



RIVER CRUISE

## MAGNIFICENT EUROPE WITH CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

2026

EUMCX16



16 days / 15 nights River Cruise



Amsterdam to Budapest

### ITINERARY

To view the itinerary in greater depth, simply click on your preferred day from the interactive list to unveil its details. Discover daily activities, immersive experiences and insider local tips that make your travel unforgettable.



### AMSTERDAM TO BUDAPEST

16 days / 16 nights River Cruise

DAY 1

#### Arrive Amsterdam, Embark Ship

Welcome to Amsterdam. We'll meet you on arrival and transfer you to your luxurious river ship. Settle into your suite before getting to know your fellow travellers and APT Cruise Director at a welcome reception. Savour fresh locally sourced oysters with regional sparkling wine. After your first dinner on board, you may like to explore the city at your own pace.



**Stay:** 15 Nights, APT Ostara

**Daily:** • Dinner

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## DAY 2

### Amsterdam

Spend today on your preferred activity. Rejoin the ship in Utrecht and cruise towards Germany in the afternoon.

#### Freedom of Choice – Glass-Top Boat Canal Cruise

A peaceful way to see the best of Amsterdam, step aboard a glass-top boat and glide through the city's iconic maze of World Heritage-listed canals, admiring the unique architecture along the way.

#### Freedom of Choice – Cheese Tasting

Visit a local cheese store for a tasting of regional cheeses. The Netherlands is renowned for its cheese production, including iconic varieties such as Edam and Gouda.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 3

### Andernach

This morning will be spent cruising through Germany as you enjoy the facilities on board. Perhaps indulge in a spa treatment or get active in the onboard gym. Disembark in Andernach, where an exclusive Signature Experience awaits.

#### Signature Experience – Namedy Castle

Princess Heide von Hohenzollern graciously welcomes APT guests into her home, Namedy Castle, a royal escape set near the Rhine River in Germany. After wandering through the castle and its manicured gardens, you'll attend a cocktail party, where a pianist sets the mood.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.



**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 4

### Rüdesheim

Today, you'll approach what is known as the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine River. Glide past crumbling ruins that cling to rocky cliffs and rolling hillsides marked with perfectly planted vineyards. Dock in Rüdesheim

, one of Germany's most revered cultural and historic cities. Here, you'll set out on your chosen activity. Afterwards, wander through the Christmas market and perhaps pick up a souvenir or two.

#### Freedom of Choice – Gondola Ride

Glide over the vineyards of the Rhine Valley in a gondola, enjoying stunning vistas. At the top, arrive at the Niederwald Monument, commemorating the unification of Germany in 1871.

#### Freedom of Choice – Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum

Take a tour of Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum, an eccentric and unique museum which is home to a beautiful collection of fascinating automated musical instruments from all stages of history.

#### Freedom of Choice – Visit a Historic Wine Cellar

Visit a historic wine cellar for a tasting of Rhine Valley wines. Discover why this location is one of Germany's most well-known wine regions.

Freedom of Choice:

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**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 5

### Miltenberg

This morning, delight in a relaxing cruise along the Main River before arriving in Miltenberg. Spared from the destruction of World War II, the town of Miltenberg is much like a time capsule, revealing what old-world village life was like in Germany before the war. Here, set out on your chosen sightseeing activity.

#### Freedom of Choice – Guided Walking Tour and Liqueur Tasting

Embark on a guided exploration of Miltenberg. Discover the town's remarkably preserved buildings and lively squares, offering a unique glimpse into Germany's rich history. Then, visit one of Franconia's oldest wine cellars for a tasting of local liqueurs.



### Freedom of Choice – Local Monastery Visit

Travel to the hills overlooking Miltenberg for a visit to a local monastery. Here, you'll meet with a Franciscan friar to hear about life in the monastery. You'll also sample some homemade sausages, cheese and bread before free time to wander through the gardens and vineyard.

Freedom of Choice:

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**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 6

### Würzburg

Your day unfolds on your terms thanks to a choice of activities today.

### Freedom of Choice – Visit the Würzburg Residence

The immense architectural beauty of Würzburg is on display today as you stroll through this fascinating city to the Würzburg Residence. An 18th-century palace that once belonged to the Prince-Bishops of Würzburg, this regal building is home to a number of historic wonders. Inside, you'll marvel at the intricate tapestries, gilded stucco work and ceiling frescoes by famed Tiepolo. At the end of your tour, you'll have time to visit the Christmas Market, located in front of the historical Marienkapelle Chapel.

### Freedom of Choice – Explore Rothenburg

Travel to the walled town of Rothenburg and immerse yourself in medieval life. Wander the narrow cobblestone streets and admire the colourful houses. During free time, you may wish to visit Käthe Wohlfahrt's 'Christmas Village', where you'll find the largest selection of German Christmas decorations in the world.

### Freedom of Choice – Tastes of Franconia

Travel to the Volkacher  
Mainschleife

, the largest wine-growing region in Franconia and home to one of the most famous Franconian whisky distilleries. Here, enjoy a guided tour and meet the whisky and winemaker to uncover the art of making whisky. Savour a tasting of their finest creations paired with freshly baked bread from a local bakery.

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**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 7

### Bamberg (Christmas Eve)

This morning, your ship will arrive in World Heritage-listed Bamberg, another one of the few German cities that was not destroyed during World War II. As you explore the Old Town with a guide, you will discover a range of historic churches and buildings, including the town hall on the Regnitz River

. Following your tour, rejoin your ship to cruise onto the Main-Danube Canal.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 8

### Nuremberg (Christmas Day)

Celebrate a magical Christmas Day in Nuremberg. Disembark your ship and set out on a tour focused on Nuremberg's medieval history. Discover medieval architecture, including the 900-year-old ramparts that surround the city, the Imperial Castle, the main market square and its 14th-century Gothic church. You'll also enjoy a traditional Christmas feast on board your ship with all the trimmings. Later, continue cruising on the Main-Danube Canal. Having taken 32 years to construct, the canal links the North and Black seas.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 9

### Regensburg (Boxing Day)

Explore Regensburg's atmospheric World Heritage-listed city centre. With a history dating back to the Roman times, this incredible city was the first capital of Bavaria. Your tour will finish with a tasting at Regensburg's historic sausage kitchen, thought to be one of the oldest working restaurants in the world.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 10

### Passau, Salzburg, Linz

Enjoy time at Salzburg's Christmas market before a Signature Experience.

**Signature Experience – Gaisberg Mountain Lunch and 'The Sound of Music' Show**



Be welcomed by a Jagdhornblaser – a hunting horn blower – into a rustic, traditional restaurant on the Gaisberg mountain overlooking Salzburg. Enjoy a welcome drink as you soak in the scenery before savouring a delicious lunch, followed by a show featuring music from the classic film, 'The Sound of Music'.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 11

## Melk, Dürnstein

Visit spectacular Melk Abbey, adorned with intricate statues. You'll then cruise through the Wachau Valley to Dürnstein, where you can roam its cobblestone lanes at your leisure. Or perhaps join your wellness host for a hike to the castle ruins.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 12

## Vienna

Arrive in Vienna and set out on a city tour. Take in the city's many landmarks along the Ringstrasse, as well as St. Stephen's Cathedral. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore. This evening is set aside for your magical Signature Experience.

### Signature Experience

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#### Vienna's City Palace

After dinner, head to the princely family of Liechtenstein's City Palace in the heart of Vienna, where we have arranged an exclusive cocktail party and private recital, just for you. A full orchestra will perform classical masterpieces by Mozart and Strauss, and you will also be enchanted by an operatic recital.

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## DAY 13

### Vienna

Tour inside Schonbrunn Palace, the former summer palace of the Habsburgs. Discover the apartments of former emperors and take some time to wander the immaculate grounds. You'll also have time to visit the Christmas market located in Parade Court in front of the palace. Later, continue onwards to Bratislava.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 14

### Bratislava (New Year's Eve)

Embark on a guided tour of Slovakia's capital, Bratislava, where a mixture of 18th-century rococo design and communist era architecture make this a city of alluring contrasts. See some of the architectural landmarks that were built during the city's time under communist rule. These include the UFO bridge, Slovak Radio building and Hotel Kyjev. Tonight, bid farewell to 2026 in style with New Year's Eve celebrations in full swing.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 15

### Budapest (New Year's Day)

Choose your sightseeing option in Budapest today. The afternoon is yours at leisure to further explore. In the evening, join your fellow travellers for a farewell to remember. Enjoy a performance of Hungarian folk music while you indulge in local brandy, as well as artisan meats and cheeses.

#### Freedom of Choice – City Tour

Set out on a city tour of Budapest and take in its historic monuments, including Heroes' Square and St. Stephen's Basilica. Then, visit the Great Market Hall, where you'll sample delicious local produce.

#### Freedom of Choice – Fisherman's Bastion

Enjoy a funicular ride up to Castle Hill and take in the sweeping views over the river, then walk to Fisherman's Bastion, a beautiful historical monument.

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**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 16

## Disembark Ship, Depart Budapest

Today, your unforgettable European Christmas adventure comes to an end. After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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