

## **Cruise Details**

Name: Iconic Christmas Markets

Reference: AMAAJ241214AHRX

Operator: Ama Waterways

Cruise Type: River

Cruise Rating: Luxury

Ship: AmaViola

Regions: Danube

Departs On: 14 Dec 24

Departs From: Budapest

Arrives On: 21 Dec 24

Arrives At: Nuremberg

Cruise Nights: 7

Total Vacation Days: 8

# **Itinerary**

#### Day 1: Budapest (Hungary)

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY – EMBARKATION. Board the ship in Budapest for your Iconic Christmas Markets cruise. (D)

Arrives On: 14 Dec 24

#### Day 2: Budapest (Hungary)

BUDAPEST. Home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Buda Castle quarter in Castle Hill and Heroes' Square, Budapest offers an unmatched combination of culture and tradition. Today you have the opportunity to visit the Buda (hilly) side of the Danube River. On your tour, follow your guide through the city's Castle District, where you will marvel at the fairytale turrets of Fisherman's Bastion, gaze upon the breathtaking panorama below and see Matthias Church, renowned for its striking tower and colorful mosaic roof. You will also visit the city's famed Christmas Markets. For a more active tour, hike to Budapest's Castle Hill. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 15 Dec 24

### Day 3: Vienna (Austria)

VIENNA, AUSTRIA. The "City of Waltzes" offers a treasure trove of gems just waiting to be discovered. Join a tour showcasing its regal splendors, such as the majestic Opera House and the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburgs before concluding in Vienna's historic city center. Afterwards, you'll visit the Christmas Markets. If you prefer a more active adventure, then join a guided bike along the Danube River. During the afternoon, visit the Schönbrunn Palace with a giant sparkling Christmas tree. This market presents a glittering and stellar Christmas experience. Or cap the day off with "Vienna by Night" Christmas Markets at the beautifully decorated Town Hall (Rathaus), Vienna's largest Christmas Market. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 24

#### Day 4: Melk (Austria)

MELK. High on a rocky outcrop lies the Melk Abbey, one of Europe's most revered Baroque monasteries. Visit this magnificent Benedictine Abbey, which now houses a museum chronicling its history and a famous library with countless medieval manuscripts. Alternatively, go on a guided bike ride around Melk. During the evening, enjoy a scenic cruise through the Strudengau Valley. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 24

#### Day 5: Passau (Germany)

PASSAU, GERMANY. Join a walking tour of this 2,000-year-old city, noted for its Gothic and Italian Baroque architecture and St. Stephen's. Go in search of Bavarian-style crafts at the Christmas Market. Or, for the active adventurer, join a guided bike tour along the Danube. Alternatively, you can travel through the serene Austrian Alps to Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart. Your full-day excursion in Salzburg includes a walking tour of the UNESCO-designated Old Town, its magnificent cathedral and its Christmas Markets. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 24

#### Day 6: Regensburg (Germany)

REGENSBURG. Regensburg is one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities, as well as a UNESCOWorld Heritage Site. Join a guided walking tour showcasing the city's architectural highlights, including the Old Town Hall and the Porta Praetoria, before visiting the Old Town Christmas market. As an alternate option, sample some of Bavaria's specialties—beer, sausage and pretzels. Or bike to the base of Walhalla where there is a neoclassical white marble temple inspired by the Parthenon in Athens. Later in the day, you'll be treated to one of Bavaria's most

beautiful and romantic Christmas markets at Thurn and Taxis, where you can watch artisansmake their unique arts and crafts. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 24

#### Day 7: Nuremberg (Germany)

NUREMBERG. Enjoy a scenic morning cruise as the ship crosses the Continental Divide via the Main-Danube Canal to Nuremberg. Join a city tour of WWII highlights and then walk through Nuremberg's cobblestone streets to the Imperial Castle and 900-year-old city ramparts. Alternatively, you can taste your way through the city with a Franconian specialties tour, which introduces you to bratwurst, rotbier (red beer) and lebkuchen (gingerbread). Later, you can visit Nuremberg's Christkindlesmarkt, one of the world's largest and most famous Christmas markets. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 20 Dec 24

## Day 8: Nuremberg (Germany)

NUREMBERG – DISEMBARKATION. Disembark the ship and bid farewell to Nuremberg and prepare for your flight home. (B)

Arrives On: 21 Dec 24

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