



ENCHANTING CHRISTMAS MARKETS CRUISE

5 December 2024

17 Day Fully Hosted Small Group Cruise
Vienna to Frankfurt





ENCHANTING CHRISTMAS MARKETS HOSTED CRUISE VIENNA TO FRANKFURT 5th to 22nd December 2024

THU 5 New Zealand to Vienna

Today we meet our fellow travellers at the airport prior to our onwards flight to Vienna. Our day is spent travelling together with meals on flight.

FRI 6 Welcome to Vienna

Welcome to Austria! Upon arrival into Vienna Airport and after completing the Immigration and Customs formalities, we will be transferred to our hotel for our 2-night stay. The remainder of the day is free to rest up and relax after the flight with your Tour Host on hand to offer advice and guidance.

SAT 7 Vienna

The smell of cinnamon, the cold winter air, the buzz of the stalls, and the chords of the Christmas carols It's Christmas in Vienna!

Our Christmas journey begins today and starts by exploring this spectacular and exciting city as the yuletide season transforms Vienna's beautiful squares into delightful Xmas markets that are bright with decorations and buzzing with holiday spirit.



SUN 8 Vienna

(B)(D)

This morning is at a relaxing pace until we gather together and transfer to our luxury river cruise ship the Avalon Illumination II to begin our river cruise, experiencing the joy and enchantment of the festive period. Now is time to wake each day to charming towns, villages, and cities that embrace the holiday spirit, sparkling with tinsel and light as Austria and Germany's medieval squares play host to storybook Christmas markets.

Upon boarding, there is time to settle in and explore a bit before dinner is served this evening.

MON 9 Vienna

(B)(L)(D)

Today we spend another lovely day exploring all things Vienna with our Royal Collections, and Culinary Confections tour.

We begin discovering the highlights of beautiful Vienna on our guided tour ending at magical Christmas Advent Markets. We will be welcomed into a Christmas wonderland with views of beautiful Christmas trees and decorations hanging all over Vienna's squares.

The Wiener Weihnachtsraum (Vienna Christmas Dream) is the largest and one of the most popular Christmas markets in the world. Situated in Rathausplatz Square you will experience the historic architecture of Vienna whilst also enjoying an unforgettable Christmas market experience.

This evening we continue to spend time enjoying the Christkindlesmarkts. Along the way, discover the history of Austrian foods and traditions as you sample local specialties, enjoy hot cups of coffee or mulled wine and get a taste of the delicious food of Vienna while taking in the winter wonderland decorations.

Later this evening our river boat will cruise overnight to Melk.

Trip Highlights

- ◇ Explore the city of Vienna.
- ◇ Discover the wonderfully festive Christmas Markets in Vienna, Rothenberg, Würzburg, Nuremberg, Salzburg, and Frankfurt.
- ◇ Guided Tour of Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey
- ◇ Guided walk of the historical theatre town of Grein
- ◇ Guided excursion to Salzburg - the city of Mozart
- ◇ Regensburg - Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall) and Porta Pretoria
- ◇ Sightseeing tour of Nuremberg
- ◇ Kaiserburg Castle, Nuremberg
- ◇ Guided City Tour of Munich
- ◇ Nymphenburg Palace, Munich
- ◇ Guided Sightseeing Tour of Bamberg-medieval home of Germany's Roman Empire dynasties
- ◇ Guided Excursion to the beautiful Bavarian town of Rothenburg.
- ◇ Visit the Kathe Wohlfahrt German Christmas Museum - Rothenberg
- ◇ Take a Guided Tour of a Bavarian village along the Main River

Enchanting Christmas Markets Hosted Cruise Vienna to Frankfurt

It really is the most magical time of the year, and no one quite does Christmas like Europe.

Join us in December 2024 as we spend 17 fabulous days exploring some of Europe's "must-see" Christmas Markets enjoyed at a leisurely pace, onboard our 14-day Avalon Water Way River Cruise from Vienna to Frankfurt.

Our fully hosted Christmas Market Cruise will see us gliding along the Danube and Main Rivers and Main Danube Canal, between Austria and Germany, with views that can't be surpassed as we float past towns and villages delightfully decorated for the holidays.

As we journey to each of the Christmas markets where cities and towns are transformed into vibrant displays of dazzling lights and cheerful decorations you will get to experience the regional variations, traditions and cuisines whilst sampling warm mulled wine and local delicacies.

We start our adventure in the heart of Vienna, with two days exploring this beautiful city, before joining our river cruise. Vienna is sure to charm, and its Christmas Markets are as ornamental as the city's architecture. All of this before sailing on towards Germany including stops Nuremberg the "Gingerbread Capital of the World" and Würzburg to visit the town's renown market.

Expect to see iconic historical sights and unbelievable views as you experience the food and festivities of the season.

Take time to relax onboard your ship and allow the friendly and professional crew to pamper you.

Get ready for a winter wonderland full of holiday cheer.

TUE 10 Melk - Grein

(B)(L)(D)

Today we experience the stunning beauty of Wachau Valley a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most scenic sections of the Danube River.

As we arrive at Melk you will be awestruck by the impressive structure of Melk Benedictine Abbey, one of Europe's most architecturally breath-taking monasteries perched atop a hill overlooking the small town. We join a Guided Tour to explore this beautiful Abbey and step inside the church adorned with gold statues and frescoes, a stunning library containing medieval manuscripts and learn about its own Christmas legend.

After time in Melk, why not enjoy an Austrian Cookie Tasting or relax while seeing the breathtaking scenery as we continue sailing down the Danube River to Grein.

Upon arrival in the historic theatre town of Grein we stroll the streets and enjoy the pristine surroundings as we learn about the history of Grein on a guided walking tour. We visit the Stradtheater, the oldest theatre in Austria still holding regular performances. Later, enjoy live entertainment on board.

Passau, Germany (excursion to Salzburg,

WED 11 Austria (B)(L)(D)

Today we join a Guided Excursion to Salzburg, Austria on our **Salzburg, and the Story of Silent Night tour** - the city where Mozart was born and also the "Sound of Music" city! Not only did the real Trapp family once live here, but this movie classic was also filmed in and around the city.

Along the way we learn the story behind the beloved Christmas hymn, Silent Night as it is vividly bought to life.

As we stroll through narrow lanes and broad squares of the magical City of Mozart, we become mesmerised by the fairy tale atmosphere, Christmas markets, advent concerts, and folk customs charm.

The Salzburg Christmas Market is one of the most beautiful and oldest Christmas markets in the world, the traditional stalls and its long history make the Salzburg Christmas Market something very special.

Evening/Overnight cruise to Regensburg.



THU 12 Regensburg

(B)(L)(D)

Today we tour the **oldest city in Bavaria** and get up close and personal with the city's UNESCO-listed beauty during a guided walking tour. We stroll through the streets and squares of one of Germany's best preserved medieval towns lit up by twinkling Christmas lights and explore many local highlights, from Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall) and ancient **Porta Praetoria** - entrance to the **Castle Regina** fortress built in 179 AD. We visit one of Germany's oldest restaurants, **Historiche Wurstkuche (Old Sausage Kitchen)** and savour local sausages and beer.

We fall in love with this storybook town as we spend time exploring **Regensburg's** festive atmosphere while wandering through its charming streets and sparkling Christmas markets. Enjoy hot-mulled wine, candied almonds, gingerbread, and bratwurst. Delight in exploring the wooden chalets with unique Christmas gifts and decorations while enjoying the ambiance of the Christmas season in this lovely town.

This evening, enjoy live entertainment on board after dinner.

Evening/overnight cruise to Nuremberg.

FRI 13 Nuremberg

(B)(L)(D)

Legends and History Lessons

Enjoy an **Onboard Christmas Tradition Lecture** and learn about Christmas traditions and the cultural importance of German Christmas Markets. Discover the history of the famous Christ Child tradition which is the symbolic figure of **Christmas City Nuremberg**.

We join a guided **Sightseeing tour of Nuremberg** and uncover the history and heritage of one of Bavaria's most picturesque cities where we discover the medieval city walls, snap photos of the colourful half-timbered buildings, and **Schöner Brunnen** the beautiful, gilded fountain and famous wishing ring.

Admire the **Kaiserburg Castle** one of the residences of the Holy Roman Empire and discover the house of Albrecht Durer, one of the greatest painters and engravers Germany has ever produced, as well as stunning churches and the beautiful squares of Nuremberg.

We then spend time strolling through the romantic illuminated lanes and immerse ourselves into the bustling ambiance of the **Nuremberg Christkindlesmarket** - one of the biggest, oldest, and most traditional Christmas markets in Germany and the most famous in the world.

Watch the bakers making **Lebkuchen**, the traditional soft gingerbread, and smell the scents of chestnuts roasting and wine mulling waft through the air. Sample Bavarian fare from dozens of bratwurst varieties and countless other culinary delights of this Christmas wonderland.

Overnight in Nuremberg.

SAT 14 Nuremberg - (excursion to Munich) (B)(L)(D)

Today we discover the most beautiful corners of **Munich's** city on a guided tour and learn exciting anecdotes and interesting facts about the Bavarian capital. We visit the **Nymphenburg Palace**, one of the largest Baroque palaces in Europe and admire the palace's grand architecture, expensive interiors, gardens and view beautiful churches and the most famous beer halls and see the spectacular bustling **Marienplatz Square**.

As we wander around the Marienplatz Square we will see many highlights of Munich including the impressive **Neues Rathaus** (New Town Hall) and the **Altes Rathaus** (Munich's Old Town Hall) and the whimsical **Rathaus-Glockenspiel**.

We take time today to stroll this pedestrian and bike-friendly city and discover the outdoor cafes, or a Bavarian Biergartens for authentic brews. Soak up the holiday spirit wandering around the historic Old Town exploring the city's festive offers and take in the scent of spice cake as we browse the charming stalls filled with handmade Bavarian gifts and delicacies and sip on **Glühwein** (mulled wine).

We return to our ship in Nuremberg in the late afternoon.

SUN 15 Nuremberg (B)(L)(D)

A day to relax and enjoy Nuremberg at your own pace. Stroll through the festively lit streets, buy those last-minute Christmas gifts, or ask your tour host for advice or guidance on things to do.

Later, enjoy live entertainment on board.

Evening/overnight cruise to Bamberg.

MON 16 Bamberg (B)(L)(D)

Today explore local **Christmas Customs** as we join a guided **Sightseeing Tour of Bamberg**-medieval home of Germany's Roman Empire dynasties.

As we explore the picturesque streets and admire the city's architectural masterpieces, we discover many of the nativity scenes that are exhibited throughout **Bamberg's Old Town and Xmas Markets** which are sure to delight.

We then take time to enjoy the quaint Christmas markets as the city twinkles with festive flair, explore the stalls, shop for unique gifts, enjoy local mouthwatering delicacies and soak in the festive ambience.

Back onboard enjoy a Christmas Tradition Lecture and learn about Christmas traditions and the cultural importance of German Christmas Markets whilst sailing.

Afternoon/overnight cruise to Wurzburg.

TUE 17 Wurzburg - (excursion to Rothenberg) (B)(L)(D)

Today is all things **Old Saint Nick and Nutcrackers Sweet** as we join our much-anticipated guided excursion to visit the **iconic fairytale town of Rothenburg**. Along the way we travel the famed Romantic Road and marvel at the medieval architecture and the striking surrounding scenery.

No visit to Rothenburg is complete without a visit to the **Kathe Wohlfahrt German Christmas Museum** (and shop) the world's most extensive collection of traditional German Christmas decorations.

Spend time and experience the joy of Christmas and step into the winter magic of the holidays at Rothenberg's Christmas Markets. Stroll through the quaint town squares lit up by the twinkling Christmas lights while visiting the many wooden stalls selling handmade decorations, chocolate-covered fruits, cinnamon pastry, roasted almonds, and other local mouth-watering delicacies.

Later enjoy live entertainment back onboard.

Evening/overnight cruise to Main River Village.

WED 18 Main River Village (B)(L)(D)

Today is full of hidden gifts and holiday delights as we explore one of the charming small towns that are dotted along the Main River and take a guided tour of one of these picturesque Bavarian villages that is sure to be even more appealing lit up with festive lights and decorations.

After time exploring take time to relax and enjoy a Cookie Baking Demonstration onboard our ship while sailing.

Afternoon/Overnight cruise to Frankfurt.

WED 18 Frankfurt (B)(D)

As our unforgettable Christmas Markets River cruise sadly comes to an end in Frankfurt, you will never forget the historical treasures of Austria and Germany perfectly paired with the views, sounds, and tastes of the joyous holiday season. After breakfast we farewell the crew, along with newly found friends, as we disembark and transfer to our hotel for our final night together.

We will spend today discovering the wonderful Christmas delights of Frankfurt.

FRI 20 Frankfurt - Home (B)

Today we sadly bid a festive farewell to Frankfurt as we are transferred to the airport returning home with magical Christmas memories.

Arriving back in New Zealand on 22nd December, where we will be collected for our onward transfers home.



Enchanting Christmas Market Hosted Cruise Vienna to Frankfur 17 Day Hosted Cruise Includes:

YOURTours home pick up *(T&Cs apply)*

Fully hosted from NZ with a YOURTours Host

All flights, including domestic flights in NZ and arrival and departure transfers – (T&Cs apply)
Flight upgrade available on request.

Premium and boutique accommodation

All excursions and activities as per itinerary

Meals as per itinerary & gratuities

Departs 5th December 2024

Price from \$19,995 pp twin share

Single Price from \$26,500 pp



You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Hosts, ensuring everything is taken care of from start to finish, allowing you to relax and enjoy your tour.

YOURTours[®]

Freephone 0800 470 005

www.yourtours.co.nz

17a Maclean St, Paraparaumu Beach | +64 4 297 1392 tours@yourtours.co.nz

