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Swiss Alps, Rhine Castles and Christmas Markets River Cruise and Land Extension in Lake Como December, 8 - 15, 2026

Optional Pre-Cruise Stay: Como • December 5-8, 2026

Optional Post-Cruise Stay: Amsterdam • December 15-17, 2026

Marah Walsh has partnered with AMAwaterways to bring a remarkable journey up the Rhine River to discover fairytale castles and historic vineyards as part of this spectacular holiday fantasy. Wander the stalls of France's oldest Christmas Market in Strasbourg and explore the restaurants, open-air wine gardens, and Christmas Market of Drosselgasse, the cultural heart of Rudesheim. Explore the canal-laden city of Amsterdam in all its seasonal glory, with its neat rows of buildings and rich history. Sail aboard an elegantly decorated ship through cities and towns brimming with beautiful decor, glittering Christmas trees and holiday spirit. Plus, enjoy festive onboard traditions and an exquisite holiday feast with all the trimmings on this Christmas Markets departure. Encompassing Switzerland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands, and if you add on Como, Italy. These iconic landmarks and majestic mountain landscapes make this distinctive itinerary a true Christmas miracle.

BOOK THIS TOUR AT: <https://forms.gle/tcA5mvNV2hP9fbtaA>



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2026 - Swiss Alps & Rhine Castles (Christmas)

7-NIGHT CRUISE WITH OPTIONAL 3 NIGHTS LAKE COMO PRE-CRUISE

Discover fairytale castles and historic vineyards as part of this spectacular Rhine River holiday fantasy. Explore the canal-laden city of Amsterdam in all its seasonal glory, with its neat rows of buildings and rich history. Wander the stalls of France's oldest Christmas Market in Strasbourg and explore the restaurants, open-air wine gardens, and Christmas Market of Drosselgasse, the cultural heart of Rudesheim. Sail aboard an elegantly decorated ship through cities and towns brimming with beautiful decor, glittering Christmas trees and holiday spirit. Plus, enjoy festive onboard traditions and an exquisite holiday feast with all the trimmings on every Christmas Markets departure. Encompassing the Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland, as well as iconic landmarks and majestic mountain landscapes, this distinctive itinerary is truly a Christmas miracle.

OVERVIEW: Cruise Dates: December 8-15, 2026

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
1	LAKE COMO	Hotel check-in
2	LAKE COMO	Walking Tour
3	LAKE COMO	Lake Como boat excursion to the "Pearl of Lake Como," Bellagio
4	BASEL	Transfer to Basel with Bellinzona visit
EMBARKATION		
5	BASEL	"City of Art" tour with Christmas Markets OR Three countries bike tour OR Full-day Lake Lucerne excursion with Christmas Markets* Half-day Lucerne with Christmas Markets
6	STRASBOURG	"The Gem of Alsace" tour and Christmas Markets OR Strasbourg bike tour Baden-Baden walking tour and Christmas Markets
7	LUDWIGSHAFEN	Heidelberg tour and Christmas Markets OR Medieval Speyer and Christmas Markets OR Heidelberg Philosopher's hike OR Ladenburg bike tour Wine Tasting OR Rudesheimer coffee
8	RÜDESHEIM	Siegfried's Mechanical Instrument Cabinet Gondola ride and Christmas Market OR Vineyard hike OR Guided bike tour of the Rheingau Castles along the Rhine scenic cruising Exclusive Burg Lahneck Castle visit
9	COLOGNE	Cologne walking tour and Christmas Markets OR Cologne Cathedral Architecture tour OR Cologne Bike tour
10	AMSTERDAM	Canal cruise

A Taste of Amsterdam**

11 AMSTERDAM DISEMBARKATION

ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, LAKE COMO. Arrive in Lake Como and check into your hotel.

Day 2, LAKE COMO. Be treated to a walking tour of Lake Como, a former glacial lake and popular resort area for the rich and famous since Roman times. Gaze at the azure waters and impressive villas that line the lakeside from the hills above and perhaps recognize the scenery from such Hollywood blockbusters as Ocean's Twelve and Casino Royale. (B)

Day 3, LAKE COMO. Let the wind tousle your hair as you board your boat for a scenic ride along Lake Como to its stunning pearl, Bellagio. This intimate village offers postcard-perfect views whether you choose to stroll along the lakeside or venture up hill to its cobbled streets. Browse the shops or sample the local fare at Bellagio's restaurants before returning to the boat. (B)

Day 4, BASEL. Check out of your Lake Como hotel and, en route to Basel, be treated to a Bellinzona orientation tour. Once you arrive in Basel, embark your ship for your Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps cruise. (B,D)

Day 6, BASEL. Enjoy getting to know Basel, Switzerland's third largest city. Long 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. Tour the city by foot or on a guided bike tour that takes you through three countries: Switzerland, France and Germany. Both tours offer free time to visit Basel's Christmas Markets. Alternatively, go on a full-day excursion to Lake Lucerne or spend your afternoon there. Lake Lucerne is 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.” Whether you choose the full-day excursion or half-day tour to Lake Lucerne, you'll also see Lake Lucerne's spectacular medieval walls and towers, dating back to the 13th century, plus enjoy free time to explore the Christmas Markets. (B,L,D)

**Not combinable with other tours on this day.*

Day 7, STRASBOURG. Strasbourg offers flavors of both France and Germany because of its borderline location. Enjoy a panoramic tour past the stunning Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République before walking through its iconic “La Petite France” district, lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Wander through charming streets past the Cathédrale de Notre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. During the tour you will receive free time to visit the Christmas Markets. In the afternoon, venture to alluring Baden-Baden, located at the border of Germany's Black Forest. Learn about the area's natural hot springs and Germany's oldest casino, which some argue is the most beautiful casino in the world. Following your walking tour, indulge your holiday wanderlust with a stroll through Baden-Baden's romantic Christmas Market. (B,L,D)

Day 8, LUDWIGSHAFEN - RÜDESHEIM. Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of four excursions. Visit Heidelberg, the perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany's Castle Road. Discover the iconic red sandstone Heidelberg Castle and Great Vat, an 18th-century, 49,000-gallon wine cask. Here you can also enjoy visiting some of the festive Christmas Markets. For a more active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher's Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period, and enjoy panoramic views of the city. Alternatively, you can visit one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the medieval Old Gate, Altpörtel. In your free time, you might choose to visit the Christmas Markets or Technik Museum featuring exhibits of vintage cars, military aircraft and even a submarine! Or pedal along the river Neckar to the picturesque medieval city center of Ladenburg and enjoy some free time to explore the shops. Later in the day, cruise to the charming village of Rüdesheim and join a wine tasting to discover the flavors of the town's iconic vineyards. Or taste one of the town's special delights, Rüdeshheimer coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy, coffee and whipped cream. (B,L,D)

Day 9, RÜDESHEIM - RHINE GORGE - LAHNSTEIN. Let Siegfried's Mechanical Instrument Cabinet charm you with its remarkable collection of self-playing musical instruments. Or drink up the stunning views by soaring high above the vineyards with a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal. Afterwards, enjoy free time in the town, perhaps to explore the Drosselgasse, the town's cultural heart, and the Christmas Markets. For a more active adventure, hike through the town's beautiful vineyards or join a guided bike tour along the scenic Rhine River. Later in the day, cruise through the captivating UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river before reaching Lahnstein, where you will enjoy a unique evening visit at Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

Day 10, COLOGNE. Enjoy cruising to Cologne. Join a guided tour through the Old Town. During your free time, browse through the city's most impressive Christmas Markets, offering 160 attractively designed wooden pavilions. As an alternative, examine the historic architectural styles on display throughout the Cologne Cathedral during a guided tour. This 13th-century Gothic marvel and UNESCO World Heritage Site was the tallest building in the world at the time of its completion, and the church withstood 14 hits from aerial bombs during World War II. Active guests will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten. (B,L,D)

Day 11, AMSTERDAM. There are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you'll get to enjoy some of them on your canal cruise. Alternatively, get a taste of local flavor, passing iconic canals, gabled houses, narrow bridges and house boats while tasting Dutch specialties at one of Amsterdam's grand cafes. Please note: tour depends upon docking location and may be replaced with Jordaan District Walking Tour. (B,L,D)

***May be replaced with alternate tour based on docking location*

Day 12, AMSTERDAM. Bid farewell to Amsterdam as you prepare for your return flight home.

Or stay for an optional 2-night stay exploring Amsterdam.... information to come.

Non-refundable Deposit: \$400 per person

Book here: <https://forms.gle/tcA5mvNV2hP9fbtaA>

Pricing below is good until Sept 30. But upgrade cabin types will go fast ... so don't wait too long.

Swiss Alps & Rhine Castles Christmas Cruise – Cruise date: December 8, 2026 AmaSerena (Basel – Amsterdam) Land Tour Start date: Dec 5, 2026

Please note that we are currently offering a special promotion on this sailing – HOLIDAY TRIPLE SAVINGS

- \$1,000.00 p.p. discount (Discount is applicable on cruise only portion), not combinable with the \$250 p.p. Group Discount.
- Complimentary one cabin category upgrade (like-to-like category only, subject to availability)
- \$50 p.p. On board credit

Pricing below includes the port charges of \$245pp and the HOLIDAYSAVINGS \$1,000pp cruise discount.

HOLIDAYSAVINGS promotion is available until 9/30/24 and once this promotion expires it will go back to the group discount of \$250pp.

CRUISE PRICING (Does not include land tour, flights or travel insurance.)

Category	Upgrade	Description	Available	DBL – PP (USD)	SOLO (USD)
SS		Suite - French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 300 sq. ft.	4	\$7,443.00	\$15,641.00
AA		French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 235 sq. ft.	10	\$6,143.00	\$9,592.00
AB	AA	French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 235 sq. ft.	10	\$5,943.00	\$9,292.00
BA	AB	French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 210 sq. ft.	10	\$5,743.00	\$8,992.00
BB	BA	French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 210 sq. ft.	15	\$5,543.00	\$8,692.00
C		French Balcony, 170 sq. ft.	16	\$4,943.00	\$7,792.00
D		Fixed Windows, 160 sq. ft.	11	\$3,743.00	\$5,992.00
E	D	Fixed Windows, 160 sq. ft.	5	\$3,444.00	\$5,543.50

Land package prices are as follows:

3 nights Lake Como (Pre-cruise) - \$1,650 p.p. based on double occ. (\$2,760 p.p. based on solo occ.)

Holiday Triple Savings is applicable to cruise only; valid on select 2026 Europe sailings for new reservations only made before September 30, 2024; and is based on double occupancy. Onboard credit of \$100 per stateroom for 7-night cruises is based on double occupancy in USD and can be applied towards all onboard purchases; Solo occupants receive half of the stated Onboard Credit. Complimentary upgrades apply to one category upgrade, based on availability; not applicable to Suites, AA+, A+ categories. Offer varies for solo occupants; ask for details. Offers are combinable with AmaWaterways' Loyalty Benefits and Future Cruise Benefit Program. Offers are limited to availability, capacity controlled and subject to change/termination without notice. Optional land packages, airfares, transfers, and gratuities are additional. AmaWaterways reserves the right to correct any errors or omissions at any time. Other restrictions apply.



CRUISE TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservation and Final Payment: To confirm a cruise or cruise & land reservation, we require a deposit of \$400 per person for Europe, Russia and Vietnam/Cambodia itineraries and \$2400 per person for Africa itineraries (\$4800 for Singita dates) on or before the deposit due date indicated on the confirmation. A deposit of \$300 per person is required for Intra-Africa air. Once airline arrangements have been accepted, an additional deposit of \$300 per person is required to confirm said arrangements. Hotel Extra Nights require a deposit of \$50 per person at the time of confirmation of the hotel availability. Final payment is due no later than 90 days before the land/itinerary start date.

Pricing: Brochure prices are in US dollars, per person, based on double occupancy of a stateroom, or standard hotel room, unless stated otherwise. Single rates are available; please refer to individual itineraries. In the event that a cruise fare listed, quoted or advertised through any website, printed collateral, reservations person, travel agent or any other source is booked, but is incorrect due to an electronic error, typographical error, human error or any other error causing the fare to be listed, quoted or advertised for an amount not intended by AmaWaterways, AmaWaterways reserves the right to correct the erroneous fare by requesting the passenger to pay the correct fare intended, or by canceling the cruise. Airfares, air taxes and air surcharges quoted on your invoice or by a reservation agent are only guaranteed once airfare deposit or full payment is received by AmaWaterways. AmaWaterways reserves the right to increase prices without notice.

Prices Do Not Include: Published prices do not include vessel fuel surcharges; passport and visa fees; baggage fees; port charges, port taxes and fees; travel, health, accident or other insurance; vaccinations; laundry; additional food and beverages; optional excursions; gratuities or other items or services of a personal nature.

Cancellation Charges: In the unfortunate event a participant must cancel travel, notice to AmaWaterways must be via email, which must include a return receipt and read notation, or other writing stating clearly and correctly each guest's name, ship name, start and end date of the cruise and a brief statement of the reason for cancellation. Other forms of notice are not sufficient. The effective date of the cancellation is the date we receive the written cancellation notice. A name change or substitution of participant is also treated as a cancellation in that all cancellation charges apply. Cancellation charges are per-person, based on the cancellation date, as follows:

DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE	CRUISE & LAND CANCELLATION CHARGE	AIRFARE CANCELLATION CHARGE (ECONOMY CONTRACT FARES)	AIRFARE CANCELLATION CHARGE (BUSINESS/FIRST CLASS CONTRACT FARES)	OTHER CHARGES (EXCEPT INSURANCE)
121 days or more prior to departure	\$200 (Europe, Colombia & Asia)	\$350 penalty*	\$600 penalty*	-
	\$2,400 (Seven River Journey Through Europe)			
	\$600 (Egypt)			
	\$1,200 (Africa)			
120-90 days prior to departure	\$400 (Europe, Colombia & Asia)	\$350 penalty*	\$600 penalty*	-
	\$4,800 (Seven River Journey Through Europe)			
	\$1,200 (Egypt)			
	\$2,400 (Africa)			
89-60 days prior to departure	35% of cruise and land price	\$350 penalty*	\$600 penalty*	35% of all charges
59-30 days prior to departure	50% of cruise and land price	\$350 penalty*	\$600 penalty*	50% of all charges
29-7 days prior to departure	80% of cruise and land price	\$350 penalty*	\$600 penalty*	80% of all charges
6 days to 25 hours prior to departure	100% of cruise and land price	\$350 penalty*	\$600 penalty*	100% of all charges
24 hours or less	100% of cruise and land price	100% penalty	100% penalty	100% of all charges

LAND EXTENSION TERMS & CONDITIONS

All land tour extensions on this itinerary are being operated by AMAwaterways so the below terms apply.