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## *Christmas Markets Along the Danube*

**November 28 - December 6, 2027**

### **Happy Holidays: Christmas Along the Danube**

Imagine morning mist rising from the Danube. The gentle current carries you past snow-dusted landscapes, historic towers, and festive market stalls brimming with glühwein, handmade ornaments, and gingerbread treats. On deck, you savor the aroma of roasted chestnuts and laughter mingles with music beneath twinkling lights.

Disembark in Bavarian towns like Nuremberg and Regensburg, where festive cheer fills medieval squares. In Austria, stroll through Melk's baroque splendor and Vienna's grand Christmas markets. Each evening, return to the warmth of your 162-passenger ship, where heartfelt stories are shared over local delicacies and the promise of tomorrow's fairy-tale stop awaits. This is not just a cruise—it's a seasonal love letter to Central Europe.



👁️ Check Out the Latest [Trip Itinerary Preview Video](#)

## Trip Overview

**Duration:** 9 days aboard M/S River Aria or M/S River Adagio (162-passenger river ship)

### **Included Highlights:**

All outside cabins (balconies or picture windows), full-service amenities, cultural excursions, optional biking, and enriching onboard programs

### Pricing:

**Cruise Category A: \$ 4,195**

**Cruise Category B: \$ 4,095**

**Cruise Category C: \$ 3,945**

**Cruise Category D: \$ 3,845**

**Cruise Category E: \$ 3,745**

**Cruise Category F: \$ 3,645**

**Cruise Category G: \$ 3,495**

**Cruise Category H: \$ 3,295**

**Single supplement: \$995**

**Airfare: \$1,350**

***!!Please note: Prices are subject to change.***



### **Sample Day-to-Day Itinerary: Nuremberg to Vienna**

#### **Day 1: Depart U.S. →**

*Depart the U.S. today on your flight to Nuremberg, Germany.*

#### **Day 2: Nuremberg, Germany • Embark ship**

**Morning/Afternoon:** *Arrive in Nuremberg this morning, where a Grand Circle representative meets you at the airport and helps you transfer to the pier to embark your waiting river ship. Upon arrival, get settled into your cabin and explore the ship—your home for the next 7 nights.*

*Enjoy some free time to relax and familiarize yourself with your ship. Then gather early this evening for a ship briefing about your River Cruise, and to get better acquainted with your Program Director and fellow travelers.*

**Dinner:** *Afterward, settle in for your first dinner onboard in the ship's dining room.*

**Evening:** *You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.*

#### **Day 3: Nuremberg**

**Breakfast:** *Onboard in the ship's dining room.*

**Morning:** After breakfast, disembark for a tour of Nuremberg, one of the most important cities of the Franconia region.

*This medieval city surrounded by 13th-century walls is the second-largest city in Bavaria. Today the city's name evokes the notorious post-World War II war trials. But throughout its history, Nuremberg has been known for its wonderful creativity and handcrafts—its toys and fancy metalwork are particularly famous.*

**Lunch:** Return to the ship for lunch in the ship's dining room.

**Afternoon:** Set off for a visit to Nuremberg's famous Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market), where you have free time to browse on your own. This is Germany's most well-known traditional Christmas market, and it is open throughout the holiday season, with myriad colorful stalls offering handmade Christmas decorations, toys, ceramics, glasswork, and candles. Food stalls tempt you with Bratwurst, mulled wines, sweets, and pastries—including the famous Nuremberg gingerbread. Various programs regale visitors with chorale offerings, concerts, and a live Nativity scene.

**Dinner:** Enjoy a Welcome Drink and the Captain's Welcome Dinner onboard.

**Evening:** The ship lifts anchor and heads out on the Main-Danube Canal as we cruise overnight on our way to our next port of call. You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

#### **Day 4: Regensburg • Main-Danube Canal discussion • German language lesson • Choral concert**

**Breakfast:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Morning:** This morning, cruise Europe's highest canal, the Main-Danube. En route, learn about the engineering techniques and innovations—from locks to water pumps—that have allowed travelers to navigate Europe's rivers during an Exclusive Discovery Series lecture.

You are also invited to an Exclusive Discovery Series German language lesson, where you can learn some German phrases—such as, *Schöne Feiertage* (Happy Holidays)—commonly used during the Christmas season.

**Lunch:** You'll have lunch onboard in the ship's dining room just as we're arriving in Regensburg, a hidden treasure with elements dating back to medieval times.

**Afternoon:** After your meal, go ashore for a walking tour. Since the city suffered no damage during World War II, it remains beautifully preserved. Your tour features the Old Town Hall and the famous Stone Bridge, Germany's oldest, which was constructed during the twelfth century. You'll also visit the Regensberg Christkindlmarkt in Neupfarrplatz, which lights up in December with seasonal cheer.

**Dinner:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Evening:** Join us for an **Exclusive Discovery Series** event as we walk to a local church to hear a choral concert featuring festive holiday music. Afterwards, return to the ship, which remains docked in Regensburg overnight.

### **Day 5: Regensburg • Passau • Stollen baking demonstration**

**Breakfast:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Morning:** Enjoy a leisurely morning onboard today, or spend the more exploring Regensburg at your own pace. Ask your Program Director for suggested places to visit.

**Lunch:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Afternoon:** The afternoon is free for more of your own discoveries. Your cruise toward Passau begins shortly before dinner. You may choose to stay onboard this afternoon, where you might go on deck and take in the scenes of life along the banks of the noble Danube, or spend some time with fellow travelers over coffee or cards. Later on, you'll learn how to bake Stollen, a traditional German bread made with fruit and nuts, and topped with powdered sugar, during an Exclusive Discovery Series demonstration.

**Dinner:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Evening:** In late evening we arrive in Passau, where we dock overnight. You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

### **Day 6: Passau • Christmas Traditions conversation**

**Breakfast:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Morning:** This morning, learn about local holiday lore during an Exclusive Discovery Series conversation about local Christmas traditions. Then disembark for a tour of the lovely medieval town of Passau.

Situated at the confluence of the Danube, the Ilz, and the Inn rivers, Passau has been called the Dreiflüssestadt (City on Three Rivers). The city was significantly developed

*by the prince bishops of Passau, who made it their royal residence and capital of the largest Danube diocese.*

*You'll enjoy a short walking tour of this elegant town that has served as a German cultural and intellectual hub for centuries. See the impressive Bishop's Residenz, the 13th-century Town Hall, and the town's magnificent St. Stephen's Cathedral, which boasts the world's largest church organ, with 17,774 pipes and 231 resounding stops. The cathedral's original Gothic plan is still evident through the 17th-century reconstruction it received in the grand Baroque style. One of its most striking features is the gorgeous octagonal dome that hovers over the intersection of the nave, where the congregation sits, and the transept, which runs perpendicular to it.*

*Passau's colorful Christmas market is located in front of the cathedral. You have some free time to do some shopping or simply browse the wide assortment of handcrafts and Christmas creations.*

**Lunch:** *Onboard in the ship's dining room.*

**Afternoon:** *Head back into Passau to explore this charming town further on your own. Perhaps you will discover its famous Glass Museum, home to an extensive collection of Bohemian glass, dating from 1650 till 1950.*

*Later, return to your ship for some warming gluhwein and gingerbread before setting sail to Linz, Austria in the late afternoon.*

**Dinner:** *Onboard in the ship's dining room.*

**Evening:** *You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.*

## **Day 7: Linz, Austria • Optional Salzburg tour • Captain's Farewell Dinner**

**Breakfast:** *Onboard in the ship's dining room.*

**Morning:** *This morning the ship calls at the port of Linz. You have the day free to explore this Old World city. Linz, one of the largest ports on the Danube and the second-most populous city in Austria, was initially settled by Romans in the first century AD, and today is one of the country's cultural centers. It offers a wealth of discoveries—from its Hauptplatz, one of the loveliest squares in Europe, to the 17th-century Abbey of St. Florian, where Linz's native son, Anton Bruckner, was the organist and composed many of his famed masterpieces of church music. His burial site is at the abbey.*

*You could also consider a visit to Linz's historic Landhaus, a complex of structures currently used as government headquarters. These buildings served as the city's university in the 17th century, and it was here that the well-known mathematician and astronomer Johann Kepler formulated his theory of planetary motion. A short walk takes you to the Linzer Schloss (Linz Castle), where you can browse its Provincial Museum of Upper Austria, containing artwork from medieval to modern times. Linz is also a center for trade in antiques, so you might wish to stop in at a few of its shops to see what treasures you can find.*

*Or, journey into the heart of the Alps with an optional full-day Salzburg excursion which includes lunch.*

*Your optional tour of this beautiful city—birthplace of Mozart—includes a visit to the Getreidegasse, the renowned center for Austrian shopping. The vaulted passageways offer delightful pathways to artisans' workshops and arcaded courtyards. You'll also get another taste of Alpine Christmas traditions as you visit the fabulous Salzburg Christmas market.*

**Lunch:** *Return to the ship for lunch.*

*Or, if you have chosen the optional tour, enjoy a traditional Austrian lunch at a local restaurant.*

**Afternoon:** *Spend the rest of your day relaxing or continue exploring Linz's charming Christmas market and abundance of museums on your own.*

*Or, for those on our optional tour, take advantage of some free time to explore Salzburg on your own before boarding your ship again in the late afternoon in Linz.*

**Dinner:** *This evening, as you cruise the river again, celebrate your discoveries and new Christmas memories at the Captain's Farewell Dinner onboard.*

**Evening:** *You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.*

## **Day 8: Melk • Wachau Valley discussion • Optional Musical Vienna tour**

**Breakfast:** *Onboard in the ship's dining room.*

**Morning:** *After breakfast, disembark in Melk for an excursion to the dramatic 900-year-old Baroque Melk Abbey.*

*This magnificently ornate structure has a long and storied history. Strategically situated on a steep, cliffside perch, Melk Abbey's earliest incarnation was as a Roman border post. Later, it served as a tenth-century Babenberg fortress. It became a Benedictine monastery in 1089 and earned a distinguished reputation for medieval scholarship. Its library includes more than 70,000 books and 2,000 manuscripts, chiefly from the ninth through the 15th centuries. The Abbey also houses a remarkable cherub-filled library of thousands of books and manuscripts, and 365 windows—one for every day of the year. The interior of the Abbey's church is a kaleidoscope of red, orange, and gold—with a magnificent carved pulpit and shimmering ceiling frescoes. You'll also enjoy free time to explore Melk at leisure before returning to your ship.*

**Lunch:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Afternoon:** After setting sail again, enjoy a hot seasonal beverage and relax onboard as your ship cruises along one of the most beautiful parts of the Danube—the Wachau Valley. Your Program Director will provide enlightening commentary about this UNESCO World Heritage Site consisting of sculpted hills and medieval towns built along the river during an Exclusive Discovery Series discussion.

You arrive in Vienna before dinnertime.

**Dinner:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Evening:** After dinner, you can accompany your Program Director for a peek into this elegant city.

Vienna without music wouldn't be Vienna. So, subject to availability of tickets, you may want to join us this evening on an optional Musical Vienna outing for a performance in one of Vienna's famed concert halls. This optional excursion is an excellent opportunity to hear classical Viennese music in a setting where Johann Strauss himself performed.

## **Day 9: Disembark & Return to the U.S.**

**Breakfast:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Morning:** After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home.



## What's Included

- International airfare
- 7 nights aboard M/S River Aria or Adagio
- All meals onboard and most ashore (as noted)
- Guided cultural excursions and immersive activities
- Use of onboard bikes for independent exploration
- Enrichment programs and local discoveries

## Flight Booking Notes

**Airfare from DTW:** \$1350 per person

When confirming your deposit, please specify:

- Cabin preference (A, B, C, D)
- Flight class (Coach, Premium Select, Business)
- Seat preference (Aisle or Window)
- Any special meal or accessibility needs

## Additional Notes

- **Ship:** 162-passenger, privately operated by Grand Circle, with all outside cabins, balconies or picture windows, lounge, dining room, fitness center, sauna/whirlpool, and bike rentals

- **Physical Requirements:** Easy; walking on paved surfaces and navigating gentle steps recommended
- **Reviews:** 91% traveler excellence rating; exceptional Program Directors and cultural programming praised



**Online Reservations:** [www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com](http://www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com)

**Phone Reservations:** [\(269\) 209-5889](tel:2692095889)