



Northwestern | ALUMNI

Christkindlmärkte of Austria & Germany

December 4, 2027 - December 12, 2027

Program Overview

Discover captivating settings where colorful lights twinkle over cheery market stalls brimming with handmade glass ornaments, fine wooden toys and irresistible holiday goodies on this heartwarming tour of some of Europe's most beloved Christmas markets. Revel in a joyous winter sojourn along the Danube River from Vienna, Austria, to Nuremberg, Germany, on an unforgettable, seven-night cruise aboard an exclusively chartered, first-class river boat. Throughout your journey, you'll delight in the timeless, cherished traditions of the Advent season at centuries-old markets in Vienna, Passau, Regensburg and Nuremberg. In Linz and Vienna, select between exciting Traveler's Choice excursions. Take in some of Europe's most noteworthy landmarks, including the imperial monuments of the Habsburgs in Vienna and the 900-year-old Melk Abbey. You'll also observe graceful Lipizzaner stallions practicing at the Spanish Riding School, an iconic Austrian institution. Extend your trip with a pre-tour extension in Vienna or post-tour extension in Munich!



Heart-shaped gingerbread cookies with colorful icing decorations.



A man dressed as a bishop interacts with a child at a festive outdoor event.



A vibrant display of colorful Christmas ornaments in wicker baskets, with various intricate designs.

Program Highlights

- Cruise for 7 nights from Vienna, Austria, to Nuremberg, Germany, through the picturesque Wachau Valley aboard the Amadeus Star, an exclusively chartered, first-class river boat.
- Explore some of Europe's most famous Christmas markets and enjoy a magical experience that combines old-world charm with festivity.
- Visits to 4 UNESCO World Heritage sites: Old Town of Regensburg, Germany; Wachau Cultural Landscape and Historic Center of Salzburg, Austria; and Historic Center of Vienna, Austria.
- Included meals | 2 receptions, 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 7 dinners.
- Vienna Pre-Tour Extension and Munich Post-Tour Extension. (Available at additional cost).



Day-by-Day Program Itinerary

- The Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands.

Mild excursions involve:

- Walking for 1.5 hours or more over uneven terrain
- Walking on challenging surfaces: cobblestones, uneven paths and/or pavements
- Climbing stairs and hills and crossing rail tracks
- Ascending and descending narrow (and sometimes steep) gangplanks
- Stepping on and off motorcoaches with 3-6 steep steps

Moderate excursions could involve the above, plus:

- Walking for 3 hours for distances of a mile or more
- Walking on uneven terrain: narrow cobblestone streets, stone floors, and/or slippery surfaces. There may be several flights of stairs, some without railings

Active excursions could involve the above, plus:

- Walking on uneven terrain: sandy or rocky beaches and/or steep inclines
- Standing for 2 hours or more at a time, possibly without areas to sit
- Climbing 100 stairs or more
- Additional challenges, such as long jeep rides, bumpy boat rides or hikes

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives to active excursions may be available.

Day 1 | Depart Home City

Depart for Vienna, Austria. Please check your bags from your gateway city to your arrival city. Be sure to attach the provided Gohagan & Company luggage tags for each piece of luggage, including carry-ons. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: VIE.

Day 2 | Vienna, Austria | Embark

Arrive at Vienna International Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs screening, meet a Gohagan & Company representative. From there you will transfer to a group hospitality room at the InterContinental Vienna.

Shuttle service from the hospitality room will be available for those who'd like to visit the Christkindlmarkt on the Rathausplatz, a renowned holiday market held on the square in front of Vienna's City Hall.

Later this afternoon, transfer with the group to embark the Amadeus Star.

After settling into your cabin or stateroom, attend a Gohagan & Company Welcome Briefing and lifeboat drill.

Captain's Welcome Reception: Join your fellow passengers for the Captain's Welcome Reception this evening, followed by dinner on board the river boat with views of the lovely Vienna harbor.

Day 3 | Vienna

Linger over a satisfying breakfast on board, then venture out for an insightful tour of Vienna. From its ancient origins as the site of Celtic and Roman settlements, medieval Vienna was at the epicenter of the Baroque movement. In addition to ushering in the golden age of Viennese classical music, Austria's capital city is home to stunning architecture and splendid gardens. The UNESCO World Heritage-designated historic city center features baroque castles and the impressive late 19th-century Ringstrasse, lined with landmark monuments and parks.

Vienna City Tour. This panoramic excursion passes the magnificent Vienna State Opera House, which opened in 1869 with Mozart's "Don Juan" to an audience that included Emperor Franz Joseph and Empress Elisabeth. It is today considered one of the most important opera houses in the world. From there, witness the Austrian Parliament; the 19th-century Burgtheater (known locally as "The Burg"); the historical Vienna City Hall; and several unique Catholic church buildings — culminating with the spectacular St. Stephen's Cathedral. Admire the Gothic beauty of St. Stephen's, or Stephansdom, a structure that represents eight centuries of architectural history on your way to visit the Spanish Riding School. (Moderate)

Spanish Riding School. Visit the magnificent riding hall of the Spanish Riding School, an institution that demands the Renaissance tradition of classical dressage. Watch a training practice by the world-famous white Lipizzan stallions. These equines are famous for their classic physique and grace and are recognized as Europe's oldest cultural horse breed, a cross between Spanish, Arabian and Berber horses. (Moderate)

Enjoy lunch on your own. Perhaps try experiencing Viennese coffee house culture, an integral part of the Viennese

lifestyle. Pair your coffee with a slice of Sacher torte, a decadent chocolate sponge cake made with layers of apricot jam and a chocolate ganache topping! Traditionally served with whipped cream, the recipe is a closely guarded secret!

Traveler's Choice | Choose ONE of the following included excursions:

Schönbrunn Palace. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Baroque Schönbrunn Palace was originally commissioned by Emperor Leopold I at the end of the 17th century as an imperial hunting lodge. By the end of the 18th century, the chateau grew into the palatial imperial residence you will see today. Gain insight into the Austrian empire and its extravagant Hapsburg rulers as you stroll through these lavish hallways and enjoy leisure time in the palace park. (Moderate)

Christkindlmarkt on the Rathausplatz. Peruse Vienna's most famous Christkindlmarkt! Held on the square front of Vienna's City Hall, the Wiener Christkindlmarkt is surrounded by Vienna's largest display of holiday lights, decorations and the remarkable Rathaus Christmas Tree with a large nativity scene at its foot. The lively atmosphere is comprised of a variety of incredible market stalls, including endless food options featuring traditional seasonal cuisine. (Moderate)

Return to the boat for a special a cappella performance by Alpine carolers. Tap your toes during some delightful Christmas music.

This evening, savor dinner on board as the boat sails toward Dürnstein.

Day 4 | Durnstein | Emmersdorf | Melk

Wake up this morning in the picturesque Austrian town of Dürnstein, nestled in the heartland of UNESCO-inscribed Wachau Valley's wine country.

Dürnstein Walking Tour. Tiny and charming, Dürnstein is most famous for its Künringer Castle, where England's King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned on his way back from the Third Crusade. Your walking tour begins at the Dürnstein Abbey, which began in 1372 as a small chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Look above to view the ruins of Künringer Castle, situated high on a hill, before enjoying a short organ recital at the cathedral in Dürnstein. (Mild)

Return to the boat for lunch on board as we cruise to Melk, the former site of an ancient Roman garrison and a legendary abbey, built high atop the town with views over the lower alps and Danube below.

Melk Abbey Tour. Disembark for an enriching visit to the 900-year-old Benedictine abbey complex, a landmark that includes remnants of an 11th-century castle where Austria's Babenberg rulers once lived, and a baroque-style façade built in the 18th century. The abbey's elaborate cloister has been ruined and rebuilt over the centuries and contains such artistic treasures as original frescoes, statuary and medieval manuscripts. (Mild)

Once you're back on board, you can enjoy dinner of local cuisine, after which you can relax under the nighttime sky.

Day 5 | Linz | Salzburg

Arrive in Linz. Disembark after breakfast for your selected full-day excursion.

Traveler's Choice | Choose ONE of the following included excursions:

Salzburg City Tour. Enjoy the scenery on a drive from Linz to Salzburg. This UNESCO World Heritage-inscribed city flourished from the Middle Ages through the 19th century as the center of art and culture — attracting artists and architects from throughout Europe with styles that ranged from Gothic to baroque. Begin your discovery of this legendary city with a walking tour of its historic center and old town. See St. Peter's Cemetery, the Residenz Palace and Festival Halls before strolling along the 12th-century Getreidegasse shopping boulevard. Walk past Mozart's birthplace at Getreidegasse No. 9 before arriving at the Mirabell Castle Cathedral for a Mozart string quartet concert. After the concert, continue past the majestic Dom Cathedral for a visit to the traditional Salzburg Christkindlmarkt on Dom and Residenzplatz Square, one of the world's oldest Advent markets. Enjoy a lunch of local specialties before visiting the 11th-century Fortress of Hohensalzburg, the largest, fully preserved fortress in central Europe. (Active)

Linz Walking Tour. Step off the ship and discover the charming city of Linz on foot. Your tour will begin with a visit to the Mozart House, followed by the historic Landhaus. Next, admire the impressive Neuer Dom, the largest church in Austria, where you'll find one of the country's most elaborate Nativity scenes. Take a break at a local café to sample the famous Linzer Torte, a beloved regional treat. The tour concludes at the festive Christmas Market, where you'll have time to soak in the seasonal atmosphere. Afterwards, return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing, free afternoon to explore Linz at your own pace. (Mild)

Return to the boat for dinner on board this evening.

Day 6 | Passau, Germany

Arrive in Passau, nestled at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz and Inn rivers. Picturesque Passau has been called "one of the most beautifully situated towns in the world."

Passau. In the heart of old town, step into St. Stephen's Cathedral, famous for its Baroque architecture and the world's largest cathedral organ, with 17,974 pipes and 233 registers, creating a majestic sound. This has been the cathedral's site since the 8th century, with the current structure completed in 1688. The breathtaking baroque interior features elegant white and gold stucco adornments and ornate ceiling frescoes depicting biblical scenes in stunning detail. (Moderate)

Free Time: Savor the aromas of Christmas as you explore the Passau Christkindlmarkt. Shop the stalls and taste the gingerbread and other aromatic treats with the splendor of the city all around.

Return to the boat for lunch on board as we depart Passau. Relax in your cabin or find your favorite chair on deck before enjoying dinner this evening.

Day 7 | Regensburg

Regensburg is our next port of call. Once a booming merchant city, Regensburg today is dotted with impressive

Roman ruins, Gothic, Romanesque and Baroque churches, and colorful houses from the 12th and 13th centuries.

Regensburg Walking Tour. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site for its many bridges, cathedrals and squares, the city of Regensburg has a history that spans more than 2,000 years. Its old town center was once the site of a Roman stronghold, reflected in remnants of walls that remain to this day. Even though it suffered repeated bombing during World War II, most of its medieval structures survived. Take a stroll back in time during a walking tour through Regensburg. Festooned with pine boughs and sparkling lights, the city features four enchanting Christmas markets — each purveying distinctive handmade pottery, carved figures and Bavarian delicacies. (Moderate)

Return to the ship for lunch as the ship departs Regensburg.

Gather with friends tonight for a delicious dinner and conversation.

Day 8 | Nuremberg

The cityscape of Nuremberg greets you this morning! Home to Europe's first printing press, Nuremberg is often associated with expansions in science and technology. Ancient city walls from the 14th and 15th centuries lead to an array of medieval gates and towers.

Nuremberg Walking Tour. Your walking tour begins in Nuremberg's old town, where you can see the original city walls and visit the castle complex. Admire the medieval, Gothic-style St. Lawrence Church, damaged during World War II and later masterfully restored. In the Hauptmarkt, or market square, see the Frauenkirche Gothic church, and the Schöner Brunnen fountain before returning to the boat for lunch on board. (Moderate)

Free Time: Disembark for an afternoon at leisure to explore the Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt, one of the oldest holiday markets in the world. In addition to Old World Christmas decorations, the market is renowned for preserving Nuremberg's famous Rostbratwurst and Lebkuchen, a 17th-century gingerbread recipe.

Captain's Farewell Reception: Join your fellow passengers for the Captain's Farewell Reception this evening, followed by dinner on board with views of Nuremberg at night.

Day 9 | Nuremberg | Disembark | Return to Home City

Following breakfast, disembark and transfer to Nuremberg Airport for your return flight home. Arrive in your home city and go through immigration and customs.

Luftner Cruises - Amadeus Star - 2026

The stylish 82-cabin MS Amadeus Star, evocative of a grand European hotel, is part of the elegant Amadeus fleet. Step aboard and embark on a cruise where your comfort and enjoyment are the highest priority. The crew is dedicated to taking care of each traveler with renowned Austrian hospitality. In addition to attentive, friendly service, the Amadeus Imperial has a distinctly timeless ambience. From the beautifully appointed surroundings to gourmet dining to generous and comfortable public spaces, your floating luxury hotel provides a stress-free stay while showcasing Europe's most stunning rivers.



Dates & Rates

Travel Dates: December 4, 2027 - December 12, 2027

All rates are in U.S. dollars per person, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated, and include taxes. The deposit is \$2000 per person. The Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure. Single accommodations are subject to availability.

The Optional Extension(s) is available at an additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

For Terms & Conditions, visit: norwes.gohagantravel.com/terms/

The Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full savings. The Special Savings rate is valid if you book by April 12, 2027 and pay in full at the time of booking.

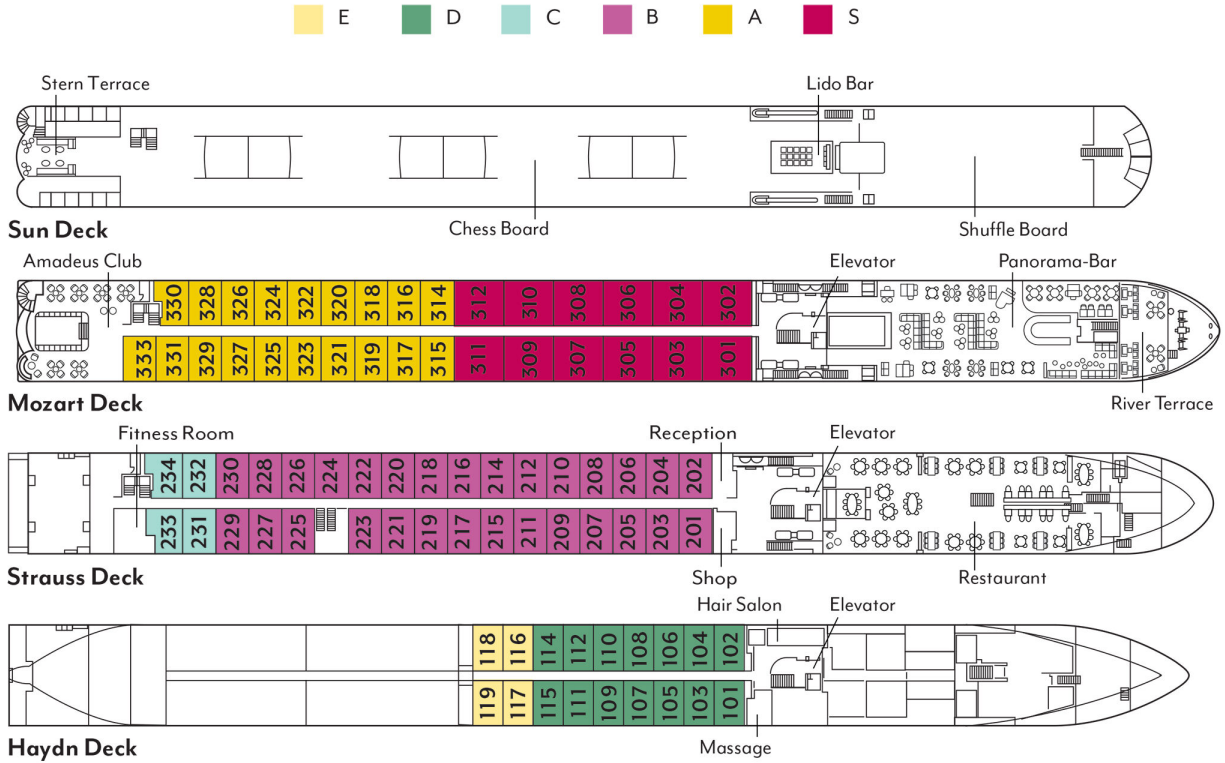
Double Occupancy Rates

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Discount Rate
E	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck, mid.	\$4795.00	\$3795.00
D	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck, mid.	\$4995.00	\$3995.00
C	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck, aft.	\$5795.00	\$4795.00
B	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck, mid/aft.	\$5995.00	\$4995.00
A	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Mozart Deck, aft.	\$6495.00	\$5495.00
S	Suite with private, walk-out balcony; walk-in closet; corner sofa; bathrobes and slippers; minibar. 284 sq ft Mozart Deck, mid.	\$7995.00	\$6995.00

Single Occupancy Rates

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Discount Rate
D	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck, mid.	\$6240.00	\$5240.00
C	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck, aft.	\$7240.00	\$6240.00
E	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck, mid.	\$9590.00	\$8590.00
B	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck, mid/aft.	\$11990.00	\$10990.00
A	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Mozart Deck, aft.	\$12990.00	\$11990.00
S	Suite with private, walk-out balcony; walk-in closet; corner sofa; bathrobes and slippers; minibar. 284 sq ft Mozart Deck, mid.	\$15990.00	\$14990.00

Luftner Cruises - Amadeus Star - 2026



Vienna Pre-Tour Extension

Discover layers of history and vibrant holiday traditions in Austria's capital city, renowned for its baroque architecture and walkable city center. Marvel at the ornate Hofburg Palace, the former winter residence of the Habsburgs, on a tour, and view masterpieces by prominent Austrian artists including Gustav Klimt at the Belvedere Palace. Listen to Mozart's exquisite music at Sala Terrena, Vienna's oldest concert hall, and relish the good cheer that abounds at the Christmas market in Rathausplatz. Enjoy accommodations for two nights at the Hilton Vienna Plaza.



Munich Post-Tour Extension

Explore Germany's Romantic Road on this two-night, post-tour extension to Bavaria's capital city of Munich. Drive from Nuremberg to Rothenburg ob der Tauber — known for its classical half-timbered medieval houses and picturesque Reiterlesmarkt Christmas Market. Enjoy a visit to the German Christmas Museum to see how holiday décor has changed from the 1870s through the 1950s. Continue to Munich where you will enjoy a walking tour of the delightful Old Town and spend time exploring the festive Christmas market. Accommodations are at the deluxe Hotel Bayerischer Hof Munich.

All information is accurate as of July 26, 2026. For up-to-date details, please visit:
norwes.gohagantravel.com/programs/christkindlmarkte-of-austria-germany-2