A taste of Austria

Duration: 6 days

**Day 1: Vienna** Arrival in **Vienna** in the afternoon and meeting with the guide for a visit of the historical Vienna (The Historic Center with the Opera, Ring "the Emperor's Ring", St. Stephen's, Kaertnerstrasse, Hofburg Imperial Palace).Dinner and overnight in a hotel and after dinner continuation of the visit by night with a walk in the pedestrian area of the old town, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Graben and the beautiful Kaertnerstrasse with its shops and entertainment.

**Curiosity**:

According to the annual ranking of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Vienna has already been considered the most livable city in the world in the last two years. 140 contenders and a system that calculates the quality of life based on about thirty factors that can be summarized in five categories: stability, health, culture and environment, education, infrastructure.

**Day 2: Vienna** Breakfast at the hotel and full day tour of the city - in the morning visit of the beautiful summer residence of Princess Sissi and her husband, the magnificent Schonbrunn Palace - free time for lunch - in the afternoon continuation of the tour of Modern Vienna and the new architecture (Hundertwasserhaus, Incinerator, public housing, Donau-City, Donauturm, Belvedere Palace); traditional dinner in a cellar in the Grinzing district and overnight at the hotel.

**Curiosity:**

- Schoennbrunn Palace owes its name to the presence of a water source called Schoener Brunnen, which means beautiful spring.

**Day 3: Melk - Mauthausen - Vienna – Salzburg** Breakfast at the hotel and departure for Krems - boarding and mini cruise on the Danube from Krems to Duernstein - arrival and short walk in the most beautiful village of the Wachau (the Danube Valley) - continuation to Melk - visit of the beautiful abbey - free time for lunch - continuation to the Mauthausen Lager and in the evening arrival to Salzburg. Dinner at the hotel and after dinner night walk through the city center; overnight in hotel.

**Curiosity:**

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one of the most famous composers in the world, was born in Salzburg in the 1756. Although the composer was keen to let it be known that he did not like Salzburg very much, the city boasts of his birth and has named an academy of music after him, which today is among the most prestigious in Europe; - Salzburg is a World Heritage Site since 1996; - The famous Mozart Balls were invented in Salzburg. Round shaped chocolates appreciated all over the world. The original version of the chocolate, the one of the inventor Fuerst, can only be purchased in Salzburg. All the Mozart balls you'll find in the chocolate and cake shops are a non-original version, although they are quite good; - The signs of the shops in Salzburg and especially in Getreidegasse, the shopping street, are made of wrought iron. This gives the city a truly elegant and antique touch; - Salzburg has the largest fortress in Europe and can be reached by cable car from the city center. There is a beautiful Belvedere from above from which you can admire the city crossed by the Salzach River.

**Day 4: Salzburg - Hall in Tirol – Innsbruck** Breakfast at the hotel and meeting with the guide for a visit of Salzburg (Getreidegasse, Cathedral, Mozart's House, St. Peter's Benedictine Abbey, Residence Square, Mirabell Gardens) - free time for lunch - free time for shopping - at 3.00 p.m. departure for Innsbruck with a stop in Hall in Tirol, a typical Tyrolean town.Dinner at the hotel and after dinner a night walk.

**Curiosity**:

- Hall in Tirol, ten kilometers from Innsbruck, is the largest town in the Hall-Wattens region. The municipality has over 13,000 inhabitants but has preserved its medieval past to the best of its ability, so much so that in 1984 it was awarded the Austrian Republic's Monument Protection Prize. This is also the site of the old Mint where the first thaler in the world was minted in 1486. - 10 minutes from Hall in Tirol is Wattens, a small town where the Swarowski Company was founded in 1985, known for its beautiful and bright crystals. This is Swarowski Kristallwelten, a large area entirely dedicated to the brand with art installations and a large indoor museum that can be visited. Possibility for shopping.

**Day 5: Innsbruck – Trento** Breakfast at the hotel and guided tour of Innsbruck - free time for lunch - free time for some shopping and around 3:30 pm transfer to Trento via the Europabrucke (one of the highest bridges in Europe) - short walk over the bridge and on to Trento.

Accommodation in hotel and after dinner night walk in the historical city center. Overnight in hotel.

**Curiosity:**

- When people in Austria talk about Schnaps, they are referring to a very special brandy, often made from fruit or herbs. It is a term that cannot be translated into English without losing all the knowledge, tradition and flavors that revolve around it. - Innsbruck is one of the few cities to have hosted the Olympics twice: in fact it was selected for the Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976. It is no coincidence that the city is a famous ski resort in Austria, and is particularly well known for its famous Bergisel ski jump, which opened in 1930.