



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES

ADVENT IN AUSTRIA

With the Venerable Philip Jones

5 - 12 December 2024

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Authenticity and tradition amidst stunning scenery

Tour Highlights: the Berchtesgaden Emmaus Trail, Oberndorf and the Silent Night chapel, the Church of Maria Plain and Salzburg

Advent in Austria with The Venerable Philip Jones

5 - 12 December 2024

Spend the days leading up to Christmas in a magnificent alpine setting where the advent customs of its regions, towns and villages are the perfect antidote to the pre-Christmas rush. Be part of authentic advent traditions whilst visiting the Christmas markets in the picturesque villages of Maria Alm, Zell Am See and Berchtesgaden. Visit Oberndorf, learn the history of the famous carol Silent Night that originated here and visit the church of the composer Franz Xaver Gruber. Walk the Berchtesgaden Emmaus Trail and past the churches and chapels in the Berchtesgaden market and above the town and enjoy an afternoon horse-drawn sleigh ride. With so many extras included you will be able to enjoy the sounds of church bells, traditional carols and festive brass band music with the smell of fresh

cinnamon from Christmas treats and bubbling gluhwein as you wander the traditional Christmas markets. The emphasis is more on traditional clothing from local woolens, handicrafts, wood carvings and nativity scenes reflecting the true meaning of Christmas. We invite you to join us for our unspoiled celebration at this special time of the year.

TOUR INFORMATION

The cost is £ 1,999 per person sharing a double or twin room. *The price is based on a minimum number of 25 participants. If the final number is lower than this, a supplement may be applied to the final invoice.*

We stay at the Eder Hotel located in the village of Maria Alm.

The tour is on a half board basis with continental breakfast and, evening meal being served at the hotel. Two lunches are also included.

Touring is by air-conditioned coach and we will be accompanied by our tour manager who will look after the formalities of hotel check-ins, etc.

All entrance fees are included as well as gratuities; these will be disbursed locally to those that help us on our journey.

Flights are with **British Airways** direct between London **Gatwick** Airport to

Salzburg and all airport and security charges are included as well as a 23kg luggage allowance.

Not included

Travel insurance: this is essential. We require all travellers to have adequate cancellation and medical coverage for their journey. We recommend the policy with Holiday Extras who offer a comprehensive policy as well as yearly policies that also cover short UK overnight stays. See the back cover for details.

Single rooms: a limited number of single rooms are available at a supplementary cost of £175. For single travellers who do require single accommodation this should be requested when making a booking and, if a single room is available, the supplement will be payable.

Special Requests: should be noted at the time of booking.

Payments: a non refundable deposit of £400 per person.

The final balance is due 12 weeks before departure.

Final Travel Documents: will be sent to you two weeks before departure.

Late Bookings: please note that for bookings made within 12 weeks of departure, the price may increase due to the fluctuating cost of flights. If this arises, we will always discuss this with you before processing your booking.

THE MCCABE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The McCabe Educational Trust is an independent registered charity with the aim of helping inspiring people we meet on pilgrimage in the Holy Land. McCabe Pilgrimages invite all travellers to become partners in this work. A £20 voluntary donation to the Trust's work is added to every pilgrim's invoice and all money raised in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

To reserve your place, please call 01252 226133 or send a booking form. Please make payments by bank transfer or send a cheque payable to 'McCabe Travel Ltd'. If you prefer to pay by card (we accept Visa and Mastercard only), please call 01252 226133.

Venerable Philip Jones Group
c/o McCabe Pilgrimages
5th Floor Abbey House
282 Farnborough Road
Farnborough GU14 7NA
Tel: 01252 226133
Email: info@mccabe-travel.co.uk



OUR PILGRIMAGE

Thursday 5 December | **TO SALZBURG**

Fly from Gatwick to Salzburg with British Airways. Flight BA2624 departing at 06:35 arrives Salzburg at 09:35. Your tour manager Rena Bremer will welcome you. Transfer to your **Hotel Eder**, located in the center of the idyllic village of Maria Alm. This evening you have the chance to witness one of the Advent traditions of Austria, the „Perchtenlauf“. Dinner in the hotel.

Friday | **MARIA ALM**

Use this morning to sleep in and get used to the wonderful mountain air and enjoy a great breakfast in peace and quiet. Later this morning Rena will meet you for a stroll through the village including a visit to the local parish church. Rich votive offerings testify to the supra-regional importance of this beautiful pilgrimage church. In the afternoon you take a horse-drawn sleigh ride to one of the snow-covered neighboring villages. After sunset you have the opportunity to explore the Maria Alm Advent market. Dinner at the hotel.

Saturday | **ZELL AM SEE**

After breakfast travel to Zell am See - situated at the foot of the Schmittenhöhe mountain and on the shores of Lake Zell. During a city tour you will get to know the city's sights like St Hippolyte's Church, the town's main square Stadtplatz, and the tranquil lakeside Elisabethpark. After lunch (at own cost) we board the „Sternenschiff“ (star boat) for a 1-hour-lake cruise on lake Zell. After returning to the shore, you may wish to visit the city's Christmas market, the „Sternenadvent“. Vibrant stars are reflected in the water of Lake Zell, the sweet smell of biscuits is in the air, and magical moments await. Return back to Maria Alm and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Sunday | **BERCHTESGADEN**

This morning we celebrate Eucharist in the hotel. Today Austrian Christians celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and you may choose to join Mass at the Maria Alm Parish church. Later today you drive to the Bavarian village of Berchtesgaden for an opportunity to discover the historic Rococo town center with its town houses, monastery church and royal palace. We visit the Advent market, before we walk the Berchtesgaden Emmaus Trail. It takes about an hour and takes you past the churches and chapels in the Berchtesgaden market and above the town. During Advent, the Emmaus Trail becomes a lantern trail: 75 oversized lanterns, illuminate the path. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Monday | **SALZBURG**

Today you will visit Salzburg, the city of Mozart and Sound of Music, overlooked by the famous medieval fortress Hohensalzburg. After a short walk through the old town you will board the funicular up to the fortress and experience a guided tour through the old walls. You will see the late Gothic state rooms and learn about the construction history of the fortress and the story about the Salzburg bullwashers and let the Salzburg Bull – a 500 year old mechanical organ – ring out! Free time to stroll through the streets of Salzburg or stop for lunch, or visit the famous Salzburg Advent market in front of the Dom. Afternoon visit to the famous pilgrimage church of Maria Plain. Maria Plain, which has been a beloved pilgrimage destination since the 17th century. Return to Maria Alm and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Tuesday | **JAKOBSKREUZ AND MARIA KIRCHENTAL**

After an intensive day in Salzburg, you deserve a leisurely breakfast today. At 10 am you will leave to visit the largest accessible summit cross in the world, the Jakobskreuz. It is located on top of the summit of the Buchensteinwand, the most beautiful panoramic mountain in the Pillersee valley. To reach the cross, you will ascend with a chairlift. Inside the cross there is a small chapel where you may stop for worship. **You will enjoy an included lunch** before we continue to the village St Martin bei Lofer, where you have to change to minibuses to reach Maria Kirchental. Alongside Maria Plain this place is certainly one of the most-visited pilgrimage churches in the province of Salzburg. Return to Maria Alm and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Wednesday 12 December | **SILENT NIGHT TOUR**

Today you are following the footsteps of the most famous Christmas song of the world: Silent Night. You drive to the village of Oberndorf to see the Silent Night chapel with a guided tour. **Lunch is included** and will be served in a nearby restaurant. Continue to Arnsdorf, where you will see the original house where Franz Xaver Gruber, the composer of Silent Night, used to live and teach. Visit the pilgrimage church of Maria im Mösl, which has been famous for pilgrimages since more than 800 years. En route back to Maria Alm for dinner.

Wednesday | **HOME**

Transfer to Salzburg Airport for your BA2625 flight departing at 10:25 and arriving Gatwick at 11:25.

Please note the itinerary may be subject to change due to local conditions and flights can also be subject to alteration but are correct at the time of printing. There will be quite a bit of walking on this pilgrimage, these historic sights are best explored on foot.

GENERAL INFORMATION

MCCABE PILGRIMAGES

Our pilgrimage is being organised in association with McCabe Travel, a company well-known in church circles and recognised as Britain's foremost religious tour operator. McCabe has been responsible for organising hundreds of pilgrimages to the Bible Lands with churches from all over Britain for 35 years. The company is a member of AITO and is fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority.



PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond the end of this pilgrimage. If you need a new passport apply early as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. Visas are not required for British or other EEC passport holders. No inoculations are required. We do, however, advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

HOLIDAY INSURANCE



Ensuring that your holidays are appropriately protected is one of our main priorities. That's why we have specifically chosen Holiday Extras as our preferred* travel insurance provider to ensure that you are protected before and whilst you are travelling.

Holiday Extras offer insurance that has been independently rated 5-stars by Defaqto and are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. They have also been awarded "Best

Travel Insurance Provider" at the Travel Weekly Globe Awards for the past fourteen years. Holiday Extras provides a range of services...

- Holiday insurance - annual and single trip policies with cover for pre-existing conditions and all ages.
- Airport parking - including meet and greet and valet parking services.
- Airport transfers - travel in comfort with a door-to-door service.
- Airport hotels - never worry about getting to the airport in time. Travel the day before and relax.
- Airport lounges - enjoy refreshments in a comfortable and calm atmosphere before your flight.

For more information or to obtain a quote please go to their website

<https://www.holidayextras.com/travel-insurance.html?agent=WU987> Or call them on 0800 083 3551 to speak to a friendly advisor. Please quote AG628 upon calling to receive the best rates.

McCabe Travel acts as a referral partner of Holiday Extras. For all queries regarding insurance cover and claims please contact the Holiday Extras insurance team.

AITO QUALITY STATEMENT

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on www.aito.co.uk.

Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.



McCabe Pilgrimages 5th Floor Abbey House 282 Farnborough Road Farnborough GU14 7NA
Tel. +44 1252 226133
Email info@mccabe-travel.co.uk www.mccabe-travel.co.uk