

# Christmas Markets

## COLORS OF PROVENCE

ONBOARD AMAWATERWAYS' AMAKRISTINA



## December 2-9, 2021

WITH OPTIONAL PRE & POST PACKAGES

**CRUISE FROM : LYON TO AVIGNON**

**COUNTRIES: FRANCE | RIVERS: RHONE**

### HOSTED RIVER CRUISE VACATION WITH MARK AND MIMI COMFORT

From romantic cities to foodie havens and artistic epicenters, this itinerary enlivens all your senses. Embark in Lyon, France's culinary capital, and enjoy an evening illumination cruise. Savor the beauty of legendary vineyards and imbibe in local vintages like Beaujolais and Côtes du Rhône. You can even become an expert in all things culinary: go in search of the highly prized "Black Diamond" truffles; learn how to pair chocolate with wine; and discover how olives turn into the Mediterranean's nectar, olive oil. Trace the steps of famous artists in Arles and Carrières de Lumières before your return flight home.

**CRUISE HOLIDAYS & COMFORT TOURS**

816-505-1500 : [recep@chkc.travel](mailto:recep@chkc.travel)



## **DAY 1 LYON**

### **EMBARKATION**

Board the ship for your Colors of Provence cruise. (D)

## **DAY 2 LYON**

City tour and Christmas Markets

Lyon bike tour

Free afternoon

Discover dynamic Lyon, starting in Fourvière Hill, part of the city's historic region that is now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the 19th-century basilica Notre-Dame de Fourvière. Continue on to the old town of Lyon, followed by a guided walk through the St. Jean district, where you will be introduced to the city's unique covered walkways, known as "traboules." Your time in Lyon also includes time to browse the Lyon Christmas Markets and watch the city sparkle in festivities and tradition during its lights festival. Alternately, join a guided bike tour through the city designed with cyclists in mind. In the afternoon, enjoy the rest of your day at your own leisure to explore the city. (B,L,D)

## **DAY 3 VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-SAONE**

Beaujolais excursion, tasting and crèche displays

Free evening

Travel to the Beaujolais wine region—known as the Pays d'Or or "land of the golden stones." Indulge in a wine tasting at a traditional winery and learn about the history and techniques of their vineyard. Explore the Provençal holiday traditions in Oingt where you will see crèche displays made of santons, terracotta figurines depicting the nativity scene set in Provence. (B,L,D)

## **DAY 4 VIENNE**

"Footsteps of Ancient Romans" walking tour

OR Mount Pipet hike

OR ViaRhôna bike tour

Situated between the wine regions of Beaujolais and Côtes du Rhône lies Vienne with a Roman past that can be seen in its marvelously preserved ruins. Follow the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a walking tour to see the amazingly well-preserved Augustus and Livia Temple, the Saint Maurice Cathedral, a Gothic church that took more than 500 years to build, and St. Pierre Abbey—one of the oldest surviving churches in France, and now an Archaeological Museum. For those wishing to be more active, you can either take a guided hike from the ship to the Monastery at Mount Pipet or a guided bike tour along a portion of the ViaRhôna bike route. (B,L,D)

## **DAY 5 TOURNON**

Red wine & chocolate tasting

OR Tain-l'Hermitage hike and wine tasting

Lovers of wine and chocolate will want to visit Le Château de Tournon for a presentation and tasting on the pairing of red wine and chocolate. For a more active adventure, take a hike through the vineyards of Tain l'Hermitage, followed by a visit to a local winery where you'll sample some of the wines. You'll also have many opportunities to taste the Provence's regional specialties, including its traditional 13 desserts of Christmas throughout your journey. (B,L,D)



## **DAY 6 TARASCON**

Arles walking tour

OR Bike tour

OR Van Gogh Walking Tour

Tarascon Castle Visit

OR St. Remy Christmas Markets and Carrières de Lumières

OR Camargue and Aigues Mortes

Illuminations Cruise

Provençal town Tarascon is known for its medieval architecture and charming tales - especially the legend of the Tarasque monster. Join a guided walking tour where you'll visit the Roman ruins of Arles such as its Roman Amphitheater and the Church of Saint Trophime, famous for its Romanesque architecture. Alternatively, you can enjoy a bike ride along the Rhone, through town to the Langlois Bridge, a famous subject from several Vincent Van Gogh paintings. And for those who wish to delve further into Van Gogh's Arles, join a special walking tour along with a visit to the Vincent Van Gogh Foundation, showcasing his legacy. During the afternoon, you'll visit the enchanting medieval fortress, the Castle of Tarascon - a fortress designed to protect but surprises all with its elegant interior, fit for royalty. Or, visit the St. Remy Christmas Markets for holiday festivities and delights at every corner. Following the markets, delve deeply into the Carrières de Lumières, where you'll be treated to a spectacular presentation of art, sound and history projected on the former limestone quarry walls of caves.

Alternately, you can enjoy an excursion to explore the medieval, walled village of Aigues-Mortes. Then, you'll drive to the beautiful Camargue National Park, a protected natural territory that lines the Mediterranean Sea south of Arles. In the evening, enjoy an illuminations cruise around Avignon. (B,L,D)

## **DAY 7 AVIGNON**

Walking tour and Papal Palace

OR Tastes of Avignon

OR Avignon bike tour

Carpentras Christmas Markets

Grignan excursion and truffle farm visit

OR Pont du Gard

Depending on your interests, you have three choices of excursions for the morning. Avignon, aptly named the "City of Popes," was the center of the Catholic Church in the 14th century when its "Palais des Papes" was the equivalent of today's Vatican. Discover the history of Avignon on a guided walking tour that includes the Papal Palace and the well-preserved medieval walls surrounding the historic center of town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You can visit three venues around Avignon to taste regional specialties including macarons, cheese and wine, and tapenades or you can enjoy a bike tour. You will have time to enjoy the Carpentras Christmas Markets with its famous crib exhibition, holiday performances and delicious regional specialties. During the afternoon, you can go to another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the impressive Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct that is a masterpiece of ancient engineering. Alternately, you can go to the magnificent hilltop village, Grignan. After visiting this enchanting Provençal town, go in search of the highly prized "Black Diamond" truffles with a farmer and his trustworthy canine companion. (B,L,D)

## **DAY 8 AVIGNON**

### **DISEMBARKATION**

Bid farewell to Avignon and prepare for your flight home. (B)





**PRICING INCLUDES : 7 NIGHT RIVER CRUISE**

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy subject to availability. Insurance, transfers, gratuities and airfare are additional. *Cabin selection based on availability at time of booking.*

**Payment information:** \$400.00 per person due at time of booking (\$200.00 non-refundable until 120 days prior to departure), Final payment due August 13, 2021.

**\$2,999\* PER PERSON :**  
**UPGRADED TO THE BEST AVAILABLE**  
**CATEGORY EXCLUDING SUITE CABINS**  
*PORT TAXES ARE AN ADDITIONAL \$196PP*

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**3 NIGHT PRE-PACKAGE : PARIS : FROM \$1,500PP**

**DAY 1 ARRIVE IN PARIS, FRANCE :** Arrive in Paris and check in to your hotel.

**DAY 2 PARIS :** Enjoy a morning tour taking in the signature sites of Paris, including the awe-inspiring Arc de Triomphe and iconic Eiffel Tower. (B)

**DAY 3 PARIS :** Enjoy a full day at your leisure to discover more of this romantic city, such as the world-renowned Louvre Museum or Musée d'Orsay. Perhaps go shopping in the Faubourg Saint-Honoré district or simply relax and spend the day like a local – by scoping out a local café for a café au lait, toasted baguette or croissant. In the evening, visit Montmartre, long known as the city's premier artist's enclave. During the mid to late 1800s, artists also began calling Montmartre home. Pissarro and Jongkind were two of the first to live there, followed by other notable artists, including Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, Toulouse-Lautrec, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Pablo Picasso. You'll be taken on an evening illumination tour, discovering why Paris is renowned as the "City of Light." (B)

**DAY 4 PARIS - LYON - EMBARKATION :** Check out of your Paris hotel and head to the train station to board the TGV high-speed train through the French countryside to Lyon. Once in the "food capital of France," marvel at an indoor market hall where you'll have a chance to sample of the delicacies offered by butchers, bakers, chocolatiers and cheesemongers while taking in the colorful sights and enticing aromas around you. Afterward, embark the ship in Lyon

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**3 NIGHT POST-PACKAGE : BARCELONA : FROM \$1,170PP**

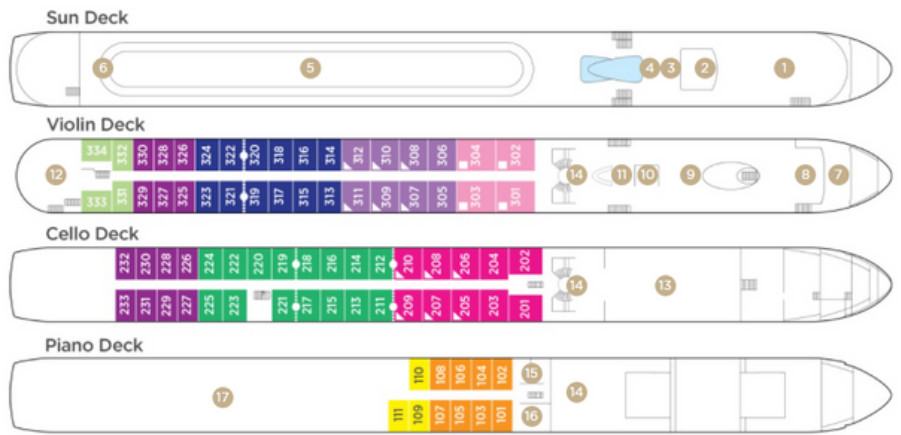
**DAY 11 AVIGNON - DISEMBARKATION - BARCELONA :** Disembark your ship in Avignon and board the TGV high-speed train to the city that inspired Antoni Gaudí and is certain to inspire you. (B)

**DAY 12 BARCELONA :** Barcelona, the bustling capital of Catalonia, is an artist's, architect's, foodie's, historian's and culturist's dream. Tour the cobblestoned lanes of the Gothic Quarter in the medieval city center and Las Ramblas. See some of Antoni Gaudí's imaginative architectural creations, La Sagrada Família. (B)

**DAY 13 : BARCELONA :** Join an excursion to the mountain Montserrat, which is home to the Benedictine monastery of Santa Maria de Montserrat, located about 30 miles from Barcelona. Once there, you'll ride a scenic funicular to the top of the mountain and experience an indescribable view of the Catalonia landscape. The monastery, officially founded in 1025, soon began to receive pilgrims and visitors who contributed to the spread of stories of miracles and wonders performed by the Virgin Mary. The whole of Montserrat is built around facilitating the worship of the Black Madonna in the Basilica. While here, you'll see the famous Black Madonna sculpture, which sits at the back of the church, above the altar area. The stairway leading to the statue, plus the room and altar in which the statue sits are ornate, golden and pay tribute to the wonder that is the Virgin herself. (B)

**DAY 14 DEPART BARCELONA :** Bid farewell to Barcelona and prepare for your homeward flight. (B)





SUITE	AA	AB	BA	BB	CA	CB	D	E
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## AmaKristina

With AmaWaterways' Co-Founder Kristin Karst serving as AmaKristina's Godmother, you know you'll have a distinctive experience aboard this phenomenal, award-winning river ship. Both a French and outside balcony in most staterooms allow you to enjoy the ever-changing scenery however you wish. In the marble bathroom, enjoy multi-jet showerheads, soothing bath and body products, cozy robes and hair dryers. Suites feature added enhancements, including a larger sitting area and an expansive bathroom complete with a bathtub and separate shower. The AmaKristina also includes a massage and hair salon, gift shop, specialty coffee station, heated pool with swim-up bar, fitness center, sun-deck walking track and a fleet of onboard bikes. Her Main Restaurant is a taste of the outdoors, with vines and branches infused in the décor, and expert chefs preparing our signature exquisite cuisine with fresh, locally-sourced ingredients—both in the Main Restaurant and at The Chef's Table.

