

Missouri Retired Teachers Association presents...

Enchanting Christmas Markets

December 3 – 11, 2027



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Per Person

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MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL

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collette



9 Days • 11 Meals: 7 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Christmas Markets of Six European Cities and Towns, Regensburg (UNESCO), Rothenburg ob der Tauber & German Christmas Museum, Freiburg, "Petite France" of Strasbourg, Colmar, Lake Lucerne Scenic Cruise

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	Hampton by Hilton Regensburg, Regensburg
Days 4 – 6	Hotel Novotel Freiburg Am Konzerthaus, Freiburg
Days 7, 8	Hotel Astoria Lucerne, Lucerne

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Day 1: Friday, December 3, 2027 Overnight Flight You're on your way to stepping into a wonderful world of holiday cheer as you experience the iconic Christmas markets of Germany, France, and Switzerland.

Day 2: Saturday, December 4, 2027 Regensburg, Germany Welcome to Regensburg, located in the heart of Bavaria and alive with yuletide celebration. This charming old city transforms into a festive wonderland during Christmastime. As arrival times will vary, there is no scheduled sightseeing today. Spend the day at leisure, exploring the city independently. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner and soak in the holiday spirit all around. (D)

Day 3: Sunday, December 5, 2027 Regensburg With a local guide, discover Regensburg, one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. See the Old Stone Bridge, the first stone bridge built over the Danube, and the Porta Praetoria, a Roman gate built in A.D. 179. Stroll through the Old Town amid the bustling holiday scene and stop for a tasting of Bavarian staples! The afternoon is yours to explore the Old Town's Christmas markets* and embrace the warm feeling of *gemütlichkeit*. Or, choose to join an optional excursion to experience the beauty and magic of the Romantic Christmas Market at Thurn and Taxis Palace. (B)

Day 4: Monday, December 6, 2027 Regensburg - Rothenburg ob der Tauber - Freiburg This morning, journey into the past in the heart of Franconia, with a visit to the picturesque town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Step by step, let the magic of Christmases past enchant you while visiting the German Christmas Museum.** Explore the exhibitions dedicated to Christmas traditions with glittering glass ornaments, Santas, nutcrackers, and Christmas pyramids. Later this afternoon, settle into your hotel in Freiburg, situated on the western foothills of the Black Forest and your home for the next three nights. Enjoy a cozy dinner at the hotel restaurant. (B, D)

Day 5: Tuesday, December 7, 2027 Freiburg This morning, ride a streetcar*** to Freiburg's Old Town, where **it's your choice** of locally guided tours! Discover stories of Freiburg's past on a historic city tour through medieval streets, iconic landmarks, and hidden corners **-OR-** explore Freiburg's heritage of Christmas celebrations on a festive tour through the historic center. As the tour concludes around noon, the remainder of the day is yours to explore the city's Christmas markets and discover its unique cultural blend shaped by neighboring France and Switzerland. (B)

Day 6: Wednesday, December 8, 2027 Freiburg - Strasbourg, France - Freiburg Travel to Strasbourg this morning, where centuries of Roman, French and German influences come together. Enjoy a guided tour of the Old Quarter, "Petite France," including the Cathedral of Notre Dame. The rest of the day is free to soak in the magical atmosphere of the "Capital of Christmas." Later, indulge in classic Alsace cuisine during dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 7: Thursday, December 9, 2027 Freiburg - Colmar - Lucerne, Switzerland Today, step into the festive fairytale of Colmar, aglow with dazzling lights, charming decorations, and enchanting holiday markets. Wander past half-timbered houses and along cobblestone streets lined with cozy cafés and boutiques — a storybook setting you'll long to return to. Then, continue to Lucerne, nestled between breathtaking mountains and a shimmering lake, ready to be explored. (B)

Day 8: Friday, December 10, 2027 Lucerne Winter's chill blends with the aroma of cinnamon and mulled wine as you explore Lucerne's Old Town with a local guide and learn about its cherished Christmas traditions. This afternoon is yours to discover the city's glow at your own pace in one of Switzerland's most romantic destinations. Later, enjoy a cruise on Lake Lucerne surrounded by the winter landscape. This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner featuring Swiss cuisine. (B, D)

Day 9: Saturday, December 11, 2027 Lucerne - Tour Ends Your festive journey ends today. (B)



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\$350
Per Person

Book Now & Save \$350 Per Person:

Double ~~\$4,999~~; **Double \$4,649***
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For bookings made after Jun 04, 2027 call for rates.

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Lambert St Louis Intl, Kansas City Intl Airport, OR Springfield Branson Regional Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$599 per person

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from STL

Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Premium Economy \$1,990; Business Class \$4,990

* Elite Air pricing (Premium Economy, Business Class or First class) is valid until 8 months prior to departure, after which rates are subject to change and will be quoted based upon availability.

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. **(See registration form for consent.)**

Important Tour Information:

Book Now rates valid until Jun 04, 2027, valid on air inclusive packages only.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Travel with an average of 37 people (maximum of 44).

Sightseeing often takes place outdoors in winter conditions, which may include cold temperatures, rain, snow, or icy walks.

While visiting historic areas of Regensburg, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Freiburg, Strasbourg, Colmar and Lucerne you will walk along cobblestone and uneven streets, steps, and narrow passageways.

Some of the most unique sightseeing can mean accessing locations that restrict motor coaches, especially when visiting Regensburg, Strasbourg and Colmar. Your coach will be parked in a designated area requiring a walk on cobblestones while exploring the Old Town area.

*Regensburg Old Town will typically have several Christmas markets within a 30-minute walking distance radius.

**German Christmas Museum is in a historic building, and the rooms and corridors are small and narrow. There are 50 steps to enter the museum with no handrails available. The museum is not suitable for mobility assistance device use.

***The Freiburg streetcar stop is approximately 4 minutes walking distance from your hotel.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

You will be traveling during the heart of a European winter. Expect cold temperatures, likely between 23°F to 41°F, with potential for rain, snow, and icy conditions. Proper footwear and layered clothing are essential for your comfort and safety. Market visits are primarily outdoor experiences and subject to winter weather conditions.

In order to experience all that we have included on this tour, there will be 3 long travel days. You will depart in the morning and arrive at your hotel later in the afternoon, with designated times allocated to visits.

The journey from Regensburg to Freiburg covers 200 miles/322 kilometers and takes approximately 10 hours via coach. This travel time includes a couple of hours spent in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

Christmas markets are seasonal and typically operate from late November through December. Specific opening dates, operating hours, and market locations vary by city and are subject to change.

Due to annual fluctuations of the opening dates of some Christmas markets and tour scheduling, if one is unavailable on a specific departure, other regional Christmas markets may be substituted.

For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1371867>



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BOOKING NUMBER: 1371867

TOUR: Enchanting Christmas Markets of *Germany,
France and Switzerland*

DEPARTURE DATE: December 3, 2027

GROUP NAME: Missouri Retired Teachers Association

Available Options

Personalize your tour by adding an optional activity below. Our recommended options have been carefully chosen to help enhance your individual experience. Complete the provided Prepaid Options Form to reserve your options.

Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than 15 days prior to departure. Prices are subject to change.

Children under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Freiburg

Romantic Christmas Market at Thurn and Taxis Palace

\$79 USD

Experience the beauty and magic of the Romantic Christmas Market at Thurn and Taxis Castle in Regensburg. Begin with the guided tour of St. Emmeram Palace for insight into 500 years in the history of the House of Thurn and Taxis, taking in the medieval atmosphere in the cloister and the Rococo splendor of the palace. Then, take in the festive atmosphere of the enchanting Christmas market in the palace courtyard, gently lit by torches, lanterns and candles. Feel as though you've stepped back in time as you make your way through the stalls of festive wooden huts and explore artisan crafts and traditional Bavarian specialties. Experience one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Bavaria. *Duration: Approximately 4 hours.* Please note a minimum of 6 passengers is required. Transportation is included.