



Itinerary

5 Day Christmas Markets On The Rhine River Cruise

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

Day 1: Strasbourg, France

Step aboard our ship at 6:00 pm and settle in for an incredible journey. Meet our friendly crew over a welcome cocktail, setting the perfect tone for the adventure ahead. Then, sit back and enjoy a relaxing evening of entertainment as we begin our Christmas Markets Along the Rhine cruise.

MEALS: Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Lafayette OR MS Mona Lisa

Day 2: Strasbourg ~ Speyer, Germany

This morning, we'll cruise towards Speyer, soaking in the scenic views along the way. In the afternoon, explore the city at your own pace or join an optional excursion to Heidelberg and its Christmas Market.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Lafayette OR MS Mona Lisa

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Guided tour of Heidelberg and its castle (outdoor)

We'll leave by coach from Mannheim to Heidelberg. Its unique charm comes from the harmonious combination of romanticism, dynamism, legend and modernity. We'll take a guided tour of the outsides of the Heidelberg Castle on foot. It is partially in ruins, and as such has inspired generations of painters and poets ever since the 18th century. They perceived the damaged castle as a testimony to the grandeur and decadence of human creations. Goethe, Hölderlin, Uhland and Eichendorff celebrated the landscape surrounding the castle while many others took it as a model itself. Don't miss the geometric terraces of the Palatinate gardens, once considered the "8th world wonder". The gardens' architect, Salomon de Caus, wanted to recreate the harmony with which city, river and hills all around intertwined. After this guided tour, you will take the coach down into the Neckarmünzplatz in the old historic city centre for a guided tour on foot. You will admire the Saint-Esprit Church (exterior view) and will have some free time for shopping before taking the coach back to the boat. On the way back you will go through the city centre of Mannheim, where you will find the boat.

NOTE

- The access to the castle needs to climb up a 300m gradient.
- We cannot visit the inside of the castle at this time of year.
- Good walking shoes are recommended.
- The order of the visits can change.
- Times are approximate.

DURATION: TBC

Day 3: Speyer ~ Rudesheim

Spend the morning cruising towards Rudesheim, taking in the stunning riverside scenery. In the afternoon, join an optional city tour by tourist train.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Lafayette OR MS Mona Lisa

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Rudesheim: small train and Music Museum

A little train will take us through the small alleyways of Rudesheim. The visit will continue to the Music Museum, located in an old building from the 15th century, close to the Drosselgasse. We'll visit the "Siegfrieds Mechanisches Musikkabinett" which holds an impressive collection of no less than 350 mechanical musical instruments dating back to the 18th century to the 20th, all spread out on more than 4000 ft².

"You won't believe your ears" once you embark on a musical adventure into the world of historical automated instruments. This is a vast collection, dating back three centuries, of fascinating musical instruments that function like computers, ranging from tiny, delicate music boxes to an enormous orchestrion. Tools and machines for the production of organ pipes, cardboard sheet music, rolls of sheet music and perforated disks are also on display in the collection.

You will then walk down the Drosselgasse, famous for its small restaurants with orchestras. Free time and return on board on foot.

NOTE

- The order of the visits can change.
- Times are approximate.

- Good walking shoes are recommended.

DURATION: 2 hrs

Day 4: Rüdesheim ~ Koblenz

This morning, cruise through the breathtaking Rhine Valley, where every bend in the river unveils another fairy-tale castle perched above rolling vineyards. The Rhine River has inspired countless legends, including the story of the Rock of the Lorelei, said to lure sailors with its enchanting song.

In the afternoon, join an optional tour of Koblenz and Ehrenbreitstein Fortress.

Tonight, enjoy a special gala dinner on board as we continue our journey. The ship will cruise overnight to Cologne, ready for the final day of your Christmas Markets Along the Rhine adventure.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Lafayette OR MS Mona Lisa

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Koblenz and the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress

Situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, Koblenz offers visitors a rich collection of cultural monuments and historic buildings. Ludwig van Beethoven's mother was born in the city, and Mozart's family once sojourned here on a trip from Paris to London.

We'll take the funicular railway up the hill to visit the historic castle, where we'll have a magnificent view across the city and valleys. You'll immediately understand the strategical importance of this fortress throughout history as the land stretches as far as the eye can see.

Afterwards, enjoy some free time at the Christmas market, where the yuletide tradition has taken place for centuries. The romantic holiday market runs from the old city to the famous Deutsches Eck. Explore the city on your own before returning to the ship.

NOTE

- The order of the visits can change.
- Times are approximate.

DURATION: 3 hrs

Day 5: Cologne – Disembark Ship ~ Strasbourg

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast on board as we arrive in Cologne. After a magical journey through the Christmas Markets Along the Rhine, it's time to disembark at 9:00 am.

A coach transfer to Strasbourg may be available if required. Safe travels and happy holidays!

MEALS: Breakfast