



# Christmas Markets Along the Danube River

Nov. 30 - Dec. 8, 2020

*Christmas trees aglow with white candles ... the wafting harmonies of Handel, Bach, and the strains of "Silent Night" ... sumptuous gingerbread cakes ... handmade wood carvings ... and the warm, happy spirit of the season is all around you. On this popular holiday getaway, you can touch the essence of Christmas in Europe during a private River 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.*

**REMINDER:** Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**. Or reserve online at [www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com](http://www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com). If you haven't experienced a Scott & Curtis travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff. *Welcome!*





## **Snapshot Itinerary: Christmas Markets Along the Danube River 2020**

**Travel Dates:** *Nov. 30 - Dec. 8, 2020*

**Day 1 – Depart U.S.**

**Day 2 – Nuremberg, Germany / Embark Ship**

**Day 3 – Nuremberg**

**Day 4 – Regensburg / Main-Danube Canal Discussion  
/ German language lesson / Choral Concert**

**Day 5 – Regensburg / Passau / Stollen Baking  
Demonstration**

**Day 6 – Passau / German Christmas Traditions  
Discussion**

**Day 7 – Linz, Austria / Optional Salzburg tour /  
Captain’s Farewell Dinner**

**Day 8 – Melk / Wachau Valley discussion / Optional  
Musical Vienna tour**

**Day 9 – Disembark ship / Return to U.S.**

### **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 river ship with wireless Internet access in all common areas and cabin.
- 21 meals: 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 7 dinners, plus all onboard house beer & wine, as well as soft drinks.
- 4 included tours with personal headsets, up to 5 Christmas markets, and 6 Exclusive Discovery Series events: Main-Danube Canal discussion • German language lesson • Regensburg choral concert • Stollen cooking demonstration • German Christmas Traditions discussion • Wachau Valley discussion.
- Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- Baggage handling for 1 bag per person, including tips.
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers



## Detailed Itinerary: Christmas Markets Along the Danube River 2020

### Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Travel to Europe today with your friends!

### Day 2 – Nuremberg, Germany / Embark Ship

**Morning:** Arrive in Nuremberg this morning, where a Grand Circle representative meets you at the airport and helps you transfer to the pier to embark your waiting river ship. Upon arrival, get settled into your cabin and explore the ship – your home for the next 7 nights.

**Lunch:** Onboard in the ship’s dining room. **Afternoon:** Enjoy some free time to relax and familiarize yourself with your ship. Then gather early this evening for a ship briefing about your River Cruise, and to get better acquainted with your Program Director and fellow travelers.

**Dinner:** Afterward, settle in for your first dinner onboard in the ship’s dining room. **Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you’ll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

### Day 3 – Nuremberg

**Activity Note:** Christmas markets typically open one week before, or at the start of Advent observances in mid- to late-November. Hours of operation for the holiday

markets vary depending on region, and may be limited or closed between December 22 and December 26, as well as on New Year’s Day. If necessary, your trip itinerary may be adjusted as a result.

**Morning:** After breakfast, 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. **Lunch:** Return to the ship for lunch in the ship’s dining room.

**Afternoon:** Set off for a visit to Nuremberg’s famous Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market), where you have free time to browse on your own. This is Germany’s most well-known traditional Christmas market, and it is open throughout the holiday season, with myriad 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. **Dinner:** Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Drink and the Captain’s Welcome Dinner onboard.



#### **Day 4 – Regensburg / Main-Danube Canal Discussion / German Language Lesson / Choral Concert**

Activity Note: During the Main-Danube Canal transit, it may be necessary for the Captain to close the Sun Deck because of low-standing bridges.

Morning: This morning, cruise Europe’s highest canal, the Main-Danube. En route, learn about the engineering techniques and innovations – from locks to water pumps – that have allowed travelers to navigate Europe’s rivers during an Exclusive Discovery Series lecture.

You are also invited to 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.

#### **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).
- Please read the “What to Expect” box on the next page carefully. If you have further questions, call Curtis Whitaker at (269) 209-5889.

Lunch: You’ll have lunch onboard in the ship’s dining room just as we’re arriving in Regensburg, a hidden treasure with elements dating back to medieval times.

Afternoon: After your meal, go ashore for a walking tour. 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’ll also visit the Regensberg Christkindlmarkt in Neupfarrplatz, which lights up in December with seasonal cheer.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship’s dining room.

Evening: Join us for an Exclusive Discovery Series event as we walk to a local church to hear a choral concert featuring festive holiday music. Afterwards, return to the ship, which remains docked in Regensburg overnight.

## **Day 5 – Regensburg / Passau / Stollen Baking Demonstration**

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

**Lunch:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Afternoon:** If the weather obliges, you might go on deck and take in the scenes of life along the banks of the noble Danube, or spend some time with fellow travelers over coffee or cards. Later on, you'll learn how to bake Stollen, a traditional German bread made with fruit and nuts, and topped with powdered sugar, during an Exclusive Discovery Series demonstration.

**Dinner:** Onboard in the ship's dining room.

**Evening:** In late evening we arrive in Passau, where we dock overnight. You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a night-cap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

## **Day 6 – Passau / German Christmas Traditions Discussion**

**Morning:** This morning, learn about local holiday lore during an Exclusive Discovery Series discussion about German Christmas Traditions. Then disembark for a tour of the lovely medieval town of Passau.

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

## **What to Expect: Christmas Markets Along the Danube River 2020**

■ **Physical Requirements:** 9 days, with 7 nights aboard a private river ship. Return flights to U.S. often require departing from ship in early morning hour. Travel by 162-passenger river ship and 49-seat coach. Changes in water-level depths may require adjustments to your itinerary. Walk 1-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities each day, including stairs. Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them. We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience.

■ **Terrain & Transportation:** Diverse terrain and uneven walking surfaces, including steep paths, hills, riverbanks, 25-50 stairs without handrails, and cobblestones.

■ **Climate:** Daytime temperatures range from 38-45°F during cruising season. Rain, ice, snow, and wind are possible during the holiday season.

## **Passport & Visa Information**

**Passport:** Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages. The blank pages must be labeled "Visas" at the top. Pages labeled "Amendments and Endorsements" are not acceptable. Visas: U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip. If you are not a U.S. citizen, do not travel with a U.S. passport, or will be traveling independently before/after this trip, then your entry requirements may be different. Please check with the appropriate embassy or a visa servicing company.

## **Vaccinations Information**

For a detailed and up-to-date list of vaccinations that are recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel> 60 days in advance.



Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Head back into Passau to explore this charming town further on your own. Perhaps you will discover its famous Glass Museum, home to an extensive collection of Bohemian glass, dating from 1650 till 1950.

Later, return to your ship for some warming gluhwein and gingerbread before setting sail to Linz, Austria in the late afternoon.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

### **Day 7 – Linz, Austria / Optional Salzburg Tour / Captain's Farewell Dinner**

Morning: 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 initially 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 stop in at a few of its shops to see what treasures you can find. Or, journey into the heart of the Alps with an optional full-day Salzburg excursion which includes lunch. This beautiful city – birthplace of Mozart – will seem familiar to those individuals who are forever enchanted by *The Sound of Music*, and you'll visit the grounds where some of the film was shot.

Your optional tour includes a visit to the Getreidegasse, the renowned center for Austrian shopping. The vaulted passageways offer delightful pathways to artisans' workshops and arcaded courtyards. You'll also get another taste of Alpine Christmas traditions as you visit the fabulous Salzburg Christmas market.

Lunch: Return to the ship for lunch.

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Or, if you have chosen the optional tour, enjoy a traditional Austrian lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Spend the rest of your day relaxing or continue exploring Linz's charming Christmas market and abundance of museums on your own.

Or, for those on our optional tour, take advantage of some free time to explore Salzburg on your own before boarding your ship again in the late afternoon in Linz.

Dinner: This evening, as you cruise the river again, celebrate your discoveries and new Christmas memories at the Captain's Farewell Dinner onboard.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Salzburg - \$110/person

This beautiful city – birthplace of Mozart – will seem familiar to most of us who are forever enchanted by *The Sound of Music*, and you'll visit the grounds where some 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. Lunch is included in this beautiful city, as well as free time to explore on your own before boarding your ship again in the late afternoon in Linz.

### **Day 8 – Melk / Wachau Valley discussion / Optional Musical Vienna Tour**

Morning: After breakfast, 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 cher-

ub-filled library of thousands of books and manuscripts, and 365 windows – one for every day of the year. The interior of the Abbey’s 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.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship’s dining room.

Afternoon: After setting sail again, 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 during an Exclusive Discovery Series discussion.

You arrive in Vienna before dinnertime.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship’s dining room.

Evening: After dinner, you can accompany your Program Director for a peek into this elegant city.

Vienna without music wouldn’t be Vienna. So, subject to availability of tickets, you may want to join us this evening on an optional Musical Vienna outing for a performance in one of Vienna’s famed concert halls. This optional excursion is an excellent opportunity to hear classical Viennese music in a setting where Johann Strauss himself performed.

Musical Vienna - \$90/person

Enjoy an unforgettable performance in one of Vienna’s famed concert halls. You’ll hear classical Viennese music in a setting where Johann Strauss himself performed, and be enchanted by the timeless melodies. Please note: Tickets are subject to availability.

**Day 9 – Disembark ship / Return to U.S.**





Travel  
with  
*Scott and Curtis*



## Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

**Trip Name:** Christmas Markets Along the Danube

**Trip Dates:** Nov. 30 - Dec. 8, 2020

**Trip Prices** (depending on cabin aboard ship):

Main Trip, Prelude Deck: \$2,695 per person

Main Trip, Cantata Deck: \$2,795 per person

Main Trip, Sonata Deck: \$2,845 per person

Main Trip, Serenade Deck: \$2,945 per person

Airfare from Detroit (DTW): \$1,400 per person

**Airfare from Detroit (DTW):** \$1,400 per person

**Travel Protection:** \$499 per person; not required but is highly recommended. For details, please call Curtis Whitaker at (269) 209-5889.

**Reservation Deposit:** The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$500 per person fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

**Need Help?** For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call Curtis Whitaker at (269) 209-5889.

## TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Curtis Whitaker at (269) 209-5889. A \$500 deposit is required to guarantee your place (check, cash or credit card accepted), fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

**Note:** The information, dates 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 will be 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, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please call Curtis Whitaker at (269) 209-5889.*