deluxe cruises

Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Markets on the Rhine
Reference:	EMERALDEWXB151226-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Luna
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	15 Dec 26
Departs From:	Basel
Arrives On:	22 Dec 26
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Basel (Switzerland)

Welcome to Switzerland and the start of your Christmas cruise journey. You'll be met at the airport by a member of the Emerald Cruises team and transferred to your contemporary Star-Ship in Basel, where your friendly captain and crew will be waiting to greet you. This evening, join your fellow guests for dinner on board. Please book your flight to arrive into Basel prior to 03:00 PM.

Arrives On: 15 Dec 26

Day 2: Breisach (Germany)

Today, you'll have the opportunity to visit the Rhine town of Breisach. Entrenched between two countries, it's also known as the gateway to Germany's Black Forest region. In the afternoon, enjoy a scenic drive through the Black Forest Highlands on your way to the Hofgut Sternen complex located at the foothill of Ravenna Gorge, a place where history and tradition merge. It was

here that in 1770 Marie Antoinette stopped with 52 beautifully decorated carriages on the way to her wedding to King Louis XVI. As part of your EmeraldPLUS programme, you'll also have the chance to see the postcard-worthy Christmas market situated underneath the 40-metre-high Ravenna Viaduct. Be amazed by the magical aroma of Black Forest specialties and unique handcrafted regional products sold there. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Breisach EmeraldPLUS
Guided visit to the Christmas Market at Ravenna Viaduct
(Please be advised Christmas market at Ravenna Viaduct will be replaced with the Christmas market in Freiburg on select dates.) DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of Colmar (extra expense)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 26

Day 3: Kehl (Germany)

This morning, we'll dock in Kehl, and you'll be transferred by coach across the river to Strasbourg, the storied capital of France's Alsace region. Your guided tour of Strasbourg will include the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Grande Île, the historical centre of the city, known for its medieval half-timbered buildings, old tanning houses, Baroque sandstone buildings and charming canal system. Afterwards, you'll have the opportunity to visit one of its most charming Christmas markets, where you can enjoy traditional Alsatian Christmas treats and shop for presents and stocking-fillers. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Strasbourg and visit to the Christmas Markets DiscoverMORE
Baden Baden Spa Experience (extra expense)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 26

Day 3: Strasbourg (France)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 26

Day 4: Mannheim (Germany)

Your guided tour of Heidelberg's rich history includes a visit to the ruins of Heidelberg Castle, which overlooks the Rhine River and a red-roofed skyline. Some of the most successful painters of the Romantic era drew inspiration from Heidelberg Castle, including British artist William Turner, who depicted images of the ruins in several of his paintings. Afterwards, stroll down the cobbled streets of the Old Town, touching on the Church of the Holy Spirit and the oldest university in Germany. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Heidelberg DiscoverMORE
Rüdesheim walk with specialty coffee (extra expense)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 26

Day 5: Koblenz (Germany)

Today, we'll take you into the heart of Koblenz, an ancient city pulled from the pages of a German fairy tale. Enjoy the picturesque backdrop of vineyards and snow-topped mountain ranges as your local guide takes you through open cobbled squares and down narrow streets. Included Excursion
Orientation walk of Koblenz DiscoverMORE
Moselle Valley & Cochem Castle visit (extra expense)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 26

Day 6: Cologne (Germany)

We sail towards Cologne, where you'll have the opportunity to see the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral. In the afternoon, you will have the chance to visit Duesseldorf and its many Christmas markets, each having its unique name and personality – such as the Fairytale Market, the Handwerker (hand maker) Market and the Schadowmarket where any present wish could easily be fulfilled and more. All of that with a Christmas scent of roasted almonds and hot mulled wine floating in the air. Included Excursion
Cologne city tour with Christmas Markets Included Excursion
Walking tour of Duesseldorf with Christmas Market visit DiscoverMORE
German Beer Experience (extra expense)

Arrives On: 20 Dec 26

Day 6: Düsseldorf (Germany)

Arrives On: 20 Dec 26

Day 7: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Board a glass-top canal boat for a tour down the Dutch capital's UNESCO World Heritage-listed canal system, passing historic merchant houses that reflect the bygone era of the Dutch Golden Age, a time when the Dutch empire was considered one of the most influential in the world. Throughout the city, you'll explore the delightful Christmas stalls, each surrounded by people in their finest knitwear drinking hot mugs of mulled wine and enjoying traditional festive foods. Included Excursion
Canal cruise DiscoverMORE
Private hidden Gems tour of Amsterdam (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Dutch Delights (extra expense)

Arrives On: 21 Dec 26

Day 8: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

After breakfast, bid farewell to your fellow guests and Star-Ship as you are transferred to the airport, taking memories of quintessential German villages and the magic of Christmas with you. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.

Arrives On: 22 Dec 26

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

© 2026 Deluxe Cruises. This cruise itinerary was printed from https://deluxecruises.co.uk