

# Danube River Cruise

## Christmas Markets of Austria & Germany

Nov. 24 - Dec. 2, 2017



*Experience the essence of Christmas time in Europe on this popular holiday getaway and cruise through the most beloved ports of Austria and Germany. You'll explore the region's craft-filled Christmas Markets exclusively in the company of like-minded American travelers, and view storybook medieval towns in all their holiday finery:*

- *Christmas trees aglow with white candles*
- *The uplifting harmonies of Handel, Bach, and "Silent Night"*
- *Sumptuous gingerbread cakes, and handmade wood carvings*
- *The warm, historic spirit of Christmas in Europe all around you*

*You'll share memorable holiday moments with other friendly travelers as you cruise from picturesque town to magnificent city aboard a private Grand Circle Tour River Ship. Along the way, you'll will enjoy all meals onboard, including regional wines, beer, and soft drinks with dinner. Plus, enjoy new onboard enhancements such as complimentary house beer, wine, and soft drinks, as well as improved wireless Internet in all cabins and common areas—all at no additional cost. Best of all, you'll travel in style with your friends from Southern Exposure and Grand Circle Travel.*

**REMINDER:** Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at **(269) 962-1255**. If you haven't experienced a Southern Exposure travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions. *Welcome!*

# A Splendid Christmas Markets Adventure!





## Itinerary: Danube River Cruise 2017

**Travel Dates: Nov. 24 - Dec. 2, 2017.** The incredible charm of Christmas time in Bavaria and Austria is waiting for you in 2017. Together with your friends from Southern Exposure, you'll visit the holiday markets, historic sights and cultural gems of this magnificent region as you cruise along the Danube River on our private river ship. Here is a quick look at our itinerary:

- Day 1 – Depart U.S. on Flight to Vienna**
- Day 2 – Arrive Vienna, Austria / Embark Ship**
- Day 3 – Melk / Wachau Valley**
- Day 4 – Linz / Optional Salzburg Tour**
- Day 5 – Passau, Germany / German Xmas Lesson**
- Day 6 – Regensburg, Germany / Choral Concert**
- Day 7 – Regensburg, Germany / Discovery Events**
- Day 8 – Nuremberg, Germany / Christkindlmarkt**
- Day 9 – Return to U.S.**

For more details on this special trip, please read on or call the Southern Exposure office at **(269) 962-1255**.

## What's Included in the Package

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from Europe
- Accommodations for 7 nights aboard a private Grand Circle river ship, including WiFi.
- 21 meals—7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 7 dinners (with complimentary wine at dinner)
- 4 included tours (see detailed itinerary)
- 6 exclusive Discovery Series events
- Expert trip leader / program director
- Personal headset on all tours
- Captain's welcome and farewell receptions
- Baggage handling for 1 bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- All port charges: a value of \$125 per person
- Company of your Southern Exposure friends

## Passport & Visa Information

Your U.S. passport should meet the requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return and have the recommended number of blank pages. U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip. Learn more online at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

## What to Expect: Danube River Cruise - Christmas Markets 2017

We will make every effort to accommodate your travel needs and make sure you have a pleasant, memorable experience in Europe. At the same time, it is important to remember that this is a true adventure. Please read these advisories:

- **Physical Requirements:** This program features a fair amount of walking over uneven surfaces. Bring comfortable walking shoes and a variety of warm clothing. For your comfort and safety, we recommend this trip only to individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking or are wheelchair-bound, please consult Southern Exposure or Grand Circle Tours for guidance. We reserve the right for our Program Directors to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience.
- **Climate & Terrain:** Throughout the River Cruise season, weather conditions affect European river depths. Water levels may require adjustments to your itinerary. Expect cooler temperatures, damper conditions, and occasional icy surfaces.
- **Christmas Market Tips:** Christmas Markets can be crowded, particularly at peak shopping times. Many of the local vendors at the craft stalls do not speak English, though some do. In many cases, you cannot use credit cards or U.S. dollars to make purchases at market stalls. However, it's relatively easy to convert U.S. dollars into Euros.
- **Transportation:** You will travel from Southern Exposure Herb Farm aboard a luxury motorcoach to Detroit Metro Airport, where you will fly to Nuremberg, Germany, on a scheduled international flight. Group ground transportation will be provided to our private Grand Circle Tours river ship, where we will spend each evening. Your trip cost includes all port charges; gratuities to local guides and motorcoach drivers; and baggage handling for 1 bag per person.
- **Accommodations:** We spend 7 nights aboard a private Grand Circle river ship as we cruise down the Danube River.
- **Before You Leave:** Before you leave on your vacation, we suggest that you have a medical checkup with your doctor; pick up any necessary medications (prescription and over-the-counter); have a dental and/or eye checkup. To learn more, please visit the CDC's Traveler's Health website at [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list).





## Detailed Itinerary: Danube River Cruise - Christmas Markets 2017

### Day 1 – Depart U.S.

We depart the United States today and fly to Vienna, Austria.

### Day 2 – Arrive Vienna, Austria / Embark Ship

Arrive at the airport this morning, where a Grand Circle representative meets you and helps you transfer to the pier to embark your river ship. Upon arrival, enjoy some free time to relax and settle in. A light lunch will be served onboard. Gather this evening for a ship briefing, and meet your Program Director and fellow travelers during dinner. Afterward, settle in for your first night onboard.

### Day 3 – Melk / Wachau Valley

After setting sail this morning, enjoy hot chocolate 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.

Then, after lunch, 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

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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.

Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a Captain's Welcome Drink and Dinner onboard.

#### **Day 4 – Linz / Optional Salzburg Tour**

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 first 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

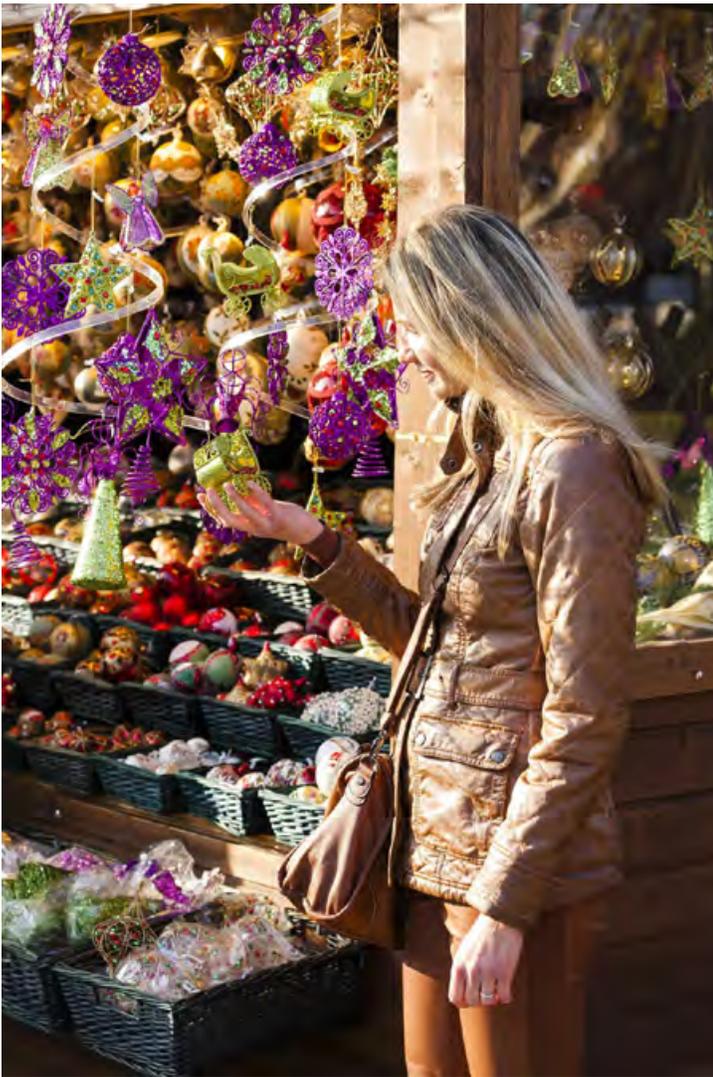
you can browse its Provincial Museum of Upper Austria, containing artwork from medieval to modern times. Linz is also a center for trade in antiques, so you might wish to stop in at a few of its shops to see what treasures you can find.

Return to the ship for lunch where you can spend the rest of your day relaxing or continue exploring Linz's charming Christmas market and abundance of museums on your own.

Or, journey into the heart of the Alps with an optional full-day Salzburg excursion. This beautiful city, the birthplace of Mozart, will seem familiar those individuals who are forever enchanted by *The Sound of Music*, and you'll visit the grounds where much of the film was shot.

Your tour includes a visit to the Getreidegasse, the renowned center for Austrian shopping. Note the intricate architectural details of this lane of shops and galleries, nestled under their skillfully crafted wrought-iron signs and offering jewelry, antiques, leather goods, and regional foods. The vaulted passageways offer delightful pathways to artisans' workshops and arcaded courtyards. You'll get another taste of Alpine Christmas traditions as you visit the fabulous Salzburg Christmas market. Handmade seasonal crafts of all sorts are available, and the aromas of traditional holiday foods add magic to the colorful setting.





Have lunch in this beautiful city and free time to explore on your own before boarding your ship again in the late afternoon in Linz.

#### **Day 5 – Passau, Germany / German Xmas Traditions**

This morning, we set out on the river again. Along the way, you'll be invited to join 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. In mid-morning, you disembark for a tour of the lovely medieval town of Passau.

Situated at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz, and Inn rivers, Passau has been called the Dreiflussestadt (City on Three Rivers) because of its location. 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.

Return to your ship for lunch onboard before free time to discover more of the town on your own. The ship sets sail again this evening, en route to Regensburg, with dinner aboard.

#### **Day 6 – Regensburg, Germany / Choral Concert**

You arrive and dock around mid-morning in Regensburg, Germany's largest medieval city. Then, enjoy a walking tour of this hidden treasure. 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 also visit the Regensburg Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market) in Neupfarrplatz, which lights up in December with seasonal cheer. You have time here to explore on your own, strolling among the stalls and shopping for unique handmade Christmas gifts.

You'll have lunch onboard ship and an afternoon at leisure.

After an early dinner on the ship, join us for an exclusive Discovery Series event as we walk to a local church to hear a choral concert featuring festive holiday music. You return to the ship, which remains in Regensburg overnight, later in the evening.

#### **Day 7 – Regensburg, Germany / Discovery Events**

Enjoy a leisurely morning onboard today, as the ship prepares to set off for its next destination. Your cruise toward Nuremberg begins shortly before lunch.

If the weather obliges, you might go on deck and take in the scenes of life along the banks of this noble river, or spend some time with fellow travelers over coffee or cards.

This afternoon, you'll enjoy two exclusive Discovery Events: a lecture outlining how the Main-Danube Canal's innovative system of locks has made Europe's rivers navigable, and a Stollen baking demonstration, where you'll learn how to prepare this traditional German bread made with fruit and nuts, and topped with powdered sugar.

Later in the evening, as you cruise the river, celebrate your discoveries and new Christmas memories at the Captain's Farewell Dinner onboard. We cruise through the night on our way to Nuremberg.

### **Day 8 – Nuremberg**

Your ship docks at Nuremberg quite early this morning. After breakfast, you 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.

Return to the ship for lunch before an afternoon visit to Nuremberg's famous Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market), where you have free time to browse on your own. This is Germany's most famous traditional Christmas market, and it is open throughout the holiday season, with a myriad of 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.

Tonight, linger over your final dinner aboard, and spend your evening as you wish. The ship remains in Nuremberg tonight.

### **Day 9 – Return to the U.S.**

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





## Pricing Summary (Per Person)

**Note:** *The information and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.*

<b>Trip Name:</b>	Danube River Cruise: Christmas Markets
<b>Description:</b>	9 days, including items listed in the “What’s Included” box above, plus international roundtrip airfare from Detroit, government taxes, fees and airline fuel surcharges
<b>Occupancy:</b>	Double
<b>Departure Date:</b>	November 24, 2017
<b>Return Date:</b>	December 2, 2017
<b>Departure City:</b>	Detroit, MI
<b>Per Person Cost:</b>	\$2,795 (total varies by deck)
<b>Serenade Deck:</b>	\$1,345 (per person, double occ.)
<b>Sonata Deck:</b>	\$1,245 (per person, double occ.)
<b>Cantata Deck:</b>	\$1,195 (per person, double occ.)
<b>Prelude Deck:</b>	\$1,095 pr \$995 (per person, d/occ.)

**Taxes and Fees** (included in the Per Person Cost)

**Travel Protection Plan:** Highly recommended!  
(See details on the next page.)

**Motorcoach Travel** to/from Detroit Metro  
(Call Southern Exposure at (269) 962-1255 for details.)

## Pricing Notes:

**Note:** The information and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

**Pricing Disclaimer:** *Every effort has been made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons. For more information, please contact the Southern Exposure office today at (269) 962-1255. Or send an e-mail message to: [southernexposurefarm@comcast.net](mailto:southernexposurefarm@comcast.net).*

## Important Travel Notes:

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).

# Tour Cancellation Policy and Travel Protection Plan

Please read the following cancellation policy and Travel Protection Plan. Pricing and coverages are subject to change as we get closer to the departure date for this travel adventure. Please call Trip Mate, Inc., 1-800-888-7292 for the latest prices, coverages and related trip cancellation policy details.

## Cancel For Any Reason Waiver

When you purchase the Travel Protection Plan, you also qualify for the Grand Circle Travel Cancellation Waiver Benefit that allows you to cancel your Grand Circle Travel Arrangements before your scheduled departure FOR ANY REASON.

## Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion Waiver

The exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions will be waived if payment for this plan is received by Grand Circle Travel within 14 days of your initial deposit, for payment for your Trip.

Below is a brief listing of the plan benefits:

Part A - The Travel Arrangement Protection Benefits of this Part A are provided by Grand Circle Travel.

### Schedule of Benefits - Part A

Benefit	Maximum Benefit Amount
Trip Cancellation	Trip Cost
Trip Interruption	Trip Cost
Missed Connection	\$750
Travel Delay	\$750 (Up to \$150 Per Day)

Part B - The Travel Insurance Benefits of this Part B are provided by United States Fire Insurance Company.

### Schedule of Benefits - Part B

Benefit	Maximum Benefit Amount
Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$25,000
Medical Expense, Emergency Assistance	
Accident and Sickness Medical Expense	\$50,000
Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation	\$500,000
One Call 24-Hour Assistance Services	Included
Baggage and Personal Effects	\$1,500
Baggage Delay	\$250

## If your Trip is Canceled or Interrupted, Your Travel Investment is Protected

If you are like a lot of people these days, you don't just look forward to your vacations, you need them. A vacation is your opportunity to rest, relax, and recharge your batteries. Or to catch up with friends and family. Unfortunately, many things happen that might cause you to cancel your travel plans or cut them short. Illness or injury. The death of a family member. The worst part is, without adequate protection, you can lose your travel investment. The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan protects your travel investment if your Trip is canceled or interrupted for a covered reason such as injury, illness or death of you, a Family Member, a Traveling Companion or a Business Partner.

If you must interrupt your Trip or return home early for a covered reason, the plan will pay (up to the original cost of your Trip) for your unused land or water Travel Arrangements, less any refund paid or payable, plus the Additional Transportation Cost to return home or rejoin your Trip.

## Medical Expense and Emergency Assistance Benefits Could Be a Real Lifesaver!

If you have a serious illness or injury, the last thing you want to worry about is getting the care you need. The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan gives you peace of mind with benefits that cover, up to the plan's limits, everything from medical expenses (incurred within 60 days of a sickness or injury that began during your Trip) to special transportation (such as an air ambulance) required for medical reasons.

## Travel Delayed? You're OK!

You'll be reimbursed up to \$150 per day (to a maximum of \$750 total) for meals and accommodations if your Trip is delayed for more than 12 hours for a covered reason.

## Baggage Lost or Damaged? You're Protected!

It's a traveler's nightmare. You arrive at your destination, but your baggage has disappeared. Or has been stolen or damaged. What do you do? If you're protected by the Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan, you'll be reimbursed up to \$1,500 to replace or repair your lost or damaged luggage and personal articles.

## Baggage Delayed?

### Need Clothes and Toiletries? Count on us!

The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan reimburses you up to \$250 to help cover the cost of clothing, toiletries and, or personal items if your baggage is delayed for more than 24 hours while you are on your Trip.

## Accidental Death Benefit

Your beneficiaries will receive payment according to the plan's Schedule of Benefits for Accidental Death which occurs within 180 days of an injury sustained while you are on your Trip.

## The Travel Protection Plan is Administered by:

Trip Mate, Inc.  
9225 Ward Parkway, Suite 200  
Kansas City, Missouri 64114  
Tel: 1-800-888-7292  
Plan Number: F394G

## The Travel Insurance is Underwritten by:

United States Fire Insurance Company under Form series TP 401. In KS, LA, SD, TX, and UT Form #'s TP-401 CW. In WA under Form #TP-401-WA. In OR under Form #TP-401 OR.

## TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Southern Exposure Farm at (269) 962-1255 with a \$500 deposit. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure. Call us for more information. *Welcome!*



## Southern Exposure Herb Farm

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