

Christmas Markets on the Danube

Sail the Danube aboard the elegant *Evolve* and experience the heart of Europe at its most enchanting—when Christmas markets glow in town squares and centuries-old holiday traditions come to life. From Budapest's grand boulevards to Bratislava's intimate lanes and Vienna's imperial courtyards, discover the region's unique expressions of the season. Wander among artisans and carolers, savor local delicacies, and explore historical abbeys and castles in rare tranquility. Aboard *Evolve*, festive dining and music create the perfect complement to the magic ashore—a celebration of the season as it has been cherished for generations along the storied Danube.

From
$ 5,738 / per person
Does not include flights

DATES Dec	**DURATION** 8 Days
SHIPS *Evolve*	
STARTS AT Budapest, Hungary →	**ENDS AT** Passau, Germany

Minimum Age Requirement: Any children booked on *Evolve* voyages must be at least 1 year old at time of embarkation.

Highlights

- Celebrate the most magical season along the Danube, exploring the festive Christmas markets of Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna and beyond
- Enjoy exclusive access, from a private orchestral performance in Bratislava to an after-hours tour of Melk Abbey and a private visit to the medieval Clam Castle
- Savor the flavors of the holidays with specially curated seasonal menus on board and festive meals ashore that reflect each region's culinary traditions
- Taste the terroir of the Wachau Valley during a guided visit to Domäne Wachau, where hundreds of small vineyards unite to produce Austria's most distinctive wines








CZECHIA
Český Krumlov
Passau
Linz
Grein
Dürnstein
Vienna
Bratislava
SLOVAKIA
Salzburg
AUSTRIA
Budapest
HUNGARY
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
mapbox
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Day by day

■ DAY 1

Budapest, Hungary / Embark Ship

Arrive in Budapest and embark *Evolve*. Enjoy lunch on board, then take some time to get acquainted with this stunning ship, relaxing with a drink on the top deck, indulging in a soothing spa treatment or savoring a cappuccino as you browse the library. Settle into your stateroom later this afternoon, then enjoy dinner on board.

Meals included: lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 2

Budapest

Begin your day with a guided tour of Budapest's beloved Christmas markets. Wander the vibrant stalls of Vörösmarty Square, St. Stephen's Basilica and Andrássy Avenue, each brimming with handcrafted gifts, seasonal treats and holiday cheer. Conclude your stroll at the Budapest Central Market Hall, the largest and oldest indoor market in the city, followed by an authentic Hungarian lunch. This evening, gather with your fellow travelers to trim the ship tree, sing carols and celebrate the beginning of your journey with a welcome reception and dinner.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Bratislava, Slovak Republic

The Christmas markets of Bratislava are a hidden gem—intimate, authentic and delightfully off the beaten path compared to their more well-known counterparts. Steeped in local tradition, these markets showcase the best of Slovak craftsmanship, cuisine and culture. Browse stalls brimming with handmade gifts and folk art, and savor seasonal specialties such as *lokše*, or potato pancakes, and *medovina,* honey wine—all amid the warm, festive spirit of this charming riverside capital.

This afternoon, enjoy an unforgettable private chamber concert in one of Bratislava's most historical venues—either the elegant Reduta Hall or the opulent Golden Salon of Grassalkovich Palace. The renowned Cappella Istropolitana orchestra will perform classical masterpieces by Mozart and Haydn in one of these intimate, atmospheric settings. Return to *Evolve* for an elegant Slovak dinner.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Vienna, Austria

Vienna transforms into a glittering city of lights during the holidays. The Christmas markets here are among the most enchanting in Europe, offering a magical blend of imperial charm, festive spirit and cultural richness. The city hosts over 20 markets, each with its own character—from grand palace courtyards to cozy neighborhood squares. Rathausplatz, or Christkindlmarkt, is the largest and most iconic, set in front of the city hall.

This afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of Schönbrunn Palace or the Albertina Museum. One of the largest palaces in Europe, Schönbrunn was the main summer residence of the powerful Habsburg dynasty for over 300 years and a hub of courtly life. At the Albertina Museum, discover a unique blend of imperial history and world-class art from masters like Raphael, da Vinci, Picasso and Monet.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Dürnstein / Melk Abby

Domäne Wachau is one of Austria's most esteemed and forward-thinking wine estates, nestled in the heart of the picturesque Wachau Valley. From the charming town of Dürnstein, enjoy a guided visit to the winery and discover how it thrives as a modern cooperative, bringing together hundreds of small-scale growers under a unified commitment to excellence and sustainability. Each vigneron meticulously tends to tiny vineyard parcels, yielding organic vintages celebrated for their exceptional quality and character.

Later, experience the grandeur of Melk Abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage site, during an after-hours visit. Wander through the Baroque Library, Marble Hall, Imperial Staircase and the awe-inspiring Abbey Church, all without the usual crowds. Weather permitting, stroll through the Abbey Park, home to 250-year-old linden trees and a Baroque garden pavilion adorned with frescoes by Johann Baptist Wenzel Bergl.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

Grein / Linz

Take a private tour of Clam Castle, a majestic medieval fortress rich in Austrian history that overlooks the Danube Valley. Gain rare access to private areas, including the Renaissance arcaded courtyard, the Gothic chapel with Baroque flourishes, the armory and select residential apartments that have been lived in since 1454. Hear captivating stories of the castle's role in Austrian history, including how it was defended during the Thirty Years' War.

Spend the late afternoon exploring Linz and its Christmas markets, located in the city's historic main square, Hauptplatz—one of the largest enclosed squares in Europe. The market features over 150 beautifully decorated stalls, each crowned with a glittering pyramid or tree that adds to the fairytale atmosphere.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Linz / Salzburg / Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

Today, choose between exploring two of Europe's most fascinating cities: Salzburg and Český Krumlov. In Salzburg, you'll discover the city's holiday spirit amid the artisan booths of its renowned Christmas market, surrounded by the majestic Alps. Enjoy lunch at a traditional Austrian restaurant, savoring regional specialties in a cozy setting.

Alternatively, venture to Český Krumlov, a UNESCO-listed town known for its medieval architecture and storybook charm. During the holiday season, its cobbled streets are adorned with festive lights and market stalls, creating a magical atmosphere. Explore the town and savor a traditional lunch at a local restaurant.

As the day winds down, raise a glass at a farewell cocktail reception, then enjoy a festive dinner—a final celebration of your journey through the heart of Europe.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 8

Passau, Germany / Disembark Ship

After breakfast on board, disembark in Passau.

Meals included: breakfast

Westbound

Budapest, Hungary → Passau, Germany

2027 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Evolve*

09 Dec				

2028 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Evolve*

09 Dec				

Alternative Routes

Visit Expeditions.com for more information.

2027 Departure Dates

02 Dec, 16 Dec

2028 Departure Dates

02 Dec, 16 Dec



Evolve

GUESTS	CABINS
126	60

Discover Europe aboard an expertly crafted river ship rooted in sustainable design

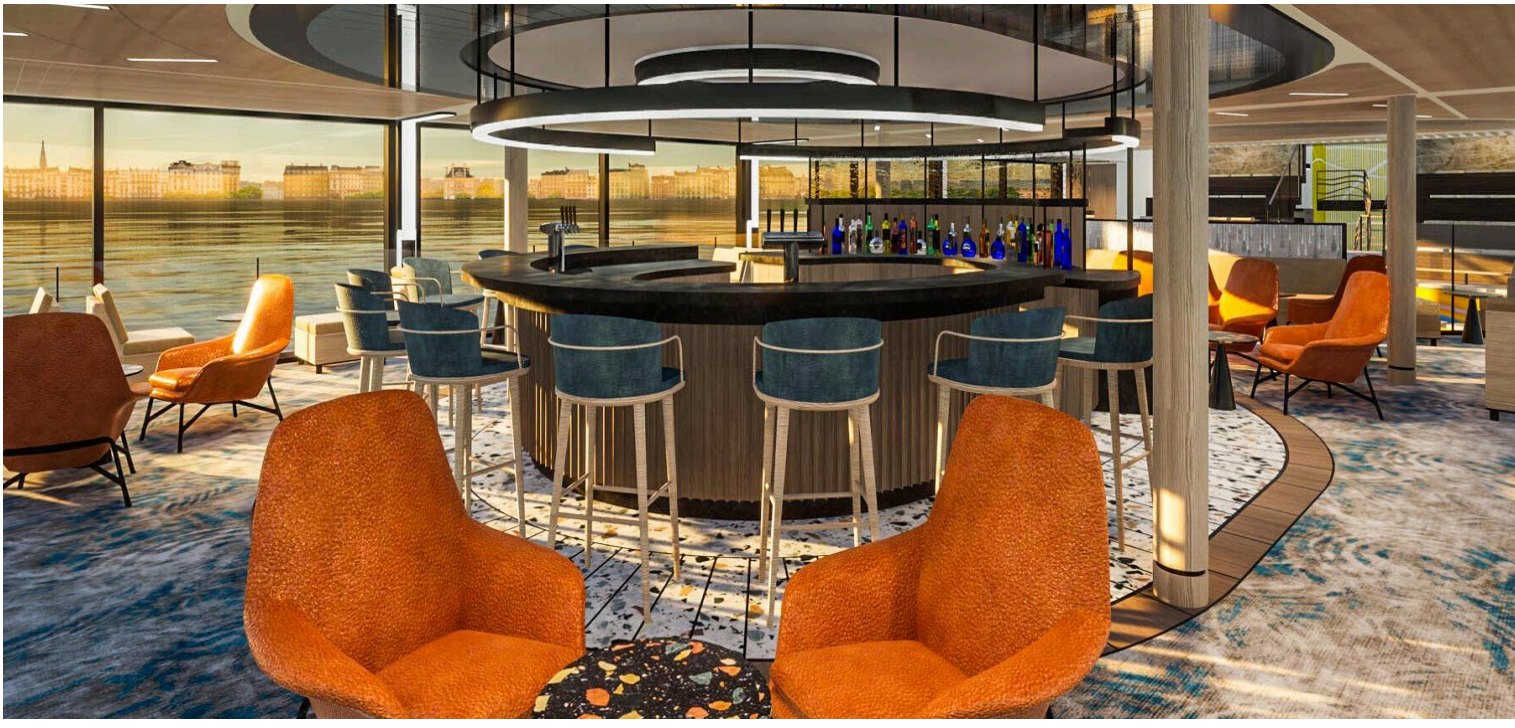
Constructed in 2026, *Evolve* is a brand-new, state-of-the-art European river ship joining our growing collection of bespoke charter vessels. With cutting-edge technology, luxurious amenities and wrap-around picture windows, this sleek 120-guest ship is uniquely designed to sail through the heart of storied destinations along the Danube, including Germany, Austria, the Slovak Republic and beyond. Sustainability and regional connection are at her core, creating a refined and meaningful experience that elevates every journey.

Setting sail in 2026, *Evolve* features sixty 210 square-foot elegant and spacious staterooms (convertible to 420 square-foot suites), each one well-appointed with two large wardrobe closets, smart glass spa shower and full-width floor-to-ceiling windows to take in the charming riverside towns and pastoral landscapes.

With an array of dynamic public venues, there is plenty of space to relax, dine, mingle with your fellow travelers, and connect more deeply with your destination through expert presentations and onboard experiences like wine tastings and musical performances. This contemporary river ship includes an expansive wellness area, the Forum, which is a two-story amphitheater, a restaurant and bistro, as well as a lively lounge with a well-stocked bar.

Every detail is thoughtfully designed—from carefully sourced build materials and green technology that minimizes food waste to environmentally friendly bath and bedding products.





Cabin Categories

Category C1

MAIN DECK **#C201-C212, C214-C229, C231, C233**

These spacious 210-square-foot staterooms feature a sash balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows; two single beds that convert to a king; bedside table; writing desk with chair; mini fridge; two closets; and an ensuite bathroom with a glass-walled shower.



Category C2

UPPER DECK **#C301-C312, C314-C329, C331, C333**

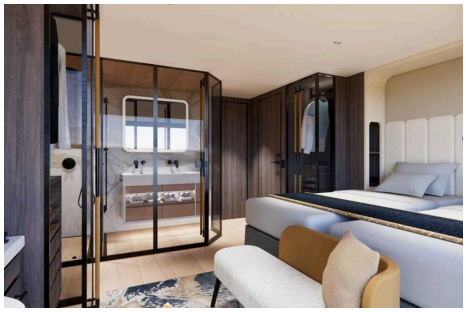
These spacious 210-square-foot staterooms feature a sash balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows; two single beds that convert to a king; bedside table; writing desk with chair; mini fridge; two closets; and an ensuite bathroom with a glass-walled shower.



Category S1

MAIN DECK **#S201-S212, S214, S215, S217**

Spacious 420-square-foot S1 suites are created by combining two staterooms, offering an expansive accommodation with generous living space. Suites feature a sash window balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows; two single beds that convert to a king; bedside table; writing desk with chair; mini fridge; four closets; and an ensuite bathroom with a glass-walled shower.



Category S2

UPPER DECK **#S301-S312, S314, S315, S317**

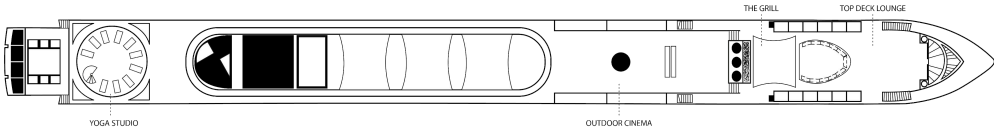
Spacious 420-square-foot S2 suites are created by combining two staterooms, offering an expansive accommodation with generous living space. Suites feature a sash window balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows; two single beds that convert to a king; bedside table; writing desk with chair; mini fridge; four closets; and an ensuite bathroom with a glass-walled shower.



Deck Plans

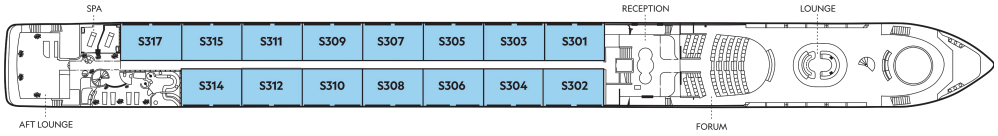
Stateroom and suite plans show different configurations of the same Main and Upper Decks. Select staterooms can be combined to create larger suites, and accommodations may include a combination of both configurations.

Sun Deck



Upper Deck - Suites

Category S2



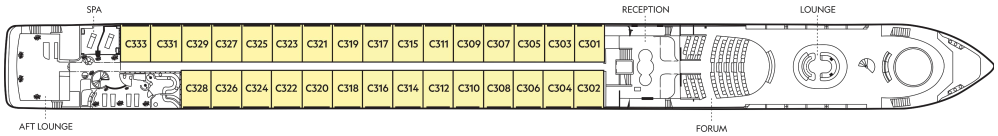
Main Deck - Suites

Category S1



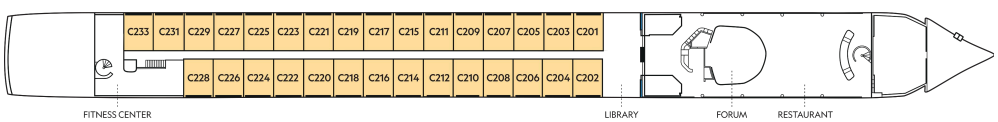
Upper Deck - Staterooms

Category C2



Main Deck - Staterooms

Category C1



Ship Amenities

Tools for Exploration

A fleet of bikes is available for those who want to enjoy some independent exploration, riding along the canals of Amsterdam or through the French countryside.

Public Spaces

An expansive top deck houses fitness zones, a lounge area and a grill and bar. From dinners to cocktail hours to movie nights, memorable al fresco events will cap off busy days spent exploring ashore.

In Good Company

Explore in the company of veteran Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic expedition staff, a veteran Expedition Leader, Certified Photo Instructor, as well as Historian, Cultural, Photo and Destination Experts.



Special Offers

10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non- refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/

CANCELLATION POLICY

Review our cancellation policy: https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/