



## **CHRISTMAS MARKETS ON THE RHINE CRUISE**

**November 25 - December 1, 2021**

### **Cruise from Basel to Amsterdam**

**COUNTRIES VISITED:** FRANCE, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND

#### **OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE:**

**2 NIGHTS ZURICH, 2 NIGHTS LUCERNE (NOVEMBER 21-25)**



Experience the deep-rooted holiday traditions of Europe at its most festive time of year. From the iconic canals of Amsterdam to Switzerland's glittery cities, Lucerne and Zurich, get caught up in the magic of the holidays with visits to some of the world's most timeless Christmas Markets. Cherish all the glory of the season in grand European style as you cruise along the Rhine.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Warm up with a mug of steamy glühwein while at the Cologne Christmas Market located in front of its UNESCO designated Gothic cathedral.
- Let the "Capital of Noël," Strasbourg, the oldest and largest Christmas Market in France, captivate you the way it has for so many others for centuries.
- Meander through Heidelberg's majestic Christmas Market nestled idyllically amongst the historic squares of the Old Town.
- And while in Gengenbach, marvel at the world's largest Advent calendar, where every evening at 6:00 PM, the brightly lit windows of the neo-classical town hall open and behind each one is a picture by a famous artist, such as Andy Warhol.

Destination Travel Club | Powered by: MC Destination Travel  
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## **INCLUDED:**

### **SPACIOUS STATEROOMS**

- 7 nights luxury accommodation in an outside stateroom (most with twin balconies)
- Computer for internet access
- Entertainment-On-Demand in all staterooms featuring free high-speed internet access, movies, a music library and English language TV stations
- Mini-fridge, desk and sitting area
- Bottled water replenished daily

### **AN ARRAY OF AMENITIES**

- Wellness Activities with a dedicated Wellness Host leading various exercise classes as well as discussions on healthy eating and relaxation techniques, both on board and on shore.
- Personalized service from a highly trained Cruise Manager during both cruise and land programs
- Internet and Wi-Fi access
- Sun deck pool with swim-up bar and walking track
- Fitness room, massage services and hair salon
- Main Lounge with panoramic views and bar
- Daily entertainment including cultural performances

### **AWARD-WINNING DINING**

- All onboard dining in a variety of venues
- Regionally inspired cuisine made with locally sourced ingredients
- The Chef's Table specialty restaurant
- Welcome Cocktail, Welcome Dinner, La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Dinner, Captain's Cocktail and Gala Dinner
- La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs exclusive dining experience
- Unlimited fine wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Unlimited sparkling wine and fresh juice with breakfast
- Sip & Sail Cocktail Hour with complimentary wine, beer, spirits and soft drinks
- Tapas, sandwiches, snacks and refreshments served daily in the Main Lounge

### **A WORLD OF EXPLORATION**

- Immersive tours in every destination
- Gentle, regular, active and late-riser tour options
- Bike tours and hikes (dependent on time of year)
- Special Interest Tours
- Knowledgeable guides
- Personal headset for easy exploration

## **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Airfare
- Optional insurance
- Items of a purely personal nature (phone, laundry, etc.)
- Tips and gratuities



### DAY TO DAY ITINERARY with Pre-Cruise Option:

#### OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE

#### NOVEMBER 21 | ARRIVE IN ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Arrive in Zurich and check-in to your hotel.

#### NOVEMBER 22 | ZURICH

Set alongside a gleaming lake and framed by the Alps, Zurich seamlessly blends its historic past with its progressive future—all of which will be on full display during your city tour. See Grossmünster Abbey; St. Peter, which boasts the world's largest church clock face; Old Town; Town Hall; and Fraumünster Abbey. Experience the magic of Zurich dressed in her holiday best. Visit Zurich's Christmas Markets, including the largest indoor Christmas Market in Europe located in Zurich's Main Train Station. An absolute highlight is a 50-foot-tall Christmas tree decorated with thousands of sparkling Swarovski crystals. (B)

#### NOVEMBER 23 | ZURICH - LUCERNE

Check out of your hotel for a scenic drive past three lakes before reaching Vitznau. Upon arrival, enjoy a cruise across the tranquil waters of Lake Lucerne. Afterwards, check into your hotel. (B)

#### NOVEMBER 24 | LUCERNE

Take a walking tour of Lucerne soaking up the festive atmosphere of this medieval gem. The iconic Lion Monument, which you'll visit was sculpted in memory for the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792. It has captured the hearts and minds of visitors for centuries, including Mark Twain who praised it as "the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world." You'll also visit the spectacular medieval walls and towers, dating back to the 13th century. Located around the Musegg Wall area, the towers rise high over the city, giving great panoramic views of Lucerne, the Reuss River and the surrounding mountain scenery. There are a total of nine towers, including one featuring the oldest clock in the city. Afterwards, soak up the festive atmosphere of this medieval gem wandering through its Christmas Market located at the Franziskanerplatz and enjoy the festive atmosphere with a mug of holiday cheer, glühwein. (B)

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## **NOVEMBER 25 | LUCERNE - BASEL - EMBARKATION**

Check out of your hotel and head to Basel. Before boarding the ship, you'll go on a highlights tour of the city. One of Switzerland's most cosmopolitan cities, Basel is home to 40 museums (the highest concentration in the nation), a picturesque Old Town and richly decorated Market Square, a 500-year-old Rathaus (town hall) and Switzerland's oldest zoo (built in 1870 and home to 600 animal species and exotic flora). (B,D)

## **CRUISE EMBARKATION**

### **NOVEMBER 25 | BASEL, SWITZERLAND - EMBARKATION**

Embark the ship in Basel. Tonight, meet your fellow passengers on board. (D)

### **NOVEMBER 26 | BREISACH, GERMANY**

Visit the enchanting Alsatian town of Riquewihr beautifully dressed in her holiday finery with twinkling decorations and a lively Christmas Market. On your walking tour, admire historical architecture, as well as famous sights, such as the Dolder Gate. Alternatively, you may wish to visit Freiburg, founded in 1120, and home to Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral constructed of red sandstone, as well as its enchanting Christmas Market. (B,L,D)

### **NOVEMBER 26 | STRASBOURG, FRANCE**

Strasbourg is even more alluring during the season of Advent. The Christkindelsmärik dates back to 1570, making it the oldest Christmas Market in France. Enjoy a panoramic bus tour that takes you past the Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la Republique. Afterwards, walk through the historic town center on the Grande Île, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and through the lovely "La Petite France" district, where you will see the Cathédrale de Nôtre Dame with its famous astronomical clock and then visit the town's famous Christmas Market. You can also choose to explore Strasbourg's different districts by bicycle. During the afternoon, visit Gengenbach Christmas Market where every year the locals countdown to Christmas with a 24-day, larger-than-life Advent calendar. (B,L,D)

### **NOVEMBER 27 | LUDWIGSHAFEN- RÜDESHEIM**

You have the choice to explore two of Germany's historically rich cities, along with their festive Christmas Markets. Visit Heidelberg, a city that will capture your heart with its mighty castle and historic university. While here, wander along one of Europe's longest pedestrian shopping streets, the Hauptstrasse, soaking up the Yuletide celebrations at the town's Christmas Markets. Alternatively, you can explore one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll also have time to visit its Christmas Market in front of the "Old Mint" (Alten Münze) in the famous Maximilianstrasse, with a view of the romantic imperial cathedral (Kaiserdom). Later in the day, sail to Rudesheim where you can taste local wine or taste one of the town's special delights, Rudesheimer Coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy. (B,L,D)

### **NOVEMBER 28 | RÜDESHEIM - RHINE GORGE**

Your exploration of Rudesheim continues with your choice of excursions. Visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum or take a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal Statue, where you can enjoy panoramic views of the river. Afterwards, indulge your taste buds with a sampling of Riesling wines in the vineyards. Alternatively, you can join a guided bike ride through the town and along the Rhine River to Schloss Johannisberg; or hike through the town's beautiful vineyards. During the afternoon, set sail along the scenic Rhine River Gorge with its fabled legends and many castles. (B,L,D)

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### NOVEMBER 29 | COLOGNE

Join a guided tour through the enchanting Old Town. Explore the UNESCO-designated cathedral and then visit one of Europe's largest and most renowned Christmas Markets located in front of the cathedral. Alternatively, ride a bike along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten; or visit a local tavern to taste Cologne's traditional Kölsch beer and Reibekuchen—potato pancakes served with apple sauce. (B,L,D)

### NOVEMBER 30 | AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Begin your discovery of Amsterdam with a scenic canal cruise, followed by a walking tour to the Begijnhof, known for its historic Middle Ages building and concluding with a panoramic city tour that includes the Royal Palace and Westerkerk. (B,L,D)

### DECEMBER 1 | DISEMBARKATION - DEPART AMSTERDAM

Bid Farewell to Amsterdam and prepare for your homeward flight. (B)



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	DOUBLE (Per Person) CAD\$
SS	Suite, French & Outside Balcony (350 sq. ft.)	\$7881
AA	French & Outside Balcony (235 sq. ft.)	\$6089
AB	French & Outside Balcony (235 sq. ft.)	\$5833
BA	French & Outside Balcony (210 sq. ft.)	\$5577
BB	French & Outside Balcony (210 sq. ft.)	\$5321
CA	French Balcony (170 sq. ft.)	\$5453
CB	French Balcony (155 sq. ft.)	\$5069
D	Fixed Window (160 sq. ft.)	\$4557
E	Fixed Window (160 sq. ft.)	\$4174

Prices includes the port charges of \$251 CAD and current HolidayGift offer of \$1200 CAD off per person for all double balcony categories, complimentary cabin upgrade to similar cabin type (based on availability) and \$50 shipboard credit per person. This offer is valid until June 30, 2020. Subject to change without notice.

Prices for category CA, CB, D, E have the group discount of \$300 off per person included plus receive \$50 shipboard credit per person. Single occupancy rates are available upon request.

Pre-cruise extension rate is \$2048 CAD per person.