Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Markets on the Rhine (Smithsonian Journeys)
Reference:	AMAAJ271205AIXJ
Operator:	Ama Waterways
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	AmaViola
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	05 Dec 27
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	12 Dec 27
Arrives At:	Basel
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	7

Itinerary

Day 1: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS – EMBARKATION. Board the ship in Amsterdam for your Christmas Markets on the Rhine cruise. (D)

Arrives On: 05 Dec 27

Day 2: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

AMSTERDAM – UTRECHT. Step into centuries of history at Slot Zuylen, a castle first built around 1250 and shaped by generations that followed. A significant renovation in the mid-17th century transformed the castle. This, along with smaller changes over the centuries have created a rich tapestry of architectural styles, evident as you move through its rooms and corridors. Beyond the walls, the gardens offer a more peaceful, quieter retreat. Together, the castle and its gardens make Slot Zuylen a place where history feels layered, lived in, and very much alive.

Arrives On: 06 Dec 27

Day 2: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Arrives On: 06 Dec 27

Day 2: Utrecht (Netherlands)

Arrives On: 06 Dec 27

Day 3: Düsseldorf (Germany)

DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY. Enjoy a scenic cruise into Düsseldorf. In the afternoon, take a brief trip to the nearby city of Cologne on a guided tour of its enchanting Old Town, where you will see sites such as the Cologne Rathaus, Germany’s oldest town hall; the Fishmarkt, which dates back to the 12th century and the Great St. Martin Church. Then visit one of Europe’s largest and most renowned Christmas Markets. Or explore historic Düsseldorf on foot with a knowledgeable local tour guide. Conclude the tour with a visit to the local Christmas Market. Alternatively, cover more ground with an active bike tour of the city. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 07 Dec 27

Day 4: Rüdesheim am Rhein (Germany)

RHINE GORGE – RÜDESHEIM. Cruise through the castle-laden Rhine River Gorge before reaching the winemaking town of Rüdesheim. Once in Rüdesheim, you will have four choices of morning excursions. Wine connoisseurs will want to go to a wine cellar for a wine tasting followed by a Christmas Market visit to enjoy holiday traditions from around the world. Or go on a hike through the vineyards. Alternatively, you can take a peaceful ride over the vineyards on Rüdesheim’s gondola followed by a visit to the Christmas Market. You may also opt to join a guided bike tour through the town and along the Rhine River before visiting the Christmas Market. Later in the day, you can visit Siegfried’s Mechanical Instrument Cabinet, or taste one of the town’s special delights, Rüdesheimer coffee. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 08 Dec 27

Day 5: Ludwigshafen (Germany)

LUDWIGSHAFEN. You have the choice to explore two of Germany’s historically rich cities, along with their festive Christmas Markets. Visit Heidelberg, a city that will capture your heart with its mighty castle and historic university. While here, wander along one of Europe’s longest pedestrian shopping streets, the Hauptstrasse, soaking up the Yuletide celebrations at the town’s Christmas Markets. Or hike along the Neckar River on the historic Philosopher’s Path followed by free time to enjoy the Christmas Markets. Alternatively, you can bike along the Neckar River to the medieval town of Ladenburg and visit its Marktplatz, or explore one of Germany’s oldest cities, Speyer,

known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll also have time to visit its Christmas Market in front of the "Old Mint" (Alten Münze) in the famous Maximilianstrasse, with a view of the romantic Imperial cathedral (Kaiserdom). (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 09 Dec 27

Day 6: Strasbourg (France)

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 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 exploreStrasbourg's different districts by bicycle. Later in the day, opt to visit Baden-Baden and take in the town's romantic Christmas Markets. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 10 Dec 27

Day 7: Breisach (Germany)

BREISACH, GERMANY. Breisach is your gateway to medieval Colmar, located in the enchanting Alsace region of France. Delight in the half-timbered houses lining the cobblestone streets as you take in the whimsical blend of French and German culture and the town's wonderful Christmas Markets. Alternatively, head to Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to the Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral said to have "the most beautiful spire on earth." Then enjoy free time at the Freiburg Christmas Markets. Those wishing a more active excursion can cycle through Breisach's countryside. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 11 Dec 27

Day 8: Basel (Switzerland)

BASEL, SWITZERLAND – DISEMBARKATION. Disembark the ship and bid farewell to Basel as you prepare for your return flight home. (B)

Arrives On: 12 Dec 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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