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 AMAWATERWAYS



# *Christmas Markets on the Rhine*

December 5 - 13, 2025



Guest Speakers:  
**Dr. Todd Lake &  
Dr. Joy Jordan Lake**



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Educational Opportunities Tours

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# ITINERARY

*Experience the deep-rooted holiday traditions of Europe at its most festive time of year with visits to some of the world's most timeless Christmas Markets. Warm up with a mug of steamy glühwein while at the Cologne Christmas Market located in front of her Gothic cathedral. Let Strasbourg, the "Capital of Noël," captivate you the way it has for so many others for centuries. It's the oldest and largest in France. Meander through Heidelberg's majestic Christmas Market, nestled idyllically amongst the historic squares of the Old Town. Then, in Gengenbach, marvel at the world's largest Advent calendar, where every evening at 6:00 PM, the brightly lit windows of the neo-classical town hall open to reveal a famous painting. See all the glory of the season and more in grand European style as you cruise along the Rhine.*

## December 5 - DEPART THE USA

Board your overnight flight to Amsterdam.

## December 6 - ARRIVE IN AMSTERDAM - EMBARKATION

Board the ship in Amsterdam for your Christmas Markets on the Rhine cruise. (D)

## December 7 - AMSTERDAM

Home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, there are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you'll get to enjoy some of them on your canal cruise. Later in the day, set sail out of Amsterdam. (B,L,D)

## December 8 - DUSSELDORF

Enjoy a scenic cruise into Düsseldorf. In the afternoon, take a brief trip to the nearby city of Cologne on a guided tour of its enchanting Old Town, where you will see sites such as the Cologne Rathaus, Germany's oldest town hall; the fish market, which dates back to the 12th century and the Great St. Martin Church. Then, visit one of Europe's largest and most renowned Christmas Markets. Or explore historic Düsseldorf on foot with a knowledgeable local tour guide. Then, be treated to a tasting of Altbier, a clean and crisp beer developed in Düsseldorf that is crafted using traditional brewing techniques. Conclude the tour with a visit to the local Christmas Market. Alternatively, cover more ground with an active bike tour of the city. (B,L,D)

## December 9 - RHINE GORGE - RÜDESHEIM

Cruise through the castle-laden Rhine River Gorge before reaching the winemaking town of Rüdesheim. Once in Rüdesheim, you will have four choices of morning excursions. Wine connoisseurs will want to go to a wine cellar for a wine tasting followed by a Christmas Market visit to enjoy holiday traditions from around the world. Or go on a hike through the vineyards. Alternatively, you can take a peaceful ride over the vineyards on Rüdesheim's gondola, followed by a visit to the Christmas Market. You may also opt to join a guided bike tour through the town and along the Rhine River before visiting the Christmas Market. Later in the day, you can visit Siegfried's Mechanical Instrument Cabinet or taste one of the town's special delights, Rüdesheimer coffee. (B, L, D)

## December 10 - LUDWIGSHAFEN

Choose to explore one of two of Germany's historically rich cities, along with their festive Christmas Markets. Visit Heidelberg, a city

that will capture your heart with its mighty castle and historic university. While here, wander along one of Europe's longest pedestrian shopping streets, the Hauptstrasse, soaking up the Yuletide celebrations at the town's Christmas Markets. Or hike along the Neckar River on the historic Philosopher's Path, followed by free time to enjoy the Christmas Markets. Alternatively, you can bike along the Neckar River to the medieval town of Ladenburg and visit its Marktplatz or explore one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll also have time to visit its Christmas Market in front of the "Old Mint" (Alten Münze) in the famous Maximilianstrasse, with a view of the romantic imperial cathedral (Kaiserdom). (B,L,D)

## December 11 - STRASBOURG

Strasbourg is even more alluring during the season of Advent. The Christkindelsmärik dates back to 1570, making it the oldest Christmas Market in France. Enjoy a panoramic bus tour that takes you past the Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la Republique. Afterward, walk through the historic town center on the Grande Ile, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and through the lovely "La Petite France" district. Here, you will see the Cathedrale de Notre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. Later, visit the town's famous Christmas Market. You can also choose to explore Strasbourg's different districts by bicycle. Later in the day, opt to visit Gengenbach's Christmas Markets and the town's famous illuminated town hall Advent calendar. (B,L,D)

## December 12 - BREISACH

Breisach is your gateway to several different excursions. Journey into medieval Colmar, located in the enchanting Alsace region of France. Delight in the half-timbered houses lining the cobblestone streets as you take in the whimsical blend of French and German culture and the town's wonderful Christmas Markets. Alternatively, head to Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to the Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral said to have "the most beautiful spire on earth." Then, enjoy free time at the Freiburg Christmas Markets. Those wishing for a more active excursion can cycle through Breisach's countryside. (B, L, D)

## December 13 - BASEL - DISEMBARKATION

Disembark the ship and bid farewell to Basel as you prepare for your return flight home. (B)

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



AMAWATERWAYS™

### INCLUDED FEATURES

7 Nights Deluxe Cruise Accommodation

**Daily Sightseeing Program as outlined in the Itinerary**

Infotainment System in all Staterooms with Free Internet, Hit Movies, Music Library & English TV Stations

**Terry Bathrobes and White-on-white plush bedding in all Staterooms**

Superb Dining with all Meals included during your Cruise

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Bottled Water in every stateroom replenished daily

**Reception, Welcome Dinner & Captain's Gala Dinner**

Special Highlights including Folklore Dances, Lectures, Theme Dinners, onboard Music Performances and afternoon & evening Piano Music

**Use of Bicycles to explore on your own**



**December 3 - 6, 2025 • \$830\***

#### DECEMBER 3 - DEPART THE USA

Board your overnight flight to Amsterdam.

#### DECEMBER 4 - ARRIVE IN AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Arrive in Amsterdam and check into your hotel.

#### DECEMBER 5 - AMSTERDAM

Follow your guide through the charming capital of the Netherlands with its iconic meandering canals, bridges and distinctive architecture. (B)

#### DECEMBER 6 - AMSTERDAM – EMBARKATION

Check out of your hotel and, before transferring to your ship, visit Zaanse Schans to observe life as it used to be in the Netherlands. Authentic windmills, houses and ships were relocated to this picturesque area, creating a typical 17th- to 18th-century village. (B,D)



**DECEMBER 13 - 17, 2025 • \$1,760\***

#### DECEMBER 13 - DISEMBARKATION – LUCERNE

Disembark the ship and, before transferring to Lucerne, go on a highlights tour of Basel. Once in Lucerne, go on a walking tour along its cobblestone streets, spotting the Chapel Bridge, one of the oldest wooden bridges in Europe. Later, check into your hotel and enjoy a leisurely evening. (B)

#### DECEMBER 14 - LUCERNE

Discover Lucerne's unrivaled beauty on a walking tour that includes the Lion Monument, beautifully carved into rock in memory of the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution. (B)

#### DECEMBER 15 - LUCERNE - ZURICH

Check out of your hotel and, before transferring via motorcoach to Zurich, enjoy a scenic lake cruise. Once in Zurich, check into your hotel. (B)

#### DECEMBER 16 - ZURICH

Switzerland's largest city seamlessly blends its historic past with its progressive future—all of which will be on full display during your city tour. One of the top experiences in Zurich is a visit to Old Town, where you will find yourself amongst medieval houses, churches and the modern Bahnhofstrasse. (B)

#### DECEMBER 17 - DEPART ZURICH

After breakfast, bid farewell to Switzerland and prepare for your return flight home. (B)

\*A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions. Guests taking an extension may be on a different flight than their group and/or traveling companion.

## HOST BIOGRAPHIES



### DR. TODD LAKE & DR. JOY JORDAN-LAKE

**Dr. Todd Lake** is VP for Faith-Based Engagement & Church Relations at Belmont University, Nashville. Previously, he served as Dean of Chapel and Dean for University Life at Baylor University. He has a degree in German Studies from Harvard and in Theology from Boston College, and has lived and studied in Germany. **Dr. Joy Jordan-Lake** is a best-selling author of historical fiction. She and her husband, Todd, have Master of Divinity degrees and served as co-pastors of an interracial church in Cambridge, MA, and as chaplains at Harvard, in addition to teaching at several universities.

# SAVE \$200

when you register by June 5, 2024!

# SAVE \$150

when you register by Sept. 5, 2024!

# SAVE \$100

when you register by Dec. 5, 2024!

Full deposit required. Savings deducted from balance.

## CRUISE PRICING\*

|           |  |         |
|-----------|--|---------|
| <b>D</b>  | Fixed Window Stateroom (160 sq. ft.)   | \$3998* |
| <b>CB</b> | French Balcony Stateroom (170 sq. ft.) | \$4498* |
| <b>CA</b> | French Balcony Stateroom (170 sq. ft.) | \$4898* |
| <b>BB</b> | Dual Balcony Stateroom (210 sq. ft.)   | \$5198* |
| <b>BA</b> | Dual Balcony Stateroom (210 sq. ft.)   | \$5398* |
| <b>AB</b> | Dual Balcony Stateroom (235 sq. ft.)   | \$5598* |
| <b>AA</b> | Dual Balcony Stateroom (235 sq. ft.)   | \$5798* |
| <b>S</b>  | Suite (300 sq. ft.)                    | \$7098* |

\*Rates are per person, based on double occupancy

A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions. Does not include International Airfare, Transfers & Onboard Gratuities.



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PROGRAM CONDITIONS

**INCLUDED IN PRICE:**  
Deluxe cruise accommodations (based on double occupancy) • Most shore excursions • All meals on ship, meal beverages, and other meals as indicated • Administrative Fee • Cruise Tax (\$231)

**NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:**  
• International Airfare and overseas transfers (Sold Separately) • Fuel Surcharges • Pre-Cruise and/or Post-Cruise Extension and optional sightseeing as listed in the brochure • Visa(s) • Onboard Gratuities (These will appear automatically on your onboard statement, and are the guest's responsibility to pay on board the ship) • Any additional services or fees not included above • Optional Travel Protection Plan (see premium schedule) • Miscellaneous fees such as passports, laundry, excess baggage, and other items of personal nature • \$100 Document fee for Non-US and Non-Canadian residents • Required Vaccinations • Required medical testing before, during, and/or after travel

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**  
Price is per person based on double occupancy. Single room/stateroom supplement has the following additional charges: Category D - \$3198; CB - \$3598; CA - \$3918; BB - \$4158; BA - \$4318; AB - \$4478; AA - \$4638; S - \$5678. Single room charge on **Amsterdam Pre-Stay \$440; Swiss Post-Tour \$1110**. While EO will try to match roommates, EO cannot guarantee one will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 35 days prior to departure and, if one is not available, the single room/cabin charge applies.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**  
A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

| Payment                  | Amount   | Due Date                        |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Initial Deposit          | \$250  | Due at the time of registration |
| Second Deposit           | \$250  | Due 12/05/24.                   |
| Third Deposit            | \$1,000  | Due on 04/09/25.                |
| Final Payment            | 07/08/25. If paid after the due date, a late payment fee of \$100 will be assessed.  |                                 |
| Travel Protection Amount | The Travel Protection Plan premium will be due no later than 07/07/25 to be in full effect. Travel protection premiums must be paid in addition to your deposits and in advance of the final payment for coverage to be in effect. |                                 |
| Cabin Availability       | After 04/09/24 or once we have sold out of our allotment of cabins we can no longer guarantee cabin pricing. Cabins purchased after this date will be subject to availability and may require a supplemental charge.               |                                 |

**REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED after July 8, 2025:**  
We welcome registrations after 07/08/25. Registrations received between 07/09/25 - 09/06/25 will incur a fee starting at \$100 per person. Registrations received between 09/07/25 - 09/21/25 will incur a fee starting at \$200 per person. Registrations received between 09/22/25 - 010/06/25 will incur a fee starting at \$400 per person. Registrations received on 10/07/25 or later will be subject to cabin availability and may require a supplemental cabin charge as well as the air fees above. Additional fees will be advised upon registration.

**CANCELLATION FEES:**  
100% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program provided premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is coverable. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following per-person cancellation penalties: From day of registration to 365 days prior to departure, you will be charged a \$150 non-refundable cancellation fee plus any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following per-person charges: 364-301 days = \$250; 300-241 days = \$500; 240-181 days = \$1000; 180-151 days = 50% of total cost; 150-121 days = 75% of total cost; 120-0 days prior of departure = 100% of total cost. Submit cancellation in writing. On or after day of departure, there will be no refund for any services not used.

STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

EOT does not accept responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air schedules, hotel overbookings, other hotel related problems or causes, and/or travel supplier cancellations or postponements. Travel suppliers include all tour operators, cruise lines, airlines, hotels, bus companies, entertainment venues, and any other travel supplier used to operate the tour. All such losses or expenses will be the responsibility of the passenger. The right is reserved to make adjustments to the itinerary as deemed desirable to EOT and the right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. If a tour is canceled beyond the control of EOT, EOT will provide a refund or a future travel credit to be used two years from the date of issuance for the value of all funds paid by the passenger less nonrefundable travel supplier prepaid deposits, travel supplier change fees, nonrefundable travel protection premiums, and a \$150 administration fee.

**FIT TO TRAVEL STATEMENT:**  
Passengers registering for the tour accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Because many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged and space limitations on tour buses, wheelchairs and scooters cannot be accommodated. Those needing oxygen or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting in their experiences. Persons using C-pap machines requiring distilled water will need to inform us ahead of time, so we can work with local operators to prepare as it is not always available. EOT reserves the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who is, in the sole judgment of EOT, incapable of group travel without causing undue demands upon the staff or other tour participants. Accessible rooms/cabins are limited and subject to confirmation after receiving the passenger's written request. If you have questions, please see eo.travel/fit-to-travel-statement or contact Educational Opportunities Tours Inc. for more details.

**PASSPORT INFORMATION & CHECK IN PROCESS:**  
Passport information must be submitted to our office no later than 07/07/25. Failure to provide your passport information to our office by this date may result in change fees or denial of travel. Discrepancies in information

may result in change fees, delays in receiving travel documents for your trip, or denial of travel. Any fees incurred due to discrepancies are the responsibility of the passenger. You will also be required to check in with the cruise line prior to travel and according to the cruise line's requirements and instructions provided in your final documents.

**PRICE INCREASES**  
All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change prior to payment in full due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, you may be subject to a price increase after payment in full has been received due to potential government imposed taxes and fees.

**AIRLINE ROUTES AND TICKETS:**  
In order to keep prices low, EO does not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once issued, airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter. Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class on IATA and ARC carriers utilizing APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10 or more flying together on entire itinerary. If you choose to depart from a different city than your group or traveling companion, or deviate your flight and/or trip plans, and/or you are taking a pre or post tour, you may fly on a different scheduled flight(s) than the rest of your group. If you make your own air arrangements, you are responsible for booking all needed flights for your travel unless specified otherwise. Contact guest services for further details.

**FLIGHT TIMES AND SEATING**  
All flights are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. EOT is not responsible for such changes or delays and does not reimburse expenses resulting from such delays. If you are making your own flight arrangements to the departure city, we recommend you purchase a ticket that can be exchanged without large penalties. There is no advance seat selection for groups on most airlines. Early check-in is necessary to secure seats with travel companions and those with special needs. Due to security measures taken at airports, it is advisable to arrive at the airport three hours prior to departure time. Seating is solely under the control of the airlines.

**ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES:**  
You will likely incur additional airline checked baggage fees that are not included in the price of the tour. These fees vary by airline and are at the airline's discretion on each segment of the flight itinerary. Additionally, you may incur optional fees (food, excess baggage, overweight baggage, items of personal nature, etc.) as well. For more information, visit eo.travel/travel-info/airline-fees.

**ON OWN DEVIATIONS:**  
On Own Deviations from the standard tour program must be submitted in writing and are subject to any additional airline fees, if applicable. Transfers for passengers who deviate are not included.

**ITINERARY CHANGES:**  
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While EOT will make every effort to ensure you will see all sites listed in this brochure, the availability of sites, the order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in cruise line, airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. No changes to the itinerary are effective unless approved in writing and signed by an authorized officer of the tour operator. Except as stated herein, no other person is authorized to cancel, modify or vary the tour arrangements or to make any representation of warranty concerning the tour. The cruise line has the ultimate control over your voyage and may, without notice, alter the length of the cruise and the order of and/or inclusion of ports. EOT is in no way responsible for these changes and does not make reimbursement for such changes.

**PREGNANCY/INFANT REGULATIONS**  
As to pregnancy, a woman cannot have begun her 24th week of pregnancy at any time before or during the cruise. If you are pregnant, please provide a medical note upon arrival at the pier for check-in from your physician stating your expected due date and medical fitness to travel. If you are in the 24th week or have completed it you will not be allowed to board. Due to the limited medical facilities, infants must be at least one year old on the first day of the cruise.

**VALIDITY DATE:**  
This brochure is valid until 07/17/24. If validity date has passed, current brochures may be found at www.eo.travel. Registrations will still be accepted after the validity date.

**RELEASE INFORMATION**  
Payment of deposit indicates permission for EOT or its agents to record the registrant's participation and appearance on video tape, audio tape, film, photograph, or any other medium and to use the registrant's name, likeness, voice, comments, submitted documentation, written papers, and/or biographical material without restrictions or limitation for any advertising, marketing, publicity, educational or promotional purpose which EOT or its agents deem appropriate, unless the registrant or guardian otherwise notifies EOT in writing prior to departure.

Enrollment in, payment of deposit and/or acceptance of final documents, vouchers, or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the Passenger Agreement and Program Conditions of the brochure. Prices are based on tariffs in effect as of January 1 of the previous year and are subject to adjustment without notice in the event of any change or currency fluctuation.

Except where otherwise stated, EOT acts only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall EOT be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. The passenger agrees that EOT assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, theft, accident, delay, any lost or damaged luggage, or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service.

EOT does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold EOT harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. Florida law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of or concerns this brochure or your tour. Any and all litigation must be brought only in and for courts in Polk County, Florida to the exclusion of litigation anywhere else in the world.

Educational Opportunities Tours is the tour operator and is solely responsible for the travel program. Educational Opportunities Tours is registered with the State of Florida as a Seller of Travel. Registration No. ST24130. CST2027682-40.

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| Trip Cost     | Cost* | Trip Cost     | Cost* | Trip Cost      | Cost* |
|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| \$0 - \$1000  | \$99  | \$3501-\$4000 | \$399 | \$6501-\$7000  | \$699 |
| \$1001-\$1500 | \$149 | \$4001-\$4500 | \$449 | \$7001-\$8000  | \$799 |
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| \$2001-\$2500 | \$249 | \$5001-\$5500 | \$549 | \$9001-\$10000 | \$999 |
| \$2501-\$3000 | \$299 | \$5501-\$6000 | \$599 |                |       |
| \$3001-\$3500 | \$349 | \$6001-\$6500 | \$649 |                |       |

| Schedule of Benefits                                 | Maximum Benefit                            |
|--|--|
| Trip Cancellation . . . . .                          | Up to 100% of the non-refundable Trip Cost |
| Trip Interruption. . . . .                           | Up to 100% of the non-refundable Trip Cost |
| Missed Connection . . . . .                          | \$500                                      |
| Trip Delay. . . . .                                  | Up to \$150 Per Day, to Maximum of \$1,500 |
| <b>Medical Expense / Emergency Evacuation</b>        |  |
| Accident & Sickness Medical Expense. . . . .         | \$25,000                                   |
| Medical Evacuation & Repatriation of Remains.. . . . | \$50,000                                   |
| 24 Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment. . . . .    | \$25,000                                   |
| Baggage & Personal Effects. . . . .                  | \$1,000                                    |
| Baggage Delay . . . . .                              | Up to \$200                                |

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