



## Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Markets on the Rhine
Reference:	EMERALDEWXZ141225-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Sky
Regions:	Rhine
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Departs On:	14 Dec 25
Departs From:	Zurich
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Arrives On:	21 Dec 25
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
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Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Zurich (Switzerland)

Fly from the UK to Zurich. 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.

Flight to arrive into Zurich prior to 01:00 PM.

Arrives On: 14 Dec 25

### 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

Arrives On: 15 Dec 25

#### 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 German Christmas treats and shop for presents and stocking-fillers.

**Included Excursion**  
Guided tour of Strasbourg

Arrives On: 16 Dec 25

#### Day 3: Strasbourg (France)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 25

#### Day 4: Ludwigshafen (Germany)

Your guided tour of Heidelberg's rich history includes a wine tasting session and 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

Arrives On: 17 Dec 25

#### Day 4: Heidelberg (Germany)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 25

### 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. Your tour will include the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers at the German Corner and idyllic panoramic views of the Rhine.

**Included Excursion**  
Walking tour of Koblenz

**DiscoverMORE**  
Moselle Valley & Cochem Castle visit (extra expense)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 25

### Day 6: Cologne (Germany)

Seven idyllic Christmas markets effortlessly transform the postcard-worthy city of Cologne into a winter wonderland over the Christmas period. Following your guided tour of the city, you'll have the opportunity to explore the markets at your leisure, perhaps visiting the ornate stalls beneath the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral, where you can drink traditional glühwein out of beautifully decorated mugs.

**Included Excursion**  
Guided tour of Cologne's Old Town

**EmeraldPLUS**  
Christmas traditions in Europe lecture

Arrives On: 19 Dec 25

### 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)

Arrives On: 20 Dec 25

### Day 8: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

After breakfast, bid farewell to your fellow guests and Star-Ship as you are transferred to the airport for your flight to the UK, 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: 21 Dec 25

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

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