Christmas Markets Revisited
December 2020
We are pleased to offer the following information for our next great adventure in river cruising with Jeannette Douglas and The Silver Needle.

We are going back to the Christmas Markets on the Danube! It will be 5 years since our first visit to these iconic markets and their sounds and smells and of course, tastes. Many of the group had missed the first sailing and a good number have asked to revisit. We will sail from Nuremberg, Germany to Budapest, Hungary from December 5th to 12th, 2020. We are happy to announce that we are working with Dejan and AmaWaterways to bring you all the must do excursions of the Christmas Markets plus some new excursions designed specifically for our group to make memories for all of us. Jeannette has wonderful ideas for a Christmas sampler and we couldn’t be more excited to share the trip with you all again.

The cruise includes your accommodations, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily as well some amazing snacks mid afternoon and late evening… so there is always something to satisfy. Also included is beer, wine, and soft drinks at lunch and dinner, the most amazing 24-hour magic coffee and tea machine, and a lovely hour long cocktail party in the lounge pre dinner.

There will be an included excursion or two every day to choose from and of course we’ll have the wonderful, magical Christmas Markets to visit in all the major cities along our journey.

We have arranged for a pre cruise stay in Prague for one, two or three days prior to sailing and for a post cruise stay of one or two days in Budapest. Your pre and post cruise hotel stay includes daily breakfast and a city tour excursion in both Prague and Budapest. We will also be able to visit these Christmas Markets.

I must tell you Budapest is one of my all-time favourites and I am very excited for this trip.

Judy Bradford
Meet AmaLea: An intimate river ship built with luxury in mind.

AmaLea is one of AmaWaterways newest ships, introduced in 2018. Comfort and convenience are at your fingertips throughout the entire ship. A specialty coffee station, massage and hair salon, nightly entertainment, and exquisite dining are all awaiting you on board.

Why not visit the panoramic lounge for a cocktail with friends after a day exploring the Schönbrunn Christmas Market in Vienna? Or perhaps you’d like to relax in your cabin before you head to dinner at the Chef’s Table, where you get to see your meal prepared right before your eyes.
Stateroom Accommodations

- All outside accommodations, most with revolutionary twin balconies
- Marble bathrooms, multi-jet showers, soothing bath products, cotton bath robes, slippers and hair dryer
- Spacious suites (350 sq. ft.) with substantial sitting area, mini fridge, bathtub, separate shower, double sinks, and beds facing the river
- Generous closet and storage space with in-room safe
- Entertainment-On-Demand with high-speed Internet, movies, music and English-language TV
- Individually controlled air-conditioning
- Bottled water replenished daily
- Connecting staterooms and triple and quad occupancy available in select staterooms

7 Nights • Nuremberg, Germany to Budapest, Hungary

Optional: 3 Nights Pre-Cruise in Prague

2 Nights Post-Cruise in Budapest

Travel back through centuries as you walk along cobblestone streets through grand cities and historic towns bedecked with twinkling Christmas trees and lined with wooden huts gleaming with handcrafted treasures. Iconic Christmas markets are plentiful and are on full display for your pleasure. Budapest’s Vörösmarty Square, where all products sold in the market are guaranteed as traditionally handmade; Vienna with its impressive Christmas markets that seem to majestically appear around every corner; Nuremberg’s festive Christkindlesmarkt, the largest and oldest Christmas market in Germany; and Regensburg’s Christmas market at Thurn and Taxis Castle, considered one of Bavaria’s most beautiful and romantic, are yours to explore. Sparkling lights; the festive sounds of children dressed as angels singing carols; enticing smells of hot-mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, sausages and sweet treats of every kind; and timeless wonders are a feast for all your senses.
Day Destination Activities

December 2, 2020, Day 1: Prague, Czech Republic. Hotel check-in.

Check into your hotel in Prague for the beginning of your hotel/land extension.

December 3, 2020, Day 2: Prague, Czech Republic. “Golden City of a Hundred Spires” tour OR Prague Castle hike.

The fairytale city of Prague always enchants, but it really sparkles even more during the holiday season. Prague offers a collection of Art Nouveau, Baroque, Renaissance and Gothic architecture, which you’ll get to see on your tour. You will see Rudolfinum, the National Museum and Wenceslas Square, as well as visit 1,000-year-old Prague Castle and St. Vitus before walking over the romantic Charles Bridge to the Old Market Square, where you will find the capital’s famous Astronomical Clock, Tyn Church and the statue of Jan Husek.

You may also hike to Prague Castle. Later in the day, you will have free time to explore Prague’s renowned Christmas markets in the Old Town Square.

December 4, 2020, Day 3: Prague, Czech Republic. Free time.

Enjoy uninterrupted time to explore Prague and its many museums and landmarks at your leisure. Visit such sites as St. Vitus Cathedral, the Gothic resting place of numerous saints, or the Franz Kafka Museum, which houses first editions of several of the prolific author’s works. You may also see the historic fort Vyšehrad, explore the natural science and history collections at the Národní Museum or travel back through Jewish history at the Holocaust memorial in the former ghetto at Josefov.

December 5, 2020, Day 4: Prague Transfer to Pilsen, Pilsen Highlights tour, and transfer to Nuremberg, Germany for embarkation.

Check out of your hotel in Prague and drive through the pastoral countryside to Pilsen, a city perhaps best known for producing Pilsner beer. Enjoy some free time to explore this charming town. Later, head to Nuremberg where you will board the ship for your Iconic Christmas Markets cruise.

December 6, 2020, Day 5: Nuremberg City Tour & Christmas markets OR Tastes of Franconia Nuremberg Christmas market.

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, followed by a visit to some of the local Christmas markets. Alternatively, you can taste your way through the city with a Franconian specialties tour, which introduces you to bratwurst, rothbier (red beer) and lebkuchen (gingerbread). Later, you can visit Nuremberg’s Christkindlesmarkt, one of the world’s largest and most famous Christmas markets. You will also cross the Continental Divide via the MainDanube Canal as the day ends.
December 7, 2020, Day 6: Regensburg, Germany. UNESCO City tour and Royal Christmas Market OR Tastes of Bavaria OR Walhalla bike tour Thurn & Taxis Christmas markets.

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 there is a 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 artisans make their unique arts and crafts.

December 8, 2020, Day 7: Passau, Germany. “City of Three Rivers” walking tour and Christmas market OR Danube bike tour OR Salzburg excursion with Christmas markets, including Hellbrunn Palace.

Join a walking tour of this 2,000-year-old city, noted for its Gothic and Italian Baroque architecture and St. Stephen’s. Go in search of Bavarian-style crafts at the Christmas market. Alternatively, you can travel through the serene Austrian Alps to Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart.

Your full-day excursion in Salzburg includes a walking tour of the UNESCO-designated Old Town, its magnificent cathedral and its Christmas markets, including the Hellbrunn Palace, where its inner courtyard is turned into a romantic backdrop for one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Austria. For the active adventurer, join a guided bike tour along the Danube.

December 9, 2020, Day 8: Melk, Austria – Vienna, Austria. Benedictine Abbey tour OR Danube bike tour Wachau Valley UNESCO scenic cruising Vienna Christmas markets.

High on a rocky outcrop lies the Melk Abbey, one of Europe’s most revered Baroque monasteries. Visit this magnificent Benedictine Abbey, which now houses a museum chronicling its history and a famous library with countless medieval manuscripts.

Alternatively, go on a guided bike ride around Melk. Afterward, enjoy a scenic cruise of the UNESCO-designated Wachau Valley before arriving in Vienna and exploring the local Christmas markets.
December 10, 2020, Day 9: Vienna, Austria. “Imperial Vienna” tour with Town Hall Christmas market OR Alte Donau bike tour Artisan and Schönbrunn illuminated Christmas markets.

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 visit the Rathaus (Town Hall) Christmas market.

If you prefer a more active adventure, then join a guided bike along the Danube River. During the afternoon, visit the Schönbrunn Palace with a giant sparkling Christmas tree. This market presents a glittering and stellar Christmas experience. Cap the day off with “Vienna by Night” Christmas markets at the beautifully decorated Maria Theresaplatz Christmas market, set amongst the world-renowned sights of Vienna’s majestic Ringstrasse, and at the illuminated Rathaus, Vienna’s largest Christmas market.


Budapest is one of Europe’s most regal and storied cities—and many of its most iconic sights can be seen right off the banks of the Danube. Your tour through this sprawling World Heritage city offers splendid views from historic Buda Castle of the twin cities on both banks of the river. You’ll also visit Fisherman’s Bastion and see the marvelous Royal Palace, St. Stephen’s Basilica, Heroes’ Square and much more. Later, explore this beautiful city’s Christmas Markets. During the evening, be treated to an illuminations cruise around Budapest’s famed Parliament building as the city virtually glitters at night.


Disembark the ship in Budapest and bid farewell to the city before preparing for your return flight home OR stay for an optional 1 or 2 night post cruise at Sofitel Budapest Chain Bridge.
Christmas Market Revisited 2020 Pricing

Pre-Cruise Option in Prague

3-night package $851.00 US per person double occupancy
   $1305.00 US per person single occupancy
2-night package $728.00 US per person double occupancy
   $1021.00 US per person single occupancy
1-night package $435.00 US per person double occupancy
   $586.00 US per person single occupancy

Pre cruise hotel package includes:

- Accommodations of 1, 2 or 3 nights at the Prague Intercontinental.
- All hotel taxes
- Baggage handling at the hotel
- Daily Breakfast at the hotel
- City tour in Prague (on two and three night packages only)
- Transfer from the hotel in Prague to the AmaLea in Nuremberg
- Welcome Reception at the hotel on Day 1 or 2 based on when the majority of the group arrives.
- Cruise Sales Manager to begin with our 3-day option.
- Christmas Markets in Prague will be open at the time we are there, and we are working on an optional tour to one of the Czech Crystal companies.
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Post-Cruise option in Budapest

2-night package $527.00 US per person double occupancy
   $829.00 US per person single occupancy
1-night package $304.00 US per person double occupancy
   $456.00 US per person single occupancy

Post cruise hotel package includes:

- Accommodations of 1 or 2 nights stay at the Sofitel Budapest Chain Bridge
- All Hotel taxes
- Baggage handling at the hotel
- Daily breakfast at the hotel
- Hidden Budapest tour
- Transfer from the AmaLea to the hotel
- Cruise Sales Manager to stay with the group until all go home.
- Christmas Markets in Budapest will be open at the time we are there and we are working on an optional tour that may be a cooking class for traditional Hungarian Goulash. YUM.
- An additional tour takes you to another side of Budapest, the Jewish Quarter, where there are some real treasures. The Great Synagogue, the largest synagogue in Europe and the second largest in the world, located on Dohány Street, represents the beating heart of this quarter.