Cruise Details

Name:	Iconic Christmas Markets (Smithsonian Journeys)
Reference:	AMAAN261212AHXJ
Operator:	Ama Waterways
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	AmaMora
Regions:	Danube and Main
Departs On:	12 Dec 26
Departs From:	Nuremberg
Arrives On:	19 Dec 26
Arrives At:	Budapest
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	7

Itinerary

Day 1: Nuremberg (Germany)

NUREMBERG, GERMANY – EMBARKATION. Arrive in the walled city of Nuremberg, the capital of the German Renaissance, and settle into your stateroom aboard the ship. (Meals: D)

Arrives On: 12 Dec 26

Day 2: Nuremberg (Germany)

NUREMBERG. Venture into Nuremberg’s main square, where the city’s spectacular Christkindelsmarkt has been held nearly every year since the 16th century. Immerse yourself in the joyful atmosphere of Germany’s largest Christmas market, browsing stalls where merchants sell all manner of holiday treats and crafts. Or tour the castle and then head to a local brewery for a tasting of Franconian specialties, including wheat beer and bratwurst. Continue to Sebalder Kirche to nibble on sweet and spicy lebkuchen, a form of gingerbread. Alternatively, visit sites associated with World War II including Courtroom 600, where the Nuremberg trials took place. Set sail late in

the day, crossing the European Continental Divide on the Main-Danube Canal, a waterway established by Emperor Charlemagne to create a passage from the North Sea to the Black Sea. (Meals: B,L,D)

Arrives On: 13 Dec 26

Day 3: Regensburg (Germany)

REGENSBURG, GERMANY. Discover the delights of Regensburg, which was spared damage during World War II and is now a World Heritage site. Once the capital of Bavaria, the city dates back to the Celts and was an outpost of the Roman Empire. On a guided walk, see architectural highlights including the Old Town Hall and the Porta Praetoria, a gate in the original Roman city wall. Then enjoy free time to browse the enchanting Christmas market, perhaps sipping one of the region’s signature varieties of glühwein, or hot, spiced wine, or watch craftspeople at work at the Christmas market at Thurn and Taxis Palace. Alternatively, set off on a Bavarian tasting tour or visit the House of Bavarian History Museum, acclaimed for its architecture as well as its exhibitions, and continue to the impressive monument of Walhalla, built in the style of a Greek temple. (Meals: B,L,D)

Arrives On: 14 Dec 26

Day 4: Passau (Germany)

PASSAU, GERMANY. Arrive in the medieval trade center of Passau, scenically situated at the confluence of three rivers. On a walking tour of the Old Town, admire baroque and Gothic architecture and seek out Bavarian crafts at its Christmas market. Or choose a full-day excursion to the World Heritage site of Salzburg. Take a walk along the cobbled lanes of its fairy-tale Old Town, and visit the Christmas market on the grounds of Mirabell Palace, and visit the home where Mozart was born. (Meals: B,L,D)

Arrives On: 15 Dec 26

Day 5: Melk (Austria)

MELK, AUSTRIA – VIENNA, AUSTRIA. Begin the day with a visit to Melk Abbey, a gem of baroque architecture perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube. Visit its recently renovated museum and its renowned library, and meet a librarian to learn how medieval books are meticulously restored. If you prefer a more active pursuit, join a guided bike tour of Melk and its environs. Enjoy lunch and lovely views on board as the ship winds its way through the Wachau Valley, a World Heritage site known for its vineyards and charming riverside villages. Arrive in the elegant capital of Vienna and venture into the historic center for an evening at the city’s famous Rathaus Christmas market. (Meals: B,L,D)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 26

Day 5: Vienna (Austria)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 26

Day 6: Vienna (Austria)

VIENNA. Spend the morning exploring the imperial landmarks of the “city of waltzes.” See the majestic Opera House, beautifully reconstructed after being destroyed during World War II, and Hofburg Palace, the home of generations of Habsburg monarchs—including the famous Empress Elisabeth, known as Sisi. Then follow a guide through Kunsthistoriches Museum Wien, home to a world-class fine art collection housed within an opulent neoclassical building. You’ll have an opportunity to stop at the city’s smaller Christmas markets just outside the museum. Alternatively, choose to take a guided bike ride along the Danube. In the afternoon, tour Schönbrunn Palace, transformed into a winter wonderland with a festive holiday market set against the backdrop of its resplendent façade. (Meals: B,L,D)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 26

Day 7: Budapest (Hungary)

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY. The Danube flows through the center of Budapest, its banks dotted with the iconic monuments of the once-separate cities of Buda and Pest. Ascend Castle Hill by vehicle or on foot for a walking tour of the leafy Buda side of the city, strolling through Dózsa György Square to Fisherman’s Bastion. Attend a private concert at the former home of composer Franz Liszt. During an afternoon tour of Pest, view the magnificent Parliament building and discover city squares brimming with festive market stalls where merchants sell Hungarian handicrafts and holiday treats such as strudel and grog. Or join a Jewish heritage walking tour visiting the largest synagogue in Europe, then see the evocative Shoes on the Danube memorial. Celebrate your holiday voyage at a farewell dinner this evening. (Meals: B,L,D)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 26

Day 8: Budapest (Hungary)

BUDAPEST – DISEMBARKATION. Disembark the ship in Budapest and bid farewell to the city before your return flight home. (Meals: B)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 26

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

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