

# CLASSIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS

8 Days | Nuremberg to Frankfurt

★★★★★ 4.2/5 131 reviews



8 days



1 country



UNESCO

## *A cruise for those wanting to experience the quintessential magic of the holidays.*

Discover villages with fairytale houses and a friendly, festive atmosphere. Share traditional holiday goodies with the people who made them. Watch as modern children abandon their usual electronics and discover the enchantment of hand-carved wooden toys, as scents of cinnamon and roasting nuts fill the air.

Sail through Christmas country, trying Frankfurt's famous apple cider and Nuremberg's gingerbread. Throughout, cozy up to steaming mugs of *glühwein* (warm spiced wine) and do as the locals do by collecting different mugs from each stall and town you visit. Embrace the holiday spirit in Germany, the land where many Christmas traditions began, and find the magic of the season in the smiles that you meet along the way.

*Please note that most Christmas Markets in Europe end their season on the 23rd of December and will not be available after that date.*

### [NUREMBERG TO FRANKFURT](#)

*Note: The itineraries presented are subject to modification due to water levels, closures because of public holidays or other uncontrollable factors. Every effort will be made to operate programs as planned, but changes may still be necessary throughout the cruise. This day-to-day schedule is subject to change. Your final day-to-day schedule will be provided onboard on the first day of your cruise.*

## DAY 1 NUREMBERG (EMBARK)

Arrive at Nuremberg International Airport. If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

*Note: For Arrival, Departure and Transfer details, please visit [Uniworld.com/transfers](https://uniworld.com/transfers). For Port Location details, please visit [Uniworld.com/ports](https://uniworld.com/ports).*



---

## DAY 2 NUREMBERG

For a holiday extravaganza, look no further than Nuremberg, which boasts the largest and grandest Christmas Market in all of Germany— and that’s really saying something. The “Gingerbread Capital of the World” pulls out all the stops during the holidays, as you’ll see for yourself on a panoramic tour guaranteed to put you in a festive mood. You could not ask for a more perfect place to begin an exploration of Christmas traditions than Nuremberg. Stroll through the castle gardens and enjoy breathtaking views of the city, then walk through a maze of cobblestone lanes down to the central Market Square. There, spread out before the Church of Our Lady, is the largest Christmas Market in Germany.

*A special Captain’s Welcome Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.*

*Please note that most Christmas Markets in Europe end their season on the 23rd of December and will not be available after that date.*



## Featured Excursion

### NUREMBERG CITY TOUR WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET

Beautiful at any time, Nuremberg’s Old Town is especially magical when dressed in all of its holiday splendor. Stroll through the castle gardens and enjoy breathtaking views of the city, then walk through a maze of cobblestone lanes down to the central Market Square. There, spread out before the Church of Our Lady, is the largest Christmas market in Germany. Two hundred stalls filled with holiday wares—ornaments, nutcrackers, seasonal treats, and hand-carved toys—await you, and the irresistible aromas of roasting nuts, cinnamon, and grilled sausages waft through the air.

Adding to the fun is an area set aside especially for children, complete with a two-tiered carousel featuring carved reindeer and Santa’s sleigh. As you wander through the market, you will certainly want to indulge in some of the city’s famous gingerbread; after all, Nuremberg is known as the “Gingerbread Capital of the World.”

*Please note that on or after Christmas Eve, the Christmas Market will likely have ended its season and not be part of this tour.*

---

## DAY 3 BAMBERG

The fact that Bamberg still exists today is something of a miracle—it survived WWII bombing virtually unscathed. It’s a superb example of a medieval German city, one compact enough to

explore on foot with a local expert. You'll also have free time to visit not just one but four Christmas Markets and a captivating amount of nativity scenes located along nativity trail. *Please note that most Christmas Markets in Europe end their season on the 23rd of December and will not be available after that date.*



## Featured Excursion

### BAMBERG WALKING TOUR WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET

The entire heart of historic Bamberg is a UNESCO World Heritage Site; it is yours to explore today. In the splendid late-Romanesque Imperial Cathedral you will find the only papal tomb in Germany, that of Pope Clement II (who was the bishop of Bamberg before he became pope), as well as the tomb of Emperor Henry II (who established the bishopric). Near it are two magnificent palaces: The Old Palace, the late-Gothic imperial residence (if you saw the 2011 3-D version of *The Three Musketeers*, you'll recognize it immediately), sits across from the New Residence, where the 17th-century prince-bishops lived. Cross the footbridge to the old Town Hall; legend has it that the bishop refused to give the town land for their town hall, so they built an artificial island for it smack in the middle of the Regnitz River. You'll also see parts of Bamberg's famous Nativity Walk, which links 35 churches, museums, and public spaces that display Nativity scenes; some made hundreds of years ago.

When the tour concludes, you'll have time to explore Bamberg's Christmas Market, which is actually four markets: the traditional one on the Market Square, one featuring medieval cultural programs, and two markets that focus on local arts and crafts. Shuttles will be provided throughout the afternoon to take you between the ship and town.

*Please note that on or after Christmas Eve, the Christmas Market will likely have ended its season and not be part of this tour.*

## DAY 4 KITZINGEN (ROTHENBURG), WÜRZBURG

Rothenburg looks like something straight out of the pages of a storybook, with its medieval walls, cobbled streets, Gothic churches, and Hansel-and-Gretel houses. Join a local expert for an insightful walking tour, and then wander amongst the stalls at one of Germany's oldest Christmas markets

*Today's lunch will be on your own.*

*Please note that most Christmas Markets in Europe end their season on the 23rd of December and will not be available after that date.*



## Featured Excursions

### FULL-DAY ROTHENBURG WITH WALKING TOUR AND CHRISTMAS MARKET

Rothenburg really does look like a fairytale version of the Middle Ages. Great stone walls surrounding the medieval core stand tall, linking towers, bastions, and parapets, and timber-framed houses decked out for the holidays line the narrow cobblestone streets and tiny squares. Walk with a local expert to the magnificent Town Hall, whose Gothic, Renaissance,

and baroque features reveal its long history. The Gothic Franciscan Church is revered for its famous Tilman Riemenschneider altarpiece depicting St. Francis receiving the stigmata. Your local expert can suggest the best places to enjoy a lunch on your own before you wander among the stalls of one of Germany's oldest and most celebrated Christmas markets. You'll find charming handcrafted wares and souvenirs, as well as pastries and mulled wine to keep you warm. Don't miss a favorite seasonal treat, the *schneeball*, or snowball, made from strips of sweet dough shaped into a ball that is fried and covered in powdered sugar or chocolate. Be sure to check out the original Käthe Wohlfahrt Christmas Store opposite the market. A huge Christmas tree revolves in the center of the store, and some 35,000 Christmas-themed items line the shelves.

*Please note that on or after Christmas Eve, the Christmas Market will likely have ended its season and not be part of this tour.*

## WÜRZBURG CHRISTMAS MARKET NIGHT STROLL

Just before dinner, we'll take a walk together to Würzburg's glorious Christmas Market, which is held in the square in front of the old City Hall. Beautifully decorated wooden booths are illuminated by the soft glow of Christmas lighting, and the air is filled with the scent of roasted chestnuts and the sound of Christmas carols. As you rove among the booths, you can watch glassblowers and wood carvers at work and buy their handiwork directly from them.

## DAY 5 WÜRZBURG

This morning, you'll head off to see the Würzburg Residence, a baroque-style palace famous for its gigantic ceiling fresco. Later, visit the town's renowned Christmas Market, held in front of the old City Hall, for some one-of-a-kind gifts for friends back home. Beautifully decorated wooden booths are illuminated by the soft glow of Christmas lighting, and the air is filled with the scent of roasted chestnuts and the sound of Christmas carols. One of the best ways to embrace a different culture is through encounters with local residents, which you'll experience this afternoon in a typical Franconian village. Make new friends over hot drinks and homemade seasonal treats.

*Please note that most Christmas Markets in Europe end their season on the 23rd of December and will not be available after that date.*



## Featured Excursions

### WÜRZBURG RESIDENCE VISIT WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET

This 300-room UNESCO World Heritage-designated residence was constructed over a period of 60 years in the 18th century. An extraordinarily lavish palace, it was created under the auspices of two Schönborn prince-bishops, Lothar Franz and Friedrich Carl, who brought enormous knowledge and passion to the project, as well as a budget for the best of the best. The magnificent grand staircase boasts the world's largest ceiling fresco, painted by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. Portions of the building were damaged by Allied bombing in 1945, but fortunately most of the historic furnishings had been stored off-site and key rooms were unharmed, so you can see the original—and matchless—artwork, gilding, and statuary. Check out the spectacular Hall of Mirrors and the imposing Imperial Hall, which boasts a large oval dome and 20 half-columns.

At the conclusion of your tour, you'll head back to the local Christmas Market. Catch up on any shopping you missed the night before, or just warm your hands with a mug of mulled wine before heading back to the ship.

## VILLAGE DAY: FRANCONIAN CHRISTMAS

Travel through Franconia's rolling hills and farms to the picture-perfect village of Aschfeld, which features a historic church with a defensive wall that protected residents throughout the Middle Ages. After your visit to the Heimatmuseum at the Fortified Church, sample some homemade Christmas goodies such as cookies, stollen, and gingerbread, along with coffee and tea. The locals' English-speaking abilities vary, so this is a great opportunity for you to try out your German, just as they are trying out their English. Here's one phrase you might want to know: "*Fröhliche Weihnachten*," which means "Merry Christmas!"

## DAY 6 WERTHEIM

Located at the confluence of the Tauber and Main rivers, Wertheim is a lovely village dating back over a thousand years. It epitomizes the friendly, slow-paced small-town atmosphere of many German villages; here, residents greet each other by name as they do their daily shopping for fresh bread and sausage in tiny shops. On your guided walking tour of the village, you'll hear a lot about daily life in Wertheim, as well as facts about the town and its history. Its many well-preserved medieval buildings—complete with low doors and tiny windows—attest to the inconveniences of life in the Middle Ages.

### *Featured Excursion*

#### WERTHEIM WALKING TOUR WITH MULLED WINE AND CHRISTMAS STOLLEN DEMONSTRATION

While you're still onboard, enjoy a cup of mulled wine and join a stollen (traditional German fruitcake) baking demonstration by a master baker. Then venture into town where you'll see the dramatic ruins of Wertheim Castle standing high above the village as you ramble through the narrow streets, passing small bakeries and butcher shops. The counts of Wertheim began building this huge fortress in the 12th century, and the town grew up in its shelter. Wertheim had defenses of its own too: The Pointed Tower, a former watchtower also used as a jail for drunkards and shrews in the 13th-century, still stands, leaning slightly toward its neighbors, not from age but because flood waters have undermined it. It's not the only architectural wonder you'll pass: Blue House's spectacular half-timbering is painted with an unusual cobalt glass-based paint, and Zobel House is just 10 feet (3 meters) wide at its base. In the Market Square, you'll see St. Mary's Chapel, which was erected in 1447; the step-gabled house built for 16th-century wine merchant Lorenz Baunach; and the 1574 Angels' Well, which derives its name from the two little angels that hold Wertheim's coat of arms. After the tour you can stay in town to shop for keepsakes or visit the Glass Museum before making your way back to the ship.

## DAY 7 FRANKFURT

Frankfurt is known as the "Mainhattan" of Europe, a financial powerhouse with soaring skyscrapers, but that's done nothing to diminish the cultural heart of the city. Frankfurt's old town, the Altstadt, is as charming as it gets, and has hosted some of the best Christmas markets on the continent for centuries. Opt to stay in town today for a "Taste of Christmas" walking tour

featuring all sorts of sugary and savory treats, or alternatively, head out of town on an excursion to the Christmas market in Wiesbaden.

*A special Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.*

*Please note that most Christmas Markets in Europe end their season on the 23rd of December and will not be available after that date.*



## Featured Excursions

### "TASTE OF CHRISTMAS" FRANKFURT WALKING TOUR

What better way to end your holiday cruise than by sampling some of the seasonal specialties of this region? Join your local expert for an exploration of Frankfurt's culinary delicacies, including holiday treats such as *bethmännchen*, a marzipan-filled pastry named for a 19th-century banking family, and *quetschemännchen*, quirky little plum-and-nut figures that are traditionally made for the season (they were also traditionally sent by a young man to the young lady he was interested in; if she accepted one from him, she accepted him also). These are just a couple of the treats awaiting you as you ramble through the picturesque area around historic Römer Square, where markets have been held since the 13th-century. Tall half-timbered houses, including the old Town Hall, enclose the square, which has hosted a Christmas market since the 1390s. Now you'll find long rows of gaily decorated stalls filled with imaginative crafts and delicious foods, one last delightful market for you to enjoy before you head home.

### WIESBADEN TWINKLING STAR CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Sternschnuppenmarkt (or "Twinkling Star") Christmas Market in Wiesbaden is a delight for visitors young and young at heart, festively decorated and well-organized, with a colorful stage and a good mix of friendly vendors. There's also a one-of-a-kind backdrop, the city's grand Town Hall, State Capitol, and the Market Square Church, the latter of which is beautifully illuminated.

*Please note that on or after Christmas Eve, the Christmas Market will likely have ended its season and not be part of this tour.*

## DAY 8 FRANKFURT (DISEMBARK)

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to the Frankfurt International Airport for your flight home.



## WHAT'S INCLUDED



## DINING

All meals onboard, prepared using the finest and freshest ingredients

7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners

Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions

Welcome and Farewell Gala Dinners

Unlimited beverages onboard, including fine wine, beer, spirits, specialty coffee and tea, soft drinks, and mineral water



## EXCURSIONS

6 days of excursions, all fully hosted by English-speaking local experts

Guided "Taste of Christmas" and "Village Day" programs

State-of-the-art Quietvox portable audio-headset system on all shore excursions

Use of Nordic walking sticks



## ACCOMMODATIONS

7-night cruise in a riverview stateroom on the regal *River Duchess*

Lavishly appointed riverview staterooms and suites have handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England, high thread count 100% Egyptian cotton sheets and European duvets, and a menu of pillow options

Free Wi-Fi



## EXPERIENCES

1 country: Germany

2 UNESCO World Heritage sites

Services of an experienced Uniworld Cruise Manager

Group Transfers are included on arrival and departure days (please see terms and conditions for transfer guidelines)

Gratuities for onboard personnel (ship staff, crew, Cruise/Tour Manager) are included during the cruise/tour

Cultural enrichment, including captivating onboard local entertainment