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Romantic Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps at Christmas

Four Legendary Countries Gift-Wrapped into One Delightful Itinerary!

Sail from Amsterdam on the AmaSerena Cruise Ship Visiting the Rhine's Story-Book Castles and World Famous Christmas Markets of Germany & France – plus the Swiss Alps!

December 10 - 19, 2023 10 Days and 8 Nights

Join us to luxuriate in the ample charms and elegance of the Rhine River in its most enchanting season of the year . . . Christmas Market Time! The Rhine's majestic beauty is undeniable, and seeing the castles and quaint villages that line its banks is unforgettable. Start with an overnight stay in amazing Amsterdam after boarding the luxurious AmaSerena! Then you'll sail the legendary Rhine through the Netherlands and Germany into France and Switzerland, stopping along the way to visit quaint towns and villages. Your Christmas Market cruise ends with another overnight stay, this time in picturesque Basel after a special excursion to see beautiful Lucerne, then you'll stay one final evening in Zurich. As you breathe in the sights, smells and tastes of the holidays, you'll also be exploring majestic cathedrals, medieval towns, snow-capped Alpine vistas and more!

What a wonderful way to start off the yuletide season, visiting the colorful castles and Christmas Markets all along the Enchanting Rhine!

Itinerary

December 10, 2023 - Your Journey Begins!

Today, you'll board your international flight to the **Netherlands!**

December 11, 2023 - Board the AmaSerena in Amsterdam!

This morning, you'll arrive in **Amsterdam** and transfer to board the lovely **AmaSerena**. This 156 passenger river boat is filled with all the amenities you've come to expect, from complimentary internet access and first-run Hollywood movies to beautifully-decorated accommodations. After unpacking for your 7 nights cruising the Rhine, enjoy your **Welcome Dinner!** You may also take advantage of your free evening to go out and discover this great city as the ship moors here overnight. You might **sample delicious local specialties** at one of Amsterdam's grand cafés, or simply go exploring on your own, perhaps to shop the unique **Christmas Markets** or simply stroll the legendary canal-lined streets. (D)

December 12, 2023 - Amsterdam's Canals and Sail Away!

Today you'll embark on your **Amsterdam canal tour** through some of the city's 165 canals past beautiful bridges, churches and centuries-old merchant houses. Later in the day, enjoy a **scenic sail away** from Amsterdam to begin your **cruise of the Romantic Rhine!** (B/L/D)

December 13, 2023 - Cologne's Mighty Cathedral!

This morning you'll cruise to **Cologne, Germany** for the day. Enjoy a walking tour through the narrow streets of the Old Town on your way to **Cologne Cathedral**, the city's most beloved landmark. Beneath the Cathedral and the **largest Christmas tree in the Rhineland**, you'll find over 160 festively designed wooden pavilions where you can watch artisans at work, enjoy mulled wine from jolly Christmas mugs or choose from a wide array of sweets and local delicacies! Or instead you might decide to visit a colorful local tavern and savor Cologne's traditional **Kölsch beer and Reibekuchen** - potato pancakes served with apple sauce. Cologne boasts no less than **five Christmas Markets** that you can discover at your own pace following your tour. (B/L/D)

December 14, 2023 - Cruise the Romantic Rhine River Valley!

This morning your ship sails the **Romantic Rhine Valley**, so be ready to relax and enjoy the **magical views!** With precipitous cliffs, steep vineyards, a castle perched on virtually every hilltop and charming

villages lining the river banks, **the Middle Rhine is straight out of a picture-book!** This afternoon at the winemaking town of **Rüdesheim** you can visit **Siegfried's Mechanical Instrument Museum's** collection of robotic and self-playing musical instruments or take a gondola ride to the **Niederwalddenkmal Statue** with its panoramic views of the river. Afterward, indulge in a sampling of Riesling wines in the vineyards, then visit the town's massive **Christmas Market**, with more than 120 stands of delicacies and unique gifts guaranteed to put you in a festive mood. You might also sample the town's specialty, **Rüdesheimer Coffee**, laced with brandy and whipped cream. (B/L/D)

December 15, 2023 - Historical Towns of Germany!

Today from Ludwigshafen, you may embark on an **excursion to Heidelberg**, where you'll visit the **mighty red-walled Castle** and its Great Vat, a 49,000-gallon 18th-century wine cask, and enjoy sweeping views of the Neckar Valley and Heidelberg below. You'll have time to wander the **Hauptstrasse**, said to be the longest pedestrian shopping street in Germany, soaking up the Yuletide celebrations at the town's Christmas Markets. Or instead you might take a **tour of medieval Speyer**, one of Germany's oldest cities known for its Cathedral, churches, and the **Altpörtel** - a 13th-century gate tower. The **Speyer Christmas Market** features not only German made goods, but unique products from Speyer's eight sister cities! (B/L/D)

December 16, 2023 - Christmas Markets in France!

This morning, the AmaSerena cruises to the picturesque **capital of the Alsace region** in northeast France, **Strasbourg**, known for its black and white timber-framed buildings, covered bridges and medieval watchtowers. Here you may take a **walking tour** along the narrow cobbled streets to see the European Parliament and visit the "**La Petite France**" district, with its sandstone Gothic cathedral and famed astronomical clock. In the afternoon, visit **Gengenbach Christmas Market** where every year the locals count down to Christmas with their 24-day, **larger-than-life Advent calendar!** The rest of the day is yours to shop, explore or visit the **Christkindelsmärik, France's oldest Christmas Market**, dating back to 1570. (B/L/D)

December 17, 2023 - Basel and Lucerne, Switzerland!

It's a true joy getting to know **Switzerland's third largest city** - for many centuries an important university, banking and trade center,

Basel's glorious past is still evident in its **medieval town hall, richly decorated market square** and **exquisite 18th-century patrician homes**. Later in the day, you'll venture out to visit lovely **Lucerne**, known for its **Lion Monument** – the figure of a dying lion carved into a hillside in memory of the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792 – which **Mark Twain** described as “the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world.” You'll also see **Lucerne's spectacular medieval walls and towers**, dating back to the 13th century. You'll surely become entranced by this charming city perched at the base of the **Swiss Alps!** (B/L/D)

December 18, 2023 - It's Off to Zurich, Switzerland!

This morning after breakfast, you'll disembark from the ship in Basel and make your way across the **scenic Swiss countryside** with its towering snow-capped peaks and Alpine lakes, on the way to Switzerland's largest city, **Zurich**, where you'll enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour. See the city's numerous highlights along the shores of **Lake Zurich**, including the famous “**Bahnhofstrasse**” shopping district where exclusivity, quality and variety meet. Later this afternoon, you'll check in to your hotel and then enjoy a special **Swiss fondue farewell dinner!** Overnight: Zurich (B/D)

December 19, 2023 - Zurich - Home

After breakfast this morning, you'll be assisted with your airport transfer for your flight home. **Memories of cruising the Rhine's Castles, Christmas Markets and the Swiss Alps will be with you for years to come!** (B)



****The complimentary shore excursion choices offered at every stop may vary from those described above by the date of your sailing.****

Rhine Castles & Alps

\$6,598.00

Cat. E - Fixed Window

\$6,898.00

Cat. D - Fixed Window

\$7,698.00

Cat. C - French Balcony

\$8,298.00

Cat. BB - Full Balcony

\$8,498.00

Cat. BA - Full Balcony

\$8,798.00

Cat. AB - Full Balcony

\$9,098.00

Cat. AA - Full Balcony

\$10,398.00

Cat. SS - Suite with Full Balcony

SPECIAL AMA RHINE SUMMER SAVINGS!

**Book by
July 31, 2022
to receive
\$1,000 OFF!**

****Offer limited to double-occupancy
passengers only.****

Past Ama Waterways guests
receive an additional **\$100 off**
per person!

**Trip cancellation/interruption
Travel Protection is available and
recommended.**

Check with your club representative
for details.

Pricing is based on double occupancy!
Single supplement is an additional 50%
of the fares shown.

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airport transfers including gratuities
- Roundtrip international airfare to Amsterdam and from Switzerland (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 7 nights onboard the AmaSerena in your selected stateroom category
- 1 night post-cruise hotel, city tour and farewell dinner in Zurich
- **Included shore excursions throughout your river cruise**
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner while aboard the AmaSerena
- Cocktail Reception, Welcome Dinner & Captain's Gala Dinner
- **Complimentary fine wines, choice of beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board**
- Special highlights including lectures, onboard music performances, and daily complimentary Sip and Sail cocktail hour
- Transfers from airport to ship in Amsterdam, and from ship to Zurich and hotel to airport
- All port charges and government taxes
- Please note river cruise itineraries are routinely subject to change

Passports are required for this tour!

Due to the intimate environment on river cruise vessels, once names and bookings are made, \$400.00 of your \$750.00 deposit will be nonrefundable from the time of booking. However, you may elect to purchase trip cancellation and interruption Travel Protection for this smaller amount of deposit at time of deposit. This will protect your deposit in the event of cancellation for reasons deemed allowable under the terms of the trip cancellation/interruption policy (as per the insurance carrier) up until final payment should you have to cancel.

Call today to reserve your space!!!

Reservations for “**Romantic Rhine Castles and Swiss Alps**” are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$750.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

Optional Travel Protection is available and purchase is encouraged at time of initial trip deposit. Plans offer benefits for trip cancellation/interruption and more. See Plan Document for full details. This deposit, minus \$400.00, is refundable up to August 2, 2023.

The balance of the full insurance premium is due at the time of your final payment.

Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before August 2, 2023, as well as any balance due on the full insurance premium.

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to TRIPS or your club director at least 15 days prior to this date.

100% of your elected cabin becomes non refundable for cancellations as of August 2, 2023.

Make checks payable to **First State Bank / Travel and Leisure Club**

c/o Brook McCarty - Penny James

PO Box 506 / Waynesboro, MS 39367

(601) 671-2050 - Brook McCarty or Penny James

CST # 2057913-10

The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing on May 13, 2022. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.



Travel & Leisure Club

Romantic Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps at Christmas

Please complete and return with your \$750 **per person** deposit.

Name: _____

(MUST BE EXACTLY AS IT IS ON YOUR PASSPORT THAT WILL BE USED FOR THIS TRIP.)

Any charges by airline for name changes will be the responsibility of the passenger.

Name on Badge: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Email: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____ (Cell): _____

I am a Travel and Leisure Club Member (Circle one) YES NO

Travel Companion Information

Name: _____

Lodging preference: King Bed _____ 2 Double Beds _____ Cabin Type: _____

Other lodging options may be available upon request.

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone #: _____

Please note if your birthday or anniversary occur during the tour:

Occasion: _____ Date of celebration: _____

Group Seating on Flights: Each air carrier has a different policy for group seating. Many times, group seats are allocated in blocks by the airline. In some instances, seats are not allocated at all in advance of travel. We understand that each passenger has personal preferences in regards to airline seating. However, aircraft group seating is dictated exclusively by each carrier and we are not permitted to request any special seating in regards to group travel. Our goal is to provide a travel experience that exceeds your expectations. However, the seating policies of the air carriers are beyond our control.

Travel Protection: () Yes, I wish to purchase Travel Protection () No, I decline Travel Protection

PLEASE NOTE: Due to new rules by the insurance company, the **decision** to opt in for Travel Protection is required at the time of deposit. Trips will handle notifying TripAssure on your behalf. If you decide to take Travel Protection at any later date, any pre-existing conditions will not be covered. If you accept Travel Protection at time of sign-up, your deposit will still be totally refundable until the day of final payment.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED: I have read, received a copy of, understand, and accept the terms and conditions stated in the Operator/Participant Agreement located on the specific tour brochure.

Signature: _____

Deposit Amount: _____ Date Received: _____

Reservations can only be confirmed when full deposit amount and insurance decision has been received.