world-famous stallions and learn about their centuries-old horse breeding methods. Savor a wine tasting lunch with farm-to-table foods at a rustic, inn-like *buschenschank*.

**AHI Connects | Family Neuhold Farm.**

This family farm has been growing the famed Styrian pumpkin since 1972. Learn why this pumpkin seed oil is different from that grown in other regions and taste a variety of oils.

**Free Time:** Return to the hotel to explore and relish dinner in Graz.

Vineyards, Styria





*Hohensalzburg Fortress perched above the city of Salzburg*

## Day 6 | Hallstatt

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Depart Graz in the morning for Salzburg with a stop en route in Hallstatt.

**Hallstatt & the Salzkammergut.** Take a guided walking tour along the cobblestone streets of Hallstatt's alpine village to revel in its 16th century architecture, ornate churches and quaint market square. Enjoy free time to find a cafe for lunch and explore the artisan shops. Rejoin your group for a cruise on Lake Hallstatt to appreciate the stunning visual drama of the Austrian Alps. Continue to Salzburg and check in to the Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg this afternoon.

**Free Time:** Explore the area a bit and choose among the wide selection of restaurants in Salzburg, from refined contemporary or classical Austrian cuisines to casual fare at a café or beer garden.

*Lippizaner mother & foal*



## Day 7 | Salzburg

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**Enrichment: Mozart's Life and Work.**

**"The Sound of Music" & Salzburg Tour.**

Guided by an ancestor of the von Trapp family, embark on a historic bus and walking tour to see iconic filming sites of the musical, including the gazebo, where Liesl and Rolf sang "Sixteen Going on Seventeen," the lake and alps district, and Mirabell Garden, scene of the famous "Do-Re-Mi" song. Stop for lunch in Mondsee, near the basilica where Maria and Captain von Trapp married. Continue on a guided tour through baroque Salzburg while learning about composer Mozart and seeing some of the notable landmarks of his life.

**Hohensalzburg Fortress.** Visit the largest fully preserved castle in Central Europe, perched high above the rooftops, to admire panoramic views of the city from Hohensalzburg Fortress.

*Eagle's Nest, Mount Kehlstein*





### Mozart Concert & Culinary Experience.

Relish an authentic Austrian three-course dinner while listening to the melodic beauty and elegance of Mozart's music.

### Day 8 | Berchtesgaden, Germany | Bavarian Alps | Salzburg, Austria

**Berchtesgaden & the Bavarian Alps.** Cross the border into Germany today to the Bavarian Alps. First, stop at the Berchtesgaden Salt Mine for a guided tour 2,132 feet deep within the mountain of this 500-year-old mine. Then, travel up to Mount Kehlstein for a visit to Hitler's Eagle's Nest, with panoramic views overlooking Germany and Austria, followed by lunch in an authentic beer garden. *(Active)*.

**Free Time:** Enjoy the evening in Salzburg.

### Day 9 | Salzburg

**Enrichment: Austria Today.**

**Free Time:** Today, craft your own itinerary to explore more of wonderful Salzburg!

Tonight, celebrate your unforgettable journey with fellow travelers at a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner.

### Day 10 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

### Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

### Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 4 nights in Graz, Austria, at the first-class Hotel Weitzer.
- 4 nights in Salzburg, at the first-class Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg.

### Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

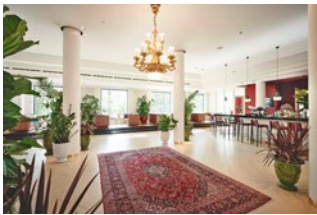
- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

*Historic Basilica of St. Michael, the iconic wedding site from "The Sound of Music" in Mondsee*



## Accommodations

Our travel experts have carefully selected these first-class properties for their ideal locations in the heart of Graz and Salzburg, affording walkability to each city's renowned landmarks and providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of their services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.



**Hotel Weitzer | Graz**



**Imlauer Hotel Pitter Salzburg | Salzburg**



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **844-414-0369** or  
visit <https://uiaa.org/explorers/>.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates †

**April 23 – May 2, 2025**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**April 24 – May 2, 2025**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land Program

Full Price	\$5,040
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Special Savings	\$750
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<b>Early Booking Special Price*</b>	<b>\$4,290</b>
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\*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

VAT in the amount of \$395 per person is included in the above prices. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$995 (limited availability).

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1870A?schoold=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays





*Mozart's Birthplace, Salzburg*



*St. Barbara Church, Bärnbach*



*Leopoldskron Palace, one of the filming locations of "The Sound of Music"*



*Salzburger Nockerl*

## AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



*Musicians, Salzburg*

*Photos ©Österreich Werbung*

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**



**Delight in Austria's natural splendor and rich history!**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

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- Safety and security.



**Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.**

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