

FESTIVE CHEER FROM BASEL TO DÜSSELDORF

BASEL TO DÜSSELDORF – 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS



COLOGNE

Discover the twinkling lights and long-held traditions of Switzerland and Germany on this week-long Rhine Christmas cruise! Visit unique Christmas markets, where you're free to shop at your leisure and sample authentic Glühwein (warm mulled wine) and scrumptious local holiday treats. Embark in Basel, the merry meeting point of Switzerland, Germany, and France, then cross into Germany, where highlights include Kehl, an intriguing city that has alternated between French and German control throughout its thousand-year history; Mannheim, home to one of the largest palace complexes in the world; Germany's bustling financial hub of Frankfurt am Main; the former capital city of Bonn; the towering Christmas tree and iconic twin-spired cathedral in Old Town Cologne; and more – a very special trip!

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Basel	Day 5 – Mainz/ Rhine Gorge
Day 2 – Kehl/ Strasbourg	Day 6 – Bonn/ Cologne
Day 3 – Mannheim	Day 7 – Düsseldorf
Day 4 – Frankfurt	



DATES IN 2025

29 Nov, 11 Dec



UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE features an authentic destination experience that leaves an unforgettable impression. In Germany, Christmas celebrations wouldn't be complete without Glühwein. Attend an onboard talk to learn about the beverage's long history and how recipes vary from city to city. Then, sample red, white, and rosé Glühwein, along with traditional Christmas Leckereien (goodies).

DAY 1 – BASEL

Welcome to Basel on the Rhine, Switzerland's exciting capital of culture! Embark the luxurious Riverside Debussy and relax as you settle in. Then, tonight, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner. Your ship leaves port late and cruises overnight.

DAY 2 – KEHL / STRASBOURG

A relaxed morning lets you start the day the way you like best. Sleep in, make new friends over breakfast, or even get in a workout in the fitness center. Later, join our UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE onboard presentation about Glühwein! This popular hot mulled wine is served at Christmas Markets far and wide, and you'll sample three varieties, along with traditional Christmas treats. After lunch, go ashore in the German city of Kehl, right across the river from one of France's true gems – Strasbourg! An exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE city tour features the European Quarter, where the Council of Europe and other international institutions are based. Then, stroll with a guide through the Grande Île to one of Europe's oldest Christkindelsmäriks (Christmas Markets). See how the French celebrate as you wander among the atmospheric wooden huts selling hand-crafted gifts and delicious foods. Don't miss a photo with the 98-foot (30-meter) Great Christmas Tree, one of the tallest decorated natural Christmas trees in Europe. An outing is also available to medieval Obernai in the French Alsace region.

DAY 3 – MANNHEIM

Late-morning arrival in Mannheim, the wonderful City of Inventions. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, join a guided walk to hear about the city's unusual street layout, followed by a visit to the massive Baroque palace (second in size only to Versailles); or maybe visit nearby Speyer, final resting place of kings and Holy Roman Emperors, for a tour of the Old Town, a tasting of authentic German pretzels, and time at the jolly Christmas Market. Other options? Join "Bertha Benz" to learn about the birthplace of the automobile, or an outing to Heidelberg with its romantic hillside castle.

DAY 4 – FRANKFURT

Today is dedicated to Frankfurt am Main, known affectionately as Mainhattan. Home to the European Central Bank and over 300 global credit institutions, Frankfurt is a true hub of international finance. RIVERSIDE CHOICE can help you better understand the city as you explore 700 years of art at the Städel Museum, or experience the cityscape from above during an ascent up the 656-

foot Main Tower. Afterward, one of Germany's most popular Christmas Markets beckons for the perfect end to the day!

DAY 5 – MAINZ / RHINE GORGE SCENIC CRUISING

Your ship docks early in Mainz. Founded by the Romans in the 1st century BC, Mainz played important roles during the Holy Roman Empire and in the Jewish community during medieval times. Most famously, though, it was the birthplace of Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press. Through RIVERSIDE CHOICE, explore the Old Town and visit the Gutenberg Museum to learn about the world-changing invention; or join a costumed guide to learn about Gutenberg himself, followed by free time at the enthralling Christmas Market. Later, return to your ship for lunch, scenic cruising through the castle-filled Rhine Gorge, and a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE Rudesheimer Coffee-making demonstration and tasting. The afternoon and evening are free to take advantage of your ship's many outstanding amenities.

DAY 6 – BONN / COLOGNE

With the light of the day comes the chance to explore Bonn, Germany's former capital and birthplace of composer Ludwig van Beethoven. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers great excursions featuring the cathedral, castle, Beethoven sites, and the jolly Old Town Christmas Market. Lunch is back on the ship, along with the chance to freshen up before your afternoon call in Cologne. Enjoy a guided stroll through the historic district to visit the awe-inspiring cathedral (symbol of the city and home to the Shrine of the Three Magi) and one of Germany's most famous Christmas Markets. Immerse yourself in the pre-Christmas ambiance: twinkling lights, beautiful carols and church bells, gingerbread and almond cookies, and, of course, original Nuremberg bratwursts, which have played a central role in the city's Advent festivities for more than 700 years! Your ship remains in port until late.

DAY 7 – DÜSSELDORF

After breakfast, disembark the Riverside Debussy and enjoy complimentary transfers to the airport, train station, or central hotel.