



Christmas Markets

December 5-12, 2023

Hosted by Andrea & Lynnette

**AMAWATERWAYS' AMA CERTO
7 DAYS: BASEL TO AMSTERDAM**

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



Day 1, BASEL, SWITZERLAND - EMBARKATION

Board your ship in Basel for your Christmas Markets on the Rhine cruise. (B)

Day 2, 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 historic 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. Those wishing a more active excursion will want to cycle through the scenic countryside. (B,L,D)

Day 3, 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 count down to Christmas with a 24-day, larger-than-life Advent calendar. (B,L,D)

Day 4, LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY - RÜDESHEIM, GERMANY.

You have a choice of several excursions, depending on your interest. Visit Heidelberg, a perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along German's Castle Road, followed by a visit to the Christmas markets. For those seeking a more active adventure, hike the historic Philosopher's Path or bike along the shores of the river Neckar, ultimately arriving in the medieval town of Ladenburg. Alternatively, you can discover the medieval past of Speyer and its charming Christmas markets. Later in the day, sail to the winemaking town of Rüdesheim, where you can taste the village's sweet wine or its special delight, Rüdesheimer coffee, ceremoniously made with whipped cream and brandy. (B,L,D)

Day 5, RÜDESHEIM - RHINE GORGE SCENIC CRUISING - LAHNSTEIN, GERMANY.

Visit Siegfried's whimsical Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum, take a guided bike tour through the town and along the Rhine River, hike through the vineyards or soar high above the town by gondola and later enjoy Christmas traditions from all over the world at Rüdesheim Christmas market. Later in the day, sit in the Main Lounge, out on your balcony or bundle up on the Sun Deck to enjoy a scenic cruise through the Rhine Gorge, during which you will see many historic castles. Upon reaching Lahnstein, take a unique tour of Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

Day 6, COLOGNE, GERMANY.

Enjoy cruising to Cologne, home to one of Germany's most revered Gothic masterpieces, the Cologne Cathedral. 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 or visit a local tavern to taste Cologne's traditional Kölsch beer and reibekuchen mit apfelmus—potato pancakes served with applesauce. (B,L,D)

Day 7, AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS.

Cruise the iconic canals of Amsterdam, considered the "Venice of the North" and admire the historic architecture along the way. Alternatively, taste local specialties at one of Amsterdam's grand cafés. Please note that an alternative tour will depend on docking location. (B,L,D)

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Day 8, AMSTERDAM - DISEMBARKATION.

Disembark the ship and bid farewell to Amsterdam as you prepare for your return flight home.

D: Upper Wall Window:

from \$3,699/pp double occupancy

C: French Balcony:

from \$4,449/pp double occupancy

BB: French Balcony & Outside Balcony:

from \$4,899/pp double occupancy

AB: French Balcony & Outside Balcony:

from \$5,299/pp double occupancy

SS: Suite with French Balcony & Outside Balcony

from \$6,299/pp double occupancy

Other cabin categories available upon request.

Cruise Inclusions: Cruise, Gratuities & Port Tax

Not included: Airfare, Transfers, Travel Insurance, Incidentals.

DEPOSIT/PAYMENTS:

Deposit – due at time of booking: \$1,335 per person

2nd Payment – May 22, 2023:
50% of Booking Total

Final – August 21, 2023

This group requires a min. of 15 cabins to sail. All payments, once processed, are non-refundable. Check payments preferred.

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Like a fallen leaf floating atop the water, AmaCerto floats effortlessly down Europe's most fascinating waterways. A harvest theme is carried throughout the ship in autumn reds and golds, from the spacious and well-appointed staterooms, with their plush bedding and soft robes, to the classically elegant Main Lounge with its baby grand piano and bar. An onboard salon puts you center stage and ready for your close-up. On the Sun Deck, a heated pool features a swim-up bar with underwater bar stools, and a walking track provides the perfect venue for a romantic sunrise or sunset stroll. And from the kitchen, you'll find fine dining to the extreme, with exquisite, regionally inspired cuisine prepared in both the Main Restaurant and at The Chef's Table specialty restaurant, where views of the rippling river are just the amuse-bouche to every mouthwatering bite.

