



## Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Markets on the Rhine & Lucerne - Zurich
Reference:	EMERALDEWZX101224-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Sky
Regions:	Rhine
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Departs On:	10 Dec 24
Departs From:	Amsterdam
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Arrives On:	20 Dec 24
Arrives At:	Zurich
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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: 10 Dec 24

### Day 2: 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 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

Arrives On: 11 Dec 24

### Day 3: 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 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**  
Guided tour of Cologne's Old Town

Arrives On: 12 Dec 24

### Day 4: Koblenz (Germany)

**Included Excursion**  
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 from Ehrenbreitstein Fortress.

**Included Excursion**  
Walking tour of Koblenz & a visit to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress

**Discover MORE**  
Moselle Valley & Cochem Castle visit (extra expense)

Arrives On: 13 Dec 24

### Day 5: 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: 14 Dec 24

#### Day 5: Heidelberg (Germany)

Arrives On: 14 Dec 24

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

**Included Excursion**  
Guided tour of Strasbourg

Arrives On: 15 Dec 24

#### Day 6: Strasbourg (France)

Arrives On: 15 Dec 24

#### 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, we will take you to the 'Capital of the Black Forest', Freiburg. This city has lovely sights that will amaze you with postcard worthy Christmas Markets.

**Included Excursion**  
Guided tour of Breisach & Christmas Market Visit in Freiburg

Arrives On: 16 Dec 24

#### 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, including a two-night stay.

Arrives On: 17 Dec 24

#### Day 8: Lucerne (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 24

#### 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. Your morning will start with a guided tour of the city, touching on its well-preserved medieval Altstadt, delightful waterfront promenades and colourful buildings. When the sun sets later today, why not strolling around the old town and visit some of the several small Christmas markets where you can enjoy mulled wine and other typical Christmas treats.

**Included Excursion**  
A guided tour of Lucerne

**Discover MORE**  
Train & cable car ride to Rigi – Weggis (extra expense)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 24

#### 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: 19 Dec 24

#### Day 10: Zurich (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 24

#### Day 11: Zurich (Switzerland)

After breakfast, it is time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK, 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: 20 Dec 24

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

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