



**USASK  
ALUMNI**

# Christkindlmärkte along the Danube River



**EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Kristina von Trapp**

# CHRISTKINDLMÄRKTE ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER

Raise a mug of glühwein and revel in Yuletide celebrations on an enchanting Danube River sojourn that showcases some of Europe's most acclaimed Christkindlmärkte. This seven-night river cruise from Nuremberg, Germany, to Vienna, Austria, immerses you in Old-World Advent traditions and introduces you to storied cities and UNESCO World Heritage sites. Walk through Nuremberg's old town lined with half-timbered houses and its colourful holiday market, one of the oldest in the world. Be dazzled by Vienna's baroque palace, a beautiful backdrop for its magical Christmas market. Choose from engaging excursions filled with holiday spirit and music: a tour of Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace, or a "Silent Night" tour to pretty Austrian towns connected to the song. Throughout this uplifting journey, embrace the splendour of the season as storybook Christmas scenes unfold around you!





Dear Alumni & Friends of McMaster University,

Discover captivating settings where colourful lights twinkle over cheery market stalls brimming with handmade glass ornaments, fine wooden toys and irresistible holiday goodies on this heartwarming tour of some of Europe's most beloved Christmas markets.

Please join us for a joyous winter sojourn along the Danube River from Nuremberg to Vienna on an unforgettable, carefree seven-night cruise aboard the exclusively chartered **Viva Enjoy**, featuring only 95 suites and staterooms. Throughout your journey, you'll delight in the timeless, cherished traditions of the Advent season at centuries-old markets in Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau and Vienna. In the port of Linz, choose between two fascinating excursions, the Salzburg Tour or the "Silent Night" Tour, that wonderfully combine history, culture and music!

Be inspired by some of Europe's most noteworthy landmarks, including the stately imperial monuments of the Habsburgs' Vienna and the 900-year-old Melk Abbey. You'll also observe graceful Lipizzaner stallions practicing at the Spanish Riding School, an iconic Austrian institution. To enhance your experience, add the Munich Pre-Program extension and/or the Vienna Post-Program extension.

A perennial favourite of travellers, this marvellous cruise is an excellent value with excursions in each port. Reserve now while space and early booking savings are available! Joining us on this program are alumni from McMaster University and York University.

Sincerely,

Dawn Warren  
University of Saskatchewan Alumni Travel Program



Please contact Gohagan & Company at 1-800-922-3088 with questions regarding this tour. If you have questions regarding the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Travel Program or you no longer wish to receive Alumni Travel Program information, please contact USask Alumni at 1-800-699-1907 or local 306-966-5186 or email [alumni.office@usask.ca](mailto:alumni.office@usask.ca).

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 312-609-1140 or 800-922-3088 or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**



## GUEST SPEAKER

### **Kristina von Trapp**

Kristina von Trapp Frame serves as the Executive Vice President of the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont, a 10-square kilometre resort founded by her family. As a granddaughter of Maria and Captain von Trapp, Kristina grew up immersed in the family legacy celebrated by the iconic film, “The Sound of Music.” Alongside her brother Sam, she manages the lodge, focusing on outdoor activities such as trail running and cross-country skiing, as well as overseeing guest programmes that share the von Trapp family history.

*Salzburg, Austria*





# Yuletide Traditions

The concept of an open-air fair during December dates to 13th-century Vienna, when Duke Albrecht I granted permission for a market that would allow townspeople to gather supplies for the winter ahead. While historians say there is no evidence that this medieval market had any connection to religion, the popularity of the wintermärkte spread through German-speaking regions during the Middle Ages. By the 16th and 17th centuries, as festive Christmas celebrations became more commonplace in Austria and Germany, the winter market evolved into the more elaborate spectacle now known as the Christkindlmärkte — which translates to “Christ child market.” Delectable treats, handcrafted nutcrackers, wood carvings and other ornaments began to fill the market stalls. Nuremberg’s lovely Christkindlesmarkt, which you will visit, has been operating since at least 1628. In addition to Old-World Christmas decorations, the market is renowned for preserving the city’s famous rostbratwurst and the 17th-century lebkuchen gingerbread. Today, these centuries-old Christmas traditions continue in markets throughout Europe, which charm visitors with sparkling lights, fresh pine boughs, roasted chestnuts, mugs of glühwein and the merry sounds of carolers.



*The traditional “Christkind” gift bearer dressed in gold*



*Christmas decorations*

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000USD flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).





## 2025 | 9-DAY/8-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

**Day 1 | December 8**

Depart your home city.

Nuremberg, Germany/  
Embark River Boat

**Day 2 | December 9**

Arrive in dynamic Nuremberg and embark the **Viva Enjoy** this afternoon. Tonight, gather for the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. (R,D)

Nuremberg

**Day 3 | December 10**

Kick off your adventure with a guided walk in Nuremberg's old town. Delight in its traditional timbered buildings, imposing walls, castle complex and Gothic churches. During free time this afternoon, visit the jolly and bright Christmas market, where the Rauschgoldengel, or Golden Angel, its radiant symbol, welcomes guests. Be sure to try their signature

lebkuchen gingerbread and bratwurst! (B,L,D)

Regensburg

**Day 4 | December 11**

Appreciate the medieval ambience of Regensburg's splendid old town, named a UNESCO World Heritage site for its wealth of well-preserved architecture, on a guided walk. Then, relish the joyful mood at its holiday markets as you browse for mementos and sample tasty Bavarian delicacies. (B,L,D)

Passau

**Day 5 | December 12**

Located at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers, Passau was rebuilt by Italian architects after a fire in 1662, and their influence can be seen in the city's lovely baroque buildings and Mediterranean character. On a walking tour,

marvel at the green-domed St. Stephen's Cathedral and check out Passau's Christmas market, filled with the enticing aroma of roasted almonds and mulled wine. (B,L,D)

Linz, Austria

**Day 6 | December 13**

Arrive in Linz and select from two excursions. On the Salzburg Tour, admire the highlights of its UNESCO-inscribed old town before strolling past Mozart's birthplace at Getreidegasse No. 9. Continue to the Mirabell Castle Church for a private string quartet concert of his music. Your next stop is the buzzing Christmas market in front of Salzburg Cathedral, where you'll savour regional treats for lunch. Then, travel up to Hohensalzburg Fortress, the 11th-century castle above the city, and explore the wonderful

Melk Abbey, Austria



Shop for holiday ornaments and gifts





holiday market in its courtyard. On the “Silent Night” Tour, visit Oberndorf, the birthplace of this famous carol. At the town’s charming Memorial Chapel, hear the story of its creation and the first performance in 1818. After a lunch of Austrian specialties, tour the Silent Night Museum in a restored school in Arnsdorf that was also the home of the song’s composer. While there, enjoy a caroling performance, drinks and sweet stollen. After each tour, return to the ship for dinner. (B,L,D)

### Melk/Dürnstein

#### Day 7 | December 14

Today, take a guided tour of magnificent Melk Abbey, one of Europe’s most impressive baroque complexes, that offers sweeping views of the Lower Alps and Danube. Relax later over lunch on the ship as

it cruises to tiny Dürnstein in the scenic Wachau Valley wine region. Set off on a walking tour and visit Dürnstein Abbey, which boasts an eye-catching, blue-and-white baroque bell tower. See the Künringer Castle ruins above the town, where English King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned on his return from the Third Crusade. Stop back at the abbey for a short organ recital, then return to the ship. (B,L,D)

### Vienna

#### Day 8 | December 15

Soak up Vienna’s grandeur on a tour. See landmarks including the Opera House, the Austrian Parliament Building and the Burgtheater, then gaze up at its Gothic gem, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, with a strikingly tiled roof. Next, watch skilled Lipizzaner horses and their

riders in training exercises at the celebrated Spanish Riding School. In the afternoon, stroll through the opulent halls of Schönbrunn Palace, the Habsburgs’ summer residence and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Learn about their reign on your guided tour, then meander in the Christmas market nestled by the palace. End on a high note with an onboard caroling performance, followed by the Captain’s Farewell Reception and Dinner. (B,R,D)

### Vienna/ Return to Home City

#### Day 9 | December 16

Disembark the river boat this morning after breakfast and transfer to the airport for a flight back to your home city. (B)





## Viva Enjoy

The newest member of the Scylla family is the **Viva Enjoy**, which debuted in 2024. Be warmly welcomed by the friendly, multilingual and international crew who make your well-being and comfort their top priority. On board, the ship's elegant decor is luxurious, yet the atmosphere is relaxed and easygoing. Each stateroom and suite is equipped with a flat screen TV, an included minibar, beauty products from RITUALS®, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning and an en-suite bathroom. The upper and middle deck staterooms and suites all have French balconies. Ship facilities include: two restaurants, bistro with terrace, lounge, library, fitness centre and a wellness area with steam bath and sauna.



### 2025 DEPARTURE DATE

**December 8 to 16**

(Tour Begins: December 9)

Category-Description	Standard Rate	Early Booking \$1,000 Savings*
<b>Emerald</b> Flat screen TV, included minibar, beauty products from RITUALS®, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning, shower and en-suite bathroom.	\$4,690	<b>\$3,690</b>
<b>Ruby</b> Outside French balcony, flat screen TV, included minibar, beauty products from RITUALS®, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning, en-suite bathroom.	\$5,090	<b>\$4,090</b>
<b>Diamond</b> Outside French balcony, flat screen TV, included minibar, beauty products from RITUALS®, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning, en-suite bathroom.	\$5,690	<b>\$4,690</b>
<b>Suite</b> Outside French balcony, flat screen TV, included minibar, beauty products from RITUALS®, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning, en-suite bathroom. Located on the Diamond deck. (limited availability)	\$6,090	<b>\$5,090</b>

**\*Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 6/6/25 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes. Single accommodations are available in categories Emerald & Ruby for an additional \$1,000, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200% of the cabin fare, plus taxes. Early Booking Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at [gohagantravel.com/terms/](https://gohagantravel.com/terms/)

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 312-609-1140 or 800-922-3088 or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](https://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**

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## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

### Munich

**December 6 to 9, 2025** (Program Begins: December 7)

Take in cosmopolitan Munich and the picture-perfect scenery along Bavaria's Romantic Road! See Munich's architectural riches on a walking tour and visit its historic Christmas market. Travel through southern Germany's stunning landscapes to picturesque Rothenburg ob der Tauber, a superbly preserved walled town that transports you to the Middle Ages. Feel your spirits lifted as you stroll through its festively decorated lanes and holiday market! Enjoy accommodations for two nights at the ***Hotel Bayerischer Hof Munich***.

**Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,195 USD**

**Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,495 USD**



## POST-TOUR EXTENSION

### Vienna

**December 16 to 18, 2025** (Program Ends: December 18)

Discover layers of history and vibrant holiday traditions in Austria's capital city, renowned for its baroque architecture and walkable city centre. Marvel at the ornate Hofburg Palace, the former winter residence of the Habsburgs, on a tour, and view masterpieces by prominent Austrian artists including Gustav Klimt at the Belvedere Palace. Listen to Mozart's exquisite music at Sala Terrena, Vienna's oldest concert hall, and relish the good cheer that abounds at the Christmas market in Rathausplatz. Enjoy accommodations for two nights at the ***InterContinental Vienna***.

**Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$995 USD**

**Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,295 USD**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

**Early Booking Savings\* available | Save \$2,000 USD per couple!**

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*Traditional German lebkuchen gingerbread*