

# Holiday Markets

Cruise on the Festive Rhine River

**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers

2023

SPONSORED BY



**The University of  
North Carolina  
General Alumni Association**

**November 26 – December 4, 2023**



## Inspiring Moments

# A World of Discovery

Join us as we celebrate age-old traditions at Europe's famous holiday markets! Feel the magic of the Advent season in town squares aglow with twinkling lights and good cheer and overflowing with bright ornaments and handmade treasures.

What sets this travel adventure apart from others is AHI's unwavering commitment to connecting you to the world's people, places and cultures. By weaving together discovery, education and authentic local experiences, we deliver new insights and fresh perspectives to enrich your life.

The incomparable value of our journeys is rooted in the personalized care you receive from AHI's Travel Directors. These outstanding professionals create a welcoming atmosphere and handle every last detail so you can focus on the wonder of the world before you. We also partner with the most knowledgeable guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines.

We invite you to turn the page on a remarkable new chapter with this AHI Journey for the curious traveler!

- ▶ Relish the **glorious riverside scenery**, 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 quaint, timbered houses and cobblestone streets of **Grande Île, the historic heart of Strasbourg.**
- ▶ Gaze upward in awe at the soaring spires of **Cologne Cathedral.**

*Above: Holiday market, Strasbourg |*

*Cover photo: Holiday market at Cologne Cathedral*



## Dear Carolina Alumni and Friends,

Embrace the joyous, Old-World holiday spirit on this seven-night Rhine River cruise that transports you to enchanting holiday markets in Germany and France. A feast for the senses, these festive, cozy fairs delight with twinkling lights and the uplifting sounds of carolers and bells. Explore cheery aisles brimming with wooden nutcrackers and delicate glass ornaments. Take in the tantalizing aromas of treats like gingerbread, roasted chestnuts and sizzling sausages. New adventures await daily.

Aboard your first-class ship, you'll unpack once and enjoy an intimate view of European history as you glide along this ancient trading route studded with medieval sites. In Heidelberg, visit the stately castle over the Neckar Valley and enjoy a special musical performance. Sail through the scenic Rhine Gorge, admire Cologne's spectacular cathedral and stroll within vibrant Freiburg. In the ports of Breisach, Strasbourg, Rudesheim and Düsseldorf, customize your cruise with engaging excursions that fit your interests, such as wine tastings, culinary tours or cultural experiences.

Space on this popular trip with fellow Tar Heels and friends is always in demand, so ensure your spot on this heartwarming journey by reserving today!

Yours at Carolina,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug".

Douglas S. Dibbert '70

President

The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association

**877-962-3980**

**[norcar.ahitravel.com](http://norcar.ahitravel.com)**

### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt
2. Upper Middle Rhine Valley
3. Cologne Cathedral
4. Aachen Cathedral



*Aachen Cathedral*



### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Zürich, Switzerland. 🌐

### Day 2 | Zürich, Switzerland | Basel

Upon arrival, transfer ➡ to Basel and embark the MS Amadeus Cara.

Tonight, meet your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner and get better acquainted. The ship sails toward Breisach this evening.

### Day 3 | Breisach, Germany | Freiburg

**Discovery: Freiburg.** Stroll through the historic center of this vibrant university city to admire its 13th-century cathedral, turreted Merchants' Hall and other landmarks. Visit the *Christkindlmarkt*, where marzipan and chestnuts are popular treats!

#### 🌐 PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

##### • *Riquewihr and the Wines of the Alsace.*

Selected as one of "Les Plus Beaux Villages de France," The Most Beautiful Villages of France,

this lovely medieval town charms all who visit. Relish its romantic aura on a guided walk and sample some of its fabulous wines.

• **Colmar Markets.** Revel in Alsatian holiday traditions as you explore four different markets, each with its own character, in this beautiful French town lined with half-timbered houses.

This evening, the ship cruises to Strasbourg, capital of the French region of Alsace.

### Day 4 | Strasbourg, France

#### 🌐 PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

• **Strasbourg Panorama.** Witness the blend of German and French influences as you see the city's highlights, including Palais Rohan and St. Thomas Church. Then take in the historic center on a guided walk and visit Notre Dame Cathedral, a Gothic wonder.

• **Culinary Strasbourg.** Experience the Alsatian food scene on a guided tour that takes you to the city's *winstubs*, cozy wine pubs, and other local

## Your Individual Experience

Free time means something different to every traveler. You may like to linger in a cozy café or stay on the go. That's why we design itineraries that allow you to craft an individual travel experience.



#### **Personalize Your Journey | PYJ | Included**

Choose from a variety of excursions in selected locales based on your interests.



#### **Elective Experiences | At an additional cost**

Further your experience by immersing yourself in specially designed activities.

**Check out our itinerary for more details. We've done the legwork. Now the choice is yours.**



Heidelberg

cafés and shops. On your route, taste delicious regional specialties and wines.

**Free Time:** Catch a complimentary shuttle from the ship to the city this afternoon and enjoy Strasbourg's luminous *marché de Noël*, France's oldest holiday market established in 1570.

**Enrichment: German Holiday Traditions.** From Advent wreaths to Christmas baking, learn about cherished family customs shared at home. The ship departs Strasbourg late this evening.

#### **Day 5 | Mannheim, Germany | Heidelberg**

The ship arrives early in the port of Mannheim.

**Discovery: Heidelberg Castle and Town.** Step inside red-walled Heidelberg Castle, which stands watch over the Neckar Valley, and see the immense wine barrel built in 1591, which once contained 34,342 gallons of wine! Then follow your guide on a pleasant walk in the Old Town and along the banks of the Neckar River. Relax over lunch at a traditional German

restaurant, where you'll feel the comfortable, friendly ambience known as *gemütlichkeit*.

**Free Time:** Spend some time on your own in Heidelberg's historic center.

**AHI Connects: Musical Trio.** Settle in for an entertaining, exclusive performance by a professional trio in Heidelberg, featuring holiday songs, arias and contemporary pieces.

#### **Day 6 | Rudesheim | Rhine Gorge**

**PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

•**Rudesheim Tour.** Board a tram that takes you down charming Drosselgasse and stop at the "Christmas Market of the Nations" with holiday items from around the world. At a captivating museum, be amazed by the incredible ingenuity and melodies of music boxes, player pianos and other restored mechanical musical instruments.

•**Rhine Wine Tasting.** Visit the tranquil Abbey of St. Hildegard and learn about the multitalented St. Hildegard of Bingen, a prominent woman in



Glühwein, traditional mulled wine



Upper Middle Rhine Valley



the medieval church. Later, sample the region's fine wines in the old cellar of a local winery.

On the way to Cologne this afternoon, sail through the Rhine's most stunning scenery. Known as the Rhine Gorge, this gently curving, picturesque 40-mile stretch was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site for its historical, cultural and geological significance.

Before dinner tonight, gather for a Glühwein party with your fellow cruisers. If you haven't already tried it at one of the holiday markets, indulge in this warm concoction of cinnamon, cloves, citrus and wine, a wintertime classic!

## Day 7 | Cologne

The ship arrives in Cologne early this morning.

**Discovery: Cologne Walking Tour.** The city's majestic cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is northern Europe's largest Gothic church. Topped by two filigreed spires, it was built over a period of more than 630 years. On a guided



walk, see landmarks along the old town's narrow lanes and admire the cathedral's grand interior.

**Free Time:** Take advantage of complimentary shuttles between the ship and the city center this afternoon. Shop for handcrafted mementos



Top: Loreley Rock, Rhine Gorge | Above: Abbey of St. Hildegard, Rudesheim



## MS Amadeus Cara

Aboard this elegant, 82-cabin ship, reminiscent of a grand European hotel, cruise in exceptional comfort and style while enjoying warm hospitality and personalized attention from its seasoned crew. Its inviting public spaces feature large windows that offer remarkable views of the scenery. Savor delectable breakfast and luncheon buffets and delight in sophisticated, regionally inspired dinner menus. Wine, beer and soft drinks complement both lunch and dinner. Onboard amenities include a sun deck, fitness center and massage room. Each evening, relax in your cabin or suite, which features satellite TV and a private bathroom with a shower. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



for loved ones at home (as well as yourself!) at the Christmas market outside the cathedral. Cruise toward Düsseldorf this evening.

### Day 8 | Düsseldorf



#### **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

- **Düsseldorf and Holiday Markets.** Take a scenic tour of this dynamic city before a guided walk in the old town, famous for its half-mile stretch of more than 250 bars, breweries and cafés. After a sample of the local dark beer, enjoy free time in the seven delightfully themed *Christkindlmarkts* centered on handicrafts, angels, German fairy tales and more.
- **Aachen, City of Emperor Charlemagne.** Aachen was the imperial capital and favorite royal residence of Charlemagne (747-814), who also enjoyed its therapeutic hot springs. Visit the Aachen Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring Charlemagne's richly decorated imperial chapel and his original throne. Walk in the historic center and spa area before finishing at the city's cheery Christmas market.



**Free Time:** Spend your afternoon at leisure.

Tonight, celebrate your yuletide journey with your shipmates at a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

### Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer  to the airport for the return flight  to your gateway city.

**Note:** *Itinerary may change due to local conditions.*

 *Flights and*  *transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.*

 *Elective experiences available at an additional cost.*

### A Note About Activity Levels

We have rated the activity levels of our excursions to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website for more specific details.

#### **Excursions on this program require:**

- ▶ walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- ▶ getting on/off motor coaches and boats



 | **ELECTIVE |**  
**PRE-TRIP EXTENSION IN INTERLAKEN**

Marvel at Switzerland's breathtaking natural beauty during a two-night stay in the heart of the Bernese Oberland, the ideal base for exploring the region's enchanting mountains and lakes. You'll also delight in the charming medieval center of capital city Bern on a guided walking tour. This extension includes two nights at the deluxe Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa; daily breakfasts; the services of an AHI Travel Director and Hospitality desk; a guided tour of Bern; guide and driver gratuities; deluxe motor coach transfer and baggage handling from the hotel to the ship; and all taxes and service charges.

**Price: \$1,195 per person, double occupancy; \$1,490 single occupancy**



 | **ELECTIVE |**  
**POST-TRIP EXTENSION IN BERLIN**

Explore one of Europe's most exciting and historic cities over three nights at a first-class hotel situated near leafy Tiergarten Park. On a scenic tour, see Berlin's top highlights, including the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie, and enjoy ample free time to visit some of its 80 holiday markets! This extension includes three nights at the first-class InterContinental Berlin; daily breakfasts; the services of an AHI Travel Director and Hospitality desk; an orientation walk and guided tour of Berlin; guide and driver gratuities; a high-speed train from Düsseldorf; baggage handling between the ship and the hotel; and all taxes and service charges.

**Price: \$995 per person, double occupancy; \$1,260 single occupancy**



# Holiday Markets Cruise ~ The Festive Rhine River

Trip #:1-27815W

Call the Tar Heel Travel Office at 877-962-3980 to reserve your place (preferred registration method).

**Please be prepared to provide the information below while on the phone.**

You may also complete this Reservation Request and submit it to our office. Once this request is received in our office, an AHI Travel Expert will contact you in a few business days to discuss deposit payment. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed.

**Send to** The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association  
Attn: Travel Office  
P.O. Box 660  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0660  
Toll Free: **877-962-3980**

Tour participants who are not members of the General Alumni Association must join the Association (\$50 for singles, \$60 for couples) to participate. Please pay by separate check made payable to the General Alumni Association and mail with this reservation form. I understand that reservations will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. I accept the conditions as stated in this brochure and submit my reservation as indicated. I understand that the balance is to be paid 75 days prior to departure.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I/we would like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).** Deposit amount is \$600 per person.

**Cabin Category Desired: 1st choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_**

**I/we would also like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on the**

**Interlaken pre- and/or**  **Berlin post-extension** (please check all that apply).

**Full Legal Name** (*exactly as it appears on passport*)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Name you would like on your name badge

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Name you would like on your name badge

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Reservation Request sent separately)

## Single Accommodations

I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

## Flights

Yes, I/we are requesting the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Zürich, Switzerland, with a return from Düsseldorf, Germany, to depart from:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Departure City

I/we are interested in upgrading my/our international flight to the following:

First Class  Business Class  Premium Economy

No thanks! I/we will book my/our own air travel and transfers.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Your full balance must be paid by **August 28, 2023** (90 days prior to departure). Reservations received before this date are eligible for a discount if full payment is made at the time of booking. Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by eCheck, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex.

**Program-specific terms and conditions are available at**

**<https://norcar.ahitravel.com/destinations/1720A?schoold=114>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.**

## PROGRAM DATES

**Air Program dates: November 26 – December 4, 2023**

**Cruise Program dates: November 27 – December 4, 2023**

## CRUISE PROGRAM

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	\$3,045	\$250	<b>\$2,795</b>
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$3,145	\$250	<b>\$2,895</b>
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$3,745	\$250	<b>\$3,495</b>
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$3,845	\$250	<b>\$3,595</b>
A-Mozart (Aft)	\$4,145	\$250	<b>\$3,895</b>
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$4,345	\$250	<b>\$4,095</b>

Suites feature a balcony. Categories A, B and C feature a drop-down panoramic window. Categories D and E feature a panoramic window.

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT and Port Tax supplement is 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.

## Let us arrange your flights!

### AHI FlexAir

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase.
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates.
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights.
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays.

**Travel stress-free  
with AHI FlexAir.**

## TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

For more than half a century, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

**To offer you added peace of mind, we've fine-tuned all facets of your travel experience:**

- ✓ **Included AHI Travel Assurance** covers travel- and health-related contingencies. Available for U.S. residents only.
- ✓ Increased booking flexibility and relaxed cancellation penalties.
- ✓ **Home support staff and ground team** communicating 24/7 to ensure a seamless and safe journey.
- ✓ Travel Directors specially trained to the highest standard in accordance with AHI's health and safety protocols.
- ✓ A global network of partners rigorously following new procedures and protocols.
- ✓ **Enhanced sanitization practices** for river ships, hotels, trains and motor coaches.
- ✓ Tour operations modified for smaller groups and greater physical distancing.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer available for guest use.



# INCLUDED FEATURES

## Accommodations (with baggage handling)

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

## Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

## Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan that covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
  - Stroll through Freiburg, a charming city near the storied Black Forest.
  - Take in Heidelberg's splendid scenery during a visit to the castle and on a guided walk.
  - Enjoy a private musical event in Heidelberg.
  - Marvel at the magnificent Cologne Cathedral and explore the city's old town.

- **Personalize Your Journey | PYJ**  
A choice of excursions in selected locales.

- **Breisach** | Riquewihr and the Wines of the Alsace | Colmar Markets
- **Strasbourg** | Strasbourg Panorama | Culinary Strasbourg
- **Rüdesheim** | Rüdesheim Tour | Rhine Wine Tasting
- **Düsseldorf** | Düsseldorf and Holiday Markets | Aachen, City of Emperor Charlemagne

- **AHI Sustainability Promise:**  
Striving for a positive, purposeful impact on the destinations we visit: preserving the environment, supporting local communities and giving back to the places we travel.

- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
  - Free time to pursue your own 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.



Filled chocolate cakes, Rüdesheim holiday market

## AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we're here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### Before you go:

- ▶ **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **Passenger Service Representative** | After reserving your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who helps with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **Travel Information** | Before your journey, our team closely monitors travel conditions, shares pre-departure details and provides information and enrichment about your destination.

### Once you arrive:

- Our top-notch, dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level! Share a laugh, learn where to find the best café and enjoy their unique perspectives on the local scene.
- ▶ **Travel Director** | Our multilingual Travel Director manages all the details so that you can simply relax and soak up the ambience. In the care of this seasoned travel professional who is attuned to your personal safety, you'll enjoy a seamless, unforgettable travel experience.
  - ▶ **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed, enthusiastic local guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
  - ▶ **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history, culture and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



The University of North Carolina  
 General Alumni Association  
 George Watts Hill Alumni Center, CB# 9180  
 Post Office Box 660  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0660

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**877-962-3980**  
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See pricing panel  
 for details

Grande-Île, Strasbourg

**Feel the magic of the holidays in Germany and France on this first-class river cruise!**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



**Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.**

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