

EUROPEAN HOLIDAY MARKETS

8 Days | Nuremberg to Vienna

★★★★★ 4.6/5 90 reviews



8 days



2 countries



UNESCO

Experience Europe's old-world charms during the most magical time of the year.

This cruise takes you to some of the most famous and delightful holiday markets in Central Europe. At each market, you'll find wooden stalls displaying traditional crafts that range from quirky little characters made of fruit and dressed in Bavarian costume to beautifully carved and painted Nativity figures. You'll also find exquisite ornaments and fine contemporary crafts, along with fairytale villages decked in holiday finery.

Sparkling lights illuminate ancient cathedral squares and the sound of children's laughter mingles with carols. Enjoy Uniworld's exclusive "Taste of Christmas" program in Vienna, where you'll see astonishing confectionary decorations in Café Demel's windows. Celebrate the season in a new way as you meander through old lands, and remember, as the Christkind says, "While this market's splendor is fleeting, the joy it brings is eternal."

[NUREMBERG TO VIENNA](#)

Note: The itineraries presented are subject to modification due to water levels, closures because of public holidays or other uncontrollable factors. Every effort will be made to operate programs as

planned, but changes may still be necessary throughout the cruise. This day-to-day schedule is subject to change. Your final day-to-day schedule will be provided onboard on the first day of your cruise.

DAY 1 NUREMBERG (EMBARK)

Arrive at Nuremberg Airport. If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer, or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

Note: For Arrival, Departure and Transfer details, please visit [Uniworld.com/transfers](https://uniworld.com/transfers). For Port Location details, please visit [Uniworld.com/ports](https://uniworld.com/ports).



DAY 2 NUREMBERG, ROTH

For a truly over-the-top holiday extravaganza, look no further than Nuremberg, which boasts the largest and grandest Christmas Market in all of Germany—and that's really saying something. The "Gingerbread Capital of the World" pulls out all the stops during the holidays, as you'll see for yourself on a panoramic tour guaranteed to put you in a festive mood. Two hundred stalls filled with holiday wares—ornaments, nutcrackers, seasonal treats, and hand-carved toys—await you, and the irresistible aromas of roasting nuts, cinnamon, and grilled sausages waft through the air.

A special Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.



Featured Excursion

NUREMBERG CITY TOUR WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET

Beautiful at any time, Nuremberg's Old Town is especially magical when dressed in all of its holiday splendor. Stroll through the castle gardens and enjoy breathtaking views of the city, then walk through a maze of cobblestone lanes down to the central Market Square. There, spread out before the Church of Our Lady, is the largest Christmas market in Germany.

Adding to the fun is an area set aside especially for children, complete with a two-tiered carousel featuring carved reindeer and Santa's sleigh. As you wander through the market, you will certainly want to indulge in some of the city's famous gingerbread; after all, Nuremberg is known as the "Gingerbread Capital of the World."

NOTE: The permanent exhibition at the Documentation Center will be closed until the fall of 2024. In its place, a special temporary exhibition may be available.

Masterpiece Collection

i Providing the most all-inclusive luxury to our guests is the heart and soul of our brand and that will never change. Yet sometimes our guests want something that goes even "above and beyond" our included experiences. In light of this, we now offer guests a curated selection of optional excursions, available for an additional charge.

NUREMBERG WWII HISTORICAL TOUR

 Duration:
4.25 hours

 Activity Level:
Intermediate

 \$126 pre-purchase
€79 EUR onboard

Hitler considered Nuremberg the perfect expression of German culture and chose it as the location for his massive rallies and most grandiose building schemes. Visit the Party Rally Grounds and the Documentation Center's exhibit on the rise and fall of the Nazis, and see the Nuremberg Memoriam, which gives you a view of Courtroom 600, where 21 Nazi war criminals were tried in 1945—it remains an active courtroom and cannot be viewed during court proceedings, though the displays, including pieces of the original dock, can be seen. Note: lunch will be on your own today.

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DAY 3 REGENSBURG

The Old Town of Regensburg sparkles with holiday lights and decorations this time of year, adding to its already considerable charms. Check out the brightest cultural sights, then head to what may very well be the most romantic Christmas Market in all of Germany, nestled within the courtyard of a beautiful baroque castle—as you take in the delights of the markets.



Featured Excursion

REGENSBURG WALK WITH THURN & TAXIS CASTLE VISIT AND CHRISTMAS MARKET

Old-town Regensburg sparkles with holiday lights and decorations at this time of year, adding to its enormous charm. As you walk through the cobbled lanes of the UNESCO-designated city center, Regensburg's 2,000-year history is revealed: The ancient Roman gate still stands, as do the Stone Bridge, the Gothic town hall where the Imperial Diet met for three centuries, the 13th-century fortified patrician houses, and the spectacular Cathedral of St. Peter, whose magnificent 14th-century stained-glass windows alone are worth your walk. At the end of your tour, you'll find yourself at what may be the most romantic Christmas market in all of Germany: the one laid out in the courtyard of the Thurn and Taxis Castle. A glorious baroque palace enfolds the square, where branch-thatched huts sell handcrafted local wares and Bavarian delicacies. There's always a nearby bonfire where you can warm up while you sip your mulled wine or nibble a hot pastry. The princely Thurn and Taxis family has owned the palace for centuries, and Princess Gloria (once known as the punk princess for her youthful escapades) may come out to read a Christmas story to an audience of children.

The rest of the day is yours to spend as you wish. Christmas markets are set up in the area around the 500-year-old Neupfarrkirche (a market that has been voted the loveliest in Germany), in front of the classical columns of the former city guardhouse and in the Kohlenmarkt, where artisans and craftspeople sell handmade dolls, marionettes, pottery, and other fine-quality wares. Shop for children's toys or traditional Nativity scenes with hand-carved figures. As you take in the delights of the markets, enjoy regional specialties, such as mulled blueberry wine from the Bavarian Forest, Regensburg sausages on crisp rolls, steamed *dampfnudel* (dumplings with vanilla sauce), and mulled cider.

DAY 4 DEGGENDORF (THERESIENHAL), PASSAU

Take some time today to explore the beautifully expansive and heavily wooded Bavarian Forest. As the largest continuous forested region in Europe, there's plenty to uncover—like unspoiled landscapes, abundant wildlife, and idyllic atmosphere.



Featured Excursions

BAVARIAN FOREST ADVENTURE

Enter the Bavarian Forest, Germany's first and largest national park, to discover an abundant wilderness covered in diverse flora and fauna. This area is home to several unique craft traditions, and you'll have your choice of which ones you'd like to discover today.

Enjoy a tasting of local schnapps. In Germany, schnapps refers to any hard liquor, and each is distinguished by the ingredients it is distilled from. The word means "snap," since schnapps is generally "snapped" back in the style of a shot.

From there, you'll choose to either move on to a glass workshop and see how the local style of glassware is crafted, or for a more active outing, join us on a visit to a former Silver Mine. Ride up to the mine by cable car, get your helmet, and dive deep into the mountain.

PASSAU WALKING TOUR WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET

Join your guide for a stroll through picturesque lanes in the heart of Passau, stopping at the Town Hall to see its magnificent atrium, which boasts several massive works by the famous German painter Ferdinand Wagner, and pausing to admire the beautiful rococo stairway of the bishop's New Residence. After much of the town burned to the ground in 1662 and again in 1680, the reconstruction involved many Italian artists, who gave Passau the baroque and rococo touches you see everywhere. Monumental St. Stephan's Cathedral, built in glorious baroque style, forms the backdrop for the Passau Christmas Market. You'll find a lot to enjoy here—from miniature Bavarian houses and blown-glass ornaments to spun-sugar confections—in more than 70 stalls. At times, the Passau Christmas Market also features demonstrations by local craftspeople, such as glassblowers, candle makers, wood carvers, and confectioners, so you can buy your gifts from the people who made them.

DAY 5 CRUISING THE DANUBE RIVER, LINZ

There's more to Linz than its famous Linzer torte, although that alone makes it well worth a visit. The city has a thriving contemporary art scene, and its two Christmas Markets are over-the-top enchanting. In keeping with the Austrian traditions of good food and good music, Linz gave rise to both the Linzer torte and the *Linz Symphony*. The symphony is one of Mozart's most celebrated works. The story goes that the composer was so inspired by the beauty of the city that he finished his *Symphony No. 36* in less than a week here in 1783.

Choose between...

LINZ WALKING TOUR WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET

The seductive scents of seasonal treats—gingerbread and Linzer torte, cakes and cookies—waft through the air, and the stalls are full of local craft items at Linz's two delightful Christmas markets, which are connected by the main shopping thoroughfare and a spectacular light show. Begin at the Main Square, where the stalls are decorated with motifs of Linz landmarks, and follow the illuminations to the Volksgarten, where you'll find, literally, a fairytale Christmas—large, animated displays of fairytale scenes will entrance the child in you. Also, you'll stop for something sweet at Café Jindrak, home of the famous Linzer Torte.



LINZ TOWN STROLL AND CIDER FARM VISIT

Enjoy a stroll through the city's Old Town and marvel at the sights, including Old Market Square, the Plague Column, and the historic Landhaus—a lightly-colored, Renaissance-style government building. The former monastery was transformed into a meeting place for Austrian politicians, but still holds on to its 16th century roots. Embark on a short ride to the Austrian countryside to an authentic family-owned-and-operated "*Mostheuriger*" farm. Upon arrival, you'll be welcomed by the owner and the farm's many critters. They'll tell you the story of their family, farm, and products, and you'll indulge in a tasting of the region's most popular drink, cider, and "*Brettljause*," a spread of local delicacies. Then, you'll enjoy a scenic ride through the countryside en route back to the ship.

DAY 6 CRUISING THE WACHAU VALLEY, DÜRNSTEIN, VIENNA

After a scenic cruise through the beautiful Wachau Valley, we'll reach the tiny village of Dürnstein. Walk along its cobbled streets, browse the shops selling apricot schnapps, and perhaps take a quick jaunt up to the ruins of a castle (with an intriguing tale all its own). Later, you can taste a local spin on mulled wine and attend an organ concert at an Augustine church.



Featured Excursion

DÜRNSTEIN VILLAGE STROLL WITH SPICED WINE TASTING AND ORGAN CONCERT IN A MONASTERY

Considering its diminutive size, the village of Dürnstein offers much to explore. The famous blue baroque tower of the abbey church is doubtless its best-known landmark, but the ruined castle above the town provides its most romantic tale. There Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned until he was found by his faithful bard, Blondel, and ransom could be raised—or so the legend goes. Walk with the Cruise Manager through the Kremser Gate, which dates to the 15th century, and past 16th-, 17th-, and 18th-century houses; it's an up-close look at over 300 years of local architectural styles. The inhabitants of this region have grown apricots and grapes for many centuries, and they have happily turned both into delectable beverages through the years. Taste a local spin on mulled wine—spiced with Wachau Valley saffron—after your walk, then sit back and enjoy an organ concert inside a rococo Augustine monastery.


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PRIVATE MOZART AND STRAUSS CONCERT

 Duration:
3.5 hours

 Activity Level:
Easy

 \$190 pre-purchase
€119 EUR onboard

Vienna is linked inextricably with music, as so many great composers lived and worked here: Beethoven, Mozart, Strauss, Schubert, Mahler, Brahms-the list is as long as it is glorious. Enjoy an evening of chamber music performed by some of Vienna's world-class professionals in a historic and intimate concert venue.

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DAY 7 VIENNA

Vienna is a city steeped in history, music and elegant architecture. Mozart, Austria's most famous citizen, was at the height of his creative powers when he lived here, writing perhaps his best-known works, including *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. He found Vienna a very inspiring place, and so will you. You'll have a full day to savor the Christmas spirit in Vienna with over 140 wooden stalls enticing you with every sort of delicacy. Be sure to try the rum balls and nutmeg-spiced macarons, which are local favorites, and amble through the adjacent park to admire the elaborately decorated trees.

A special Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.



Choose between...

BELVEDERE VISIT WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Belvedere is a Baroque palatial complex commissioned during an immensely productive Habsburg building spree. Originally the summer residence of Prince Eugene of Savoy, the complex was acquired by Empress Maria Theresa after his death and turned into an exhibition venue for imperial art collections. In this way, The Belvedere become one of the first public museums in the world.

Following your tour here, you'll have time to explore on your own and visit Vienna's most famous Christmas Market, situated in front of City Hall, where more than 140 wooden stalls will entice you with every sort of delicacy.



"TASTE OF CHRISTMAS" VIENNA WALKING TOUR


A drive along Vienna's Prater Street and Ring Street provides you with a glimpse of the magnificent buildings that showcased the Habsburgs' grandeur, ending at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Stroll with your guide along the Graben, the elegant artery of downtown Vienna, and Kohlmarkt, which is lined with chic shops (don't miss the dazzling display of holiday confectionary art in the windows of Café Demel, which once supplied Empress Sissi with candied violets), on your way to several delightful Christmas markets. The Am Hof Advent Market features contemporary crafts, ranging from jewelry to knitwear; just a few steps further along, on Freyung Square, is the oldest and most traditional of the city's markets. Handsome palaces border the triangular square, which is filled with delightful stalls selling Nativity scenes, glass ornaments and handicrafts. Breathe in the aromas of such seasonal treats as roasted chestnuts, hot spiced wine, and vanilla crescents, Austria's most famous Christmas cookie. How can you resist? Luckily, this is the moment and the place to sample these and other holiday specialties!

The afternoon is yours. Spend as long as you like at any of the city's Christmas markets. Of course, there are many other sights to see. Over 100 museums beckon you to delve into their depths. You might wish to visit the Albertina Museum: It houses an incredible collection of graphic arts, including one million old-master prints and an impressive group of works by 19th- and 20th-century painters, ranging from Renoir to Rothko. You could tour the Belvedere, where Klimt's famous *The Kiss* is on display. Alternatively, you can encounter Viennese coffeehouse culture at one of the dozens of traditional cafés in Vienna's Old City.

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SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET

 Duration:
3.5 hours

 Activity Level:
Intermediate

 \$110 pre-purchase
€69 EUR onboard

Perhaps the apex of baroque design in Vienna, Schönbrunn was Empress Maria Theresa's favorite palace, and, beginning in 1740, she made it the social and political center of her empire. Your visit will concentrate on the rooms occupied by Emperor Franz Joseph and his empress, Elisabeth (known as Sissi). Franz Joseph restored the state rooms to their rococo splendor, but his private rooms reflect his rather severe nature, making for an illuminating contrast. You will also have some time to explore the charming Christmas Market set up right in front of the Schönbrunn, which is spectacularly illuminated for the season.

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DAY 8 VIENNA (DISEMBARK)

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer, or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Vienna International Airport for your

flight home.



WHAT'S INCLUDED



DINING

All meals onboard, prepared using the finest and freshest ingredients

7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners

Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions

Welcome and Farewell Gala Dinners

Unlimited beverages onboard, including fine wine, beer, spirits, specialty coffee and tea, soft drinks and mineral water



EXCURSIONS

6 days of excursions, including "Choice Is Yours" options, all fully hosted by English-speaking local experts

Guided "Taste of Christmas" program

State-of-the-art Quietvox portable audio-headset system on all excursions

Use of Nordic walking sticks



ACCOMMODATIONS

7-night cruise in a riverview stateroom on the majestic *S.S. Beatrice* or the stunning *River Princess*
Lavishly appointed riverview staterooms and suites have handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England, high thread count 100% Egyptian cotton sheets and European duvets, and a menu of pillow options
Free Internet and Wi-Fi access



EXPERIENCES

2 countries: Austria, Germany
3 UNESCO World Heritage sites
Services of an experienced Uniworld Cruise Manager
Group Transfers are included on arrival and departure days (please see terms and conditions for transfer guidelines)
Gratuities for onboard personnel (ship staff, crew, Cruise/Tour Manager) are included during the cruise/tour
Captivating onboard local entertainment
Cultural enrichment, including a Signature Lecture