Cruise Details

Name:	Rhine Christmas Markets with Switzerland
Reference:	SCENICXAMW151226-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Jewel
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	15 Dec 26
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	26 Dec 26
Arrives At:	Zurich
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Your journey begins in the picturesque city of Amsterdam. A labyrinth of narrow laneways adorned with twinkling lights, canals lined with beautifully preserved 17th century buildings and Christmas trees decorating historic squares. A wanderer’s delight, Amsterdam is steeped in history, art and an undeniable festive atmosphere. This afternoon, board your all-inclusive luxury Scenic Space-Ship and settle into your suite, many of which have a window that converts into a Scenic Sun Lounge, allowing you uninterrupted views of ever-changing landscapes and life along the riverbanks. Relax and raise your glass to the days ahead at this evening’s welcome reception. Please book your flight to arrive into Amsterdam prior to 06:00 PM.

Arrives On: 15 Dec 26

Day 2: Düsseldorf (Germany)

Take the morning to enjoy the luxuries of your 5-star Scenic Space-Ship. Perhaps enjoy coffee in your suite, delivered by your personal butler, followed by breakfast in Crystal Dining. This afternoon you'll arrive in Düsseldorf. The city comes alive during the Christmas season with lively markets, festive music and the scent of mulled wine sweetening the air. The Old Town is brimming with festive revelers and the famed Konigsallee is lined with traditional market stalls. Enjoy a walking tour of Düsseldorf with a local guide. Discover traditions of the festive season before free time to explore the city's Christmas markets.

Arrives On: 16 Dec 26

Day 3: Cologne (Germany)

Today you will arrive in Cologne before lunch. Cologne is a city known for its liberal and laidback lifestyle, its unique beer culture, thriving auto industry and the largest Christmas tree in the Rhineland. Take the time to discover Cologne on a walking tour. Visit the city's centrepiece and icon, Cologne Cathedral, and its magnificent Christmas Markets, where local vendors sell delicious treats and decorations. Your Scenic Space-Ship will depart after dinner, allowing you plenty of time to be immersed in the tastes and scents of Christmas like hot chestnuts, freshly baked gingerbread and mulled wine.

Arrives On: 17 Dec 26

Day 4: Rüdesheim (Germany)

Cruise into the Rhine Gorge, one of the most picturesque regions on this journey. After passing spectacular vineyards and ancient castles, you'll disembark in Rüdesheim, a pretty town surrounded by steep vineyards that have been cultivating wine for a staggering two millennia. 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. You will have time to wander through this beautiful town before returning to your Scenic Space-Ship.

Arrives On: 18 Dec 26

Day 5: Mannheim (Germany)

You will arrive in Mannheim early this morning. Known as a 'chessboard city' for its methodical grid of streets, it is also home to some of the world's most brilliant engineering minds, including Carl Benz, founder of Mercedes-Benz. Scenic Freechoice:
Today you can choose from the following Scenic Freechoice excursions on offer:

Orientation tour of Heidelberg with free time: From Mannheim, you will transfer by

coach to Heidelberg. Enjoy a brief walking tour of Heidelberg, including the old town, and then enjoy ample free time to explore on your own.

Historical tour of Heidelberg: As well as a guided tour of Heidelberg, this option includes a visit to Heidelberg Castle, one of the most important Renaissance structures north of the Alps. Explore the courtyard, the balcony that offers an incredible view over the Old Town and view the great Heidelberg Tun, the world's largest Wine Barrel located in the castle's Cellar. Scenic Enrich
Private classical concert at Bruchsal Palace: Enjoy a private evening concert at Bruchsal Palace. Be greeted at the Palace with a welcome drink before witnessing the grandeur of the theatre room and taking in a fabulous classical concert. Your memorable performance will feature accomplished musicians and a soloist.

Arrives On: 19 Dec 26

Day 6: Kehl (Germany)

Arrive in the city of Kehl, the gateway to Strasbourg, this morning. Strasbourg, is located on the border of France and Germany, making it a unique mixture of both French and German architecture and culture. Join your local guide on a walking tour of Strasbourg. After your guided tour you have free time to explore the magical markets. Strasbourg has some of the largest and most popular Christmas markets in Europe with the town squares and pedestrian zone coming alive with festive cheer.

Arrives On: 20 Dec 26

Day 7: Breisach (Germany)

Wake up in Breisach, a charming town on the Rhine, this morning. Scenic Freechoice:
Enjoy local festivities with the following Scenic Freechoice

Guided tour of Colmar with Christmas Markets: Take a tour of Colmar, the cultural centre of the Alsace region. You'll stroll medieval lanes lined with delightful Christmas markets and absorb the confluence of French and German architecture. After your tour, enjoy free time at the markets.

Guided tour of Freiburg Christmas with Markets: Located on the edge of the Black Forest, Freiburg is a picturesque city. Enjoy a guided walking tour to see the 13th Century Freiburg Minster cathedral, which survived WWII bombings.

Arrives On: 21 Dec 26

Day 8: Basel (Switzerland)

Your extension begins in Basel, where a walking tour will reveal the highlights of the city. See spectacular views of the Rhine as well as the Basel Minster and City Hall. Afterwards, enjoy free time to discover the city's famous Christmas Markets, said to be some of the prettiest and

largest in Switzerland. Later you'll travel to Montreux, the stunning lakeside town renowned for its breathtaking views of the Alps. Check into your luxury hotel for a two-night stay.

Arrives On: 22 Dec 26

Day 8: Montreux (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 22 Dec 26

Day 9: Montreux (Switzerland)

This morning, explore the mesmerising town of Montreux on your own or perhaps relax and enjoy the amenities of your hotel. For lunch, a quintessential Swiss experience awaits you. Scenic Enrich
Train ride and fondue lunch: Delight in a panoramic train journey to Château-d'Oex. Upon arrival you'll view traditional cheese-making at the Restaurant Le Chalet. The restaurant makes its own cheese, and in your private demonstration, the cheese maker will transform milk into hard cheese right in front of your eyes. Afterwards, enjoy a free afternoon to explore the Montreux Christmas Markets.

Arrives On: 23 Dec 26

Day 10: Montreux (Switzerland)

After departing Montreux, ascend the Swiss Alps to the charming alpine village of Gstaad. Known as a premier ski resort, enjoy a brief orientation tour of the village, followed by some free time to relax and enjoy lunch at your own pace. This afternoon you'll arrive at Bern, the Swiss capital. Set on the River Aare, Bern is World Heritage-listed thanks to its medieval heritage. Your Tour Director will take you on a tour of this delightful city. See its many fountains, sandstone facades and narrow streets and visit Bear Park, home to a family of bears that have lived along the riverbank since 1857.

Arrives On: 24 Dec 26

Day 10: Bern (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 24 Dec 26

Day 11: Bern (Switzerland)

Today you'll depart for Lucerne. With its backdrop of snow-topped mountain ranges, Lucerne encapsulates a traditional Swiss city. Your morning will start with a guided tour of the city, touching on its well-preserved medieval architecture. Later, enjoy free time to explore Lucerne's

Christmas Markets. Afterwards, you'll travel by coach to the cosmopolitan city of Zurich. Set off on foot for a walking tour with a local guide. Zurich is one of the world's great walking cities, with a flat centre, many pedestrian-only streets and historic bridges. Wander along the Bahnhofstrasse, the city's main street lined with glamorous boutiques and international flagship stores.

Arrives On: 25 Dec 26

Day 11: Zurich (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 25 Dec 26

Day 12: Zurich (Switzerland)

Depart after breakfast for your onward journey, taking your memories of beautiful Switzerland 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 what is stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Arrives On: 26 Dec 26

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

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