



**SPECIAL SOLO RATES GOOD WHILE THEY LAST
AND A HOLIDAY GIFT FROM US**



**NETHERLANDS, GERMANY, FRANCE,
SWITZERLAND **Deposit \$400****

**Dec 21-28 2024 7 Night Rhine Cruise
Amsterdam to Basel**

**Dec 19-21 Optional Pre Amsterdam option
Dec 28-Jan 1, 2025 Optional Post 4 nights 2
each Lucerne and Zurich**

- **Why a river cruise:** No packing/unpacking, ships dock next to towns so minimum transfer time to the sights AND you can walk onto shore easily.
- **Solo rates change, ask us for most recent savings.**
- **Our ship:** Ama Certo, 81 cabins- most with French and outside balconies, with marble bathrooms, free wifi, Apple TV and computer capability, entertainment on demand. Cabins range from 160-300 sq. ft. No smoking.
- **Transfers:** arranged by AMA if you book AMA airfare. Or book your own and purchase transfers.
- **Included:** all tours, all meals, snacks, entertainment and our welcome party.
- **Meals:** All included beer/wine at lunch/ dinner/cocktail parties. Casual dress even at dinner.
- **Our Group:** We host welcome party and share cabin numbers and names. If you wish to share your email, let us know.
- **Why this itinerary:**
Europe at its most festive. From the canals of Amsterdam to Switzerland, spend the holidays in magical places, with Christmas Markets and UNESCO Heritage sites. And of course, with new friends from WTG.

Pre Tour Day 1 Arrive Dec 19 **Amsterdam Pre Tour** Check into our Hotel-Barbizon Plaza or Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky. Transfers included if you book air with AMA. If not airport to Amsterdam is quick and easy. **Price: Single \$1280 Double Occ: \$750**

Day 2 Follow the guide through the charming capital of the Netherlands, with its iconic meandering canals, bridges and distinctive architecture. (B)

Main Cruise Day 3 Check and, before transferring to your ship, visit Zaanse Schans to observe life as it used to be. Authentic windmills, houses and ships were relocated to this picturesque area, creating a typical 17th- to 18th-century



village. Embark Ship in Amsterdam (B,D)

Day 4 AMSTERDAM Canal Cruise

Day 5 COLOGNE, Germany Enjoy cruising to Cologne, then guided tour through Old Town, to see sites such as the Cologne Rathaus, Germany's oldest town hall; the Fishmarkt, (12th century) and Great St. Martin Church. Then, visit one of Europe's largest and most renowned Christmas Markets. As an alternative, explore the historic and modern architectural styles on display across Cologne including a special visit inside the Cologne Cathedral, a 13th-century Gothic marvel and UNESCO World Heritage Site. This cathedral was the tallest building in the world at the time of its completion, and it withstood 14 hits from aerial bombs during World War II. Active guests will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten. (B,L,D)

Day 6 RHINE GORGE – RÜDESHEIM

Cruise through the castle-laden Rhine River Gorge before reaching the winemaking town of Rudesheim. Once in Rudesheim, you will have four choices of morning excursions. Wine connoisseurs will want to go to a wine cellar for a wine tasting followed by a Christmas Market visit to enjoy holiday traditions from around the world. Or go on a hike through the vineyards. Alternatively, you can take a peaceful ride over the vineyards on Rudesheim's gondola followed by a visit to the Christmas Market. You may also opt to join a guided bike tour through the town and along the Rhine River before visiting the Christmas Market. Later in the day, you can visit Siegfried's Mechanical Instrument Cabinet, or taste one of the town's special delights, Rudesheimer coffee. (B,L,D)

Day 7 LUDWIGSHAFEN You have the choice to explore two of Germany's historically rich cities, along with their festive Christmas Markets. Visit Heidelberg, a city that will capture your heart with its mighty castle and historic university. While here, wander along one of Europe's longest pedestrian shopping streets, the Hauptstrasse, soaking up the Yuletide celebrations at the town's Christmas Markets. Or hike along the Neckar River on the historic Philosopher's Path followed by free time to enjoy the Christmas Markets. Alternatively, you can bike along the Neckar River to the medieval town of Ladenburg and visit its Marktplatz, or explore one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll also have time to visit its Christmas Market in front of the "Old Mint" (Alten Münze) in the famous Maximilianstrasse, with a view of the romantic Imperial cathedral (Kaiserdom). (B,L,D)

Day 8 STRASBOURG is even more alluring during the season of Advent. The Christkindelsmärik dates back to 1570, making it the oldest Christmas Market in France. Enjoy a panoramic bus tour that takes you past the Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la Republique. Afterwards, walk through the historic town center on the Grande Île, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and through the lovely "La Petite France" district, where you will see the Cathédrale de Nôtre Dame with its famous astronomical clock and then visit the town's famous Christmas Market. You can also choose to explore Strasbourg's different districts by bicycle. Later in the day, opt to visit Gengenbach's Christmas Markets and the town's famous illuminated town hall Advent calendar. (B,L,D)

Day 9 BREISACH is your gateway to several different excursions.

Journey into medieval Colmar, located in the enchanting Alsace region of France. Delight in the half-timbered houses lining the

cobblestone streets as you take in the whimsical blend of French and German culture and the town's wonderful Christmas Markets.

Alternatively, head to Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to the Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral said to have "the most beautiful spire on earth." Then enjoy free time at the Freiburg Christmas Markets. Those wishing a more active excursion can cycle through Breisach's



countryside. (B,L,D)

Day 10 Disembark for your return flight home.

Or continue for 2 nights Lucerne and 2 nights Zurich, Switzerland(B) Single \$2560 Double Occ: \$1680

Day 10 Disembark transfer to Lake Lucerne, a highlights tour of Basel. Once in Lake Lucerne, walking tour along cobblestone streets, spotting the Chapel Bridge, one of the oldest wooden bridges in Europe. Later, check into your hotel and enjoy a leisurely evening. (B)

Day 11 LAKE LUCERNE Discover Lake Lucerne's unrivaled beauty on a walking tour that includes the Lion Monument, carved in memory of Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution. (B)

Day 12 LUCERNE TO ZURICH Check out of your hotel and, before transfer via motorcoach to Zurich, enjoy a scenic lake cruise. Once in Zurich, check into your hotel. (B) Zurich

Switzerland's largest city seamlessly blends its historic past with its progressive future—all of which will be on full display during your city tour. One of the top experiences in Zurich is a visit to Old Town where you will find yourself amongst medieval houses, churches and the modern Bahnhofstrasse. (B)

Day 13 ZURICH Switzerland's largest city blends historic past with progressive future— on full display. A top experience in Zurich is Old Town with medieval houses, churches and modern Bahnhofstrasse. (B)

Day 14 Jan 1 2025 After breakfast, bid farewell to Switzerland and prepare for your return flight home. (B)

Photos: from AMAWaterways. Terms and conditions are on www.amawaterways.com