



Christkindlmärkte of Austria & Germany



FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER
Kristina von Trapp
December 4 – 12, 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 Nuremberg, Germany, to Vienna, Austria, this festive journey transports you through a wonderland of twinkling lights, centuries-old customs and some of the continent's most beloved Christkindlmärkte. Wander through Nuremberg's medieval Old Town, where the air is filled with the scent of roasted almonds and gingerbread. Explore elegant riverfront cities adorned in their holiday best, from Regensburg's charming market squares to Passau's festive Old Town. In Vienna, be dazzled by the city's palaces, which provide a breathtaking backdrop for its glittering Christmas markets and classical music performances. Every day invites you to delight in the sights, sounds and flavors of a European Christmas!

Exclusive Highlights

- Cruise from Nuremberg to Vienna 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



Dear University of Michigan alumni travelers,

Travel is an enriching part of our lives, connecting us to new worlds, new friends, and each other. At the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, we've spent more than 60 years planning, perfecting, and executing extraordinary, exclusive trips for U-M travelers — trips you'd expect from, and for, the Leaders and Best. These adventures will take you beyond an ordinary visit and dive into the culture, history, cuisine, and lives of the locals at your destination.

Here are a few of the highlights you can expect from us:

Convenience: Our experience pays off. Every detail is planned and taken care of for you; all you have to do is pack your bag. The hardest part is selecting where to go next.

Educational Enrichment: All trips include educational content, with some featuring expert U-M faculty and staff traveling with your group.

Unique Explorations: Our tours are specially designed for U-M travelers, providing opportunities for spontaneous encounters and a great deal of independence wherever your journey takes you.

We invite you to explore our collection at alumni.umich.edu/travel.

Our travel team is also happy to assist you at 855-764-0064 or alumnitravel@umich.edu.

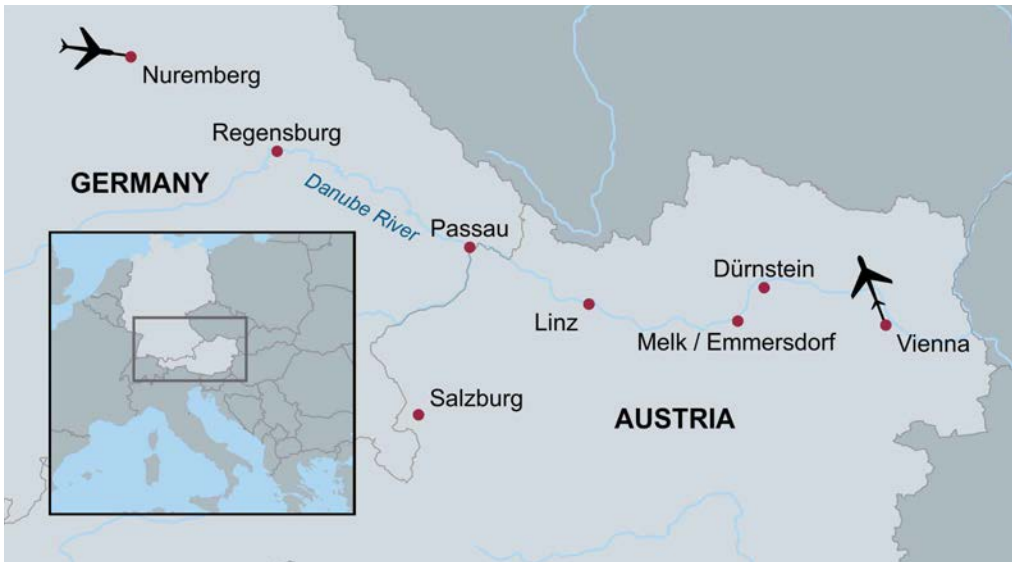
NOTE: The Alumni Travel program is a member benefit of the Alumni Association. Travelers, regardless of alumni status, must be a member to participate in our trips.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachele Neu'.

Rachele Neu, '08, MA'12





Day 1 | December 4

Depart your home city.

Day 2 | December 5 R-D

Nuremberg, Germany/
Embark

Arrive in dynamic Nuremberg and embark the *MS Amadeus Imperial*. Tonight, gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | December 6 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 twinkling lights and holiday cheer. At its heart stands the "Golden Angel," or Rauschgoldengel, the beloved symbol of the market, who warmly welcomes visitors.

Day 4 | December 7 B-L-D

Regensburg

Our journey continues to Regensburg, a city steeped in 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. Stroll through the city's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, celebrated for its remarkably preserved buildings and authentic medieval atmosphere.

As evening falls, soak in the festive spirit at Regensburg's enchanting Christmas markets, where the glow of lanterns and 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!





Day 5 | December 8 B-L-D

Passau

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.

After lunch, visit Passau’s Christmas market. Stroll

among wooden stalls brimming with handcrafted ornaments, toys and treats, and indulge in local specialties like spiced lebkuchen gingerbread.

Day 6 | December 9 B-L-D

Linz, Austria

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 church, with an ornate 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 7 | December 10 B-L-D

Emmersdorf/Melk/
Dürnstein

After breakfast, visit the legendary Melk Abbey, perched high above the town, commanding breathtaking views of the Lower Alps and

Melk Abbey, Austria



Christmas market, Salzburg, Austria





Salzburg, Austria



the Danube River below. This extraordinary 18th-century Benedictine abbey dazzles with its ornate frescoes, grand marble hall and stunning library filled with centuries-old manuscripts.

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

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, where

the beauty and history of the Wachau Valley linger long after you sail away.

Day 8 | December 11 B-R-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 rich cultural legacy. See 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, 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.

End on a high note with a caroling performance, followed by the Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 9 | December 12 B

Vienna/Disembark/
Return to Home City

Disembark and transfer to the airport for a flight back 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 confections, wooden toys, hand-carved nativity figures and 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 sound of carolers fills the winter air.



POST-TOUR EXTENSION



Vienna, Austria

December 12 to 14 (Program Ends: December 14)

Discover layers of history and vibrant holiday traditions in Austria's capital city, renowned for its baroque architecture and walkable city center. Marvel at the ornate Hofburg Palace, the former winter residence of the Habsburgs, on a tour, and view masterpieces by prominent Austrian artists including Gustav Klimt at the Belvedere Palace. Listen to Mozart's exquisite music at Sala Terrena, Vienna's oldest concert hall, and delight in the festive spirit throughout the city and local Christmas markets. Enjoy accommodations for two nights at the *InterContinental Vienna*.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,195

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,525

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

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.
- Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program. (1 for every 40 guests).
- Expert lecturers and local guides enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- Gratuities are included for all shipboard personnel and local guides/drivers on included excursions and transfers.
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- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



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Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
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For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

Included in your Rate:

- Shore Excursions
- Featured Guest Speaker
- Wi-Fi/Internet
- Beverage Package
- Port Charges & Gratuities
- Travel Director(s)

A VALUE
of up to
\$2,000
per person

2026 DEPARTURE DATE | December 4 to 12 | Tour Begins: December 5

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.
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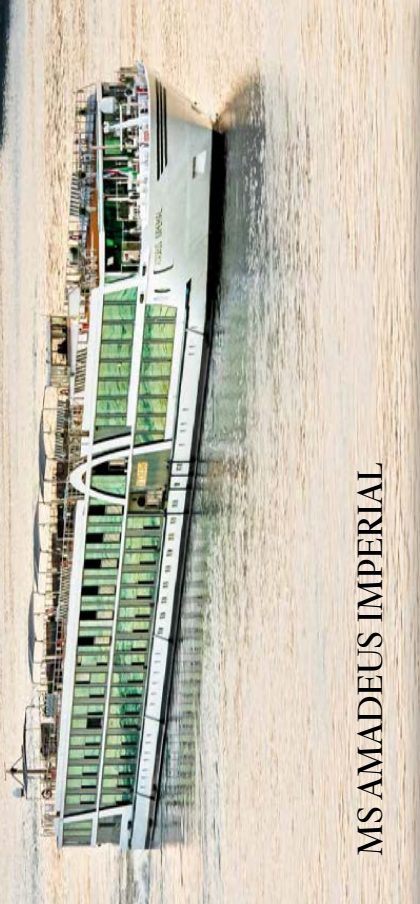
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