Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Markets on the Rhine & Lucerne - Zurich
Reference:	EMERALDEWZX011226-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Destiny
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	01 Dec 26
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	11 Dec 26
Arrives At:	Zurich
Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

Itinerary

Day 1: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Welcome to Amsterdam, a postcard-worthy destination of picturesque canals, quintessential cafés and innovative galleries that showcase contemporary art and the works of world-renowned artists, such as Van Gogh and Rembrandt. You'll be met at the airport by a member of our friendly team and transferred to your contemporary Emerald Cruises Star-Ship. After boarding, you'll enjoy some free time to explore the narrow-cobbled streets and gabled houses of the Dutch capital at your leisure. This evening, join your fellow guests for dinner on board.

Arrives On: 01 Dec 26

Day 2: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Board a glass-top canal boat for a tour down the Dutch capitals, 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 once considered among the most influential in the world. Throughout the town, you'll marvel as you explore the delightful Christmas stalls, each surrounded by people in their finest knitwear, drinking hot mugs of mulled wine and indulging in their favourite festive foods. Included Excursion
Canal cruise DiscoverMORE
Dutch Delights (extra expense)

Arrives On: 02 Dec 26

Day 3: Düsseldorf (Germany)

Today 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. Afterwards we sail towards Cologne, where you'll have the opportunity to wander 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
Walking tour of Duesseldorf with Christmas Market visit Included Excursion
Dusseldorf city tour with Christmas Markets DiscoverMORE
German Beer Experience (extra expense)

Arrives On: 03 Dec 26

Day 3: Cologne (Germany)

Arrives On: 03 Dec 26

Day 4: 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. Feel inspired by our insightful EmeraldPLUS lecture where you will learn more about Christmas traditions in Europe. Included Excursion
Orientation walk of Koblenz & Christmas market visit EmeraldPLUS
Christmas traditions in Europe (lecture on board) DiscoverMORE
Moselle Valley & Cochem Castle visit (extra expense)

Arrives On: 04 Dec 26

Day 5: 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 & Christmas market visit

Arrives On: 05 Dec 26

Day 6: Kehl (Germany)

This morning, we will dock in Kehl, and you will 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 will have the opportunity to visit one of its most charming Christmas markets to enjoy traditional Alsatian Christmas treats and to shop for presents and stocking-fillers. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Strasbourg with Christmas market visit DiscoverMORE
Baden Baden Spa Experience (extra expense)

Arrives On: 06 Dec 26

Day 6: Strasbourg (France)

Arrives On: 06 Dec 26

Day 7: 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 & Christmas Market Visit EmeraldPLUS
Guided visit to Christmas Market

at Ravenna Viaduct DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of Colmar (extra expense)

Arrives On: 07 Dec 26

Day 8: Basel (Switzerland)

Welcome to Switzerland and the quaint Rhine-side town of Basel. After breakfast, you will be transferred by coach to Lucerne, where your Tour Director will introduce you to the city's highlights on a guided tour, including the Chapel Bridge and picturesque Old Town, before you settle in for a two-night stay. Included Excursion
Guided city tour of Lucerne

Arrives On: 08 Dec 26

Day 8: Lucerne (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 08 Dec 26

Day 9: Lucerne (Switzerland)

Lucerne is known around the world for its spectacular setting, perfectly encapsulating a traditional Swiss city with a backdrop of snow-topped mountain ranges. What a better time than Christmas season to visit the city with an additional touch of magic! Lucerne becomes a contemplative city of lights with decoration all over the old town. Enjoy time at leisure to wander through the beautifully preserved Old Town, stroll along the picturesque waterfront, or relax in one of its inviting cafés. For a truly memorable experience, you may wish to join our optional excursion to majestic Mount Rigi, where panoramic alpine vistas await. When the sun sets later today, why not stroll around the old town and visit some of the several small Christmas markets where you can enjoy mulled wine and other typical Christmas treats. DiscoverMORE
Train & cable car ride to Rigi – Weggis (extra expense)

Arrives On: 09 Dec 26

Day 10: Lucerne (Switzerland)

This morning, transfer by coach from Lucerne to the cosmopolitan city of Zurich, known for its towering church steeples, winding cobbled lanes and contemporary centre. When you arrive, enjoy a guided tour of Zurich, followed by free time to explore the city's magical Christmas atmosphere. The central Bahnhofstrasse is all lighted up with 23,000 light crystals spread over a distance of one kilometre: a beautiful spectacle for the eyes! Included Excursion
Guided tour of Zurich

Arrives On: 10 Dec 26

Day 10: Zurich (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 10 Dec 26

Day 11: Zurich (Switzerland)

After breakfast, it is time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and transfer to the airport, taking memories of the Swiss traditional Christmas markets and traditions 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: 11 Dec 26

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

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