Cruise Details

Name:	Swiss Alps & Rhine Castles (Christmas)
Reference:	AMAAG271214ATX
Operator:	Ama Waterways
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	AmaVenita
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	14 Dec 27
Departs From:	Basel
Arrives On:	21 Dec 27
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	7

Itinerary

Day 1: Basel (Switzerland)

EMBARKATION – BASEL, SWITZERLAND. Embark your ship in Basel for your Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps cruise. (B,D)

Arrives On: 14 Dec 27

Day 2: Basel (Switzerland)

BASEL. Enjoy getting to know Basel, Switzerland’s third largest city. Long an important university, banking and trade center, Basel’s glorious past is still evident in its medieval town hall, richly decorated market square and exquisite 18th-century patrician homes. Tour the city by foot or on a guided bike tour that takes you through three countries: Switzerland, France and Germany. Alternatively, go on a full-day excursion* to Lucerne to walk beneath the city’s towers – nine of which date back to 1386 – and the medieval Chapel Bridge, one of the oldest wooden bridges in Europe. For those guests who have not chosen our full-day Lucerne excursion, your afternoon is full

of possibilities. Sample Swiss wines at a local winery, tour Wildegg Castle – a fortress built by the Habsburgs in the early 13th century that features a 3,300 square meter garden, embark on an exhilarating hike to the castle or spend your afternoon strolling through Basel's Christmas Markets. (B,L,D) *Not combinable with other tours on this day.

Arrives On: 15 Dec 27

Day 3: Strasbourg (France)

STRASBOURG, FRANCE. Strasbourg offers flavors of both France and Germany because of its borderline location. Enjoy walking through the iconic "La Petite France" district, lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Wander through charming streets past the Cathédrale de Nôtre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. During the tour you will receive free time to visit the Christmas Markets. In the afternoon, venture to alluring Baden-Baden, located at the border of Germany's Black Forest. Learn about the area's natural hot springs and Germany's oldest casino, which some argue is the most beautiful casino in the world. Following your walking tour, indulge your holiday wanderlust with a stroll through Baden-Baden's romantic Christmas Market. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 27

Day 4: Ludwigshafen (Germany)

LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY – RÜDESHEIM. Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of four excursions. Visit Heidelberg, the perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany's Castle Road. Discover the iconic red sandstone Heidelberg Castle and Great Vat, an 18th-century, 49,000-gallon wine cask. Here you can also enjoy visiting some of the festive Christmas Markets. For a more active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher's Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period, and enjoy panoramic views of the city. Alternatively, you can visit one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the medieval Old Gate, Altpörtel. In your free time, you might choose to visit the Christmas Markets or Technik Museum featuring exhibits of vintage cars, military aircraft and even a submarine! Or pedal along the river Neckar to the picturesque medieval city center of Ladenburg and enjoy some free time to explore the shops. Later in the day, cruise to the charming village of Rüdesheim and join a wine tasting to discover the flavors of the town's iconic vineyards. Or taste one of the town's special delights, Rüdesheimer coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy, coffee and whipped cream. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 27

Day 4: Rüdesheim am Rhein (Germany)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 27

Day 5: Rüdesheim am Rhein (Germany)

RÜDESHEIM – RHINE GORGE. Let Siegfried’s Mechanical Instrument Cabinet charm you with its remarkable collection of self-playing musical instruments. Or drink up the stunning views by soaring high above the vineyards with a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal. Afterwards, enjoy free time in the town, perhaps to explore the Drosselgasse. For a more active adventure, hike through the town’s beautiful vineyards or join a guided bike tour along the scenic Rhine River. Later in the day, cruise through the captivating UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river before reaching Lahnstein, where you will enjoy a unique evening visit at Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 27

Day 5: Lahnstein (Germany)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 27

Day 6: Cologne (Germany)

COLOGNE, GERMANY. Enjoy cruising to Cologne. Join a guided tour through the Old Town. During your free time, browse through the city’s most impressive Christmas Markets, offering 160 attractively designed wooden pavilions. Active guests will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 27

Day 7: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS. There are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you’ll get to enjoy some of them on your canal cruise. Alternatively, get a taste of local flavor, passing iconic canals, gabled houses, narrow bridges and house boats while tasting Dutch specialties at one of Amsterdam’s grand cafes. Please note: tour depends upon docking location and may be replaced with Jordaan District Walking Tour. (B,L,D) **May be replaced with alternate tour based on docking location

Arrives On: 20 Dec 27

Day 8: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

AMSTERDAM – DISEMBARKATION. Bid farewell to Amsterdam as you prepare for your return flight home.

Arrives On: 21 Dec 27

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