

RHINE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

With Dick and Leslie West



Even if you have done a Rhine River cruise before, this is something very different and special. Join us on this magical trip to experience the deep-rooted holiday traditions of Europe at its most festive time of year. From the iconic canals of Amsterdam to Switzerland's glittery cities, Lucerne and Zurich, get caught up in the magic of the holidays with visits to some of the world's most timeless Christmas Markets. Warm up with a mug of steamy glühwein while at the Cologne Christmas Market located in front of its UNESCO-designated Gothic cathedral. Let the "Capital of Noël," Strasbourg, the oldest and largest Christmas Market in France, captivate you the way it has for so many others for centuries.



DATES - 2019:

AMA SERENA –Dec 15-22

DURATION: 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS

EMBARK: Basel

DISEMBARK: Amsterdam

SHIP: AMA SERENA,

FROM: \$2,349* + \$182 Port Charges

**Save \$750 per person*

ITINERARY –

See Pre-Cruise tour option next page

DAY 1- Dec 15 - ARRIVE BASEL, SWITZERLAND – EMBARK

Board the ship in Basel, Switzerland for your Christmas Markets on the Rhine cruise. (D)

DAY 2 – Dec 16- BREISACH, GERMANY

Visit the enchanting Alsatian town of Riquewihr, beautifully dressed in her holiday finery with twinkling decorations and a lively Christmas Market. On your walking tour, admire historic architecture, as well as famous sights such as the Dolder Gate. Alternatively, you may wish to visit Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to Freiburg’s Münster, a Gothic cathedral constructed of red sandstone, as well as its enchanting Christmas Market. Those wishing a more active excursion will want to cycle through the scenic countryside. (B,L,D)



DAY 3 – Dec 17 - STRASBOURG, FRANCE

Strasbourg is even more alluring during the season of Advent. The Christkindelsmärik dates back to 1570, making it the oldest Christmas Market in France. Enjoy a panoramic bus tour that takes you past the Parc de l’Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République. Afterwards, walk through the historic town center on the Grande Île, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and through the lovely “La Petite France” district, where you will see the Cathédrale de Notre Dame with its famous astronomical clock and then visit the town’s famous Christmas Market. You can also choose to explore Strasbourg’s different districts by bicycle. During the afternoon, visit Gengenbach Christmas Market where,

every year, the locals count down to Christmas with a 24-day, larger-than-life Advent calendar. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 – Dec 18 - LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY – RÜDESHEIM

You have the choice to explore two of Germany’s historically rich cities, along with their festive Christmas Markets. Visit Heidelberg, a city that will capture your heart with its mighty castle and historic university. While here, wander along one of Europe’s longest pedestrian shopping streets, the Hauptstrasse, soaking up the Yuletide celebrations at the town’s Christmas Markets. Alternatively, you can explore one of Germany’s oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You’ll also have time to visit its Christmas Market in front of the “Old Mint” (Alten Münze) in the famous Maximilianstrasse, with a view of the romantic Imperial cathedral (Kaiserdom). (B,L,D)

DAY 5 – 19 - RÜDESHEIM - RHINE GORGE –

Your exploration of Rudesheim continues with your choice of three excursions. Take a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal Statue, where you can enjoy panoramic views of the river. Afterwards, indulge your taste buds with a sampling of Riesling wines in the vineyards. Alternatively, you can join a guided bike ride through the town and along the Rhine River to Schloss Johannisberg; or hike through the town’s beautiful vineyards. During the afternoon, set sail along the scenic Rhine River Gorge with its fabled legends and many castles. (B,L,D)



DAY 6 – Dec 20 - COLOGNE, GERMANY

Join a guided tour through the enchanting Old Town. Explore the UNESCO-designated cathedral and then visit one of Europe’s largest and most renowned Christmas Markets located in front of the cathedral. Alternatively, ride a bike along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten; or visit a local tavern to taste Cologne’s traditional Kölsch beer and Reibekuchen—potato pancakes served with apple sauce. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 – Dec 21 - AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Begin your discovery of Amsterdam with a scenic canal cruise, followed by a walking tour to the Begijnhof, known for its historic Middle Ages building and concluding with a panoramic city tour that includes the Royal Palace and Westerkerk. (B,L,D)



DAY 8 – Dec 22 - AMSTERDAM – DISEMBARKATION

Disembark the ship and bid farewell to Amsterdam as you prepare for your return flight home, or continue to see more of Europe. (B)

PRE-CRUISE TOUR – ZURICH TO BASEL

DAY 1 - Dec 11 - Zurich – Arrive - Transfer to hotel

Arrive in Zurich and check in to your hotel.

DAY 2 - Dec 12 - Zurich - City tour

Set alongside a gleaming lake and framed by the Alps, Zurich seamlessly blends its historic past with its progressive future—all of which will be on full display during your city tour. See Grossmünster Abbey; St. Peter, which boasts the world’s largest church clock face; Old

Town; Town Hall; and Fraumünster Abbey. Experience the magic of Zurich dressed in her holiday best. Visit Zurich’s Christmas Markets, including the largest indoor Christmas Market in Europe located in Zurich's Main Train Station. An absolute highlight is a 50-foot-tall Christmas tree decorated with thousands of sparkling Swarovski crystals. (B)

DAY 3 Dec 13 - Lucerne - Scenic drive to Vitznau - Scenic Lake Lucerne cruise

Check out of your hotel for a scenic drive past three lakes before reaching Vitznau. Upon arrival, enjoy a cruise across the tranquil waters of Lake Lucerne. Afterwards, check into your hotel. (B)

DAY 4 - Dec 14 - Lucerne - Walking tour, Lion Monument, the medieval city walls and Christmas Markets

Take a walking tour of Lucerne soaking up the festive atmosphere of this medieval gem. The iconic Lion Monument, which you’ll visit was sculpted in memory for the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792. It has captured the hearts and minds of visitors for centuries, including Mark Twain who praised it as “the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world.” You’ll also visit the spectacular medieval walls and towers, dating back to the 13th century. Located around the Musegg Wall area, the towers rise high over the city, giving great panoramic views of Lucerne, the Reuss River and the surrounding mountain scenery. There are a total of nine towers, including one featuring the oldest clock in the city. Afterwards, soak up the festive atmosphere of this medieval gem wandering through its Christmas Market located at the Franziskanerplatz and enjoy the festive atmosphere with a mug of holiday cheer, glühwein. (B)

DAY 5 Dec 15 - Lucerne - Transfer to Basel - Highlights tour - EMBARKATION AMA SERENA

Check out of your hotel and head to Basel. Before boarding the ship, you’ll go on a highlights tour of the city. One of Switzerland’s most cosmopolitan cities, Basel is home to 40 museums (the highest concentration in the nation), a picturesque Old Town and richly decorated Market Square, a 500-year-old Rathaus (town hall) and Switzerland’s oldest zoo (built in 1870 and home to 600 animal species and exotic flora). (B,D)



AMA SERENA

2019 DATES & RATES	Dec 15
BASE RATE – CAT E	\$3,099
Early Booking Rate*	\$2,349

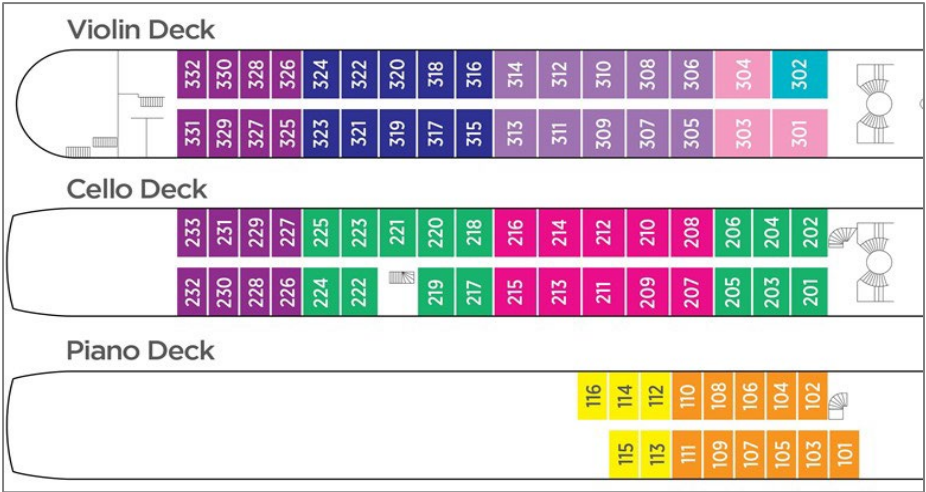
\$182 per person Port Charges
***Save \$750 per person**

PRE-CRUISE TOUR
\$1,560 Double Occupancy

Add Supplement to Base Rate - \$2,349

CATEGORY UPGRADE	D	C	BB	BA	AB	AA	AA+	SUITE
SUPPLEMENT - ADD	\$299	\$899	\$1,399	\$1,599	\$1,799	\$1,999	\$2,599	\$3,299

Plus



Reservations & Information
1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

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