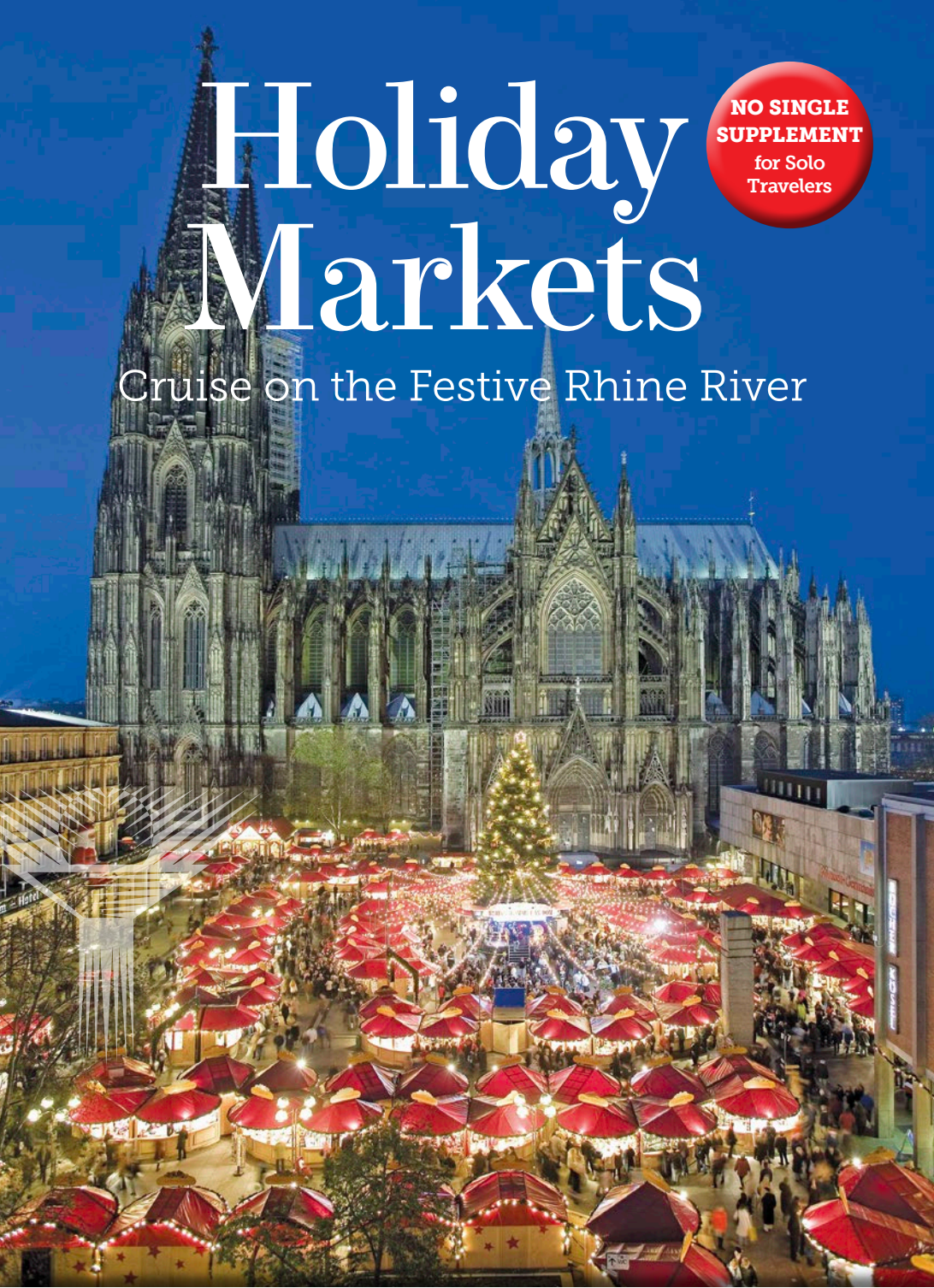


An aerial night photograph of a bustling Christmas market. The market is filled with numerous red and white striped umbrellas, each illuminated from within. A large, brightly lit Christmas tree stands in the center of the market. In the background, a massive Gothic cathedral with multiple spires and intricate stonework is visible against a dark blue night sky. The overall scene is festive and vibrant.

Holiday Markets

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers

Cruise on the Festive Rhine River

SPONSORED BY



Principia Lifelong Learning
November 28 – December 6, 2026
Other dates available upon request

Dear Principia Alumni & Friends

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. Along the way, enjoy specially arranged excursions featuring immersive cultural experiences and visits to iconic holiday markers in the ports of Düsseldorf, Rüdesheim, Strasbourg and Breisach.

Space on this popular trip is always in high demand, so ensure your spot on this exceptional journey by reserving today!

Warmly,

Susi Quitter

Susie Quitter

Principia Lifelong Learning Director

pll@principia.edu

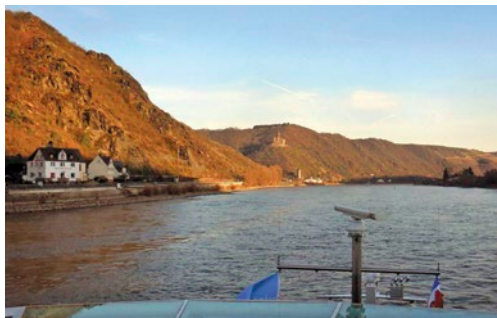
UNESCO World Heritage

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



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

Aachen, City of Emperor Charlemagne.

Aachen was the imperial capital and favorite royal residence of Charlemagne (747–814), where he also enjoyed the therapeutic hot springs. Visit Aachen Cathedral, an architectural masterpiece notable for Charlemagne's richly decorated imperial chapel and his original throne. Next, stroll through the historic center, taking in its charming streets and the spa area. Conclude at the city's festive Christmas market, where colorful stalls, seasonal treats and bright decorations create a cheerful atmosphere.

Free Time: After lunch on the ship, explore Düsseldorf's seven wonderful Christkindlmarks, 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. Begin your exploration with a guided walking tour of

Cologne's historic old town to see its highlights. Afterward, admire the cathedral's awe-inspiring façade, then step inside to take in the intricate details of its interior, including the stone columns soaring toward the vaulted ceiling.

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.

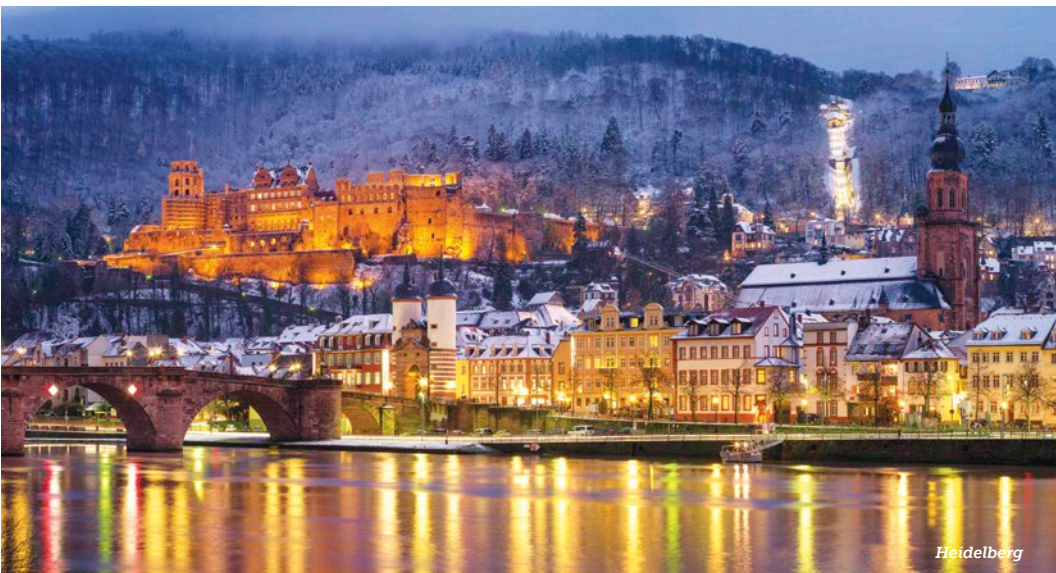
Day 5 | Rhine Gorge | Rüdesheim

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, making it the most celebrated stretch of the Rhine.

Rüdesheim Tour. Immerse yourself in the enchanting old town as you take a tram ride along Drosselgasse, the town's main avenue decorated in festive decorations and twinkling lights. Stop at the "Christmas Market of the Nations," an international market with holiday items from around the world. At a captivating museum dedicated to self-playing, mechanical musical instruments, be amazed by the incredible ingenuity and melodies of music boxes, player pianos and more! After the tour, enjoy some free time and perhaps treat yourself to traditional delicacies at a local café.

Enrichment: German Holiday Traditions.

From Advent wreaths to Christmas baking,



learn about cherished seasonal customs handed down from one generation to the next.

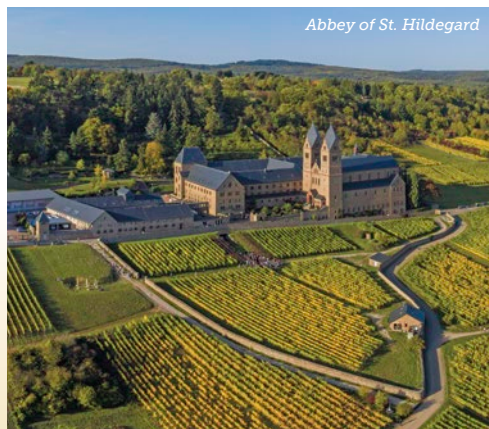
Day 6 | Mannheim | Heidelberg

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 scenic banks of the Neckar River, passing landmarks such as the Student Jail, the Old University and the cathedral as you explore the city center. 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.



Day 7 | Strasbourg, France

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

Strasbourg Panorama. During a panoramic tour, see Strasbourg's German and French heritage on display in grand landmarks such as Palais Rohan, St. Thomas Church and European Parliament buildings. Next, a guided walking tour through the historic center reveals the impressive Notre Dame Cathedral, a breathtaking masterpiece of Gothic art.

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.

Enjoy dinner on board this evening as the ship glides along the Rhine toward Breisach.

Day 8 | Breisach, Germany | Freiburg

The ship docks in Breisach this morning.

Freiburg. Delight in a guided stroll through the historic center of this vibrant university city. Admire its 13th-century cathedral, bright-red, turreted Merchants' Hall and other celebrated

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.





landmarks. Then, wander the bustling Christkindlmarkt, where marzipan and chestnuts are popular holiday treats.

Colmar Markets. Revel in Alsatian holiday traditions as you explore four markets, each with its own character, set within this picture-perfect French town lined with half-timbered houses. From the main market at the grand Place des Dominicains to the Place Jeanne d'Arc with its tempting local delicacies, the historic Place de l'Ancienne Douane surrounding Lazare de Schwendi's fountain, and the indoor Koïffhus market showcasing the work of local artisans, each stop offers a unique festive experience. Festive lights, regional flavors and storybook scenery add to the seasonal atmosphere.

As the ship departs for Basel tonight, 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.

🕒 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.

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.
- 🕒 **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 | 3 Nights

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Explore the historic charm and grandeur of Mainz! See the city's top sites, 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 | 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://princi.ahitravel.com/destinations/1972M?schoollid=703 .		

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

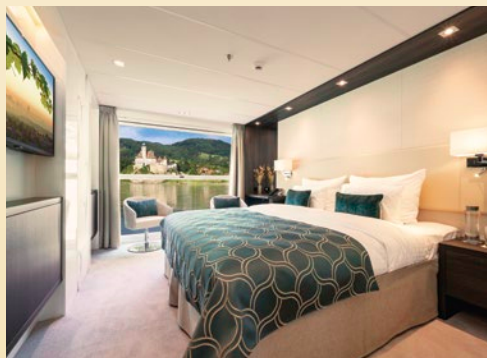
Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **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



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. Coffee and tea are available with every meal. 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.

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