

FESTIVE CHEER FROM BASEL TO DÜSSELDORF

BASEL TO DÜSSELDORF – 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS



FRANKFURT

Discover the twinkling lights and long-held traditions of Switzerland, France, 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 stop in delightful Strasbourg, the French "Capital of Christmas"! On to Germany's Mannheim, home to one of the largest palace complexes in the world; the financial hub of Frankfurt am Main; the former capital, Bonn; and the towering Christmas tree and iconic twin-spired cathedral in Old Town Cologne – a very special trip!

ITINERARY

- Day 1 – Basel
- Day 2 – Strasbourg
- Day 3 – Mannheim
- Day 4 – Frankfurt
- Day 5 – Rudesheim/ Rhine Gorge/ Koblenz
- Day 6 – Bonn/ Cologne
- Day 7 – Düsseldorf



DATES IN 2026

25 Nov, 7 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 fellow ship mates at your first gourmet dinner on board. Your ship remains in port until late, so feel free to explore the Basel Christmas Market on your own after dinner.

DAY 2 – STRASBOURG

Enjoy an easy start to your day, with plenty of time to attend our UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE on-board presentation. Learn all about Glühwein, the region's popular hot mulled wine served at Christmas Markets far and wide. Sample three varieties, accompanied by traditional Christmas treats. After lunch, dock for time in one of France's true treasures – Strasbourg! RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions feature a tour through the European Quarter, then stroll with a guide to one of Europe's oldest Christkindelsmärikis (Christmas Markets). See how the French celebrate in this self-proclaimed “Capitale de Noël” (Capital of Christmas) and marvel at the towering Christmas Tree, one of the tallest decorated natural Christmas trees in Europe. Other excursion options for your cruise are listed on our website.

DAY 3 – MANNHEIM

Late-morning arrival in Mannheim, the “City of Inventions”. Join a guided walk to hear about the city's unusual street layout and visit the massive Baroque palace; or maybe visit nearby Speyer for a tour of the Old Town and time at the bustling Christmas Market. Other options? A tour around Mannheim with “Bertha Benz” to learn about the birthplace of the automobile, or an outing to Heidelberg with its legendary castle and merry Old Town Christkindlmarkt.

DAY 4 – FRANKFURT

Arrive this morning in Frankfurt, Germany's inimitable “Mainhattan”. With more than 300 global credit institutions, the European Central Bank, and Deutsche Börse, Frankfurt is a true hub of international finance. To get a true understanding of the city, follow in the footsteps of Johann Goethe, Frankfurt's 18th-century native son and celebrated writer, scientist, and statesman; admire art by Monet, Picasso, Rembrandt, and other masters at the Städel Museum; or explore the city from above during an ascent up the 656-foot-high Main Tower. Best of all, spend time at the Frankfurt Christmas Market, which dates back to 1393 and attracts 3 million visitors annually.

DAY 5 – RÜDESHEIM / RHINE GORGE SCENIC CRUISING / KOBLENZ

Arrive after breakfast in charming Rüdesheim. See the sights aboard the Winzerexpress train, or soak in the Christmas atmosphere along the Drosselgasse, a 15th-century cobblestone lane lined with Old World architecture. Back on the ship later, enjoy scenic cruising through the castle-lined Rhine Gorge and a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE demonstration of how to make (and savor) a traditional Rüdeshheimer Coffee. This evening, arrive in Koblenz for a guided walk to the Deutsches Eck (German Corner) monument, or a visit to impressive Marksburg Castle. Your ship remains in port until late, so consider checking out the local Christmas Market to browse the artisan stalls, warm yourself with a Glühwein (mulled wine), and admire the Baroque Town Hall's colorfully lit windows that create an enormous Advent calendar!

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. A menu of great excursions features the cathedral, castle, Beethoven sites, and jolly Old Town Christmas Market. Lunch is back on the ship before your afternoon call in Cologne. Enjoy a guided stroll through the historic district to visit the famous cathedral (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!

DAY 7 – DÜSSELDORF

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