

EUROPE'S XMAS MARKETS

22 November to 6 December 2020 (14 nights)

SMALL GROUP ESCORTED BY GABRIELLA ERB

Discover the famed Xmas markets of Rhineland and beyond by rail - and explore the wonderful towns and cities that host them, many of them on the Mosel, Rhine and Neckar Rivers.

We stay for 12 of the nights at our pretty apartment house riverfront in the lively vintner town of Zell on the Mosel.

Featured towns and cities include Trier, Luxemburg, Cochem, Bernkastel-Kues, Mainz, Koblenz, Frankfurt and Marburg. Altogether 12 towns and cities with Xmas markets!

For rest and recuperation, we have 4 days when we take it easy, staying in Zell. On these days you can do as you please, walking, cycling, travelling about on public transport, enjoying spas...

Some excursion days and rest days may be swapped about subject to weather conditions and group consensus.

*** On excursion days, be prepared to stay out late! – Xmas markets are liveliest in the evenings – and we will be often having dinner away and coming back to Zell on late night trains. ***

We'll have time to take in shops, museums - and other attractions. There will be possibilities to take in performances/concerts/shows in the nearby cities of Luxembourg, Trier and Koblenz.

This small group escorted tour stays at our Zell-Mosel apartments for 12 nights and travels away for 2 days (4 - 6 Dec).

Maximum 9 travellers, minimum 4

\$2500 AUD twin-share or double (plus \$900 AUD single supplement)

Includes:

- Escorted by Gariella Erb, a resident of Australia's Sunshine Coast, yoga teacher and former ski instructor who speaks fluent German, French and English.
- Self-contained studio or one-bedroom apartments for 12 nights ('My Europe Base', Zell plus neighbouring apartments if needed)
- Hotels for 2 nights in Frankfurt
- All travel as per the schedule by rail, bus, one hour Rhine cruise and minibus/taxis
- Use of bicycles in and around Zell (with helmets, locks, lights etc)

Extra costs:

- Airfares
- Travel to Zell
- Meals
- Admissions

Airfares can be purchased through Arcadia Travel. Departing in November is low season and we may be able to get you return fares for around \$1200-1500 on leading airlines.



Trier Christmas Market

Date	Description	Markets
Sun 22	<p>Arrive Zell-Mosel between 1400 and 1800. By rail to Bullay from Frankfurt or FRA Airport via Koblenz. Alternatively arrive from Cologne, Paris, Luxembourg or Amsterdam by rail.</p> <p>Taxi 5km from Bullay to Zell (street address Brandenburg 46).</p> <p>Another option is to arrive from elsewhere in Europe to Hahn Airport (low-cost flights with Wizzair, Ryanair) and shuttle bus or taxi to Zell.</p>	
Mon 23	Easy day. Introduction to Zell and the region of Zellerland, walking and local buses.	
Tue 24	Day trip from Zell to Luxembourg (rail 95 mins each way), we'll have 7-8 hours there including the Xmas Market covering Place d'Armes, Place de la Constitution, Place de Paris and one can rent skates at the 'Knuedler on Ice' skating rink. <i>Try the Glühwain, Grillwurst, Mettwurst and Gromperekichelcher.</i>	Luxembourg
Wed 25	<p>Day trip to Koblenz (rail 45-60 mins each way) where we'll spend the day. Markets are held through 6 of the old town squares in Germany's 'oldest city'.</p> <p>Koblenz Tourism: "expects over 300,000 visitors from around the world to view its original attractions in a special atmosphere: an Advent calendar in the 24 dormers of the baroque town hall, a cappella choir singing Christmas songs from around the world - and historic stagecoach rides."</p> <p>Stroll the Mosel and Rhine riverfronts, this is where the rivers meet at 'Deutsches Eck'. Option to ride the cable car across the Rhine to the hilltop Marksburg Castle.</p>	Koblenz
Thu 26	Free day in Zell. Suggestion: Bad Bertrich historic spa resort, 15 km from Zell by local bus.	
Fri 27	<p>Day trip upstream along Mosel using local buses and trains to Bernkastel-Kues for the Weihnachtsmarkt in the picture-postcard town square.</p> <p>Stop off at Traben-Trarbach's Xmas Market on the way back, claiming: "the only subterranean Christmas market all about wine, indulgence and culture".</p> <p>And Traben-Trarbach is the home of legendary Blue Nun wine!</p>	Bernkastel-Kues, Traben-Trarbach
Sat 28	<p>Travel by local buses to Cochem, following the Mosel downstream.</p> <p>In Cochem we can visit the Xmas markets and Reichsburg Castle.</p> <p>See Stuben Monastery ruins, the steep Calmont vineyards and village of Beilstein on the way.</p>	Cochem
Sun 29	Day trip by rail to Trier city (60 mins each way). Visit the 40 th edition of the Trierer Weihnachtsmarkt, also the grand Roman ruins, cathedral and basilica.	Trier
Mon 30	Free day in Zell. Suggestion: walks or explore the Hunsrück region (south of the Mosel) by local buses.	
Tue 01	<p>Rhine Gorges. Rail to Rudesheim via Koblenz and along the Rhine Gorge east bank (0930-1150, 140 min).</p> <p>The Xmas market is set along the popular Drosselgasse Lane.</p> <p>Take the car and pedestrian ferry across the Rhine to Bingen.</p> <p>Rail to St Goar (1439-1500, 21 min).</p> <p>Cruise boat from St. Goar to Boppard to (1540-1640, 60 min).</p> <p>On the way back we could stop for dinner in either Koblenz or with a short side trip by rail, the historic spa resort town of Bad Ems.</p>	Rudesheim
Wed 02	Today we'll travel back to Luxembourg and tour some of the pretty countryside on a pass ticket. But Luxembourg is making all public transport free across the nation from March 2020!	
Thu 03	Free day in Zell. Suggestion: Zell Erlbnisbad pool and spa, walks or explore the Eifel region (north of the Mosel) by local buses.	
Fri 04	<p>Farewell Zell. Rail to Koblenz (47 min) then Mainz (64 min)</p> <p>Stroll Mainz city centre and Christmas Market</p> <p>Train into Frankfurt (30-40 min), drop bags at Metro Boutique Hotel 4* near station</p> <p>Stroll Frankfurt City and Christmas Market</p>	Mainz Frankfurt
Sat 05	<p>Day trip to Geissen (44 min) and Marburg (14 min), historic regional towns both with Christmas Markets.</p> <p>The Curious Creature site describes Marburg's as #1 on a list of 'under-rated' Christmas markets.</p> <p>https://www.thecuriouscreature.com/2016/12/08/underrated-christmas-markets-in-germany/</p> <p>Return to Frankfurt. Possibly a show tonight.</p>	Geissen Marburg
Sun 06	Farewell from Frankfurt	

RAIL & BUS INFORMATION

The Mosel Line opened in the 1870s and was one of the first lines between Germany and France. Before the advent of high-speed rail, the line long carried international long-distance trains such as Berlin-Paris and Hamburg-Paris. It also carried Big Bertha guns to the Western Front in WW1.

Nowadays the line is used by regional trains between Koblenz, Trier and Luxembourg or Saarbrücken (and freight).

Trains from our local station Bullay are twice an hour in either direction and can zip us to Trier in as little as 39 min or Koblenz in 47 min. Buses depart Zell 0843 or 0903 and take 10 min to Bullay. Last buses back depart 2117, 2217 and 2317 (Mon-Sat). For later returns and on Sunday nights we will book taxis.

All rail trips east we will aim to catch the 0909 train towards Koblenz (47 min) or 0932 (64 min). Last train back departs Koblenz 2319.

All rail trips west we will aim to catch the 0926 train towards Trier (53 min). Next is 0951 (39 min) to Trier and on to Saarbrücken (+ 68 min) or change to Luxembourg (+ 48 min). Last train back departs Trier 2316.

By the way if we were to drive it would take a lot longer - both cities are near 100 km from Zell along the river.

Cochem-Zell rail and bus lines:

<https://www.vrminfo.de/en/timetable/pis-information/timetable-booklets/county-of-cochem-zell/>