



The "Great" War

World War I from its Origins to the Battlegrounds of France



Sunday, June 18th
Departure from the USA

Overnight: Plane

Monday, June 19th
Your arrival in Vienna will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After time to unpack and rest up from the overnight flight, we will travel to the Grinzing district of the capital for dinner at a traditional Austrian wine tavern. **(D)**

Overnight: Hotel Royal, Vienna



Tuesday, June 20th
A morning walking tour of the city center with a local guide introduces this sparkling jewel of the Hapsburg Empire and introduces us to the tradition of Austro-Hungary and the age of empire. After a break for lunch we'll visit the Schonbrunn Palace, the exquisite summer residence of the Hapsburgs, where we'll enjoy a guided tour of the interior and have time to stroll the gardens before heading back into the city. Dinner this evening will be at the Medl Bräu brewery/restaurant. The founder's story alone is worth price of admission! **(B, D)**

Overnight: Hotel Royal, Vienna



Wednesday, June 21st
We begin the day with a visit to the Museum of Military History, tracing the history of the Habsburg Monarchy from the end of the 16th century to the end of the monarchy in 1918. The Sarajevo Room will give us an insight into the beginnings of the "Great War." This afternoon is free for personal exploration – perhaps a visit to the Secession Museum. The Wiener Secession; also known as the Union of Austrian Artists, or Vereinigung Bildender Künstler Österreichs, was formed in 1897 by a group of Austrian artists who had resigned from the Association of Austrian Artists, housed in the Vienna Künstlerhaus. This movement included painters, sculptors, and architects, and the first president of the Secession was Gustav Klimt. Dinner this evening will be at the Salm Bräu restaurant and brewery. **(B, D)**

Overnight: Hotel Royal, Vienna



Thursday, June 22nd
Heading west from Vienna we make a stop at the spa town of Bad Ischl, where we will visit the Kaiservilla. In 1854, the Emperor Franz Joseph's mother, the Archduchess Sophie, gave him the Kaiservilla (Imperial Villa) as a wedding present. The villa became the imperial family's summer residence. After lunch (included), we continue to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hallstatt, a center of the salt-mining industry. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(B, L, D)**

Overnight: Hotel Gruener Baum, Hallstatt



Friday, June 23rd
Our day in Hallstatt today will include a visit to the Salt Mine, some light hiking, a boat ride on the adjoining lake, the Hallstätter See, and an excursion up to the Five Fingers viewing platform for incredible views over the Dachstein Mountains. We continue to our hotel in bad Aussee for dinner. **(B, D)**

Overnight: Hotel Erzherzog Johann, Bad Aussee



Saturday, June 24th
Leaving Hallstatt we travel southeast across Austria, via Graz to join the Austrian Weinstrasse, the Wine Road. We'll stop at the hotel restaurant Mahorko in Glanz-an-der-Weinstrasse, overlooking the vineyards for lunch and then visit the Lackner Tinnacher vineyard for a tasting, including the famous Rifugio wines. This afternoon we cross the border into Slovenia and continue to our hotel in the town of Bled, where dinner awaits us. **(B, L, D)**

Overnight: Hotel Golf, Bled



Sunday, June 25th
This morning we take an excursion through the Slovenian mountains to the town of Kobarid (known as Caporetto in Italian), site of a major battle in 1917. Caporetto marked the first occasion on which the Germans had determined to provide assistance to their Austro-Hungarian allies on the Italian front. A local guide will show us the Kobarid Museum and take us on the historical trail that follows the Italian "third line of defence." The trail leads us through trenches, forts and buildings intended for the defence of the passage across the Soča River and of the roads on the right bank of the river. On our return to Lake Bled, we'll stop and take a ride on the summer toboggan – a gravity roller coaster leading down to the lake and then return to our hotel. The evening is free in Bled to sample a local restaurant. **(B)**

Overnight: Hotel Golf, Bled

Monday, June 26th
From Bled, we drive into the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana. A local guide will show us the city highlights and we will have time for lunch before boarding our afternoon flight direct to Paris, Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Overnight: Hotel Les Jardins du Marais, Paris

