

# VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

## Christkindlmärkte along the Danube River

December 6 to 14, 2024



# CHRISTKINDLMÄRKTE ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER

Raise a mug of *glühwein* and experience Yuletide magic on an enchanting Danube River sojourn to visit some of Europe's oldest and most iconic *Christkindlmärkte*. Our seven-night river cruise from Vienna, Austria, to Nuremberg, Germany immerses you in a festive tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages. This unique itinerary pairs historic cities, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and imperial monuments from the Hapsburg dynasty with visits to Old World Christmas markets that have existed for centuries. See Mozart's birthplace home in Salzburg and visit the same Advent market that was being held when his family lived at Getreidegasse No. 9. Stroll past the 17th century St. Stephen's Cathedral before exploring the picturesque holiday market in Passau. Discover the history of Nuremberg's Old Town on an excursion that includes a visit to its legendary *Christkindlesmarkt*, one of the oldest in the world. Throughout the tour, from the tiniest towns to the grandest of cities, you will watch storybook Christmas scenes come to life in a celebration of history, culture, and the splendor of the season.



Vienna Christkindlmärkt at the Rathausplatz



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Dear VMFA Members:

Celebrate the enduring magic of the Yuletide season on an enchanting journey to Europe's most beloved Christmas Markets. Discover magnificent settings where cobblestoned streets strung with colorful lights meet festive market stalls of handcrafted ornaments, fine wooden toys, and irresistible holiday treats such as sausages and *glühwein*, on this amazing tour of some of Europe's most beloved Christmas markets.

From the Rathausplatz market square in front of Vienna's Town Hall to Salzburg's traditional *Christkindlmärkte* in the city's medieval quarter, please join us for a festive winter sojourn along the Danube River from Vienna to Nuremberg, experiencing the timeless traditions of the Advent season. Cruise for seven nights aboard the exclusively chartered AMADEUS QUEEN, featuring only 81 suites and staterooms.

This unique itinerary brings the Old World charm of the holidays to life in a vivid celebration of history and culture. Be inspired by some of Europe's most noteworthy landmarks—Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, the 900-year-old Abbey of Melk in the legendary Wachau Valley, and the glamorous imperial monuments of the Hapsburg's Vienna. You will also visit the ruins of Künringer Castle before enjoying a short organ recital at the cathedral in Dürnstein. Enhance your experience with the Vienna Pre-Program Option and/or the Bavaria Post-Program Option.

VMFA is proud to be sharing this departure with travelers from University of Buffalo and University of Denver and other fine organizations. and This popular program features excursions in each port at an excellent value! Reserve now while space and early booking savings are available.

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston  
VMFA Coordinator of Member Travel

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088  
or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](https://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**



*Salzburg's historic city center*

# Ode to Mozart



At the age of 5, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had already started composing music, and by the time he was 6, had played for the imperial family at Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna. As we visit some of the most historic Christmas markets in Europe, our unique itinerary will simultaneously trace Mozart's life story. See the magnificent Vienna State Opera House—which opened in 1869 with Mozart's "Don Juan" to an audience that included Emperor Franz Joseph and Empress Elisabeth—and visit the Hall of Mirrors at Schönbrunn where the boy prodigy famously charmed Maria Theresia. Our tour of the Baroque Austrian capital also includes the iconic St. Stephen's Cathedral, or Stephansdom, where Mozart married Constanze Weber in 1782. Another itinerary high note is a visit to the UNESCO-inscribed city of Salzburg, where Mozart was born in 1756 and lived with his family on the third floor of the Hagenauer House at Getreidegasse No. 9. Reflect on the master's incredible legacy as you stroll past his childhood home and on to the majestic Dom Cathedral, the site of his baptism. Mozart died in Vienna in 1791, the same year he composed "The Sleigh Ride," a joyous piece that evokes a beautiful winter scene with sleigh bells and trumpets—sights and sounds you will experience for yourself on this spectacular holiday travel program.

*Hall of Mirrors at Schönbrunn Palace*





# YULETIDE TRADITIONS

The concept of an open-air fair in December dates to 13th century Vienna, when Duke Albrecht I granted permission for a market that would allow townspeople to gather supplies for the winter ahead. While historians say there is no evidence that this medieval market had any connection to religion, the popularity of the *wintermärkte* spread through German-speaking regions during the Middle Ages. By the 16th and 17th centuries, as festive Christmas celebrations became popular in Austria and Germany, the winter market evolved into the more elaborate spectacle now known as the *Christkindlmärkte*—which translates to “Christ child market.” The market stalls began filling up with delectable treats and hand-crafted Christmas nutcrackers, wood carvings, and other ornaments. Nuremberg’s lavish *Christkindlesmarkt*, which you will visit on our tour, has been operating since at least 1628. In addition to Old World Christmas decorations, the market is renowned for preserving the city’s famous *rostbratwurst* and the 17th century *lebkuchen* gingerbread. Today, these centuries-old traditions continue through Europe with sparkling lights, boughs of fresh pine, roasted chestnuts, mugs of *glühwein*, and the sound of Christmas carols filling the air.

The traditional “Christkind” gift bearer dressed in gold



## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).





## 9-DAY/7-NIGHT ITINERARY

### Depart Home City Day 1

Depart your home city.

### Vienna, Austria/ Embark River Boat Day 2

Arrive in Vienna, Austria's imperial capital. Take a trip to Vienna's Christmas Market. Held in front of Vienna's City Hall, the market transforms the *Rathausplatz* into a magical land of wonder. Embark the *AMADEUS QUEEN*. This evening attend the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. (R,D)

### Vienna Day 3

Admire the Gothic beauty of St. Stephen's, or Stephansdom, on a tour of Austria's capital city. Explore the UNESCO-inscribed Schönbrunn Palace, the

Hapsburg's extravagant summer residence. Learn more about these extravagant rulers as you stroll palace hallways and enjoy free time in the gardens, followed by a visit to the Schönbrunn Christmas Market. (B,L,D)

### Dürnstein/Melk Day 4

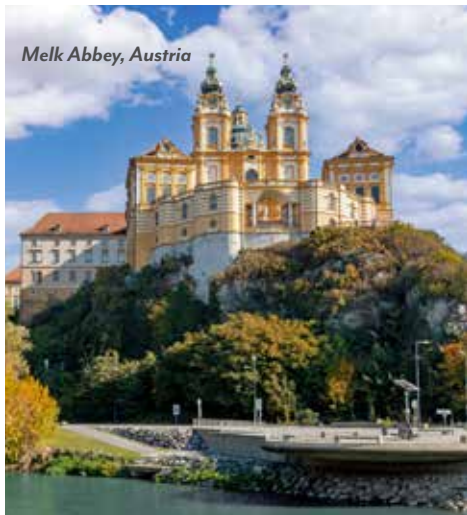
Enjoy an excursion in the tiny village of Dürnstein, situated in the heart of Wachau Valley wine country. During a walking tour, visit the uniquely situated Dürnstein Abbey, which began in 1372 as a small chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary. High above the town, also see the now ruined Künringer Castle, where England's King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned on his way back from the Third Crusade. Attend a short organ recital

at the cathedral in Dürnstein. After lunch on board the river board, visit Melk's famous Benedictine abbey, one of the most significant Baroque-style building complexes in Europe. Providing a sweeping panorama of the Lower Alps and Danube below, the huge cloister has been ruined and then rebuilt several times and artisans have enriched it with special touches. (B,L,D)

### Linz for Salzburg, Austria Day 5

Begin your discovery of historic Salzburg with a walking tour of its UNESCO-inscribed old town. See St. Peter's Cemetery, The Residenz Palace, the Festival Halls, and stroll along the 12th century Getreidegasse shopping boulevard. You will also walk past Mozart's birthplace

Melk Abbey, Austria



Shop for holiday ornaments and gifts





at Getreidegasse No. 9 before continuing on to the 11th century Fortress of Hohensalzburg, the largest, fully preserved fortress in central Europe. See the majestic Dom Cathedral, home to Mozart's baptismal font, as you walk to Salzburg's Christmas Market in Cathedral Square. Enjoy lunch in local restaurant, followed by a visit to the famous Schloss Hellbrunn Christmas market, known for its life-size Nativity scene. (B,L,D)

### Passau Day 6

Admire graceful arcades, cobblestone streets, and the breathtaking Baroque cathedral of St. Stephen. Visit the Christmas Market in front of that cathedral to see arts and crafts exhibits, and taste the aromatic gingerbread. (B,L,D)

### Regensburg Day 7

This morning, enjoy a walking tour of medieval Regensburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an architectural testament to the city's history as an important trading center. Festooned with pine boughs and sparkling lights, the city features four enchanting Christmas Markets—each purveying distinctive handmade pottery, carved figures, and Bavarian delicacies. (B,L,D)

### Nuremberg Day 8

Visit storied Nuremberg, Bavaria's second largest city. Divided by the River Pegnitz, its medieval city walls and imperial castle complex are straight out of a fairytale. Admire the medieval, Gothic-style

St. Lawrence Church, damaged during World War II and later masterfully restored. In the Hauptmarkt, see the *Frauenkirche*, or Gothic church, and the *Schöner Brunnen*. Spend the afternoon at leisure and visit Germany's most famous Christmas Market, known for preserving Nuremberg's famous *rostbratwurst* and *Nürnberger lebkuchen* gingerbread. Enjoy the Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner this evening. (B,L,R,D)

### Nuremberg/ Return to Home City Day 9

Disembark the river boat this morning and transfer to the airport for a flight back to your home city. (B)



Enjoy delicious seasonal treats



**AMADEUS QUEEN**  This meticulously crafted river boat, features all the comforts of a refined hotel. Throughout your voyage, feel pampered by the professional crew who provide attentive service, and dine on expertly prepared, delectable cuisine. Relax in the bright, comfy lounges with large windows for admiring the scenery, and take a refreshing dip in the indoor pool fitted with a retractable roof. The 81 stylish staterooms and suites are among the most spacious of any European river boat (172 to 284 square feet). The suites include a private balcony, and select staterooms feature a floor-to-ceiling window that lowers automatically to French-balcony height. Accommodations have 2 twin beds or 1 queen bed, individual climate control, a sitting area, and a private bathroom with shower.



**2024 DEPARTURE DATE: December 6 to 14** (Embarkation: December 7 at 4:00 pm)

Category	<b>LAND/CRUISE RATES</b> <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	<b>Early Booking Rate through May 20, 2024</b>	<i>Rates after May 20, 2024</i>
C4	Stateroom with small panoramic window. <i>Haydn Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$3,145</b>	\$3,495
C1	Stateroom with small panoramic window. <i>Haydn Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$3,325</b>	\$3,695
B4	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Strauss Deck, aft.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$3,775</b>	\$4,195
B1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Strauss Deck, aft and midship.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$3,955</b>	\$4,395
A1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Mozart Deck, aft and midship.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$4,405</b>	\$4,895
Suite	Suite with <b>private balcony</b> (sliding glass doors with railing), sofa and bathrobes. <i>Mozart Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$4,585</b>	\$5,095

**BONUS SAVINGS! Pay in full at time of booking for additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.**

Single supplements apply to categories C1 & C4 at 160% of the per person double price and subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%.

Port taxes are an additional \$65 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](https://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**

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## PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

### Vienna

**December 4 to 7, 2024** (Tour Begins: December 5)

Renowned for its architecture and walkable city center, discover layers of history and Christmas traditions in Austria's capital city of Vienna on this three-day pre-tour itinerary. Visit the Hofburg Palace in Old Town, the former winter residence of the Hapsburgs, and Belvedere Palace—built by Prince Eugene of Savoy as a summer home. Tour the Austrian Gallery, filled with collections from the Middle Ages to the present day. Explore the traditional Christmas Market in front of Vienna's City Hall, the Spittelberg Christmas Market in the revitalized heritage district, and the Christmas Village at Belvedere Palace. Accommodations are for two nights at the INTERCONTINENTAL WEIN.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*      **\$985**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*      **\$1,370**



## POST-PROGRAM OPTION

### Bavaria

**December 14 to 16, 2024** (Tour Ends: December 16)

Our three-day, post-cruise extension to the Romantic Road of Bavaria begins in Nuremberg with a leisurely drive to Rothenburg ob der Tauber—known for its classical half-timbered medieval houses and a picturesque Reiterlesmarkt Christmas Market. Enjoy lunch in this charming town before continuing to Bavaria's capital city of Munich—visiting Christmas markets along the way. Accommodations are for two nights in the ideally located, historic HOTEL BAYERISCHER HOF MUNICH.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*      **\$1,480**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*      **\$1,865**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

**SPECIAL SAVINGS!** Early Booking up to \$1,020 per couple, plus receive Bonus Savings if you pay in full at the time of booking! Call for details.

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*Traditional German Lebkuchen gingerbread*