



**SEE** YOU THERE

April 2023



I know it is only April but... with the high travel demand, it is time (almost past due) you start organising your festive plans. Here are some fun ideas to inspire.

When I think of the holidays, a few things come to mind. Hallmark holiday movies, hot chocolate and Christmas Markets.



A really special way to savor these unique Christmas Markets is with a River Cruise through Europe. You will experience the festive traditions of fascinating destinations and feel the magic of the holidays in cities illuminated with millions of twinkling lights. Sailing aboard the most elegantly decorated ships on the river, you will enjoy nostalgic traditions as well as an elegant holiday feast on every Christmas Markets departure - with all the trimmings!

**Cruise from Nuremberg to Budapest:**

Travel back through centuries as you walk along cobblestone streets through grand cities and historic towns bedecked with twinkling Christmas trees and lined with wooden huts gleaming with handcrafted treasures. Iconic Christmas markets are plentiful and are on full display for your pleasure. Nuremberg's festive Christkindlesmarkt, the largest and oldest Christmas market in Germany; Regensburg's Christmas market at Thurn and Taxis Castle, considered one of Bavaria's most beautiful and romantic; Vienna with its impressive Christmas markets that seem to majestically appear around every corner; and Budapest's Vörösmarty Square, where products sold in the market are traditionally handmade are yours to explore. Sparkling lights; the festive sounds of children dressed as angels singing carols; enticing smells of hot-mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, sausages and sweet treats of every kind; and timeless wonders are a feast for all your senses.

*An example Itinerary that is always customizable with options for your preferences.*

DAY 1 Nuremberg  
EMBARKATION

DAY 2 Nuremberg  
City Tour with Christmas Markets  
OR Franconian Specialties Tasting  
Nuremberg Christmas market  
Cruise Main-Danube Canal

DAY 3 Regensburg  
UNESCO City tour and Christmas Market  
OR Tastes of Bavaria  
OR Walhalla bike tour  
Thurn & Taxis Christmas markets

DAY 4 Passau  
"City of Three Rivers" walking tour and Christmas Market  
OR River Inn Bike Tour  
OR Full-day Salzburg excursion with Christmas Markets, including Hellbrunn Palace

DAY 5 Melk  
Benedictine Abbey tour  
OR Danube bike tour  
Wachau Valley  
UNESCO scenic cruising  
Vienna  
Town Hall Christmas Markets

DAY 6 Vienna  
"Imperial Vienna" tour with Maria-Theresien-Platz Christmas Markets  
OR Vienna City Tour by Bike  
Schönbrunn illuminated Christmas markets



DAY 7 Budapest  
"Queen of the Danube" tour and  
Vörösmarty Square Christmas  
market  
OR Castle hike

DAY 8 Budapest  
DISEMBARKATION

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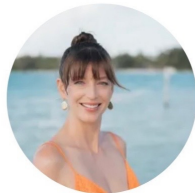
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**Melissa James**

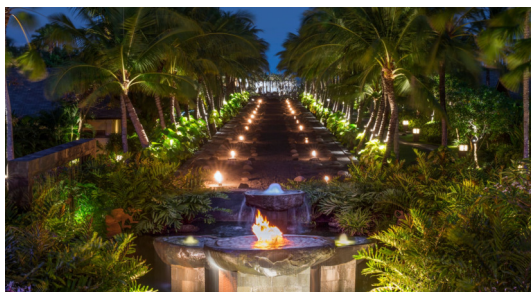
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"I am not a booking agent, I am a trusted partner working with my clients to make it special and take tremendous pride in this."

I'm so excited to announce that I've been named one of Condé Nast Traveler's Top Travel Specialists! I'm truly honored to be part of such an amazing group of travel professionals.

Read more on the Conde Nast website:

<https://www.cntraveler.com/contributor/melissa-james>



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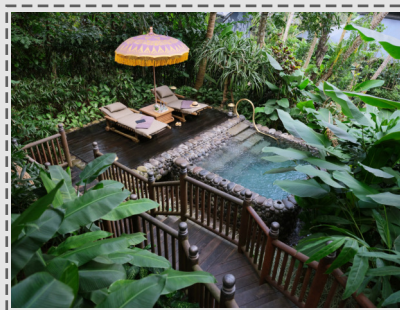


**Spotlight on...  
Bali**

The staggering beauty of Bali's sun drenched beachfront is only rivaled by the warmth of its people and the palpable spirituality of its sacred monuments. More than a sun and surf destination, Bali invites guests to explore its historic temples, join in a traditional dance and share a laugh in a local village. At the heart of the Indonesian archipelago, the aptly named Island of the Gods has long served as the region's cultural centre. A vibrant island nation, Bali's spiritual atmosphere, dramatic landscapes and community ethos will ensure you have memories to last a lifetime.

There are various accommodation styles to choose from and I am going to spotlight a couple of fun options. All very different so it is important to get the right match to suit your needs... cue your travel advisor steps in here :)

**Capella Ubud** - Their refined camp is constructed in between all of the trees and hidden from afar, allows you to enjoy the essence of Bali's untouched natural surroundings in personalized and stylish comfort.



Taking place in Buahan, one of Bali's most untapped enclaves, our resort and its no-walls, no-doors villas concept offers guests a unique "Naked Experience" in communion with nature. Welcome to **Banyan Tree Escape**.

The **St. Regis Bali Resort** is nestled on the serene and spectacular Nusa Dua beach with its golden sands stretching on seemingly endlessly. The resort reflects a blending of art and nature with lifestyle and living. It features the use of rich imported fabrics with indigenous materials and cultural artifacts which runs through all the suites, villas and residences.

The **Bulgari Resort** has incredible views of the Indian Ocean thanks to its magnificent position 150 meters over the sea. Combining the breathtaking beauty of unspoiled nature with a sophisticated contemporary design born from the encounter between traditional Balinese forms and high Italian style. Having stayed at a Bulgari hotel personally, I can attest to the unparalleled experience.



**What to do? No newsletter is long enough to answer this question but I will try share a snippet example.**

Experience a Balinese blessing at a temple compound in Sala village. Change into a traditional sarong before the ceremony, which consists of a short meditation session in the temple, followed by ritual immersion in a waterfall, a spring water fountain and a holy pool. At the end of the ritual, take a seat on the bale beside the lotus altar and soak up the peace and serenity while listening to the chanting of a female priest. Enjoy a Balinese vegetarian lunch in the temple's pavilion. Pass through the idyllic rice terraces of Tampak Siring and stop by to visit Gunung Kawi, a temple of the 11th-century Udayana Dynasty. The temple complex comprises of 10 rock-cut candi (shrines) carved into the sheer cliff face. These monuments are believed to be dedicated to King Anak Wungsu and his favorite queens. Stop by Tegalalang village, a picturesque place surrounded by rice fields and rainforests where many Balinese artists live. Watch the Kecak dance at Tanah Gajah. The captivating performance involves a troupe of boys and men from the local community who chant the "cak-cak" sound in various rhythms and tones while performing a traditional dance.

Visit the home of a spiritual healer in the heart of Bali's rice-paddy-filled villages. Join him for a morning walk through his peaceful village to learn about the agricultural lifestyle as well as the subak irrigation system, which was developed through generations of Indonesian rice farmers. Stop at a local house in the village, where you can join the family in the kitchen and help prepare lunch. Head out into the backyard to see the family's organic garden and pick some fresh vegetables and spices for your meal. Learn how to cook a range of Balinese dishes over a traditional wood-fired oven while your host shares some local insights about food and Balinese culture. Enjoy your delicious self-made meal in the Balinese home. Continue to the Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary, featuring groups of cheeky, indigenous macaques, three ancient Hindu temples and jungle-covered pathways lined with mysterious statues.

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