

VACAYA 2023 Christmas Markets Cruise

Amsterdam to Nuremberg

Daily Overview

Please Note this final itinerary differs slightly from our originally published itinerary. Adjustments were made to ensure a more perfect holiday experience all around.

DAY 1 - SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2023

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS - EMBARK ADVANCE STARTING AT 12:00

Advance will be docked at Veemkade PTA LP 4, not far from the Mövenpick Hotel Amsterdam City Centre (a relatively short walkable distance from Centraal Station)

After enjoying a day in Amsterdam or getting acquainted with your incredible vessel for the coming week, we'll depart Amsterdam in the afternoon. Today, learn more about the ship, enjoy tapas at The Bistro, or perhaps take a dip in the indoor pool. If the weather allows, relax on the top deck with a local beer or a glass of bubbly on a lounge chair and soak in the atmosphere. There are games for you to enjoy in the Lounge and multiple bars for an espresso or martini - whatever you prefer.

15:30 - All Aboard

16:00 - Departure from Amsterdam

Tonight, enjoy an exceptional feast, followed by our festive **THIS IS ME** Welcome Party as we depart Amsterdam to begin our adventure through the Christmas Markets of Europe.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2023

COLOGNE, GERMANY

ARRIVE: 17:00

DEPART: 21:00

Cologne, also known as Köln in German, is a historic city located in western Germany. It's the largest city in the North Rhine-Westphalia region and the fourth-largest city in Germany. Situated on the banks of the Rhine River, Cologne is known for its rich history, stunning architecture, and vibrant cultural scene.

Optional Tour - \$35 per person

17:00 - Board the small fun train and follow the call of the inner city! Enjoy a small Christmas Market Tour onboard the Fun Express with Audio Guides. Don't forget to wear your Santa hat!

Optional Tour - \$63 per person

17:00 - Board your Rickshaw built for two and sing Christmas songs under your cozy heated blanket.

18:00 - End both tours at the Christmas Market at the Cologne cathedral. Explore the Christmas market at your leisure.

19:30 - Return to Advance

All Evening Long - It's **COMFORT & JOY** Night. That means gray sweatpants all night long back onboard!

21:30 - VACAYA Showtime: It's a night of laughs with Comedian Jeff D!

DAY 3 - MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023

MAINZ, GERMANY

ARRIVE: 14:00

DEPART: 19:00

Today, you'll awake to incredible scenery as you cruise the heart of Germany, passing lush vineyards, charming villages, and terraced hillsides of the Rhine River Valley and Gorge. One of the most legendary and beautiful sites is that of Lorelei Rock. Be captivated by the numerous medieval castles throughout the hilltops such as Marksburg and Rheinfels Castles.

We'll stop this afternoon near Mainz, in a region known for its charming blend of historic sites and festive spirit. Mainz and its surrounding area date back over 2,000 years. One of the best places to experience the past is the restored Old Town, brimming with an authentic atmosphere. Enjoy the Christmas Markets and cozy Wine Taverns throughout the city!

Optional Tour - \$70 per person

14:30 - Board your bus for a special experience to the Winter Wonderland

15:00 - Welcome to Hofgut Laubenheimer Höhe. Today take your time enjoying winter games. Start with a great curling experience and show your skills and sense of humor. You are vying for the Liquor Trophy. That means, if you're successful in curling, a regional drink is waiting for you! You are also invited to test the liquor to warm yourself up.

Afterwards, you have the opportunity to go skating on the highest ice rink in the Rhine Main area.

18:00 - Transfer back to Advance

All Evening Long - It's **UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER** Night!

21:00 - VACAYA Showtime: Chanteuse Laura Pavles, with Nate Buccieri on the Keys

DAY 4 - TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023

ASCHAFFENBURG, GERMANY

ARRIVE: 8:00

DEPART: 20:00

Visiting Aschaffenburg, Germany during Christmas is a delightful experience that offers a perfect blend of tradition and festive charm. Featuring enchanting Christmas markets, this picturesque Bavarian town comes alive with the magic of the holiday season. You'll savor traditional German treats like mulled wine and gingerbread cookies. The historic Old Town is beautifully decorated with twinkling lights and ornaments, creating a cozy and inviting atmosphere. Aschaffenburg's stunning Schloss Johannisburg, a grand Renaissance palace, hosts a captivating Christmas Market within its courtyard, adding a touch of regal elegance to the festivities. The festive spirit and the opportunity to explore the town's cultural heritage make Aschaffenburg a heartwarming stop on our journey.

You have the day to explore - whether it's on or off the ship, your choice.

- Take a bike for a spin through the town with a map provided onboard.
- Go for a walk or hike. To ensure proper form if exercising, or just to ensure stability, grab a pair of Nordic walking sticks from the ship before heading out.
- Explore the Christmas Markets in Aschaffenburg on your own.
- Participate in a cooking class onboard.
- Relax with a massage (extra cost).

All Day & All Night Long - It's **HO HO HO!** That's everyone in their Christmas Onesies all day and all evening!

10pm - It's VACAYA's Christmas Sing-Along Piano Bar with Nate Buccieri!

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023

WERTHEIM, GERMANY

ARRIVE: 9:00

DEPART: 17:00

Nestled in the heart of Germany, Wertheim transforms into a captivating winter wonderland during the magical Christmas season. With its charming medieval architecture, festive decorations, and an enchanting atmosphere, Wertheim offers an idyllic destination to experience the true spirit of Christmas. From its traditional Christmas Markets filled with handcrafted treasures and delicious seasonal treats to the shimmering lights that adorn its historic streets, Wertheim captures the essence of a timeless holiday season.

Optional Tour - \$79 per person

10:00 - Transfer to Glass Museum Wertheim

10:30 - Split into two groups to gain knowledge about the history of glass on this guided tour. You'll also have an opportunity to test your skills in glass blowing. At the end, each glass blower takes home their own Christmas tree ball as a souvenir.

12:30 - Transfer by bus to Wertheim Village for an afternoon full of shopping

13:00-16:00 - Individual shopping experience in the city's famous shopping center

16:00 - Transfer back to the ship. Cocktails will be flowing as you arrive for the evening cruise through the picturesque scenery.

18:00 - It's **BATHROBE NIGHT!** Starting at 6pm, it's everyone in their bathrobes all evening long! You've got one hanging in your stateroom closet, but don't be afraid to zhuzh it up!

21:00 - VACAYA Showtime: Marti's Messy Mayhem

22:00(ish) - Drop those bathrobes and join us in the Pool for a late-night swim!

DAY 6 - THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023

WÜRZBURG, GERMANY

ARRIVE: 9:00

DEPART: 13:30

Würzburg is a picturesque city located in northern Bavaria, Germany. Situated along the Main River, it's known for its stunning architecture, rich history, and vibrant cultural scene. The city is perhaps most famous for the Residenz, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most magnificent palaces in Europe, showcasing exquisite baroque architecture.

10:00 - Time at leisure at the Christmas Market. The tradition of Würzburg's highly scenic Christmas Market dates to the early 19th century. It's a masterpiece of unique offerings and tradition with approximately 100 stalls featuring one-of-a-kind and traditional gifts.

13:00 - Return to Advance as we depart Würzburg at 13:30

Afternoon Onboard

It's Christmastime on the Advance. Participate in Christmas cookie baking, Christmas tree dressing, caroling, and more. There will also be a "Battle of the Bartenders" this afternoon, as well. So come thirsty!

21:00 - VACAYA Showtime: Chanteuse Laura Pavles, with Nate Buccieri on the Keys

DAY 7 - FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2023**BAMBERG, GERMANY****ARRIVE: 14:30****DEPART: 19:00**

Bamberg is one of our favorite towns on the trip. Located in Bavaria, Germany and situated on the Regnitz River, it's renowned for its exceptionally well-preserved medieval and baroque architecture, earning it a UNESCO World Heritage designation.

Optional Tour - \$31 per person

15:30 - Meet your guide at the ship for a great Bamberg Christmas Market experience. With this being our last full day on Advance, expect an incredible few hours enjoying the markets and bidding Auf Wiedersehen to Germany.

18:00 - End the day, and our time together, with a Gala Dinner with a taste of Christmas!

21:00 - VACAYA Showtime: "That's All, Folks" Comedy Wrap-Up with Jeff D!

DAY 8 - SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 2023 NUREMBERG**DISEMBARKATION BEGINS @ 8:00****ALL GUESTS OFF THE SHIP BY 11:00**