



Craig  
travel

# EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS

**LUFTNER CRUISES | SMALL GROUP**  
**DEC 4 – 13, 2026 | 10 DAYS | 19 MEALS**  
**JOURNEY LEADER: GREG HOLMES**

*Prague's Old Town Square sparkling with holiday lights, festive stalls, and winter charm*

Embrace the magic of the holiday season on this unforgettable river cruise along the Danube, where history and festive tradition come together in perfect harmony. We invite you to step aboard and watch as a winter wonderland of snow-capped abbeys and vineyards drifts past. From the imperial elegance of Vienna to the medieval charm of Regensburg and the bustling stalls of Nuremberg's world-famous Christkindlesmarkt, every stop offers a new discovery. Together, we will explore cobblestone streets illuminated by twinkling lights, warm ourselves with mugs of traditional glühwein, and celebrate the spirit of Christmas in the heart of Europe before concluding our adventure in the golden city of Prague.

#### Inclusive Features

- 6-night Danube cruise on AMADEUS Queen
- 2-nights accommodation in Prague as indicated or similar
- Baggage handling shipside
- 19 meals as shown in the itinerary (B - 8 breakfasts, L - 4 lunches, D - 7 dinners), with quality European wines at every dinner onboard
- Coffee and tea available 24 hours a day onboard
- Services of your journey leader and / or cruise director
- Escorted shore excursions in each port
- All gratuities (including guides and ship staff) and taxes for included services and port taxes
- **Air-Inclusive rates also include:** Return economy airfare from Canadian cities listed, transfers between airports, hotel and ship, and airport transfers in Canada (or equivalent value)

#### Cruise Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the holiday magic of traditional Christmas markets in Vienna, Passau, Prague and Nuremberg
- Celebrate the season with a festive glühwein party on board and a Captain's Gala Dinner
- Explore UNESCO sites, from the baroque Melk Abbey to the 1,000-year-old Prague Castle
- Conclude our holiday journey with a lively traditional Czech folklore dinner show

#### Journey Leader

With nearly 30 years of experience leading tours around the world, **Greg** brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to every journey. Raised in a military family and trained as a history teacher, he combines curiosity, compassion, and a deep appreciation for culture and people. Greg has led tours across Europe, Northern Africa, and Russia, creating travel experiences that are both seamless and enriching. In addition to his work with Craig Travel, Greg recently joined Catalyst+, a division of Global Affairs Canada, where he helps underprivileged communities build business skills and self-reliance. His current projects in Tanzania focus on partnering with local safari providers to foster sustainable tourism development.



#### SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

LIMITED TO 25 TRAVELLERS

#### Our Cruise Ship • AMADEUS QUEEN

The beautiful AMADEUS Queen was launched in spring 2018 and is 135 metres long with a distinctive pointed bow. With 69 cabins (172 sq. ft.) and 12 Balcony suites (259 sq. ft.), the ms Amadeus Queen carries passengers in spacious comfort. Purpose-built to sail the safe scenic waters of Europe's rivers, she has three decks with cabins and public rooms plus a spacious Sun Deck for viewing the countryside.

All cabins are outside, each featuring twin beds (which can convert to a large bed), a private bathroom with shower, telephone, TV, hairdryer, and air conditioning (the ship operates on 220 volts). Cabins on Haydn Deck (lowest) have a picture window while cabins on Strauss and Mozart Decks have full height glass patio doors that open (creating a French Balcony). On the Haydn Deck you will also find a hair salon and massage area. On the Strauss Deck is the Restaurant (seats all passengers at once), Reception, fitness room, and onboard shop.

On Mozart Deck you will find a Panorama Bar and Lounge area, plus an indoor pool. The open Sun Deck features deck chairs, a Lido Bar, chessboards, and a shuffleboard. The ship is a non-smoking environment, except for some areas on the Sun Deck (subject to change). There is a small elevator on the ship which serves Strauss, Mozart, and Haydn Decks.



**DEC 4, Friday****DEPART CANADA**

Tour members from across Canada fly to Vienna.

**DEC 5, Saturday ARRIVE VIENNA / EMBARKATION**

Our festive journey begins as we touch down in Vienna, a city renowned for its imperial grandeur and vibrant coffee house culture. We are warmly greeted by our airport host and transferred to the pier to drop off our luggage. Before checking in, we seize the opportunity to step out into the crisp air to explore the city independently. Once our cabins are ready in the afternoon, we settle aboard our AMADEUS ship. The evening brings us together in the Panorama Bar for a Welcome Cocktail with the Cruise Director, followed by a celebratory Welcome Dinner. We remain docked in Vienna overnight, surrounded by the twinkling lights of the holiday season. **AMADEUS Queen** (6 nights) D



*Medieval Regensburg glowing at dusk*

**DEC 6, Sunday****VIENNA**

This morning, our panoramic drive takes us along the magnificent Ringstrasse, a circular boulevard built to replace the old city walls and lined with architectural masterpieces. We admire the State Opera House, the Parliament, the Burgtheater, and the imposing City Hall, which serves as a stunning backdrop for the city's most famous "Christkindlmarkt." Then, we embark on a guided walking tour through the historic centre. We wander past the Hofburg Imperial Palace, the winter residence of the Habsburgs, and stroll along the elegant Kohlmarkt before arriving at the iconic St. Stephen's Cathedral with its distinctive tiled roof. Before returning to our ship, there is time to walk through the pedestrian zone at our own pace. The afternoon is ours to enjoy the festive atmosphere of the traditional Christmas markets independently. BLD



*Warm up with a mug of traditional glühwein*

**DEC 7, Monday****WACHAU VALLEY / MELK**

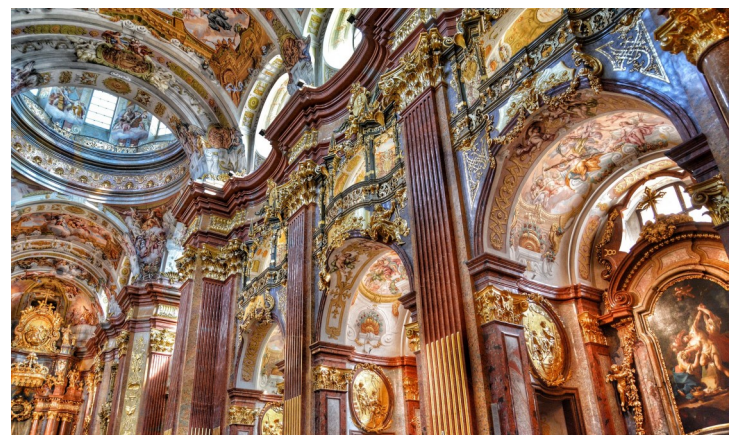
We awake this morning in the stunning Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage region where steep terraced vineyards meet the winding Danube. Our destination is the imposing Melk Abbey, a golden-hued Baroque masterpiece that has stood as a spiritual centre for over 900 years. On a guided tour of this Benedictine treasure, we marvel at the Marble Hall and the famed library, home to thousands of medieval manuscripts and exquisite frescoes by Paul Troger. Upon returning to the ship, we celebrate the season with a warming mug of traditional glühwein. As we cast off for Passau, the rest of the day offers a perfect opportunity to relax on board, taking in the serene beauty of the winter countryside drifting past our windows. BLD



*Browse rows of festive stalls filled with traditional sweets and ornaments*

**DEC 8, Tuesday****PASSAU**

Passau, situated at the confluence of the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers is known as the "City of Three Rivers." We set out on a guided walk through the romantic Old Town, admiring historic Baroque architecture and winding streets that have earned the city the nickname "Little Venice." The afternoon invites us to wander the atmospheric Passau Christmas market or perhaps climb to the Veste Oberhaus fortress for a bird's-eye view of the three rivers meeting below. BLD



*Step inside the magnificent Melk Abbey, a Baroque masterpiece*

**DEC 9, Wednesday****REGENSBURG**

We arrive in Regensburg, a medieval gem so well-preserved it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our morning begins with a guided walking tour through its medieval streets. We admire architectural

treasures including the Old Town Hall, the 12th-century Stone Bridge, and St. Peter's Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. The afternoon is ours to explore independently, perhaps to linger in the charming Christmas markets or taste the famous local sausages. Tonight, we dress in our finest for the Captain's Gala Dinner. **BD**

**DEC 10, Thursday ROTH / NUREMBERG**

Following lunch, we dock in the Bavarian town of Roth and make our way to Nuremberg. Our panoramic tour takes us past the Palace of Justice, the site of the momentous Nuremberg Trials, before we enter the walled Old Town. Carefully reconstructed after the Second World War, the city centre retains its historic charm with guarded towers and stone alleyways. We begin our walking tour at the foot of the Imperial Castle, winding our way down to the main square. Here, we step into the heart of the holiday season at the world-renowned Christmas market. Enjoy free time to explore the market and taste the authentic, flourless Nuremberg Lebkuchen before returning to our ship. **BLD**

**DEC 11, Friday DISEMBARKATION / PRAGUE**

After breakfast, we bid our ship farewell and travel to Karlovy Vary, widely known as Carlsbad. We enjoy free time to discover this Bohemian spa town before continuing to Prague. **Grand Hotel Bohemia Prague (2 nights)** **B**

**DEC 12, Saturday PRAGUE**

We discover why Prague is called the "City of a Hundred Spires" on a morning sightseeing tour of its UNESCO-listed historic centre. Our journey takes us to the grounds of the 1,000-year-old Prague Castle. Here, we admire the Gothic exterior of St. Vitus Cathedral before strolling across the iconic Charles Bridge. Arriving in the Old Town Square, we find ourselves in the heart of the city. The afternoon is ours to explore on our own, perhaps visiting Wenceslas Square or warming up in a traditional café. This evening, we gather for a lively Folklore Dinner Show to celebrate Czech culture through music, dance, and food. **BD**

**DEC 13, Sunday PRAGUE / CANADA**

Our journey comes to an end as we transfer to the airport to catch our flights bound for Canada. **B**

**Important Travel Information: ETIAS Authorization**

Starting in late 2026, Canadian citizens travelling to Europe will need to complete an online application for the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS). This is not a visa but a pre-travel screening for visa-exempt visitors entering the Schengen Area. The authorization costs about €20 and is each traveller's responsibility. For details and to apply, visit the official ETIAS website well before departure.

**CT Rating 2.5/5 - Slightly Challenging:** Excursions and land arrangements include some extensive walks, often over rough surfaces. Cobblestones are used in many European cities, making walking more difficult. Access to some decks and to shore in some ports may involve steep steps. Members should be in good physical condition, able to walk a kilometre or more without assistance to fully enjoy this cruise.

**Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Cruise / Tour Only .....	\$4,425
Toronto .....	\$6,195
Montreal / Ottawa .....	\$6,345
Halifax / St. John's / Fredericton .....	\$6,445
Winnipeg / Thunder Bay .....	\$6,445
Regina / Saskatoon .....	\$6,545
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver .....	\$6,445
Victoria .....	\$6,545

Rates are per person based on sharing a Cat C1 outside cabin on Haydn Deck. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carrier are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to our inclusive features for details.

**Supplement to Upgrade to Higher Category**

Category/Description/Deck	Per Person
<b>B-1 (Strauss, Drop-down Window)</b> .....	\$755
<b>A-1 (Mozart, Drop-down Window)</b> .....	\$1,155
<b>AMADEUS Suite (Mozart, Walk-Out Balcony)</b> .....	\$2,995

Stateroom categories are subject to availability at time of booking. Book early for best choice. See deck plan for full details on various categories available. Singles are extremely limited. Please ask for rates.

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carrier are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

Cruise price is based on sharing a twin-bedded stateroom with private bathroom. Prices are based on a minimum 15 members and on rates, taxes, and fees effective December 2025 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. **Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 travellers.**

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Deposit is \$900 per person**

**Final payment is due August 27, 2026**

To reserve your spot on this tour, book online through our website or submit an enrollment form with your deposit to:

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