

Enchanting Christmas Markets of Germany, Switzerland and France

Highlights...

Christmas Markets of Six European Cities and Towns • Regensburg (UNESCO) • Rothenburg ob der Tauber & German Christmas Museum • Freiburg • "Petite France" of Strasbourg • Colmar • Lake Lucerne Scenic Cruise



9 Days • 11 Meals: 7 Breakfasts • 4 Dinners

Cultural Connections

- Be immersed in traditions with a visit to the German Christmas Museum in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.
- Experience the 600-year-old tradition of Christmas markets across Germany, France and Switzerland.
- Hear stories about Lucerne's Christmas traditions as you explore the Old Town.

Must-See Highlights

- Experience the magical atmosphere in Strasbourg, the "Capital of Christmas."
- Soak in enchanting winter landscapes during a scenic Lake Lucerne cruise.
- Enjoy a walking tour of Regensburg (UNESCO), one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities.

Culinary Experiences

- Celebrate your trip with Swiss delicacies at farewell dinner.
- Enjoy a tasting of the staples of Bavarian cuisine in Regensburg.
- Indulge in Alsace cuisine in Strasbourg.

Day 1: Overnight Flight

You're on your way to step into a wonderful world of holiday cheer and experience the incredible Christmas markets of Germany, Switzerland, and France.

Day 2: Regensburg, Germany

Welcome to the city of Regensburg in the heart of Bavaria, buzzing with yuletide celebration. This charming old city transforms into a festive wonderland during Christmastime. As arrival times will vary, there is no scheduled sightseeing today. Spend the day as you wish, exploring the city independently. Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner and enjoy the holiday spirit all around. *Today dinner will be included.*

Day 3: Regensburg

With a local guide, discover Regensburg, one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. See the Old Stone Bridge, the first stone bridge built over the Danube, and the Porta Praetoria, a Roman gate built in A.D. 179. Stroll through the Old Town amid the bustling holiday scene and stop for a tasting of Bavarian staples! The afternoon is yours to explore the Old Town's Christmas markets* and let the friendly feeling of *gemütlichkeit* surround you. Or perhaps you'll join an optional excursion and experience the beauty and magic of the Romantic Christmas Market at Thurn and Taxis Palace. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 4: Regensburg - Rothenburg ob der Tauber - Freiburg

This morning, come along on a journey into the past in the heart of Franconia, in the picturesque town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Step by step, let the magic of Christmases past enchant you while visiting the German Christmas Museum.** It's a feast for the eyes and ears among the exhibitions dedicated to Christmas traditions with glittering glass balls, Santas, nutcrackers, and Christmas pyramids. Later this afternoon, settle into your hotel in Freiburg, a town situated on the western foothills of the Black Forest and your home for the next three nights. Enjoy a cozy dinner at the hotel restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 5: Freiburg

This morning, hop on a streetcar*** to Freiburg's Old Town, where **it's your choice** of locally guided tours! Delve into stories of Freiburg's past on a historic city tour through medieval streets, from iconic sites to hidden corners **-OR-** discover Freiburg's heritage of Christmas celebrations on a tour through the historic center. Spend the rest of the day as you please, experiencing the city's Christmas markets and getting to know the unique blend of culture influenced by neighboring France and Switzerland. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 6: Freiburg - Strasbourg, France - Freiburg

This morning, travel to Strasbourg where centuries of Roman, French and German influences blend. Enjoy a guided tour of the Old Quarter, "Petite France," featuring the Cathedral of Notre Dame. The remainder of the day is yours to soak in the magical atmosphere of the "Capital of Christmas." And later, indulge in famous Alsace cuisine during dinner at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 7: Freiburg - Colmar - Lucerne, Switzerland

Today, experience the festive fairytale atmosphere of Colmar with dazzling lights, decorations, and jolly markets. With its half-timbered houses, cobblestone streets, charming cafés and shops, Colmar is one of those places you'll remember and long to return, so make the most of this chance! This afternoon, the "City of Lights" waits for you. Nestled among breathtaking mountains and a picturesque lake, Lucerne is yours to explore. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 8: Lucerne

Winter's chill mixes with the aroma of cinnamon and mulled wine as you walk and discover the stories of Lucerne's Old Town with a local guide. This afternoon, enjoy time on your own to discover the Christmas glow in this romantic city, considered a top destination in Switzerland. Later, take a cruise on Lake Lucerne surrounded by the winter landscape.

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner featuring Swiss cuisine. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 9: Lucerne - Tour Ends

Your festive journey ends today. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Experience It! Colmar at Christmas

Visit Colmar during this most wonderful time of the year. The picturesque town in the Alsace region of northeastern France, known for its well-preserved medieval and Renaissance architecture, exudes a fairy-tale charm, especially during the holiday season. Transformed into a winter wonderland by its Christmas markets, festive lights, and decorations, the town buzzes with seasonal activities. Indulge in the local delicacies, as the Christmas markets are a great place to sample seasonal Alsace specialties like pain d'épices (spiced bread) or bredele (Christmas cookies). An opportunity to visit Colmar at Christmastime is not to be missed!

Your itinerary at a glance

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	Hotel Hampton by Hilton, Regensburg
Days 4 – 6	Hotel Elements Pure, Freiburg
Days 7, 8	Hotel Astoria, Lucerne
On some dates alternate hotels may be used.	

Collette's Flagship: Collette's tours open the door to a world of amazing destinations. Marvel at must-see sights, sample regional cuisine, stay in centrally located hotels and connect with new and captivating cultures. These itineraries offer an inspiring and easy way to experience the world, where an expert guide takes care of all the details.

Important Tour Information:

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Travel with an average of 37 people (maximum of 44).

*Regensburg Old Town will typically have several Christmas markets within a 30-minute walking distance radius.

**German Christmas Museum is in a historic building, and the rooms and corridors are small and narrow. There are 50 steps to enter the museum with no handrails available. The museum is not suitable for mobility assistance device use.

Some of the most unique sightseeing can mean accessing locations that restrict motor coaches, especially when visiting Strasbourg. Your coach will be parked in a designated area requiring a walk on cobblestones

while exploring Strasbourg Old Town.

***The Freiburg streetcar stop is approximately 4 minutes walking distance from your hotel.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

While on tour, even if there is little or no snow, frost and ice are to be expected. Please make sure you wear suitable footwear.

The journey from Regensburg to Freiburg covers 200 miles/322 kilometers and takes approximately 6.5 hours via coach. This travel time includes a couple of hours spent in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

During the festive season, Colmar town center is closed to cars and coaches so that you can stroll around the town in complete peace and safety. Colmar transport authorities provide shuttle buses to facilitate access to shops and Christmas markets.

Due to annual fluctuations on the opening dates of some Christmas Markets and tour scheduling, if one is unavailable on a specific departure, other regional Christmas Markets may be substituted.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability. Triple rooms are not available.

To complete your tour, we include round-trip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

Our transfers will depart from Munich airport for Regensburg; approximate travel time is 1.5 hours (64 miles/103 kilometers) depending on traffic.

Our transfers will depart Lucerne for Zürich airport; approximate travel time is 1 hour (36 miles/58 kilometers) depending on traffic.

Our air travelers will arrive into Munich, Germany airport and depart from Zürich, Switzerland airport.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Travel Requirements:

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

ETIAS visa waiver requirements are anticipated to begin during the last quarter of 2026, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

Important reservation information:

***Airfare:** For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Preassigned seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date.

Checked Baggage Charges: Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

Cancellation Charges for this tour: After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 90-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 75% of total price. For cancellation on the day of departure and after: 100% of total price. For Ocean Cruises: For cancellation between 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure;

A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If Travel Protection Plan has not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Payment of a Per Person Travel Protection Plan Fee guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Travel Protection Plan Fee itself, made to Collette for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Travel Protection Plan Fee with Air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Collette. Exception: If you originally purchased nonrefundable airline tickets, Part B of the Travel Protection Plan may provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes, or fees in the event of a cancellation for a covered reason (see Part B for more details). The Travel Protection Plan Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. However, the Part B travel insurance includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,500 for certain covered reasons as detailed in Part B. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the canceling client, the traveling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement. Cancellation waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. Cancellation waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you chose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you chose to partially cancel your vacation, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred at the time of the cancellation. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will be refunded 100%. Please see your sales agent for more information, or review our brochure for details.

Responsibilities: Collette monitors security situations around the world as well as government travel advisories. Conditions may require Collette to change or even cancel trips. You accept the risks involved in travel, both foreign and domestic, and accept responsibility for your own travel decisions. Travelers may be required to review and sign a participation agreement prior to engaging in certain activities on the trip.

Neither Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Collette"), own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for these trips. You agree to be bound by the conditions of carriage for all transportation providers. Collette does not maintain control or operate the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers it uses and as such Collette assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers or other employees or agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful or negligent act or omission on the part of any other party. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, agents, shareholders, officers, successors and assigns (collectively "Collette"), from all suits, actions, losses, damages, claims or liability for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity which is occasioned by any negligent acts or omissions of Collette arising out of any goods or services provided for this or these trips. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities or practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, or other such causes. Other risks may arise such as, but not limited to, hazards of traveling in foreign countries including undeveloped areas, the hazards of travel by aircraft, bus, van, train, automobile or other motorized vehicle, differing safety standards, sickness, criminal acts committed by others, allergic reactions, and/or animal encounters. You are voluntarily participating in the tour and Collette, and as lawful consideration for the agreement to travel with Collette, you agree not to make a claim against Collette, its related companies, officers and employees for injuries, death, or any other claim and agree to release Collette, its related companies, officers and employees from any such claim. This release is binding on all members of your traveling party, as well as your Estate and heirs and this provision shall be enforceable even after your trip has ended. If you make your own air reservations, Collette is not responsible and shall provide no refund if your flight schedule changes so that you are not able to enjoy the entirety of your tour. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Collette reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if Collette deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Collette reserves the right to withdraw any tour announced. Collette reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the Tour Manager to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. If you are traveling with children, you are solely responsible for their behavior and monitoring them throughout the tour. Neither does Collette accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline or other ticket to the tour departure city and return or otherwise. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times. Collette is not responsible, and will not be bound by, representations made by third party representatives, travel agents, unaffiliated websites, or any other party. Participants may be photographed for the promotional purposes of Collette. In addition, any comments that you submit as a review or your social media posts may be used for Collette's promotional purposes.

Payment of the deposit to Collette constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Collette reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time, without notice.

Consumer Protection Plans: Collette Travel Service holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the United States Tour Operators Association and the American Society of Travel Agents. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travelers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Travel Service. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. **Our California Sellers of Travel registration number is 2006766-20. Our State of Washington Unified Business Number is 601-220-855. Florida Seller of Travel registration number. ST35613**

