



# Holiday

## Travel Destinations



# Christmas Cruising on the River



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By Amy Nebens

**W**inter wonderland takes on a whole new meaning when taking in the breathtaking beauty of the fabled Black Forest region of Germany or the historically significant Alsace region of France as you sail along the Rhine River—made even more amazing when decked out in sparkling Christmas lights. The views from the Danube may be even more spectacular among charming Medieval villages and quaint yet chic towns that line the banks. And with the beloved and enchanting Christmas markets in full swing all along the way, the illumination viewing is only second to the gifts you are sure to find that will be treasured back home (we mean by others to whom you are gifting!).

A Christmas river cruise on one of the AmaWaterways luxury ships—the newest one was just christened this past spring—is not what you think of when “cruising.” The award-winning line is best in class in everything from accommodations—many have double terraces to view the river and scenery—to amenities, cuisine and excursions, a variety of which are available at every port. On the Danube, you’ll visit the beautiful Bavarian region of Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Budapest, Hungary. If you choose the Rhine, you’ll cruise through Amsterdam, Germany, France and Switzerland.

Take bike tours through towns and vineyards, go on guided hikes, or small intimate walking city tours. There are wine tastings in old taverns and Oktoberfest celebrations. There are also excursions arranged to nearby cities and sites. So country hop—food (on board) and excursions are all included—in style. Go to sleep in one amazing spot and wake up in the next to explore up close or just take it all in from your front row water seat while sipping your mug of hot mulled Glühwein as the landscape gently sweeps by.

With less than 170 passengers per boat, nothing seems crowded and everything is personalized. The personalized attention comes from the top down—owners Rudi Schreiner, Kristin Karst and Gary Murphy are hands-on executives and take pride in their company, the experience for passengers and the future. Their corporate vision is guided by the four pillars



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or “the four ‘p’s’ as I refer to them,” notes Kristin. “Passion, Partnerships, Positive Thinking and Personal Interaction.” They are also proud of their growing number of loyal employees, many of whom have been with the company for years—makes sense since they always look for a can-do attitude and passion for life when bringing people “on board” to work with them. Something that is evident from behind the scenes departments at the Calabasas, California headquarters to the people who represent the brand all over the world to those on the ships’ front lines.

Another star of their show? AmaWaterways is a member of La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, the exclusive international culinary society, and it’s no wonder that their locally-in-

spired cuisine is so delicious. At lunch and dinner onboard, meals are always paired with complementary wine and beer—such a bonus. There are a few places to dine onboard including The Chef’s Table restaurant, where a sumptuous tasting menu is prepared right in front of you.

When you spend the holidays aboard these luxe river liners, many of the days or night, you’re able to visit a different and famed Christmas market. Not only spectacular adventures but practical ones too. Think about it: If you are able to stop there, then the only prep back home before you embark besides decorating is packing for your trip because the presents are there just waiting to be found.



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Perhaps the best gift of all? A river cruise with that special someone or your entire family that will make cherished and sparkling memories.

*For more info on AmaWaterways river cruises, visit [amawaterways.com](http://amawaterways.com)*



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1 Austria Durnstein Winter Cruises 2 Captain Toast  
3 Onboard decor 4 Prague Christmas Market  
5 Vienna Christmas Market 6-7 Vienna Christmas  
Market 8 Crew Carollers 9 Budapest Christmas  
Market Stall 10 Christmas onboard pastries

# Why Californian's Love

# Lake Tahoe's Snow Capped Mountains



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**T**he convenience of Lake Tahoe is just one of the reasons that this breathtaking region is a favorite for Californians looking for majestic snow capped mountains and ski runs that are carefully prepared for every member of the family. A half-day drive with a quick lunch stop or a puddle jump flight is all it takes and you can be flying down their grand slopes the very same day! Alpine Meadows is known for its down-home feel and approachable hospitality and Squaw Valley has a legacy of ski culture and vibrant mountain energy dating back to the 1960 Winter Olympics.

And if a luxury resort, fine dining and first class spa treatments are on the wish list while planning your Sierra Nevada mountain vacation look no further, The Resort at Squaw Creek, Lake Tahoe located in Squaw Valley at Alpine Meadows, is a AAA Four-Diamond Resort that offers slope-side ski-in/ski-out access. Ranked by Condé Nast Traveler magazine among the top 50 ski hotels in North America The Resort at Squaw Creek offers luxury at its best, not to mention, their 300 days of sunny blue California skies each year.

The Resort at Squaw Creek has six on-site restaurants, each with a different ambiance and menu. Resort Executive Chef Tim Hmay upholds the highest culinary standards in all of the resort kitchens, and fosters creativity and attention to detail in all of his



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Lobby

culinary staff. Fresh ingredients from the resort's on-site hydroponic garden are used in all the restaurants, ranging from entrees and appetizers to cocktails and aperitifs. All of the food is made from scratch using local ingredients and seasonal fruits and vegetables. Variety is the spice and whether you're looking for a steakhouse, breakfast café, pub or mountain pizzeria, the Resort At Squaw Creek has it all.

To soothe those tired muscles after a day on the mountain, the Spa at Squaw Creek offers a tranquility room, massage treatments, facials and body treatments. The Tranquility Room was completed alongside a \$7 million guest room renovation further enhancing the Lake Tahoe experience for travelers visiting the region. With the Resort At Squaw Creek's slope-side lodging, cross-country ski center, private ice skating rink and world-class facilities catering to special events, the opportunities to create magnificent memories are abundant. It is no wonder that Californians place Lake Tahoe at the top of their list when looking for a winter wonderland ski vacation surrounded by beauty.



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1 Squaw Valley skiing 2 Squaw Valley at night 3 Luxurious accommodations 4 Resort Lobby 5 Fun for the whole family



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