

What's Included

- 6 days touring via deluxe motorcoach
- 5 nights accommodations in 4* hotels
- 4 night Rhine River cruise from Strasbourg, France to Cologne, Germany aboard Croisi Europe's MS Lafayette
- Daily breakfast\6 Dinners\5 lunches
- Services of licensed city guides as needed
- All Entrance Fees and hotel city tax
- All transportation by bus, train and boat as listed in itinerary
- Gratuities for drivers, guides and cruise staff

What's Not Included

- Airfare: round-trip airfare from USA to Zurich\Cologne to USA
- Meals and other personal expenses as not indicated on itinerary
- Travel Insurance

Group Airfare

There will be a group flight for those that prefer to travel with the group. This will be an economy class round trip from Houston to Zurich and Cologne to Houston. The estimated cost of this airfare will be \$1,200 - \$1,500.

Airline schedules are available 8-10 months before departure and when available, the group air schedule and cost will be published to all travelers. Each traveler will have the opportunity to purchase the group airfare at this time or purchase the land only package.

If purchasing your own airfare, Prelude Tours will assist with your airport and hotel transfers (at your own expense). If your flights align within 20-30 minutes of the group schedule, travelers are welcome to share the transfer with the group

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is highly recommended to safeguard your trip investment from unforeseen circumstances. Insurance must be purchased within 14 days of registration to cover any pre-existing medical conditions. Visit www.preludetours.com for more information on travel insurance.

Payments and Conditions

Tour cost - \$4,250 per person (based on double occ.)

Single Supplement (Private Room) - \$1,250

Payment Terms

\$650 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit due upon registration

\$1,800 due May 1, 2026

\$1,800 due Aug 1, 2026

Payment Methods:

- Check Payable to Prelude Tours and mailed to:
P O Box 118696, Carrollton, TX 75011
- Credit card – payments will be assessed a 3% convenience fee.

Visit preludetours.com to make credit card payments

Cancellation Policy

Prior to May 1, 2026 - \$650 cancellation fee

After May 1 and prior to August 1:

\$2,450 cancellation fee

After Aug 1 - no refunds

Join us for a magical journey through Europe's best Christmas markets in Switzerland, France and Germany. Cities include Lucerne, Zurich, Colmar and more. We will also ascend to the "top of Europe", the highest railway in Europe atop the Swiss Alps. We then board the MS Lafayette in Strasbourg, France to cruise the Rhine River for 5 days and will visit the markets in Heidelberg, Rudesheim and Koblenz. After disembarking, we continue to Cologne for the final day of markets. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the Christmas season abroad with great friends!

P O Box 118696, Carrollton, TX 75011

281.667.1057 | preludetour@gmail.com

Wonders of the Old World

European Christmas Markets Tour!

Including a 5 day Rhine River Cruise

November 26 -
December 6, 2026



Additional Information

- Activity level 3: This tour is active with walking, standing for longer periods on sometimes uneven ground and climbing steps. There will be some longer days and earlier mornings balanced with free time to enjoy your own interests. Guest should be able to walk 8,000 - 10,000 steps daily and manage their own luggage as needed.
- Passports must be valid for 6 months AFTER the date of return to the U.S. – June 6, 2027
- There will be no refund for unconsumed hotel meals or unused entrance fees.
- The itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Prelude Tours.
- The tour is non-transferable upon cancellation.
- When purchasing airfare with the group, seats are assigned by the airline and Prelude Tours has no control of seats. If you prefer a specific seats /upgrades, it is recommended that you purchase the land only option and purchase your own airfare to align with the group schedule.



Itinerary

Thursday, November 26

Overnight flight from Houston to Zurich, Switzerland

Friday, November 27

Welcome to Zurich, Switzerland! We will meet our tour escort and coach driver and transfer to Zurich's main train station to enjoy **Christkindlimarkt**, one of the largest indoor Christmas markets in Europe. This market, with rich aromas of mulled wine and cinnamon-infused baked goods, has over 150 festively decorated market stalls offering beautiful decorations as well as seasonal confectionery. Afterwards, we will drive to **Lucerne** where we will stay for the next two nights. After checking in at the hotel, we will enjoy a traditional fondue dinner at a local restaurant.
Overnight: Hotel Wilden Mann, Lucerne (D)

Saturday, November 28

After breakfast, we are going to the **Top of Europe - Jungfrauoch**, the highest railway station in Europe! We will travel through the **Swiss Alps via the Eiger Express** cable car with large windows offering 360-degree views that showcase the vast mountain range including glaciers views and snow-capped peaks.

The final leg will be a scenic ride on the iconic **Jungfrau Cogwheel Railway**. Once we are on top of Europe, we will enjoy lunch and have free time to explore the **Observatory, Ice Palace** and glacier tunnels featuring ice sculptures. You may choose to indulge in chocolate tasting and shopping at the Lindt Chocolate Shop! Later this afternoon, we will return to Lucerne and the evening is free to explore the many Christmas markets in Lucerne. Overnight: Hotel Wilden Mann, Lucerne (B)(L)

Sunday, November 29

This morning, we will enjoy a guided tour of historic **Lucerne** to see iconic sights such as the **Chapel Bridge**, the **Water Tower**, the Jesuit Church, and the impressive **Lion Monument**. We will enjoy a scenic boat cruise on Lake Lucerne to enjoy the Alpine landscape, villages and snow-covered mountains. Next we will transfer to **Basel, Switzerland** to visit one of the most charming Christmas markets in Switzerland. We will be free to explore the markets of **Barfüsserplatz** and **Münsterplatz** featuring festive wooden chalets offering local treats and handcrafted gifts. The evening is free to continue shopping at the markets, exploring the illuminated old town or having dinner in one of the many cozy restaurants or traditional Swiss taverns. Overnight: Essential by Dorint Hotel, Basel (B)

Monday, November 30

After breakfast, we will board our motorcoach for a scenic journey from Basel to Strasbourg, France, passing through the picturesque Alsace region of France. Our first stop will be **Mulhouse**, a city with a rich textile history. There will be free time to stroll through the decorated streets, visit local shops, or grab a warm drink at one of the cafés. After lunch, we will visit the fairytale town of **Colmar** which is magically decorated, making it one of the most beautiful Christmas destinations in France. A guided tour includes Colmar's old town the village of **Gertwiller** to visit the delightful **Gingerbread Museum**. We will learn about the history and craftsmanship behind Alsace's beloved spiced gingerbread. Late afternoon, we will check into our Strasbourg hotel - the remainder of the day is free to enjoy the twinkling lights and festive atmosphere of the city.
Overnight - Hotel Beaucour, Strasbourg (B)

Tuesday, December 1

This morning, we will explore the city of **Strasbourg, the European Capital of Christmas**. Our local guide will escort us to the impressive **Cathedral**, with its striking spire and astronomical clock. We will pass through **La Petite France**, a beautifully preserved district filled with timber-framed houses, narrow canals, and flower-decked balconies. Afterwards, we will visit the **Strasbourg Markets**, the oldest and most famous markets dating to 1570. You will have free time to browse the many market stalls with their festive ambiance and lights. Late afternoon, we will transfer to the Strasbourg cruise port to board the **MS Lafayette** for the next 4 nights as we cruise the Rhine River. Overnight: MS Lafayette (B)(D)

Wednesday, December 2

This morning we will cruise to **Speyer, Germany**. After lunch, we will visit **Heidelberg**, one of the most beautiful cities in Germany with a picturesque ensemble of the castle, the old town, and the beautiful river and hills. After a guided tour, there will be free time to explore the enchanting **Christmas markets** with a majestic backdrop of Heidelberg Castle which enhances the romantic and picturesque atmosphere of the holiday season. After dinner on the ship, there will be an evening of entertainment on board.
Overnight: MS Lafayette (B)(L)(D)

Thursday, December 3

Enjoy a relaxed morning of cruising to **Rudesheim**. After lunch, we will visit **Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum**, featuring a fascinating array of self-playing musical instruments dating back three centuries. Afterwards, we will visit The **Rudesheim Christmas Market of Nations**, from over 20 nations across three continents. The market is set against the backdrop of the town's charming old quarter, medieval buildings, and the River Rhine. Retuning to the ship, don't miss walking down the famous **Drosselgasse**, a narrow, cobblestone lane known for its lively atmosphere and numerous wine taverns. Overnight: MS Lafayette (B)(L)(D)

Friday, December 4

This morning, we'll pass through the beautiful and romantic **Rhine Valley**, renowned for its picturesque landscapes, historic castles, vineyards, and charming riverside towns - this is storybook Germany. With each twist and turn of the river, another castle or fortress atop the sprawling vineyards is revealed. After lunch, we will arrive in **Koblenz**. We'll take the funicular railway to visit the historic castle and have a magnificent view across the city and valleys. The remainder of the day is free to exploring the markets in the city's picturesque old town. This market is known for its live music, carriage rides, ice-skating rink, the famous Advent calendar at City Hall. Overnight: MS Lafayette (B)(L)(D)

Saturday, December 5

After disembarking from our cruise ship, we will enjoy a guided walking tour of **Cologne's historic center** to see the colorful houses along the Rhine, historic city hall, and charming squares such as **Alter Markt** and **Heumarkt**. The highlight of the tour is the **Cologne Cathedral**, the tallest twin-spired church in the world that took over 6 centuries to build. Afterwards, there will be free time to explore **Cologne and its sparkling array of Christmas markets**.
Overnight: Cologne Germany (B)

Sunday, December 6

Return flight to USA from Cologne, Germany with lots of Christmas gifts and memories! (B)