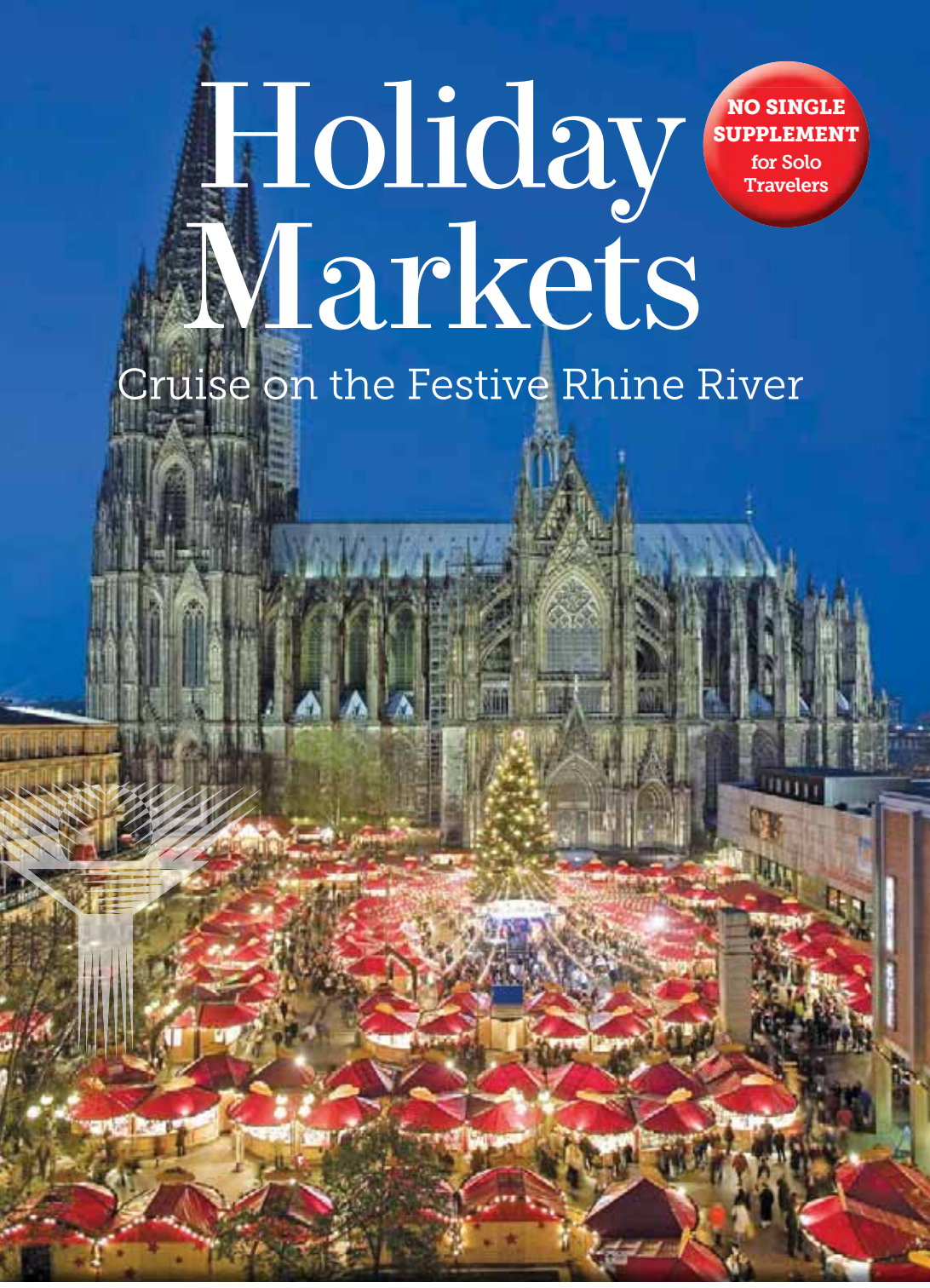
Holiday Markets

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT for Solo Travelers

Cruise on the Festive Rhine River



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USC Alumni Association
Trojan Travel

November 28 – December 6, 2026

USC Alumni Association
Trojan Travel

Dear Trojans,

Embrace the joyous, Old-World holiday spirit on this seven-night Rhine River cruise that transports you to captivating holiday markets in Germany and France. A feast for the senses, these heartwarming fairs delight with twinkling lights and the uplifting sounds of carolers and bells. Explore festive aisles brimming with wooden nutcrackers and delicate glass ornaments, filled with the tantalizing aromas of gingerbread, roasted chestnuts and sizzling sausages. New adventures await daily!

Aboard your first-class ship, you'll unpack once and enjoy an intimate view of European history as we glide along this ancient trading route studded with medieval sites. In Heidelberg, visit the stately castle over the Neckar Valley and enjoy a special musical performance. Sail through the scenic Rhine Gorge, admire Cologne's spectacular cathedral and stroll within vibrant Freiburg. In the ports of Düsseldorf, Rüdesheim, Strasbourg and Breisach, customize your cruise with engaging excursions that fit your interests, such as wine tastings, a culinary tour or cultural experiences.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call **800-323-7373** or visit **usc.ahitravel.com.** Space on this exclusive journey is limited; our trips often sell out before the special booking date.

Fight on ... and Travel On!

Linda Ball '83
Associate Director, Trojan Travel
USC Alumni Association

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Strasbourg, Grande-Île
2. Upper Middle Rhine Valley
3. Cologne Cathedral
4. Aachen Cathedral

Upper Middle Rhine Valley

Aachen Cathedral

Discovery begins here

Treat yourself to a merry holiday adventure on this seven-night cruise in Germany and France! Celebrate centuries-old traditions of the Advent season within European holiday markets aglow with sparkling lights and good cheer. On this carefree, first-class voyage, you'll also marvel at Cologne Cathedral, visit Heidelberg Castle and savor a stirring musical experience. Plus, choose from included excursions in Düsseldorf, Rüdesheim, Strasbourg and Breisach!

Top: Holiday market, Strasbourg
Above: Sailing the Rhine River
Cover: Holiday market at Cologne Cathedral
Mail panel: Nutcrackers | Grand Île, Strasbourg

Inspiring Moments

- Stroll through **magical Holiday Markets,** soaking up the festive music, fragrant aromas and enchanting ambience.
- Discover **Strasbourg's** historic heart and storybook Alsatian ambience.
- Delight in **Freiburg's** medieval charm, Gothic cathedral and Christkindlmarkt.
- Relish an **exclusive musical performance** in Heidelberg's romantic old town.
- Cruise the stunning Rhine Gorge past enchanting villages, clifftop castles and the **legendary Loreley Rock.**
- Witness **Kölner Dom's** soaring spires and the majestic **Heidelberg Castle.**
- Experience four **UNESCO World Heritage Sites.**

Colmar

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Düsseldorf, Germany.

Day 2 | Düsseldorf, Germany

Upon arrival, transfer to the pier and embark your ship.

This evening, meet your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Düsseldorf

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- *Düsseldorf Tour.* Admire this dynamic city's modern architecture, including the bustling Medienhafen riverfront area, on a scenic tour. Later, take a guided walk in the old town, which boasts a half-mile stretch of more than 250 bars, breweries and cafés. Along your route, try some Altbier, the local dark beer.
- *Aachen, City of Emperor Charlemagne.* Aachen was the imperial capital and favorite royal residence of Charlemagne (747–814), who also enjoyed its therapeutic hot springs. Visit breathtaking Aachen Cathedral, notable for Charlemagne's richly decorated imperial chapel and his original throne. Next, walk in the historic center and spa area, then finish at the city's cheery Christmas market.

Free Time: After lunch on the ship, explore Düsseldorf's six wonderful Christkindlmarkts, featuring themes such as fairy tales and angels.

Day 4 | Cologne

The ship moors in Cologne today.

Cologne Walking Tour. Kölner Dom, the city's majestic cathedral, is renowned as the largest Gothic church in northern Europe. Topped by two filigreed spires, it was constructed over a period of more than 630 years. During a guided stroll, see the highlights of Cologne's old town. Afterward, take in the cathedral's awe-inspiring façade before stepping inside to admire the intricate details of its splendid interior.

Free Time: This afternoon, explore the city center and browse for handcrafted mementos at the Christmas market outside the cathedral.

The ship departs Cologne tonight.

Day 5 | Rhine Gorge | Rüdesheim

On the way to Rüdesheim this morning, sail through the Rhine Gorge, a stunning 40-mile stretch of river lined with terraced vineyards and hilltop castles. Famed for its historical, cultural, and geological significance, the gorge reveals charming villages, ancient fortresses and sweeping riverside landscapes.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- *Rüdesheim Tour.* Take a tram ride along the town's main avenue, Drosselgasse, and stop at the "Christmas Market of the Nations" with holiday items from around the world. At a captivating museum, be amazed by the incredible ingenuity and melodies of music boxes, player pianos and other restored mechanical musical instruments.
- *Rhine Wine Tasting.* Visit the tranquil Abbey of St. Hildegard and learn about St. Hildegard of Bingen, a prominent and multitalented

Heidelberg

woman in the medieval church. Later, sample the region's fine wines at a family-run winery.

Enrichment: *German Holiday Traditions.* From Advent wreaths to Christmas baking, learn about cherished family customs at home.

Day 6 | Mannheim | Heidelberg

The ship arrives early in the port of Mannheim.

Heidelberg Castle & Town. Step inside Heidelberg Castle overlooking the Neckar Valley and see the immense wine barrel built in 1591, which once contained 34,342 gallons of wine! Continue with a pleasant guided walk in the old town and along the banks of the Neckar River. Relax over lunch at a German restaurant, where you'll feel the comfortable, friendly ambience known as gemütlichkeit.

Free Time: Spend some time on your own in Heidelberg's historic center.

AHI Connects | *Musical Trio.* Settle in for an exclusive performance by a talented trio in Heidelberg who will entertain you with holiday songs, arias and contemporary pieces.

Abbey of St. Hildegard

Day 7 | Strasbourg, France

This morning, the ship arrives in Strasbourg, capital of the French region of Alsace.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- *Strasbourg Panorama.* During a panoramic tour, see Strasbourg's German and French heritage on display in landmarks such as Palais Rohan and St. Thomas Church. Next, take a guided walk in the historic center and behold the impressive Notre Dame Cathedral.
- *Culinary Strasbourg.* Savor the celebrated Alsatian food scene on a guided walk that takes you to the city's winstubs, cozy wine pubs, and other local cafés and shops. Taste delicious cheeses, wines, meats and sweets.

Free Time: Catch a complimentary shuttle from the ship to the city center this afternoon and meander in Strasbourg's luminous marché de Noël. First established in the 16th century, it's one of France's oldest holiday markets.

Before dinner tonight, gather for a Glühwein party with your fellow cruisers. If you haven't already tried it at one of the holiday markets, indulge in this warm concoction of cinnamon, cloves, citrus and wine, a wintertime classic!

Kougelhopf, a famous Alsatian specialty, is a yeasted sweet cake filled with raisins and almonds. The decorative molds used to bake them are often handed down within families.

Day 8 | Breisach, Germany | Freiburg

The ship docks in Breisach this morning.

Freiburg. Stroll in the historic center of this lively university city to admire its 13th-century cathedral, turreted Merchants' Hall and other highlights. Visit the Christkindlmarkt, where marzipan and chestnuts are popular treats.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- *Riquewihr & the Wines of the Alsace.* Selected as one of "Les Plus Beaux Villages de France," The Most Beautiful Villages of France, this tiny medieval town charms all who visit. Sample some tasty Alsace wines and relish its scenic lanes on a guided walk.
- *Colmar Markets.* Revel in Alsatian holiday traditions as you explore four markets, each with its own character, in this picture-perfect French town lined with half-timbered houses.

Celebrate your yuletide cruise with your fellow travelers at a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 9 | Basel, Switzerland | In Transit

After breakfast, disembark the ship in Basel and transfer to the Zürich airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

PYJ experiences are included.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Activity Level

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

– walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces

– getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Included Features

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

– Unpack once and cruise for **7 nights** aboard the **exclusively chartered,** first-class MS Amadeus Cara.

Extensive Meal Program

– 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

– **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.

– **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.

– **Personalize Your Journey | PYJ |** A choice of excursions in selected locales.

– **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.

– **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.

– Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.

– A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.

– Tipping of guides and drivers.

– Complimentary travel mementos.

– **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Düsseldorf

EXTEND YOUR STAY

Mainz

Mainz | 3 Nights

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Get to know Germany's grand wine capital! See the top sites of Mainz, plus visit beautiful Bonn and Wiesbaden. Includes three nights at the first-class Hilton Mainz; guided city tours; daily breakfasts and one lunch; the services of an AHI Travel Director and Hospitality desk; guide and driver gratuities; deluxe motor coach transfer and baggage handling from ship to hotel; and all taxes and service charges.

$1,295 per person, double occupancy | $1,690 single occupancy

Interlaken

Interlaken | 2 Nights

{ Elective POST-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Soak up Switzerland's enchanting beauty over two nights in the Bernese Oberland, plus delight in Bern, the Swiss capital! Includes two nights at the deluxe Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa; a guided walk in Bern's old town; daily breakfasts; the services of an AHI Travel Director and Hospitality desk; guide and driver gratuities; deluxe motor coach transfer and baggage handling from ship to hotel; and all taxes and service charges.

$1,395 per person, double occupancy | $1,890 single occupancy

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates✈ **Nov. 28 – Dec. 6, 2026**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **Nov. 29 – Dec. 6, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Cruise Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	$4,145	**$3,395**
D-Haydn (Midship)	$4,345	**$3,595**
C-Strauss (Midship)	$4,945	**$4,195**
B-Strauss (Midship)	$5,145	**$4,395**
A-Mozart	$5,545	**$4,795**
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	$6,245	**$5,495**

***This Special Savings Price includes our $250 Early Booking and $500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is $750 per person.
Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Suite category features a balcony. Categories A, B and C feature a drop-down panoramic window. Categories D and E feature a panoramic window.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.
Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://usc.ahitravel.com/destinations/1972A?schoolId=177.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

– **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
– arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
– **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
– **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

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MS Amadeus Cara

Cruise in exceptional comfort and style aboard this sophisticated, 81-cabin ship reminiscent of a grand European hotel while enjoying warm hospitality and personalized attention from its seasoned crew. The tastefully appointed public spaces feature large windows for expansive views of the unfolding scenery. Savor delicious breakfast and luncheon buffets and indulge in expertly prepared, regionally inspired dinners. Wine, beer and soft drinks complement both lunch and dinner. Each evening, relax in your inviting cabin or suite, which includes a private bathroom with a shower, satellite TV and complimentary Wi-Fi.

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and **Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

Book your journey today!

800-323-7373 **TrojanTravel.usc.edu**

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Committed to connecting travelers to the people, places and cultures of the world for more than 62 years.

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