

## 2021 - Magical Christmas Markets

### 7-NIGHT CRUISE

Throughout this dreamlike journey, an overflowing of good tidings and magical Christmas markets come alive. A winter wonderland awaits at Prague's Christmas markets brightly decorated with wooden huts stocked with handicrafts and delicious scents flavoring the air. Be spellbound by the medieval atmosphere of Nuremberg's main Christmas market, and sample its renowned gingerbread. Stroll through Regensburg's romantic Christmas market at the Thurn and Taxis Castle, savoring fresh dumplings with vanilla sauce. Get caught up in the magic of Salzburg's Christmas markets at both Hellbrunn Palace and at Christkindlmarkt, located at the foot of the Hohensalzburg Fortress and around the venerable cathedral, which is a feast for the senses, from the warm aroma of mulled wine and Austrian pastry delights, to the sights and sounds of holiday performances, to the colors and textures of traditional handicrafts. And while in Vienna, visit enchanting Christmas markets from the regal Schönbrunn Palace to Vienna's charming Maria Theresa markets.

#### OVERVIEW:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
1	NUREMBERG	EMBARKATION
2	NUREMBERG	City tour OR Tastes of Franconia Nuremberg Christmas Market Scenic cruising through the Main-Danube Canal
3	REGENSBURG	UNESCO city walking tour and Christmas Market OR Tastes of Bavaria OR Walhalla bike tour Thurn and Taxis Christmas Markets
4	PASSAU	"City of Three Rivers" walking tour and Christmas Market OR Passau hike OR Passau bike tour
5	LINZ	Full-day Salzburg excursion with Hellbrunn Palace Christmas market "UNESCO City of Media Arts" walking tour and Christmas Market OR "Culture Mile" bike tour OR Český Krumlov excursion with Christmas Market
6	MELK	Benedictine Abbey tour OR Danube Bike tour Melk to Dürnstein bike tour OR Dürnstein Walking tour and wine tasting OR Apricots and Sweets tasting OR Dürnstein Fortress Hike Wine tasting OR Evening walk
7	VIENNA	"Imperial Vienna" tour with Christmas markets OR Vienna By Bike Schönbrunn Christmas market Rathaus Christmas Markets

## ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, NUREMBERG. Board the ship in Nuremberg for your Magical Christmas Markets cruise. (D)

Day 2, NUREMBERG. Join a city tour of WWII highlights and then walk through Nuremberg's cobblestone streets to the Imperial Castle and 900-year-old city ramparts. Visit Nuremberg's Christkindlesmarkt, one of the world's largest and most famous Christmas Markets. Later in the day, cruise through the Main-Danube Canal. (B,L,D)

Day 3, REGENSBURG. Regensburg is one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities, as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join a guided walking tour showcasing the city's architectural highlights, including the Old Town Hall and the Porta Praetoria, before visiting the Old Town Christmas Market. As an alternate option, sample some of Bavaria's specialties—beer, sausage and pretzels. Or bike to the base of Walhalla where you will see the neoclassical white marble temple inspired by the Parthenon in Athens. Later in the day, you'll be treated to one of Bavaria's most beautiful and romantic Christmas Markets at Thurn and Taxis, where you can watch craftsmen make their unique arts and crafts. (B,L,D)

Day 4, PASSAU. Picturesque Passau, a fairytale city founded more than 2,000 years ago, is noted for its Gothic and Italian Baroque architecture. During the season of Advent, the city dresses in her Bavarian holiday splendor, which you will discover on your walking tour through the city and at its Christmas Market at St. Stephen's Square—also home to its stunning cathedral. Go in search of unique crafts, including Bavarian-style houses and glass ornaments. If you prefer a more active adventure, join a guided bike ride along the Danube or choose instead to climb to the Mariahilf pilgrimage church and monastery that offers magnificent views across the old town and surrounding countryside. (B,L,D)

Day 5, LINZ. Linz is known for being the city of Christmas creches and its ever-popular Linzer torte. While here, you have a choice of three excursions. The first is a full-day visit to magnificent Salzburg dressed in her holiday best. Enjoy a walking tour of its UNESCO-designated Old Town, its grand cathedral, inspired by St. Peter's Cathedral at the Vatican, and its Christmas Market at Hellbrunn Palace. Alternatively, you can choose a morning walking tour through Linz's old city center and by the Mozart House, where he composed the Linz Symphony in only three days, as well as visit Linz's Christmas Markets. Or you can go on a guided bike tour through Linz and along the city's famed "Cultural Mile" and the Danube. During the afternoon, you can visit the charming mountain town, Český Krumlov, located just over the Czech-Austrian border. (B,L,D)

Day 6, MELK - WACHAU VALLEY - DÜRNSTEIN - KREMS - SPITZ. The awe-inspiring Benedictine Abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is on full display for your enjoyment on your tour. Later in the day, set sail through the breathtaking Wachau Valley. Or for those seeking a more active adventure, bike through the Wachau Valley to Durnstein. Once in Durnstein, join a walking tour and wine tasting. As an alternative to the walking tour of Durnstein, the more active guest may choose to venture high above the town for a visit to the majestic ruins of Kuenringer Castle, or "Durnstein" ('dry stone') castle from which Durnstein derives its name. Alternatively, enjoy an apricots and sweets tasting. Later in the day, set sail to Krems, where you can enjoy a wine tasting or walking tour. (B,L,D)

Day 7, VIENNA. The "City of Waltzes" offers a treasure trove of gems just waiting to be discovered. Join a tour showcasing its regal splendors, such as the majestic Opera House and the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburgs before concluding in Vienna's historic city center. Afterwards, you'll enjoy the festivities of the Christmas Markets. If you prefer a more active adventure, then join a guided bike ride through Vienna. During the afternoon, visit the Schönbrunn Palace Christmas Market with its giant Christmas tree. In the evening, spend some free time at the beautifully decorated Rathaus Platz Christmas Market before returning to the ship. (B,L,D)

Day 8, VIENNA. Disembark the ship and bid farewell to Vienna as you prepare for your return flight home. (B)