



Oregon State University
Alumni Association

Enhanced Health & Safety Protocols (see website for details)

RIVER JOURNEY



NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT
for Solo
Travelers

Holiday Markets Cruise

The Festive Rhine River | Düsseldorf to Basel

Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Watch the **river's glorious scenery unfold around you**, vistas of clifftop castles, medieval villages and forested hills.
- ▶ Be immersed in the **joyful spirit of the holiday markets** amid festive music, fragrant aromas and colorful pageantry.
- ▶ Enjoy an **exclusive musical treat** in Heidelberg's romantic old town.
- ▶ Delight in the charming timbered houses and cobblestone streets of Grande Île, the **historic heart of Strasbourg**.
- ▶ Gaze upward in awe at the soaring spires of **Cologne Cathedral**.
- ▶ Experience four **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Warming up with mulled wine

Celebrate centuries-old traditions at European holiday markets on a seven-night Rhine River cruise to Germany and France. Feel the holiday magic in town squares aglow with twinkling lights and good cheer and overflowing with handmade decorations. Delight in the uplifting sounds of carolers and bells and the scent of nutmeg, cinnamon and fresh pine in the air. New adventures await daily! Visit Heidelberg's red sandstone castle over the Neckar valley and admire Cologne's cathedral built over 630 years. Customize your cruise with a selection of included excursions in Düsseldorf, Rüdesheim, Strasbourg and Breisach.

ALUMNI CAMPUS
ABROAD®

EXTEND YOUR STAY

Interlaken | 2 Nights | PRE-Trip

Berlin | 3 Nights | POST-Trip

(See website for details.)

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Düsseldorf, Germany. 🚢

Day 2 | Düsseldorf, Germany

Transfer 🚗 to the pier and embark the ship. Get acquainted at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Düsseldorf

🌟 **PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:**

• **Düsseldorf and Holiday Markets.** See the city's eclectic, eye-catching architecture, including the Medienhafen riverfront district. Then, explore the old town, famed for a half-mile stretch of more than 250 bars, cafés and breweries. Next, enjoy time to visit the city's seven themed *Christkindlmarkts*, focused on handicrafts, angels and fairy tales, among others.

• **Aachen, City of Emperor Charlemagne.** Travel to this historic city that was once the capital and favorite royal residence of Charlemagne, crowned emperor of the Romans by Pope Leo III in 800. Tour Aachen's cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring Charlemagne's richly decorated imperial chapel and his original throne. Walk through the city center and spa area before finishing at the holiday market.

Return to the ship for a delicious lunch.

Free Time: Explore Düsseldorf and its markets.

Day 4 | Cologne

Enrichment: German Holiday Traditions.

Cologne Walking Tour. See the old town's landmarks and visit the majestic cathedral.

After your excursion, savor a tasty lunch on the ship.

Free Time: Enjoy Cologne on your own this afternoon.

Day 5 | Rhine Gorge | Rüdesheim

Sail through stunning scenery in the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a gently curving, 40-mile stretch lined with more than 40 castles and fortress ruins.



PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

- Rüdesheim Tour.** Board a tram and travel along the lively Drosselgasse to visit a captivating museum of self-playing, mechanical musical instruments and the “Christmas Market of the Nations” with holiday items from around the world.
- Rhine Wine Tasting.** Travel to the beautiful Abbey of St. Hildegard to tour the abbey and church and learn about the remarkable St. Hildegard of Bingen. Later, taste fine vintages at a Rüdesheim winery.

Day 6 | Mannheim | Heidelberg

The ship arrives in Mannheim this morning.

Heidelberg Castle and Town. Tour the impressive castle with its immense wine barrel and gaze over Neckar Valley from above. Next, walk with your guide in the old town, past the Student Jail, Old University, the cathedral and along the Neckar River. Relax afterward at a traditional German restaurant.

Free Time: Explore the old town on your own.

AHI Connects: Musical Trio. Relish a special and exclusive treat as a professional trio performs holiday songs, arias and contemporary pieces.

The ship departs for Strasbourg tonight.

Day 7 | Strasbourg, France

PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

- Strasbourg Panorama.** Witness the city’s unique blend of German and French influences as you see top landmarks. Take a guided walk in the historic area and visit the Gothic Notre Dame Cathedral.
- Culinary Strasbourg.** Sample traditional Alsatian dishes and wines as you explore the city’s *winstubs* (small wine pubs) and other local cafés and shops.

Free Time: Catch a complimentary shuttle from the ship to the city center and meander in the luminous wonderland of Strasbourg’s *marché de Noël*.

Tonight on board, gather with your fellow cruisers for a Glühwein party, and enjoy this spiced winter drink. The ship sails to Breisach this evening.



Day 8 | Breisach, Germany | Freiburg

Freiburg. Stroll in the historic center of this vibrant university city. See the 13th-century cathedral, the turreted Merchants’ Hall and other highlights, then visit the cheery *Christkindlmarkt*.

PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

- Riquewihr and the Wines of the Alsace.** Visit this exquisite French medieval village set in a small valley near the Vosges mountains. Sample some of its fabulous wines and take in its romantic charm.
- Colmar Markets.** Explore four different Alsatian holiday markets, each with its own character, in this pretty French town lined with half-timbered houses.

Celebrate your magical holiday cruise with your fellow travelers at tonight’s Farewell Reception and Dinner. The ship cruises overnight to Basel, Switzerland.

Day 9 | Basel, Switzerland | In Transit

Disembark the ship in Basel. Transfer to the airport in Zürich for the return flight to your gateway city.

Included Features

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **Unpack once** and cruise for **7 nights** aboard the **exclusively chartered**, first-class MS Symphonie.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; all drinks included on board except for special wines and spirits.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **PYJ | Personalize Your Journey**
A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



2024 Departures & Pricing

December 10-18, 2024

Full Price from	\$3,245
Special Savings	\$250
Special Price from	\$2,995*

*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details.
VAT & port tax supplement are an additional \$395 per person.
All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).
Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.
Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://orst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1808A?schoolid=129>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.
Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.
Flights and transfers provided for AHI FlexAir participants.
Electives available at an additional cost.

Above: Holiday market, Strasbourg | Above right: Düsseldorf