Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Markets of Europe
Reference:	EMERALDEWXS251126-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Dawn
Regions:	Rhine and Danube
Departs On:	25 Nov 26
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	09 Dec 26
Arrives At:	Budapest
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

Itinerary

Day 1: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Welcome to Amsterdam, a 700-year-old city that has seen legends form and prospered from the Dutch Golden Age, a time at which Dutch art was among the world’s most acclaimed. Here, a number of old masters found their inspiration, and modern galleries showcase the work that they created. When you arrive to Amsterdam, you’ll be met at the airport and transferred to your contemporary Star-Ship, where you’ll enjoy some time to explore the city at leisure after boarding.

Arrives On: 25 Nov 26

Day 2: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Amsterdam is a wonderful destination all year-round, but during the Christmas period, the entire city sparkles with fairy lights and Christmas cheer. Snow blankets the narrow-cobbled streets, and the Dutch indulge in oliebollen and appelbeignets, deep fried sweets that can be

purchased from stalls that look like the traditional alpine huts in one of Amsterdam's many Christmas markets. Today, you'll have the opportunity to take to Amsterdam's UNESCO World Heritage-listed canal system during a glass-top canal boat cruise, passing areas that are covered in white powdered snow and watching people relax with drinking warm cups of traditional hot chocolademelk. Included Excursion
 A canal cruise

Arrives On: 26 Nov 26

Day 3: Cologne (Germany)

The wafting aroma of freshly roasted chestnuts and mulled wine welcomes you in Cologne, where the largest Christmas tree in the Rhineland can be found during the holiday season. Today, enjoy a walking tour of Cologne and visit the colourful Christmas market that sits underneath the shadows of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece that effortlessly creates a striking backdrop to the nativity-like scene below. More than a hundred half-timbered stalls are swathed in light, streaming down from the twinkling canopy of bulbs that criss-crosses above. In Cologne's many Christmas markets, you'll find glittering ornaments, artisans creating handcrafted goods and freshly baked produce, including lebkuchen, a beloved round or heart-shaped type of gingerbread that usually includes honey, cardamom, or candied fruit. Enjoy drinking mulled wine from a festive mug as you soak in the views of what is arguably one of the best Christmas markets in Europe. Included Excursion
Quest for Cologne's treasures

Arrives On: 27 Nov 26

Day 4: Rüdesheim (Germany)

Today, take a step into the UNESCO World Heritage-listed historical landscape of the Rhine Gorge, where the beams of Rüdesheim's half-timbered houses are covered in fairy lights. Rüdesheim hosts the 'Christmas Market of Nations', where more than a hundred stalls effortlessly represent more than a dozen nations, each showcasing their own Christmas specialities, customs, and celebrations. Whilst in Rüdesheim, enjoy an excursion to Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet, and perhaps indulge in some Rüdesheim coffee, a famous drink made with locally distilled Asbach Uralt brandy, served with whipped cream, and sprinkled with vanilla sugar and chocolate flakes. This festive drink is certain to warm you on a frosty winter's day. Later, return to the plush surrounds of your Star-Ship for a special on-board performance. Included Excursion
A visit to Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum

Arrives On: 28 Nov 26

Day 5: Miltenberg (Germany)

Welcome to Miltenberg, postcard-worthy town which can be found set against the lush backdrop of the Odenwald forest. Christmastime swathes the area with festive cheer, and decorations and colourful window displays as far as the eye can see are all illuminated at dusk by twinkling fairy lights.Miltenberg is home to one of the oldest pubs in Germany, and its delightful boutique market features stalls full of local arts, crafts, and delightful treats. Perhaps try an apple streusel kuchen during your time here, a type of apple crumb cake that the area is famous for. Today, discover the tranquil beauty of your EmeraldPLUS programme, Bronnbach Abbey, a former Cistercian monastery nestled in the picturesque Tauber Valley. Included Excursion
A guided tour of Miltenberg EmeraldPLUS
Visit to Bronnbach Abbey

Arrives On: 29 Nov 26

Day 5: Wertheim (Germany)

Arrives On: 29 Nov 26

Day 6: Würzburg (Germany)

Today, enjoy a guided tour of Würzburg and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Würzburg Residence. Nestled in the heart of the Old Town, you'll find an enchanting Christmas market. Steeped in 19th-century beginnings, more than 100 wooden stalls showcase seasonal decorations and delectable treats, all coated by the soft glow of Christmas lights. A traditional mug of Glühwein, a hot red wine infused with spices, is the best way to fight off the chill of a cold day. The Würzburg Residence is a true icon, built by the prince bishops centuries ago, And the opulence that it displays is truly breathtaking. Enjoy a guided tour of what is quite possibly one of the most beautiful Baroque palaces in Europe, as its gardens are blanketed by fresh snow. Included Excursion
A walking tour of Würzburg and visit to the Bishops Residence DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Rothenburg (extra expense)

Arrives On: 30 Nov 26

Day 7: Bamberg (Germany)

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed town of Bamberg is home to not just one, but four delightful Christmas markets, each acting as sparkling gems set amongst half-timbered surrounds in this quaint little town. Here, you'll be able to find some of the loveliest Baroque nativity scenes that Germany has to offer. While you enjoy a guided tour of all of Bamberg's main highlights, make sure to stop and try a glass of Bamberg's famous beer. Nine breweries call the town their home, and several of their world-famous products are still made using traditional

Franconian brewing methods. Included Excursion
A guided tour of Bamberg

Arrives On: 01 Dec 26

Day 8: Nuremberg (Germany)

Your included excursion today is a sightseeing tour of the historic city of Nuremberg, touching on the architectural wonders that have inspired famous artists for centuries and exploring the effects that the war years had here. You'll also have time to explore the wonderful Christmas market located in the city centre. Included Excursion
A guided tour of Nuremberg

Arrives On: 02 Dec 26

Day 9: Kelheim (Germany)

This morning, cruise along the final stretch of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, admiring the views as you pass over a number of aqueducts. Regensburg's delightful past is yours to discover today, as your local guide introduces you to the treasures of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town. After your tour, your EmeraldPLUS experience will take you right into the heart of the Thurn and Taxis Palace Christmas market, one of the loveliest in the country where traditional stalls are illuminated by twinkling lights. Included Excursion
A guided tour of Regensburg EmeraldPLUS
A visit to the Christmas market in the Thurn and Taxis Palace grounds EmeraldPLUS
A traditional Bavarian band on board

Arrives On: 03 Dec 26

Day 9: Regensburg (Germany)

Arrives On: 03 Dec 26

Day 10: Passau (Germany)

Welcome to Passau, a town where three of Europe's main rivers converge underneath the castle. On this afternoon's walking tour, stroll down old narrow alleys and look up to see the hilltop Oberhaus Fortress overlooking the town. Your tour will conclude at the green-domed façade of St. Stephen's Cathedral, where Passau's annual Christkindlmarkt can be found. Here, perhaps sample some delicious warm Glühwein and freshly baked goods. Included Excursion
A guided tour of Passau DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Salzburg (extra

expense) DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Ceský Krumlov (extra expense)

Arrives On: 04 Dec 26

Day 10: Linz (Austria)

Arrives On: 04 Dec 26

Day 11: Melk (Austria)

History is yours to discover and enjoy during a river cruise through Europe, and the quaint village of Melk offers a wonderful introduction of some of the historic architecture that can be found on the continent. Your included excursion today is a tour of the Benedictine Melk Abbey, an ancient Baroque monastery that is known for its monumental beauty and the treasures that are kept inside its historic library. Included Excursion
A tour of Melk Abbey

Arrives On: 05 Dec 26

Day 12: Vienna (Austria)

Welcome to the ‘City of Dreams’, Vienna. This ornate cityscape was home to famous musicians, composers and the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud. Today, you can explore the capital with a drive around the magnificent Ringstrasse, where opulent buildings can be seen peppering the area. After your guided tour, enjoy some time to explore at leisure, perhaps sampling some delicious hot chocolate and baked goods in one of Vienna’s many Christmas markets. Included Excursion
A guided tour of Vienna DiscoverMORE
Viennese evening concert (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Visit to Schönbrunn Palace (extra expense)

Arrives On: 06 Dec 26

Day 13: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Gothic architecture and tales of a communist past welcome you to Bratislava, a capital that has seen much in the way of turbulence over the past century. Today, you’ll discover that this turbulence is now nowhere to be seen, as you stroll down peaceful streets and soak in the neo-Renaissance glory of ancient theatres and the sheer opulence of the Episcopal Summer Palace. The Christmas season adds an extra layer to the city, where a blend of distinctive cultures comes together to showcase their handcrafted ornaments and delicious treats. Included Excursion
A walking tour of

Bratislava EmeraldPLUS
Home-hosted coffee and cake with a local Slovakian family DiscoverMORE
Carpathian wine route (extra expense)

Arrives On: 07 Dec 26

Day 14: Budapest (Hungary)

Budapest is a place of striking contrasts, with Buda on one side housing a generous scattering of the city's elegant landmarks, and Pest on the other encapsulating its fascinating past. Separated by the mighty Danube, you can explore them both by crossing the Chain Bridge, one of the most symbolic structures in the capital. Today, you will have the opportunity to discover the city's history during a guided tour covering some of the highlights of Budapest and learn more about its stunning landscape and architecture. The history of the Hungarian capital shows a unique blend of cultures, cuisine and vibrant lifestyle. There is so much to take in while you pass through the bustling city, which is an attractive destination for visitors from all over the world. Enjoy, some free to continue exploring some of beautiful Christmas Market in Budapest. This evening, a traditional Hungarian farewell dinner is certain to delight the senses. Included Excursion
A guided coach tour of Budapest EmeraldPLUS
A traditional Hungarian folklore show DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Szentendre (extra expense)

Arrives On: 08 Dec 26

Day 15: Budapest (Hungary)

After breakfast, it's time to say farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of open squares adorned with Christmas stalls and crisp winter mornings 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: 09 Dec 26

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

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