Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Markets Along the Danube - Eastbound
Reference:	TAUCKRNX202707122027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	MS Joy
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	07 Dec 27
Departs From:	Nuremberg
Arrives On:	14 Dec 27
Arrives At:	Vienna
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Nuremberg (Germany)

Tour begins: 5:30 PM, Nürnberg, Germany. A transfer is included from Nürnberg Airport to ms Savor or ms Joy. Guests enjoying a pre-cruise stay in Nürnberg will receive a transfer from the Tauck hotel to the riverboat. You'll find Nürnberg all done up for the holidays; like its neighboring countries, Germany during the season of the Christmas Markets is at its most festive. Join the captain for his welcome reception followed by dinner aboard the riverboat this evening.

Arrives On: 07 Dec 27

Day 2: Nuremberg (Germany)

Nürnberg – On Nürnberg's main marketsquare opposite the Church of Our Lady sits perhaps the most famous of Germany's ChristmasMarkets, with its iconic, golden-haired ChristmasAngel and charming Zwetchgenmannle ("Plum People") – unique to Bavariaand made from dried plums and other fruits. By the time Christmas Everolls around, this "Little Town from Wood and Cloth" will

have welcomedtwo million folks from around the globe – including you – delighting them with itsauthentic ornaments, Bavarian crafts, Christmas candles, lebkuchen and other kinds of cookies, tasty fruit loaves,tangy gingerbread, handmade toys and glühwein! Sightseeing in historic Nürnberg this morning includes a visit to old Nürnberg with a walking tour along its centuries-old ramparts and defensive walls, past the opera house and St. John's Cemetery to the old city and marketplace, as well as past the Dürer House. Following your visit to Nürnberg's famous Weihnachtsmarkt, you'll have lunch and some time to spend as you please before rejoining the riverboat and continue cruising to Regensburg. After dinner tonight, you might want to join in as we trim the riverboat's Christmas tree for the holidays and enjoy some festive treats.

Arrives On: 08 Dec 27

Day 3: Regensburg (Germany)

In Regensburg, visitors to the centuries-old Christkindlmarkt on the Neupfarrplatz feast on the city's famed sausages, along with steamed dampfnudel dumplings, gingerbread, roast chestnuts and, naturally, glühwein from Bavarian claret, as they admire the work of glassblowers, chandlers and potters – it is one of Europe's most unique markets. You'll understand why Regensburg calls itself "Europe's best-preserved medieval city" as you explore its Christmas Market set against a backdrop of centuries-old buildings during a walking tour and some free time to enjoy the town on your own. Return to the ship this aftgernoon and join us this evening for a performance by the Regensburg Spitzweg Quartet aboard the riverboat.

Arrives On: 09 Dec 27

Day 4: Passau (Germany)

Passau – Navigating the narrow lanes and archways of this Bavarian town on the Danube, Ilz and Inn rivers is a pleasure any time of year – but never more so than now, when one of the Christmas Markets Germany is most famous for transforms Passau's historic Baroque center into a wonderland brimming with bratwurst, lebkuchen, glühwein and good cheer. At the center of it all is St. Stephan's Cathedral, whose massive pipe organ – the largest in Europe – stars in concerts throughout the season. Enjoy a walking tour of the city and its Weihnachtsmarkt, the afternoon is yours to explore as you wish. Please join us back aboard the riverboat for a discovery briefing with your Tauck Director before a special chef's signature dinner this evening.

Arrives On: 10 Dec 27

Day 5: Salzburg (Austria)

Salzburg / Linz - The angelic voices of choirs singing carols in Salzburg's Cathedral Square... the pealing bells of old Salzburger Dom, overlooking neat rows of lit-up booths fragrant with the aroma of roasted almonds and hot mulled wine... ornate Baroque domes, towers and rooftops tipped with

snow in the heart of Old Town... the clatter of horse-drawn carriages over cobblestoned streets... sweet candy apples and marzipan... the warm laughter of families having the time of their lives... and music everywhere, in the city that gave us Mozart. The Christmas Markets of Salzburg, a true feast for the senses... and Linz's Christkindlmarkt, the curving roofs of its stalls symbolizing the waves of the Danube. The riverboat arrives in Linz, Austria, for a full-day excursion to Mozart's magical hometown of Salzburg, with its Baroque town center dressed in its holiday best. After a walking tour and wander through the Christkindlmarkt in this charming city, enjoy a special festive lunch with your fellow travelers. Following some free time, return to Linz for a different Christmas Market experience… and, as you've learned, each town's market has something all its own to offer. Or, if you prefer, spend the entire day in Linz, enjoying its Christmas Market, exploring on your own, or just relaxing aboard the riverboat. Enjoy a live musical performance by Donau Klang aboard ship tonight.

Arrives On: 11 Dec 27

Day 6: Melk (Austria)

Melk – Perched high on a rocky bluff overlooking the Danube and the town of Melk, Stift Melk (Melk Abbey) has shone as a beacon of culture and learning since its founding nearly a millennium ago. The 18th-century Baroque complex is home to a magnificent church and its own Christmas legend – about a miraculous visit from the Virgin Mary and the Christ child, and a young novice whose juggling so entertained the infant that he clapped for joy. A visit to one of the world's most famous monasteries, beautiful Melk Abbey, inspires with Baroque architecture and facades, soaring ceilings, magnificent frescoes, gold and marble statues and artistic treasures. Black-robed Benedictine monks go about their simple daily lives here today, just as they have done for hundreds of years. Situated high above the town overlooking the river, the Abbey is home to a stunning library housing a massive collection of medieval tomes, including a famous group of musical manuscripts. Be sure to take time to admire the views of the Danube from its terraces. From Melk, you'll cruise through the Wachau Valley this afternoon, arriving in grand old Vienna after dinner tonight.

Arrives On: 12 Dec 27

Day 7: Vienna (Austria)

Vienna – Images of St. Nicholas – with his devilish nemesis, Krampus – Advent wreaths, twinkling lights, roasting chestnuts, sausages and kartoffelpuffer (potato cakes), hot glühwein and fruity punsch... all signs of Christmastime in Vienna! Many Christkindlmarkts big and small grace Austria's capital at yuletide, and you'll explore two of the major ones. Magic's in the air at the Wiener Christkindlmarkt on the Rathausplatz in front of the city hall, Vienna's oldest and largest Christmas market... live music, tastefully lit trees, holiday arts and crafts, tempting treats and smiling faces are everywhere. And at opulent Schönbrunn Palace, you'll tour rooms that the

Habsburgs once lived in, and browse through lovely hand-blown glass ornaments, red Viennese hearts, Victorian-style sweets and other treasures in the palace's own, equally impressive Christmas Market... guaranteed to warm your heart. "Imperial" Vienna, which you'll explore on a sightseeing tour this morning, seems even grander with Christmas decorations everywhere you look. Get a glimpse of what "happy Habsburg family holidays" might have been like on a tour of Schönbrunn Palace, and take in the palace's own Christmas Market. After a holiday lunch at the historic Palais Pallavicini, enjoy an afternoon at leisure to sample more of Vienna's holiday cheer and its many Christmas Markets; complimentary shuttles run back and forth between the city and the riverboat. Share your memories of this wonderful week with your new friends at the captain's farewell reception, followed by dinner this evening... as your Christmas Market cruise draws to a close.

Arrives On: 13 Dec 27

Day 8: Vienna (Austria)

Tour ends: Vienna. Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from the riverboat to Vienna International Airport. Guests enjoying a post-cruise stay in Vienna will receive a transfer from the hotel to the airport. Please allow at least 3 hours for airport check-in.

Arrives On: 14 Dec 27

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