

Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte and Opera Carolina

A European Intermezzo: Waltz through Berlin & Vienna

June 1st – June 9th, 2016 (9 Days)



The trip will be joined by Maestro James Meena, General Director & Principal Conductor of Opera Carolina who will guide us through each opera and symphony, offering expert insight into the productions. LJ Stambuk, President & CEO of the WACC, who grew up in Europe will be helping, along with Jeff Knight, owner of Knight Travel who will manage the day-to-day logistics of the trip.



- Please contact Ljubomir (L.J.) Stambuk, President & CEO of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte at lstambuk@worldaffairscharlotte.org if you have questions or need more information about the trip.
- The deposit (\$500) is due immediately (by January 21st) to secure your seat for the trip. Full payment is due 60-days before travel.
- Pricing does not include the cost and taxes associated with the flights from Charlotte to Berlin and/or Vienna. The pricing does cover the cost associated with the local flight from Berlin to Vienna.
- Performance tickets are in addition to the trip package price, providing you the flexibility to choose the performances you wish to attend.
- For assistance booking your airline ticket please contact Jeff Knight at Knight Travel at JKnight111@hotmail.com.
- Please make checks out to "World Affairs Council of Charlotte", or call 704-687-7762 to pay via credit card.

Depart from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and arrive in Berlin the following morning. Time appropriate meals and inflight entertainment provided.

Welcome to Berlin

Upon clearing customs, travelers will be transported to the elegant 5-star Hotel [Regent Berlin](#) for a four-night stay. The hotel is situated just a stone's throw from the heart of the city.

“Considered by Condé Nast Traveler to be one of the ‘best places to stay in the world’, the Regent Berlin is one of the best 5 star superior hotels in Berlin that prides itself on impeccable service and first-class amenities in the heart of one of Europe’s most compelling cities. Enticingly-close to leading cultural and shopping sites and boasting first-class transport links, the hotel’s respect for both heritage and modern convenience is unrivalled in Berlin.”

[Read More](#)

Photo Gallery: [Regent Berlin \(5-Star\)](#)

Travelers will have the opportunity to settle in and relax from the trans-Atlantic journey, and enjoy lunch independently. In the latter part of the afternoon, the group will go on a motor coach tour of the German capital, followed by a 3-course welcome dinner with wine, at the [Vau Restaurant](#).



Photo: Regent Berlin (interior)



Photo: Regent Berlin (exterior)



Photo: Vau Restaurant



Photo: Brandenburg Gate (Source: [Telegraph](#))

Complimentary breakfast included.

Travelers will enjoy a morning of touring the beautiful capital city of Berlin, beginning with a private tour of both the [Berlin State Opera House](#) and the [Berlin Philharmonic](#).

This opera house, steeped in history, set in one of the most beautiful buildings in the Unter den Linden boulevard, is one of the most important opera stages in the world with an international reputation second to none. [Read More](#)

[The Philharmonic](#) has been the musical heart of Berlin for more than 50 years. Its unusual architecture and innovative concert hall design initially ignited controversy, but it now serves as a model for concert halls all over the world. [Read More](#)

INDEPENDENT LUNCH

Enjoy the rest of your afternoon at your leisure exploring the sights and historical architecture in Berlin.

Optional Activity (Additional Cost):

Following lunch, travelers will have the option to enjoy the afternoon at leisure, or participate in a tour of [Potsdam](#), the capital of [Brandenburg](#), widely known for its castles and landscape as a World Heritage Site. Potsdam is more than 1000 years old and situated approximately one-hour from of Berlin. This optional tour will also include a visit to the famous [Sanssouci Palace](#), “a fabulous rococo palace with amazing interiors.” [Read More](#)

Complimentary Dinner

The group will enjoy a 3-course dinner with wine, at the [Kaefer Restaurant](#), located atop the historical Berlin Capital Building– [The Reichstag](#).

Optional Activity (Additional Cost)

After dinner, enjoy Mozart’s [The Magic Flute](#), at the [Deutsche Oper Berlin](#). *The Magic Flute was first performed on September 30, 1791 in Vienna and is the most frequently performed opera in the German-speaking world. This variegated masterpiece straddling Viennese popular theatre, fairytale, myth and the mystery of freemasonry is a puzzle even today. [Read More](#)*



Photo: Berlin State Opera House (Source: [Opera Today](#))



Photo: Berlin State Opera House (Source: [Germany.Travel](#))



Photo: Sanssouci Konzertsaal (Source: [Germany](#))



Photo: Sanssouci Palace (Source: [Flickr](#))

Overnight at [Regent Berlin](#).

Day 4: Saturday, June 4th, 2016

Berlin

Complimentary breakfast included.

After breakfast, the group will have a free day to enjoy shopping, strolling and dining at your leisure. There will be the option to arrange museum or gallery visits.

Possible Excursion (Additional Cost)

There is the possibility of going on a full day excursion to [Mirow](#), the birthplace of Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

Tour the Mirow palace, including the [exhibition of the 3-Koniginnen-Palais](#) which features a room dedicated to each of the 3 queens from Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Tour the Tower of the St. John Church and enjoy a 3-course lunch with wine included.

INDEPENDENT DINNER

Optional Activity (Additional Cost)

Enjoy the [Berliner Philharmoniker](#), featuring Sir John Eliot Gardiner as conductor, performing a [Stravinsky](#) evening. *“The focus is on the neoclassical opera oratorio Oedipus Rex, whose archaic force unmistakably inspired Carl Orff in composing his Carmina Burana. The ballet Apollon musagète also harks back to older music – but in its bright Baroque grace conjures up an entirely different world of sound.”* [Read More](#)



Photo: Berliner Philharmoniker (Source: [alterra](#))



Photo: Café in Berlin (Source: [Villadreamvacations](#))



Photo: Luxury Shopping Mall Friedrichstadt-Passagen (Source: [travel1000places](#))



Photo: 3 Koniginnen Palais, Mirow (Source: [Fineartreisen](#))

Overnight at [Regent Berlin](#).



Complimentary breakfast included.

After breakfast, enjoy an architectural tour of Berlin ending in a visit to the [Neues Museum](#), an extraordinary collection of history and art. The Museum suffered severe damage during WWII and rather than being repaired, the scars of the war were incorporated into the restoration of the landmark building. [Read More](#)



INDEPENDENT LUNCH

Following the morning tour, travelers will enjoy lunch and the afternoon at leisure.



Photo: Neues Museum (Source: [smb.museum](#))

Complimentary Dinner

In the evening, enjoy a 5-course dinner with wine at the [Restaurant Reinstoff](#), another 2 Michelin Star restaurant, before transferring to the [Berlin State Opera](#).

Optional Activity (Additional Cost)

Travelers will have the option to enjoy the performance of [Tristan und Isolde](#) by the [Deutsche Oper Berlin](#).



Tristan und Isolde was first performed in 1865 in Munich. Betrayal, lost honour, guilt and atonement, passionate, transcendental love, a yearning for death and forgetting... the story of Tristan und Isolde, developed over centuries from a Celtic folk tale into a mythical saga, has fascinated writers, poets and musicians alike. [Read More](#)

Photo: Tristan und Isolde (Source: [Deutsche Oper Berlin](#))

Afterwards, return to the hotel and enjoy a nightcap in the hotel bar with fellow travelers.



Overnight at [Regent Berlin](#).

Photo: Regent Berlin Bar (Source: [Regenthotels.com](#))



Photo: Vienna (source: b2b.austria)

The Hotel Bristol enjoys a unique location close to the [Vienna State Opera](#).

Welcome to the world's music capital! More famous composers have lived here than in any other city – in Vienna, music is literally in the air: Waltzes and operettas have their home here, and so do musicals "made in Vienna," which have conquered international audiences. [Read More](#)

Complimentary Lunch

After settling in at the hotel, the group will enjoy a 3-course lunch with wine at the stylish and creative [Restaurant Konstantin Filippou](#).

Continue with an afternoon guided walking tour of gorgeous central Vienna.

Optional Activity (Additional Cost)

Relax with a coffee tasting, at a traditional coffee house near [Hofburg Palace](#).

Enjoy the evening at leisure.

INDEPENDENT DINNER

Optional Activity (Additional Cost)

Travelers will have the opportunity to see [Der Rosenkavalier](#) at the [Vienna State Opera House](#) with conductor Adam Fischer.

"The more mature Marschallin is the only person in this story who realizes the true nature of love in all its facets. By making sacrifices herself, she manages to smooth the way for the young

Complimentary breakfast included.

After breakfast, the group will leave for Berlin's Tegel Airport, for the short flight to **Vienna, Austria**. The group will arrive in the "City of Music" around noon, and settle in to the luxurious [5-star Hotel Bristol](#) for a 3-night stay.



Photo: Monument to Johan Strauss II, "The Waltz King" (source: blog.restek)



Photo: Vienna Opera House (source: Viennaconcerts)



Photo: Scene from Der Rosenkavalier (source: vienna-concert)

ouple Octavian and Sophie despite the intentions of the avaricious and lustful Baron Ochs von Lerchenau.” [Read More](#)

Overnight at [5-star Hotel Bristol](#).

Day 7: Tuesday, June 7th, 2016

Vienna

Complimentary breakfast included.

After breakfast, enjoy a tour of “Royal Vienna” featuring a private tour of the incredible [Schonbrunn Palace](#), the former imperial summer residence of the [Hapsburgs](#) and a Baroque masterpiece.

INDEPENDENT LUNCH

Continue the tour with Upper and Lower [Belvedere Palaces](#), two Baroque Palaces also built for the Hapsburgs in the 18th century.

Complimentary Dinner

Join the group for a 4-course dinner at the stunning [Sofitel Restaurant Le Loft](#), including wine pairings.

One of Vienna's most sought-after restaurants, Das LOFT is set on the 18th floor of Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom. Sweeping glass windows offer an unbelievable view of Vienna and [St Stephen's Cathedral](#). [Read More](#)

Optional Activity (Additional Cost)

This evening there is a [ballet](#) at the Vienna State Opera House as well as a performance by the [Wiener Philharmoniker](#) as part of the [Vienna Festival](#) with conductor Semyon Bychkov. Travelers can select a performance to attend, or enjoy the evening at leisure.

“Experience an evening of ballet that brings together the work of three great choreographers: Hans van Manen, Alexander Ekman and Jiří Kylián.” [Read More](#)

Overnight at [5-star Hotel Bristol](#).



Photo: Schonbrunn Palace (Source: [Cruises](#))



Photo: Belvedere Palace (Source: [Layoverguide.com](#))



Photo: Le Loft Restaurant (Source: [Sofitel](#))

Complimentary breakfast included.

After breakfast, the group will visit the [Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna](#), a museum of art history also known as the “Museum of Fine Arts”, which boasts a fantastic collection housed in a festive palatial building on the [Ringstrasse](#).

INDEPENDENT LUNCH

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure, or partake in a public [tour](#) of the [Vienna State Opera House](#), the *Wiener Staatsoper*.

“The Vienna State Opera is one of the top opera addresses in the world – where you can enjoy the very best in first-class productions. This famous stage offers a different program every day, with over 50 operas and ballet works on around 300 days per season.” [Read More](#)

INDEPENDENT DINNER

Optional Activity (Additional Cost)

Following dinner at leisure, continue to the Wiener Staatsoper for a performance of [Macbeth](#).

“Shortly after the world premiere in Florence in 1847, Verdi declared that he liked Macbeth better than any other opera. And what is more: “I believe that this opera can give our music a new direction”. In Macbeth, the first Shakespeare drama which Verdi had set to music, the composer did indeed break new musical ground, daring to carry out the stylistic experiment that gives this work its unique position to this day.” [Read More](#)

Before turning in, gather with the group for a farewell [Sacher Torte](#) (a sweet piece of heaven) in the Sacher Hotel across the street from the Opera.

Overnight at [5-star Hotel Bristol](#).



Photo: Kunsthistorisches Museum (Source: [Dreamstime.com](#))



Photo: Vienna State Opera House Interior (Source: [Pinterest](#))



Photo: Scene from Macbeth (Source: [Wiener Staatsoper](#))



Photo: [Sacher Torte](#)

Depart from Vienna to return home with wonderful musical memories of two of the most magical cities in the world.

WELCOME HOME

COST: \$6,000

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

***Single occupancy at additional \$800**

***International airfare from Charlotte (and back) not included**

*****In addition, air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at the prevailing rate at the time of billing.**

- **Single occupancy is available upon request (*Single occupancy rate: \$800). If you are traveling alone, but would like a roommate, please let us know and we will work on matching you up with another traveler**
- **Travel insurance is available through Knight Travel, Inc.**
- **Deposit of \$500 is due by January 21st, 2016 to secure your seat on the trip**
- **Final payment will be due no later than Friday, April 1st, 2016**
- **Please make checks out to "World Affairs Council of Charlotte", or call 704-687-7762 to pay via credit card**
- **Please note that a 3% bank charge will be added to your payment if you choose to pay by credit card**