



Cruise the Romantic Rhine

Including Two Nights in Switzerland and the World Famous Christmas Markets of Switzerland, Germany, France and The Netherlands

Join TRIPS as we explore the charm and beauty of the Rhine River at the most enchanting time of the year . . . Christmas Market Time! The beauty of the Rhine is undeniable, and seeing the castles and quaint villages that line its banks is unforgettable. Start with two nights in charming Lucerne where the holiday festivities are just getting started! Switzerland is magical at this time of year and you'll be charmed by this picturesque town. In Basel, board the luxurious AmaCerto and sail the legendary Rhine through France and into Germany stopping along the way to visit quaint towns and villages. Your Christmas Market tour ends Amsterdam, with a canal boat tour through this scenic town.

As you enjoy the sights, smells and tastes of the holiday season, you'll also see majestic cathedrals, medieval towns, snow-capped vistas and more!

What a wonderful way to begin the holiday season, visiting the Christmas Markets on the Enchanting Rhine!

Day 1

Today, you board your international flight bound for **Zurich, Switzerland!**

Day 2

On arrival in Zurich, you'll be met and assisted with your transfer to **Lucerne**. On arrival, you'll check in to your hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy one of the world's prettiest cities. Set on Lake Lucerne this **beautiful lakeside setting**, this picturesque city is the perfect place to begin your Christmas Markets vacation! This evening, you must enjoy what is arguably the national dish of Switzerland - Fondue! Join friends in a local cafe as you dip bread into this traditional dish of melted aged cheese!

Overnight: Lucerne, Switzerland

Day 2

Enjoy the day strolling and exploring Lucerne. The medieval **Chapel Bridge** is the centerpiece of town and is one of the oldest, covered wooden bridges in Europe. Historic houses decorated with frescoes line the picturesque town squares. One of the best known monuments in Switzerland is the figure of a dying lion, carved from a wall of rock in remembrance of the heroic death of Swiss guards killed during an attack in 1792. There are plenty of opportunities for shopping in the pedestrian only old town. From delectable **Swiss chocolates** to the iconic **Swiss Army Knife**, don't leave without a souvenir!

Overnight: Lucerne, Switzerland

Day 4

This morning, you'll check out of your hotel and transfer to **Basel** where you'll board the **AmaCerto**. This 168 passenger river boat launched in 2012 and you'll find her filled with all the amenities that you've come to expect. From complimentary internet access and first-run Hollywood movies to beautifully-decorated accommodations. Unpack for your 7 nights cruising the Rhine before gathering for a **Welcome Dinner!** (D)

Day 5

You are in Breisach today with two exciting excursions to choose from. You might choose a **walking tour of Breisach and Freiburg**. Once a significant stronghold of the Holy Roman Empire, Breisach is a beautiful town to explore. Then travel to nearby Freiburg with its interesting historical city center where you will see Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral constructed of red sandstone. The second excursion is a visit to **Riquewihr**, a picturesque town in **France** that looks much as it did back in the Middle Ages. Rejoin the ship in Breisach, where you might opt to browse the stalls at this small, but far from dull Christmas Market. You're moored overnight so enjoy the atmosphere! (B/L/D)

Day 6

This morning, the AmaCerto cruises to the capital of the Alsace region in northeastern France, **Strasbourg**, a picturesque town, known for its black and white timber-framed buildings, covered bridges and medieval watchtowers. Here you may choose to take a **walking tour** along the town's narrow cobbled streets to see the European Parliament and visit the "**La Petite France**" district, with its sandstone Gothic cathedral and famous astronomical clock. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to shop or perhaps visit the famous Christmas Market in Strasbourg. The ship moors overnight in Strasbourg. (B/L/D)

Day 7

Early this afternoon, arrive in **Speyer**, one of Germany's oldest cities, known for its Cathedral, churches, and the Altpörtel – a 13th-century gate tower. Choose either a **tour of Medieval Speyer** or a **half day excursion to Heidelberg**, where you will visit the red-walled Castle and its Great Vat, a 49,000-gallon 18th-century wine cask, and see beautiful views of the Neckar Valley and Heidelberg below. You will have free time to wander what is said to be the longest pedestrian shopping street in Germany, the "Hauptstrasse," as well as the **Speyer Christmas Market** when the town is transformed into a wintry wonderland! It features not only German made goods, but unique products from Speyer's eight sister cities! The ship moors overnight in Speyer. (B/L/D)

Day 8

This morning, arrive in Rudesheim and visit **Siegfried's Mechanical Instrument Museum** and its collection of robotic and self-playing musical instruments before heading to a **wine tasting** with a local vintner. You will also visit the town's massive **Christmas Market**, with more than 120 stands of German delicacies and unique gifts guaranteed to put you in a festive mood. This afternoon your ship departs for **Koblenz**, sailing the **Romantic Rhine Valley**. With precipitous cliffs, steep vineyards, a castle perched on virtually every hilltop and charming villages lining the river banks, the Middle Rhine is straight out of a picture-book! Myths and legends abound here, such as the story of **Lorelei**, the beautiful siren of the rocks. Your time leisurely cruising the Rhine will surely leave a lasting impression, sip a glass of wine and enjoy the view! After arriving in **Koblenz** this evening, set out on a **walking tour** of this charming town where you're docked overnight. (B/L/D)

Day 9

This morning, the AmaCerto cruises to **Cologne, Germany** for the day. You'll enjoy a walking tour through the narrow streets of Old Town as you make your way to **Cologne Cathedral**, the city's beloved landmark. Cologne boasts no fewer than **five Christmas Markets**, and you have the entire day in this city to discover these markets at your own pace following the tour. Beneath the Cathedral and the largest Christmas tree in the Rhineland, you can find over 160 festively designed wooden pavilions. Here you can watch artisans at work, enjoy mulled wine out of festively decorated Christmas mugs or choose from an unlimited choice of sweets and local delicacies! The ship departs tonight for Amsterdam. (B/L/D)

Day 10

Arrive in **Amsterdam** mid-day and set out for a **guided canal boat tour** past the city's beautiful bridges, churches and centuries-old merchant houses. You'll also enjoy a **panoramic motor coach tour** of Amsterdam. And of course there will be free time to explore on your own. From visiting some of the unique Christmas Markets to strolling the canal lined streets, you'll agree that Amsterdam is a special place indeed. The ship moors in Amsterdam overnight. (B/L/D)

Day 11

After breakfast, you're assisted with your transfer to the airport and your flight home. **Memories of your time cruising the Rhine River and visiting colorful Christmas Markets will be with you for years to come!** (B)



Inclusions

- Round trip international airfare to Zurich and from Amsterdam (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 2 nights hotel accommodations in Lucerne pre-cruise
- 7 nights accommodations in your selected stateroom category onboard AMA Waterways AmaCerto
- Complimentary shore excursions while onboard the AmaCerto
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner while aboard the AmaCerto
- Cocktail Reception, Welcome Dinner & Captain's Gala Dinner
- Complimentary fine wines, choice of beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board
- 24 hour specialty coffee and tea station
- Infotainment system in staterooms including complimentary wi-fi access
- Complimentary bottled water in your stateroom replenished daily
- Special highlights including lectures, cooking demonstration, onboard music performances and piano music
- Captivating onboard local entertainment
- Transfers from airport to hotel in Lucerne, to ship in Basel and to airport in Amsterdam

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