



European River  
Cruise



with the  
Christkindlmarks!

# Christmas Markets Cruise on the Romantic Rhine

Switzerland • France • Germany • the Netherlands

Travel Dates: December 7 – 15, 2026



# Christmas Markets Cruise on the Romantic Rhine



The lovely Christmas markets in Strasbourg, France



Shop for unique treasures at the Christmas market in Heidelberg

**DAY 1 Depart the USA:** Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Zurich, Switzerland.

**DAY 2 Zurich, Switzerland – Huningue, France:** Welcome to Switzerland! Upon arrival, you will be met by a representative of Mayflower Cruises and Tours and transferred to your awaiting motorcoach. Flights should arrive by 1:00pm. Journey to the town of Huningue where your captain and crew await to welcome you aboard your luxurious Emerald Cruises Star-Ship. Enjoy time to become acquainted with your new accommodations, and this evening, join your fellow guests for dinner onboard. Your Cruise Director will also conduct a port talk to review the activities and itinerary for the days ahead. **Meal: D**

**DAY 3 Breisach, Germany:** Begin the day with a guided tour of Breisach, also known as the gateway to Germany's Black Forest region. This afternoon, enjoy a scenic drive through the Black Forest Highlands on your way to the Hofgut Sternen complex located at the foothill of Ravenna Gorge, a place where history and tradition merge. This was the site where, in 1770, Marie Antoinette stopped with 52 beautifully decorated carriages on the way to her wedding to King Louis XVI. During this holiday season, see the picture-perfect Christmas market situated underneath the 130' high Ravenna Viaduct where unique handcrafted regional items await your perusal. Enjoy local entertainment onboard this evening. **Meals: B, L, D**

**EmeraldPLUS\*:** Guided visit to the Christmas Market at Ravenna Viaduct

**DiscoverMORE\*:** Guided tour of Colmar (additional expense)

\*Note: Guests cannot participate in both options

**DAY 4 Strasbourg, France:** Arrive in Strasbourg, the capital city of the Alsace Region in France. A local guide leads you

on a walking tour through this picturesque town. Stroll along the Grand Île and through the charming Old Quarter, 'La Petit France'. Admire the historical city center and UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its medieval black and white timber-framed buildings, old tanning houses, baroque sandstone buildings, canals and river locks and its centerpiece, the Gothic cathedral. Enjoy free time to visit the stalls of Strasbourg's Christkindelsmärik, one of the oldest in Europe, before returning to the ship. **Meals: B, L, D**

**DiscoverMORE:** Baden Baden Spa Experience (additional expense)

**DAY 5 Mannheim – Heidelberg, Germany:** From the port of Mannheim, depart by coach for Heidelberg. Your guided tour of Heidelberg's rich history includes a wine tasting and a visit to the ruins of Heidelberg Castle, overlooking the Neckar River and a red-roofed skyline. A stroll along the cobblestone streets of the Old Town touches on the Church of the Holy Spirit and the oldest university in Germany, further enhancing your visit to this historic city. Enjoy local entertainment onboard this evening. **Meals: B, L, D**

**DAY 6 Koblenz:** This morning, enroute to Koblenz, sail through the spectacular Rhine Gorge, where a landscape of castles and quaint towns awaits. Don't miss the infamous Lorelei rock and statue and other photo opportunities that abound around every bend. Cruise to the 2000-year-old town of Koblenz, situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. During a walking tour of Koblenz, see the German Corner monument and traverse the cobblestone lanes of the historic city center. After the excursion, time to visit more than 100 glittering, festive, cottage-style stands filled with Lebkuchenherzen (traditional gingerbread hearts) and other special treats and handicrafts, all creating a magical European Christmas experience. **Meals: B, L, D**



Charming canals meander through Amsterdam

**EmeraldPLUS:** Christmas traditions in Europe lecture onboard by the Cruise Director

**DiscoverMORE:** Moselle & Cochem Castle Visit (additional expense)

**DAY 7 Cologne > Düsseldorf:** We sail towards Cologne, where you'll have the opportunity to wander the markets at your leisure, perhaps visiting the ornate stalls beneath the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral, where you can drink traditional glühwein out of beautifully decorated mugs. In the afternoon, you will have the chance to visit Düsseldorf and its many Christmas markets, each having its unique name and personality – such as the Fairytale Market, the Handwerker (hand maker) Market and the Schadowmarket. Sip on hot mulled wine as you admire the beautifully decorated market stalls during Christmastime. **Meals: B, L, D**

**DiscoverMORE:** Cologne Christmas markets & Beer experience (additional expense)

**DAY 8 Amsterdam, the Netherlands:** In Amsterdam, board a glass-top canal boat for a morning tour along the UNESCO World Heritage canal system. Pass historic merchant's houses that reflect the bygone era of the Dutch Golden Age, as well as delightful Christmas market stalls. Meander through the Christmas market during your free time to pick up any last minute gifts or souvenirs! **Meals: B, L, D**

**DiscoverMORE:** Dutch Delights (additional expense)

**DAY 9 Amsterdam / USA:** It's time to bid farewell to the Captain and crew and depart for Schiphol Airport as you say goodbye to Europe and return home with lifelong memories of your Christmas markets cruise along the Rhine River. **Meal: B**

Itinerary and excursions are subject to change.



## Exceptional Inclusions

- **20 Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 7 dinners
- **Airport transfers** on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours
- **Seven-night cruise**
- **First-class service** by an English-speaking crew
- English-speaking **Cruise Director** onboard
- Shore excursions with **English-speaking** local guides
- **Personal listening device** for excursions
- All meals included with a variety of international cuisine
- Complimentary **regional wines, beer and soft drinks** accompany onboard lunches and dinners
- **Onboard Activity Manager** will support all EmeraldACTIVE excursions and host daily onboard wellness activities, games, classes and evening entertainment
- Complimentary **WiFi onboard**
- **All gratuities included**
- Complimentary **bikes onboard** for use ashore

## CRUISE ACCOMMODATIONS

**Days 2 through 8** – Aboard an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship

# Emerald Cruises Star-Ships

**Built:** 2014-2026 **Speed:** 15.5 mph **Staterooms:** 19 **Suites:** 72 **Length:** 443 ft. **Crew:** 47

## SUN DECK



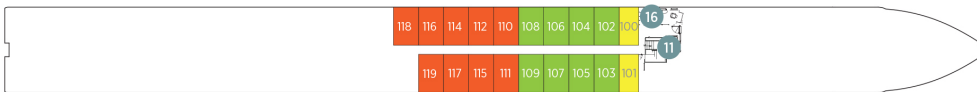
## HORIZON DECK



## VISTA DECK



## RIVIERA DECK



## Public Areas and Ship Amenities

- 1 Sun Deck with Deck Chairs
- 2 Navigation Bridge
- 3 Sky Barbeque
- 4 Golf Putting Green
- 5 Games Area
- 6 Retractable Glass Roof
- 7 Walking Track
- 8 Daytime Pool & Bar / Evening Cinema
- 9 The Terrace
- 10 Horizon Bar and Lounge
- 11 Elevator
- 12 Reception
- 13 Wellness Area
- 14 Fitness Area
- 15 Reflections Restaurant



**Owner's One-Bedroom Suite**

315ft<sup>2</sup>

**CAT SA**



**Grand Balcony Suite**

210ft<sup>2</sup>

**CAT S**



**Panorama Balcony Suite**

180ft<sup>2</sup>

**CAT A CAT B CAT C**



**Emerald Stateroom**

162ft<sup>2</sup>

**CAT D CAT E**

## Christmas Markets Cruise on the Romantic Rhine

		DECEMBER 7, 2026		
CAT	STATEROOM / SUITE	DECK		
			PER PERSON TWIN	
			SINGLE ROOM ADD	
E	Emerald Stateroom	Riviera	\$4,215	+ \$2,815
D	Emerald Stateroom	Riviera	\$4,439	+ \$2,969
C	Panorama Balcony Suite	Vista	\$5,035	+ \$3,385
B	Panorama Balcony Suite	Vista	\$5,505	+ \$3,715
A	Panorama Balcony Suite	Horizon	\$5,685	+ \$3,845
S	Grand Balcony Suite	Horizon	\$6,319	N/A
SA	Owner's One-Bedroom Suite	Horizon	\$7,165	N/A

Pricing includes roundtrip air out of Des Moines, hotel baggage handling, 20 meals, wine and beer with lunches and dinners on ship, gratuities for guides, drivers and ship staff.

*Hosted by Paula!*

**Deposit of only \$400 per person to save your seat!**

**Final payment due by: September 9, 2026**

## Travelers Protection Plan (TPP) for River Cruises - \$569 per person OPTIONAL

This nonrefundable fee will provide a refund to you during the instance that you have to cancel your trip. The cancellation has to be for a covered reason (see Plan for details on coverage) and we have to be notified at least one day prior to departure. If you must leave the tour early due to personal illness or the illness or death of an immediate family member, TPP will provide a refund for any unused services after the departure of the tour. Other benefits include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, 24 hour hot line and lost or stolen baggage assistance. Return air transportation is included ONLY if your air tickets are purchased through Mayflower Cruises & Tours. Please review the Plan for details on coverage. Should you choose not to purchase our TPP, the following per person cancellation charges will be assessed for all tours and optional excursion costs:

- 91 days or more prior to departure: Deposit Amount
- 90 days to day of departure: 100% of total tour
- No refund on unused portions of the tour



**Exclusions:** Mayflower Cruises & Tours reserves the right to alter its Refund and Cancellation Policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to: conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Cruises & Tours. *Plan and benefits offered and administered by Trip Mate, Inc.*

UPDATED ITINERARY

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:



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Revised: 5-7-2025