

FOUR-COUNTRY CHRISTMASTIME ON THE RHINE

BASEL TO AMSTERDAM – 11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS



AMSTERDAM

Spend some of the 12 days of Christmas in Switzerland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands on this very special Rhine cruise where you celebrate Christmas Eve in France, Christmas Day in Germany, and New Year's in the Netherlands! Immerse yourself in the long-held holiday customs and traditions in each country. From Switzerland's Basel, visit France's storybook city of Strasbourg. In Germany, stop in Mannheim, the City of Inventions; bustling Frankfurt; regal Cologne; and other captivating ports. Even Mother Nature gets into the gift-giving spirit as you travel through the castle-dotted Rhine Gorge. Your adventure ends in the Netherlands, with time in Gorinchem, the country's largest intact fortified city; the bustling port city of Rotterdam for a dazzling, fireworks-filled New Year's Eve; and Amsterdam to begin 2026 the Dutch way!

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Basel	Day 6 – Cologne
Day 2 – Strasbourg	Day 7 – Gorinchem
Day 3 – Speyer/ Mannheim	Day 8 – Amsterdam
Day 4 – Frankfurt	Day 9 – Rotterdam
Day 5 – Rhine Gorge/ Koblenz	Day 10 – Amsterdam
	Day 11 – Amsterdam



DATES IN 2025

23 Dec



RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Further enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences. In Amsterdam, the city's daytime brilliance is only eclipsed by the city at night! With atmospheric music setting the mood, cruise through the 17th-century canals, enjoying a drink and your choice of decadent dessert. Float past islands, bridges, the famous Anne Frank House, and splendid patrician homes from the Dutch Golden Age.

DAY 1 – BASEL

Welcome to Basel, Switzerland's exciting capital of culture! Embark the luxurious Riverside Debussy and get settled in, then join us for a guided walk through Old Town Basel, home to the 13th-century Mittlere Brücke, one of the oldest bridges between Lake Constance and the North Sea; the stately Gate of Spalen and Town Hall; and the twin-towered Münster (cathedral) with its colorful roof tiles. It's also the final night for many European Christmas Markets, so dive into the merriment at the Basel Christkindlmarkt and raise a mug of Glühwein in toast of your upcoming adventure! Back on board later, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner.

DAY 2 / CHRISTMAS EVE – STRASBOURG

Enjoy an easy start to your day, with time to sleep in, linger over breakfast, or enjoy a relaxing spa treatment or massage! Before lunch, your ship docks in one of France's true treasures: Strasbourg! Our exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE city tour features the Parc de l'Orangerie and the European Quarter, where the European Parliament, Council of Europe, and other international institutions are based. Then, you'll stroll with a guide through the Grande Île to one of Europe's oldest Christkindelsmäriks (Christmas Markets). See how the French celebrate in this self-proclaimed "Capitale de Noël" (Capital of Christmas) as you wander among hundreds of wooden huts selling crafts, gifts, and treats. Also take note of the 98-foot-high (30-meter) Great Christmas Tree, one of the tallest decorated natural Christmas trees in Europe. If you prefer, an outing is available to medieval Obernai in the French Alsace region. Join an expert guide to explore its canal-lined, cobblestone streets, followed by free time.

DAY 3 / CHRISTMAS DAY – SPEYER / MANNHEIM

Fröhliche Weihnachten – Merry Christmas! Arrive early in 2,000-year-old Speyer, one of Germany's oldest cities. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, visit the Speyer Technology Museum to browse its fascinating land, air, water, and space exhibits, or join a guided walk through the Old Town to see the highlights. Then, head back to the ship for a tasting of various Glühwein varieties and freshly made German Brezeln (pretzels). After a festive onboard lunch, arrive in Mannheim, where the Rhine and Neckar Rivers meet. Learn about the unusual street layout and ties to many inventions throughout history, and enjoy a bird's-eye



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN STRASBOURG

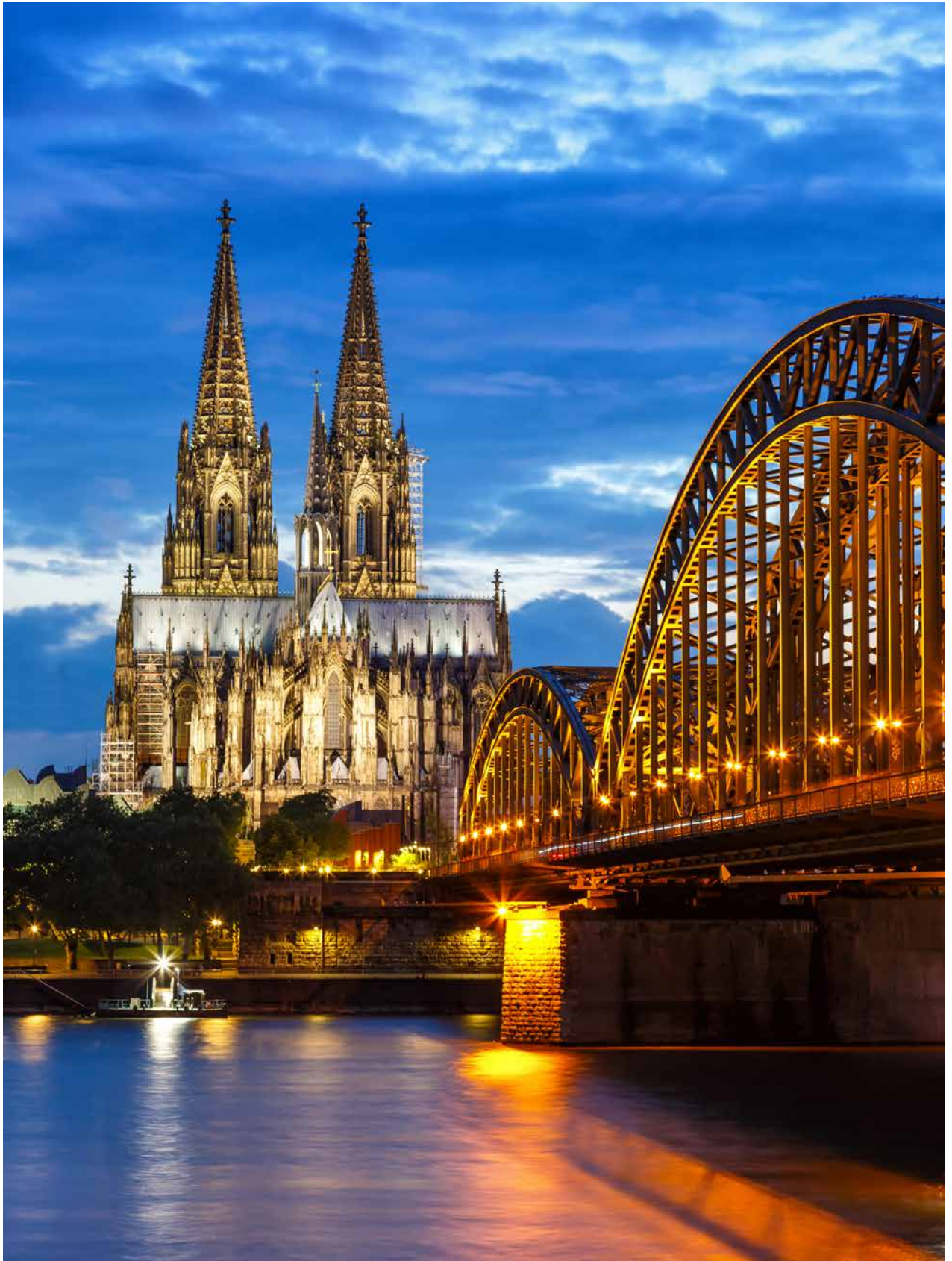
view over the city during an ascent up the 715-foot (218-meter) Mannheim Tower. Afterward, stop for coffee and Mannemer Dreck, a pastry created here in the 18th century with an amusing backstory! The ship departs late and cruises overnight.

DAY 4 – FRANKFURT

Arrive mid-morning in Frankfurt am Main, Germany's inimitable "Mainhattan" and hub of international finance. Despite all the modern skyscrapers, ancient architectural treasures persist in the middle of it all. RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions help you get a true understanding of the city during an encounter with 700 years of art – including works by Monet, Picasso, and Rembrandt – at the Städel Museum; or the chance to explore the city from ground level and from above during an ascent up the 656-foot-high Main Tower. Your ship remains in Frankfurt overnight.

DAY 5 – RHINE GORGE SCENIC CRUISING / KOBLENZ

Spend a leisurely day on your ship as it enters the Rhine and cruises north through one of the river's prettiest sections. Bundle up and grab your camera! From the Vista Deck, you'll enjoy unhindered views of the three dozen medieval



COLOGNE

castles and fortresses dotting the landscape. Afternoon arrival in Koblenz, one of Germany's oldest cities. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, enjoy a guided walk through the Old Town, past the onion-domed towers of the Romanesque Church of Our Lady, Basilica of St. Castor, and a labyrinth of ancient alleyways. See the iconic Deutsches Eck, where the Rhine and Moselle Rivers meet, then free time to maybe take a ride on the cable car up to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress. Alternatively, an outing is available to the indestructible Marksburg Castle.

DAY 6 – COLOGNE

Today is dedicated to the magnificence of Cologne. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a virtual reality “timeride” to experience what Cologne was like in the distant past; a delicious visit to the Cologne Chocolate Museum; a guided walk featuring the Old Town and cathedral, symbol of the city and home to the Shrine of the Three Magi; or a fun Kölsch Beer Discovery to learn about “the only culture that you can drink”. Learn about its protected geographical status – just like Kentucky bourbon and French champagne – and taste the ubiquitous golden lager for yourself.

DAY 7 – GORINCHEM

A leisurely start to the day with plenty of time for breakfast and to admire the passing riverscapes as you sip a hot mug of coffee or tea. Mid-morning, step off the ship in South Holland, where pretty Gorinchem is the country's largest, still-intact fortified city. Founded in 1000 AD, its impressive walls were built in the 13th and 14th centuries. RIVERSIDE CHOICE provides great options. You could join a culinary walking tour featuring decadent cheese, chocolate, and baked goods; or take a guided walk to see the highlights, followed by a VIP concert. The ship remains in port overnight.

DAY 8 – AMSTERDAM

Breakfast is followed by a full day in Amsterdam, the Netherlands' show-stopping capital. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a visit to the Royal Palace, the city's Town Hall during the Dutch Golden Age; or, follow in the footsteps of Anne Frank during an intriguing tour using virtual reality technology to “explore” the Jewish family's WWII attic hideaway. This evening, how about a romantic RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE dessert cruise along Amsterdam's famous canals?



ROTTERDAM'S ERASMUS BRIDGE

DAY 9 / NEW YEAR'S EVE – ROTTERDAM

Welcome to Rotterdam, Europe's largest seaport, the perfect place to say goodbye to the old year and to welcome in the new! Here, RIVERSIDE CHOICE provides an insightful look at the city's unusual architecture, including its fanciful Cube Houses! Gin aficionados might also appreciate the chance to relax at a local pub to try authentic Dutch jenever. A celebratory dinner on board is followed by live music and dancing in the lounge. Then, count down to midnight in style! Riverside gives you the best, from-the-river view of Rotterdam's thrilling National Fireworks Show, when the city becomes a colorful explosion of light and music.

DAY 10 / NEW YEAR'S DAY – AMSTERDAM

Happy New Year! Today is perfect for relaxing on board as your ship returns to Amsterdam. Around mid-day, you're free to disembark and explore at your own pace. Don't miss the chance to indulge with a Dutch favorite – an oliebol (Dutch donut)! Then, how about spending some quiet time with the Dutch masters at the world-famous Rijksmuseum? The Van Gogh Museum, Rembrandt House Museum, Madame Tussauds wax museum, Amsterdam Tulip Museum, and Anne Frank House are also great places to explore today. If you prefer, take advantage of a wonderful onboard massage or spa treatment – or get a jump on your New Year's Resolution with an invigorating workout in the ship's fitness center!

DAY 11 – AMSTERDAM

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