

WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

Lifelong Learning

Christkindlmärkte of Austria & Germany



FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER
Kristina von Trapp

November 27 – December 5, 2026

Raise a steaming mug of glühwein and celebrate the magic of the season on an enchanting seven-night Danube River cruise that captures the very heart of Europe's Old-World holiday traditions. From Vienna, Austria, to Nuremberg, Germany, this festive journey transports you through a wonderland of twinkling lights, centuries-old customs and some of the continent's most beloved Christkindlmärkte. In Vienna, be dazzled by the city's palaces, which provide a breathtaking backdrop for its glittering Christmas markets and classical music performances. Explore elegant riverfront cities adorned in their holiday best, from Regensburg's charming market squares to Passau's festive Old Town. Wander through Nuremberg's medieval historic center, where the air is filled with the scent of roasted almonds and gingerbread. Every day invites you to delight in the sights, sounds and flavors of a European Christmas!

Exclusive Highlights

- Cruise from Vienna to Nuremberg through the Wachau Valley aboard a first-class boat.
- Delight in storied Christkindlesmärkte, where every moment glows with the warmth and wonder of the season.
- Experience 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Old Town of Regensburg; Wachau Cultural Landscape; and the Historic Center of Vienna.



Above: Salzburg, Austria
Cover: Nuremberg, Germany

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Lifelong Learning

Dear W&L Alumni, Parents and Friends,

Experience the magic of the holiday season on an elegant journey through Europe's most enchanting Christmas markets. Twinkling lights, festive music and the scent of spiced mulled wine create an unforgettable atmosphere as you explore charming stalls overflowing with handcrafted ornaments and delectable seasonal treats.

This refined seven-night cruise glides along the legendary Danube River, sailing from Vienna to Nuremberg aboard the exclusively chartered *MS Amadeus Imperial*, featuring just 84 beautifully appointed suites and staterooms. Along the way, encounter rich traditions of the Advent season at Christmas markets in Vienna, Passau, Regensburg and Nuremberg — each a showcase of European heritage and holiday spirit. Tailor your experience with Traveler's Choice excursions in Vienna and Linz. Marvel at the magnificent Melk Abbey, a 900-year-old masterpiece, and enjoy a special organ recital at Dürnstein Abbey. Join other Washington & Lee alumni on this sophisticated winter sojourn along the Danube that captures the essence of European elegance, history and holiday tradition — a truly timeless travel experience.



You will have the pleasure of traveling alongside Paul Youngman, Dean of the College and Professor of German, and his wife, Kristen, on this festive journey. With his deep expertise in German culture and language, Dr. Youngman will enrich your experience through engaging commentary and conversation, offering unique insights into the history and traditions of the region's famed *Weihnachtsmärkte*.

We look forward to traveling with you,

James Lambert
Director
Lifelong Learning

Lisa D'Amelio
Associate Director
Lifelong Learning

Danielle Taylor
Office Manager
Lifelong Learning



Day 1 | November 27

Depart your home city.

Day 2 | November 28 R-D

Vienna, Austria/Embark

Arrive in Vienna and embark the *MS Amadeus Imperial*.

Tonight, gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | November 29 B-D

Vienna

Discover imperial Vienna on a guided city tour. Admire iconic landmarks such as the Vienna State Opera House, the stately Austrian Parliament Building and the ornate Burgtheater, all testaments to the city's cultural legacy. Behold the magnificent St. Stephen's Cathedral — one of Vienna's most enduring symbols. Visit the famed Spanish Riding School, home of the Lippanzer Stallions, and witness centuries of equestrian tradition.

After lunch on your own, personalize your afternoon with a choice of excursions. Either stroll through the lavish

halls of Schönbrunn Palace or embrace the festive spirit at Vienna's Christkindlmarkt, held in the grand square before the City Hall.

Cap off the day on a high note with a caroling performance and enjoy dinner on the ship.

Day 4 | November 30 B-L-D

Dürnstein/Emmersdorf/Melk

After breakfast, arrive in Dürnstein and set out on a guided walking tour to explore its cobbled streets and historic landmarks. Above the town lie the ruins of Künringer Castle, where England's King Richard the Lionheart was famously

held captive on his return from the Third Crusade. Conclude your visit with a short organ recital at Dürnstein Abbey before returning to the ship.

Return to the ship and enjoy lunch while cruising through the Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage landscape of terraced vineyards and villages.

Next, visit the legendary Melk Abbey, perched high above the town, commanding breathtaking views of the Lower Alps and the Danube River below. This extraordinary 18th-century Benedictine





abbey dazzles with its ornate frescoes, grand marble hall and library filled with centuries-old manuscripts.

Day 5 | December 1 B-L-D

Linz

Arrive in Linz, and choose from two excursions. On the full day Salzburg Tour, walk along the Getreidegasse, passing Mozart's birthplace at No. 9. Visit the Hohensalzburg Fortress and the Salzburg Christmas market, followed by a visit to the Mirabell Castle Church to enjoy a string quartet performance of Mozart's compositions. Alternatively, discover the treasures of Linz. Visit the Mozart House

and the Landhaus, a Renaissance landmark. Marvel at Austria's largest Nativity display. Enjoy some iconic Linzer Torte at a local cafe and conclude at a lively Christmas market.

The afternoon is at leisure for lunch and to explore.

Day 6 | December 2 B-L-D

Passau, Germany

Perched at the meeting point of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers, charming Passau is often called the "City of Three Rivers." Join a guided walking tour through its atmospheric streets and admire the city's architectural gems, including the

magnificent St. Stephen's Cathedral, crowned by its signature green domes. Step inside to witness the awe-inspiring cathedral organ — a masterpiece of craftsmanship.

Enjoy a visit to Passau's Christmas market. Stroll among wooden stalls brimming with handcrafted ornaments, toys and treats, and indulge in local specialties like spiced lebkuchen gingerbread. Return to the ship for lunch and sail to Regensburg.

Day 7 | December 3 B-L-R-D

Regensburg

Our journey continues to Regensburg, a city steeped in

Melk Abbey, Austria



Christmas market, Salzburg, Austria





history and architectural splendor. Regensburg boasts an extraordinary blend of Roman ruins, Gothic spires and Romanesque chapels, all set amid a maze of narrow lanes and colorful merchant houses. Walk through the city's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, celebrated for its remarkably preserved buildings and authentic medieval ambience. Then, soak in the festive spirit at Regensburg's enchanting Christmas markets, where the scent of roasted chestnuts fill the air. Browse stalls filled with handcrafted gifts, ornaments and local treasures, and indulge in Bavarian specialties such as sizzling sausages, spiced mulled wine

and warm pastries. With its perfect mix of historic grandeur and holiday cheer, Regensburg captures the timeless magic of Christmastime in Germany!

This evening, enjoy a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 8 | December 4 B-L-D

Nuremberg

Begin with a guided tour through Nuremberg's Old Town, a treasure trove of medieval charm and history. Admire the city's half-timbered houses, ancient stone walls and the impressive castle complex that has watched over Nuremberg for centuries. During free time, visit the jolly Christmas market, a festive wonderland of holiday cheer.

Salzburg, Austria



At its heart stands the "Golden Angel," or Rauschgöngel, the beloved symbol of the market, who warmly welcomes visitors. Enjoy a final dinner together this evening and raise a toast to your adventure!

Day 9 | December 5 B

**Nuremberg/Disembark/
Return to Home City**

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the flight to your home city.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.

Featured Guest Speaker

Kristina von Trapp Frame serves as the Executive Vice President of the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont, a 2,600-acre resort founded by her family. As a granddaughter of Maria and Captain von Trapp, Kristina grew up immersed in the family legacy celebrated by the iconic film, "The Sound of Music." Alongside her brother Sam, she manages the lodge, focusing on outdoor activities such as trail running and cross-country skiing, as well as overseeing guest programs that share the von Trapp family history.





Yuletide Traditions

The tradition of open-air winter fairs dates back to 13th-century Vienna, when Duke Albrecht I granted citizens permission to hold a market to gather supplies for the cold months ahead. Though originally practical rather than religious, these wintermärkte quickly grew in popularity, spreading throughout the German-speaking regions during the Middle Ages. By the 16th and 17th centuries, as Christmas festivities became more widespread across Austria and Germany, these humble winter markets evolved into the Christkindlmärkte — literally, the “Christ Child markets” — celebrations that blended faith, festivity and craftsmanship. Market stalls soon overflowed with sweet confections, wooden toys, hand-carved nativity figures and brightly painted nutcrackers, setting the stage for the beloved holiday markets we know today. These centuries-old customs continue to thrive in Christmas markets across Europe. Each December, cities glow with twinkling lights, evergreen garlands, the scent of roasted chestnuts and the warmth of mulled glühwein, as the joyful sound of carolers fills the crisp winter air — keeping the spirit of the Christkindlmärkte for generations to come.



Vienna, Austria

INCLUDED FEATURES

- 7 nights aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class *MS Amadeus Imperial*.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Included Meals | 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 7 dinners.
- Complimentary non-premium liquor, house wine, beer and nonalcoholic beverages throughout the cruise; complimentary house wine, beer and nonalcoholic beverages at meals during excursions.
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2026 DEPARTURE DATE | November 27 to December 5 | Tour Begins: November 28

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
SS	Suite with walk-out private balcony; walk-in closet; corner sofa; bathrobes. 284 sq ft Mozart Deck 3, mid.	\$5,995	\$4,995
AI	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet. 188 sq ft Mozart Deck 3, aft.	\$5,695	\$4,695
BI	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck 2, mid/aft.	\$5,195	\$4,195
B4	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck 2, aft.	\$4,995	\$3,995
C1	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck 1, mid.	\$4,395	\$3,395
C4	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck 1, mid.	\$3,995	\$2,995

All suites and staterooms are river-view and feature: en-suite bathroom; sitting area; individual climate control; direct dial telephone; flat-screen TV; hair dryer; in-room safe; 2 twin beds convertible to one queen.

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes (unless otherwise stated)



***The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 5/20/26 and paid in full at booking. These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.**

- Single supplements apply in select categories at 125% of the per person cabin fare, plus taxes, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200%. Special Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)
- Deposit amount is \$1,500 per person. Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.
- Full ship information and deck plans are available on our website at gohagantravel.com.
- Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/

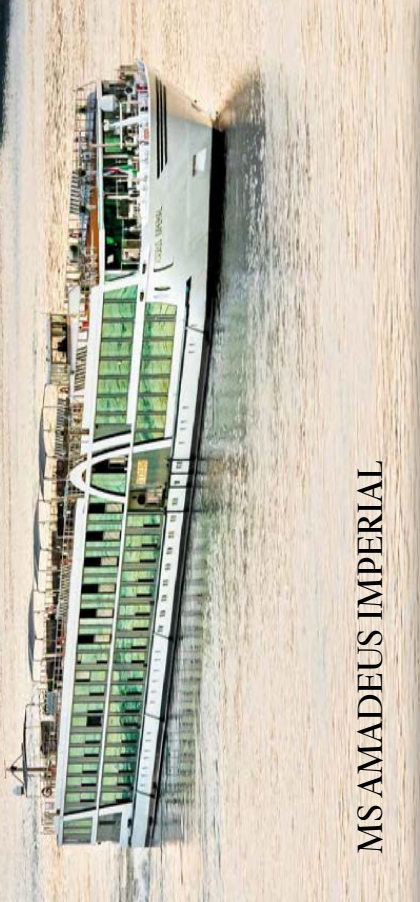
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