GERMAN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

DÜSSELDORF TO FRANKFURT – 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS

WINTER IN RÜDESHEIM

Embark on a captivating journey during the Festive Season to experience the best of Germany's Christmas traditions. With Christkindlmarkts (Christmas Markets) in virtually every city, town, and village, this 4-day Rhine River cruise packs in a boatload of joyful experiences. Travel south from Düsseldorf, with stops in Koblenz, Rüdesheim, and Mainz. Savor the spirit-warming Glühwein (hot mulled wine) surrounded by Tannenbäume (Christmas trees) and cheery wooden stalls. You'll also have time to relax and marvel at a special gift from Mother Nature herself as you travel through the castle-filled Rhine Gorge – a passage you'll never forget. Bustling Frankfurt marks the endpoint of your jolly German adventure.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Düsseldorf
Day 2 – Koblenz
Day 3 – Rhine Gorge/ Rüdesheim/ Mainz
Day 4 – Frankfurt

DATES IN 2026

1 Dec, 13 Dec

UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE features an authentic destination experience that leaves an unforgettable impression. As you cruise through the scintillating beauty of the Rhine Valley, learn the secrets behind an authentic Rüdesheimer Coffee! Watch a true expert concoct this world-famous beverage with flaming brandy, strong coffee, a dollop of thickly whipped cream, and other mouthwatering ingredients ... then, taste one yourself! You won't want to drink coffee any other way!

ROUTE-ID: X-DF03

DAY 1 – DÜSSELDORF

Welcome to Düsseldorf, an international business and financial center ranked the sixth-most-livable city in the world. Embark the luxurious Riverside Debussy and relax as your personal Butler helps you get settled in. Tonight, as your ship departs, meet fellow shipmates during your first gourmet dinner on board.

DAY 2 – KOBLENZ

A leisurely start to the day, followed by mid-day arrival in Koblenz, established as a Roman military post around 8 BC. A RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions offers a guided walk to the Deutsches Eck (German Corner) monument, where the Rhine and Moselle Rivers meet, or a visit to impressive Marksburg Castle. Your ship remains in port overnight, so feel free to spend time at the Koblenz Christmas Market after dinner. Against a backdrop of sparkling lights and aromas of roasted almonds, mulled wine, and gingerbread, browse the inviting artisan stalls and admire the Baroque Town Hall's colorfully lit windows that create an enormous Advent calendar!

DAY 3 – RHINE GORGE SCENIC CRUISING / RÜDESHEIM / MAINZ

The morning begins with scenic cruising through the Rhine Gorge, where dozens of medieval castles adorn both sides of the river. Don't miss our UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE Rüdesheimer Coffee demonstration and tasting. Before lunch, arrive in the cozy wine village of Rüdesheim, where the Winzerexpress train shows off the sights with commentary about the area's history and culture. Afterward, there's time to soak in the Christmas atmosphere along the Drosselgasse, a 15th-century cobblestone lane lined with Old World architecture. Consider warming yourself with a Rüdesheimer Coffee in the very place it was invented. Later, cruise on to Mainz, where an expert guide introduces you to the Old Town and one of Germany's most historic Christmas Markets. As you warm yourself with a hot mug of Glühwein, marvel at the massive wooden Christmas pyramid and Europe's largest hand-carved nativity scene!

CHRISTMAS MARKET, MAINZ

DÜSSELDORF

DAY 4 – FRANKFURT

After breakfast, disembark your ship. For Riverside transfer details, see our website.