



## Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas & New Year
Reference:	SCENICCHAA201227-2
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Crystal
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	20 Dec 27
Departs From:	Budapest
Arrives On:	03 Jan 28
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Budapest (Hungary)

Your journey begins in the picturesque city of Budapest, one of Europe's most diverse and vibrant cities. Divided by the Danube, with Buda on one side and Pest on the other, this city became united in 1873, when a newly built bridge connected the two. The city is an architectural treasure trove comprising styles from Gothic to Art Nouveau and everything in between.  
This afternoon, board your all-inclusive luxury Scenic Space-Ship and settle into your suite. Relax and raise your glass to the days ahead at this evening's welcome reception.

Arrives On: 20 Dec 27

### Day 2: Budapest (Hungary)

Get a different perspective of Budapest with a variety of fascinating activities to choose from today. **Scenic Freechoice:** Budapest in Depth: Visit both Buda and Pest, the two districts that are separated by the Danube. See the Várkert Bazár

before crossing the Margaret Bridge to Széchenyi Square and Elizabeth Square.<br /><br />Hospital in the Rock: Experience the labyrinths of the Hospital in the Rock, built as a secret hospital during WWII and was later converted to a nuclear bunker.<br /><br />Hungarian Culinary Market Walk: Explore the Grand Central Market, a treasure trove of Hungarian flavours. Sample local specialties and hear fascinating stories about Budapest's food culture.<br /></span><span>Guided hike of Buda: Strap on your walking shoes for a beautiful hike through the Buda district of the city. On your walk, see Varket Bazar and beautifully landscaped gardens, all while enjoying great views over the Danube River and the city architecture.</span></p>

Arrives On: 21 Dec 27

#### Day 4: Vienna (Austria)

<p><span>A city full of grandeur, Vienna comes alive during the festive season. A visit to the Austrian imperial capital during this time of the year will create some unique, magical moments.<br /><br />See the world's most beautiful boulevard, The Ringstrasse, all lit up with dazzling displays of Christmas lights and decorations. You'll also enjoy the city's musical heritage in full display with the sounds of famous festive tunes and classical pieces around every corner. After all, you're in the City of Music, which fostered musical geniuses like Mozart and Beethoven.</span></p><p><strong>Scenic Freechoice: </strong><span><br />Schonbrunn Palace: Explore Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the Habsburg family, one of the most prominent dynasties in European history. Wander its countless ornately designed rooms, hear tales about the royal family that lives here and see the impressive gardens.<br /><br />Central Vienna exploration: The city centre of Vienna is overflowing with history, elegance and diverse architecture. During this tour, your expert local guide will delight you with stories from the city before allowing you extended free time to explore as you wish.<br /><br />Excursion to Bratislava: Take a coach to Bratislava, Slovakia's capital since independence in 1993. Bratislava is a modern multicultural metropolis with an intriguing history. Its Old Town is glorious in medieval and Gothic architecture and its well-preserved hilltop castle, which has history dating back to the 9th century, still dominates the town. These charming historic sites contrast with its brutalist socialist architecture, which is evident around the city. Take a tour with a local guide to see Bratislava Castle, the Hlavné Námestie, the main square and the Old Town Hall.</span></p>

Arrives On: 23 Dec 27

#### Day 5: Krems (Austria)

<p><span>This morning, arrive in the charming town of Krems, located in the spectacular Wachau Valley.</span></p><p><strong>Scenic Freechoice: </strong><span><br />Today offers a variety of Scenic Freechoice excursions to choose from:<br /><br />Göttweig Abbey: Founded in the sixth century, the abbey burned down during the 18th century and was rebuilt to be one of the most magnificent in the Wachau Valley. Your local guide will show you its magnificent frescoes as well

as the staircase, the largest Baroque staircase in Austria.<br /><br />E-biking from Krems to Dürnstein return: Join your guide on a bicycle tour along the Danube to the pretty town of Dürnstein. Pass by charming villages and scenic vineyard landscapes. You will have time to stop along the way to enjoy the breathtaking views of the Danube.<br /><br />Later, dock in Dürnstein, a small and picturesque town in the Wachau Valley. Enjoy some free time to explore this World Heritage-listed town, perched on the edge of the Danube River and surrounded by ancient, terraced vineyards.</span></p>

Arrives On: 24 Dec 27

#### Day 5: Dürnstein (Austria)

Arrives On: 24 Dec 27

#### Day 7: Regensburg (Germany)

<p><span>You will arrive in Regensburg just before lunch today. Set on the confluence of three rivers in Bavaria, Regensburg is a delight to explore. </span></p><p><strong>Scenic Freechoice:</strong><span>Regensburg walking tour: Your expert local guide will show you the old stone bridge, the Church of St James, and the Porta Praetoria all while sharing the customs and traditions of the region during the festive period.<br /><br />Bavarian beer tasting: Visit a series of traditional breweries, learn about the intricacies of brewing and sample a variety of distinctive Bavarian beers.</span></p>

Arrives On: 26 Dec 27

#### Day 8: Nuremberg (Germany)

<p><span>You will arrive in Nuremberg, Bavaria's second-largest city, this afternoon. Boasting an Old Town protected by an ancient city wall, this city is dominated by one of the most significant imperial forts of the Holy Roman Empire, the 12th century Imperial Castle, which was the preferred residence of German kings.</span></p><p><strong>Scenic Freechoice:</strong><span><br />Walking tour of the Old Town: You will drive into Nuremberg's city centre, where your local guide will take you on a walking tour to see the Imperial Castle which overlooks the city, St. Egidien's church and market square.<br /><br />The trials and tribulations of WWII Tour: Join your expert local guide and learn about the horrific events that occurred in Nuremberg during the Third Reich.<br /><br />Gingerbread cooking: Embrace the festive spirit and join a cooking class with an experienced local chef. You will learn how to bake traditional German gingerbread biscuits, known as Lebkuchen.</span></p>

Arrives On: 27 Dec 27

#### Day 9: Bamberg (Germany)

Dock in picturesque Bamberg this morning. Built on seven hills, this World Heritage-listed town has surprises at every turn. Intersected by rivers and canals, Bamberg's Old Town is resplendent with cobblestoned streets and well-preserved medieval buildings.

**Scenic Freechoice:** Stay in Bamberg or choose to explore further afield:

Guided tour of Bamberg Old Town: Bamberg is known for its charming World Heritage-listed Old Town, one of Europe's largest intact old town centres. Learn about its fascinating history as you wander through stunning Medieval and Baroque buildings on a guided city tour. Admire the charming Town Hall which occupies an island on its own, a Gothic and Romanesque-style cathedral, and the Old and New Residences – comprising an episcopal palace, a pretty 'Little Venice' and a 12th century castle that teeters on the highest of the seven hills.

Excursion to Coburg: Journey via coach to Coburg. Visit the impressive castle, which looks over the city, and is considered one of the largest and best-preserved forts in Germany. Its museum houses a large collection of carriages, weapons, armoury and paintings by renowned artists.

Arrives On: 28 Dec 27

#### Day 10: Würzburg (Germany)

Cruise into Würzburg today. This Baroque city straddles the Main River in the heart of Franconian wine country. Surrounded by undulating vineyards, Würzburg is home to a World Heritage-listed palace, a dominating hilltop fortress, the 15th century Old Main Bridge, and three universities including Bavaria's oldest.

**Scenic Freechoice:**

Guided city tour: A short transfer via coach is needed to get to the centre of Würzburg. Your local guide is delighted to show you their hometown as you stroll towards the historic market square where you will have time to wander.

Romantic Road to Rothenburg: From Würzburg drive by coach to Rothenburg along the so-called Romantic Road, an important trading route during the Middle Ages. Take a guided tour in Rothenburg, famous for its well-preserved medieval old town, to see the Gothic and Renaissance City Hall as well as the famous City Councillors' Tavern.

Arrives On: 29 Dec 27

#### Day 11: Wertheim (Germany)

This morning you will arrive in the historic town of Wertheim, sitting on the picturesque banks of the Main and Tauber Rivers.

Enjoy an orientation tour of Wertheim before transferring via coach to the stunning town of Miltenberg. Here your local guide will showcase the city during a walking tour through the beautiful cobblestone streets lined with historic half-timbered houses.

After some time at leisure, you will embark your luxury Space-Ship in Miltenberg and set sail.

Arrives On: 30 Dec 27

#### Day 11: Miltenberg (Germany)

Arrives On: 30 Dec 27

#### Day 12: Rüdesheim (Germany)

This morning arrive in Rüdesheim, a pretty town surrounded by steep vineyards that have been cultivating wine for 2,000 years. Take a mini train from the pier to Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum, where some 350 musical instruments from the 18th and 19th century play themselves for your enjoyment. Afterwards, explore the charming centre of Rüdesheim, filled with half-timbered houses lining cobbled streets, quaint shops selling trinkets such as cuckoo clocks, as well as a smattering of wine taverns. This afternoon relax on board as you cruise the spectacular Rhine Gorge. The valley walls tower 400 metres above the water, lined with steeply terraced vineyards, ancient castles and historic villages. This evening Ring in the New Year in Bonn.

Arrives On: 31 Dec 27

#### Day 13: Cologne (Germany)

You will arrive in Cologne this morning. This is a city known for its liberal and laidback lifestyle, a unique beer culture, thriving auto industry and cathedral that dominates its skyline. Discover Cologne on a walking tour. Wander the laneways of the historical Old Town, which is home to breweries serving up draft Kolsch beer and enjoy free time to visit the city's centrepiece and icon, Cologne Cathedral. You will have further free time afterwards to explore the city on your own.

Arrives On: 01 Jan 28

#### Day 14: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Amsterdam is a treasure trove of urban beauty. Look around and you'll find architectural marvels, masterpiece-filled galleries, boats putting along 16th century canals, narrow cobbled laneways filled with boutiques and cafes and streets busy with cyclists. Often referred to as the Venice of the North, the World Heritage-listed waterways are lined with well-preserved canal houses and intersected by charming bridges.

**Scenic Freechoice:**

Canal cruise: Amsterdam has more than 100 kilometres of canals, with some of the prettiest sights of the city visible from these historical waterways on this one-hour cruise.

City walking tour: Explore Amsterdam on foot today, discovering the maze of canals and bridges in the city centre. Your guide will cover history, modern lifestyle and Dutch culture.

Excursion to Schermerhorn & Alkmaar: Visit the village of Schermerhorn, home

to authentic windmills dating back to the 16th century. You will also head to Alkmaar, a charming town with historic buildings and picturesque canals.

Arrives On: 02 Jan 28

#### Day 15: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

It's time to farewell your fellow guests and Scenic crew, taking with you a wealth of memories and festive cheer. 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 what is stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Arrives On: 03 Jan 28

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

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