

# BAY AREA SNOW SPORTS COUNCIL



A member of the Far West Ski Association  
and the National Ski Council Federation,  
representing direct members and  
19 ski and snowboard clubs

February, 2026

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### **BAC Meetings:**

Feb 9 — 6:30 General meeting—  
8pm Board meeting — Zoom  
only

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Paul Vlasveld  
President

The start of the ski season has not been great. Hopefully we will start getting additional snow this month. BAC is getting ready to go to Sun Peaks this month.

Reminder – Now that ski season is here, BAC wants to make sure that you get **to, and from, the mountain safely with essential driving tips presented by BAC Past-President Dennis Hefley.**

Check it out at our website – Survive the Drive.

### General meeting

**February 09, 2026** – BAC General Meeting 6:30 pm; BAC Board meeting 8:00 pm – Zoom Only

At the BAC General Meeting on February 9, 2026, we will accept any nominations for the Office of President. We will then vote for the next President for the term starting June 1. We did not have a quorum at the January meeting.

During our February 9, 2026, BAC General Council Meeting we open nominations for all voted in Board of Director positions. As with the position of BAC President, all voted in BAC BOD Offices are a one (1) year term with No Term Limit. We hope all our current officers are interested in continuing, but we encourage YOU to think about what office you'd either like to chair or become a committee member of. Yes, we need people to assist us with each office!

At our February meeting we will discuss the various Club and Personal Recognition Awards available at the upcoming Far West Ski Associations 92nd Annual Convention. The event takes place June 11-14, 2026, at the **Mission Valley Marriott in San Diego, Ca.**

The entry deadline for all awards is March 17, 2025. Here is the link to the awards program:

[https://www.fwsa.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=623165&module\\_id=334829](https://www.fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=334829)

Club Reps,

1. FWSA membership cards – Contact the membership Chair, Benelia Terry.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jan 24-31, 2027 – FWSA Ski Week – Big Sky, Montana

Far West Skier Guide – Can be downloaded at the following link -- [https://fwsa.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=623165&module\\_id=351581](https://fwsa.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=351581)

## **BAC Volunteer of the Year**

It is not too early to start thinking about who you would like to recognize for your club and to represent BAC as the Volunteer of the Year. These are those club members who tirelessly give of themselves to your club. These are those members that keep your club vibrant and exciting. More information will be coming in February. We will honor the club Volunteer of the Year March 22 at BJ's in San Mateo. Stay tuned for more details coming in Feb.

There will be some changes coming in February to help make it easier for a club to enter the Volunteer of the Year. Here is the link to the Volunteer of the Year entry information.

For the BAC winner who attends the convention, FWSA and BAC will reward the winners for 2 nights lodging at the SkiCon in addition to BAC rewarding the winners with the entry fee to the convention. <http://www.fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-mwofy.html>

## **Travel**

Do not forget to start planning your next travel trip by signing up for one of the following fantastic Bay Snow Sports Council (BAC) trips:

Nov 30 – Dec 8, 2026 -- BAC Christmas Markets on the Danube '26

FWSA also has several trips including the following:

Feb 22-27, 2026 – FWSA Mini Ski week – Schweitzer Mtn, Idaho

Sep 26-Oct 3, 2026 – FWSA Cayman Brac Dive Trip

## **Upcoming events**

FWSA SkiCon – San Diego, Ca – June 11-14, 2026. This should be an exciting and fun convention. There will be a lot of optional activities. The registration information will be updated.

[https://www.fwsa.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=623165&module\\_id=749612](https://www.fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=749612)

## **Racing**

The racing season has started with the first race on Jan 11. The next races will be Feb 8 at Sugar Bowl. Remember, racing is for everyone from beginner to expert. All ages are welcome. Racing is a great way to meet other club members.

If you are interested in racing check the Open league and Singles league websites and your club racing team. Registration starts Jan 1.

Open league -- <https://sites.google.com/site/openleaguerracing/home>

Race schedule -- <https://sites.google.com/site/openleaguerracing/race-schedule>. The schedule is for both Open and Singles leagues.

Singles league -- <http://slracing.org/index.html>

As always, I would like to thank all the volunteers and board members that contribute to the continuing success of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC). Please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. Remember Bay Area Council of Ski Clubs (BAC) is your Council. Now the mantra is more Snow.

Paul Vlasveld  
Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC) President



# Calendar of Activities

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p>22-27 BAC Mini Ski Week to Sun Peaks Resort, B.C., Canada</p> <p>22-27 FWSA Mini Ski Week 10, Schweitzer Mtn., ID</p> <p>28-3/7 FWSA Int'l Ski Week At Chamonix, France</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MARCH</b></p> <p>(no events posted)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL</b></p> <p>(no events posted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THINGS TO COME</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>For more info/details go to <a href="http://skibac.org">skibac.org</a> [Calendar of Events]</b></p> <p>9/26-10/3 FWSA Dive Trip, Cayman Islands</p> <p>11/30-12/8 BAC Christmas Markets Along the Danube</p>
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## DIRECTOR REPORTS

### BAC Club President and Representative Meeting

Zoom meeting  
January 12, 2026



Karen Davis  
BAC Secretary

President **Paul Vlasveld** called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance on Zoom. Four clubs were represented by a club president and/or club BAC Rep; total seven clubs represented. A quorum of 7 club president/club reps was NOT established.

**Introductions** were made all around.

**Secretary: Karen Davis** – No report and no quorum at this meeting.

**BAC Officer Election:** BAC President nominations were opened in November and will be opened again at the February 9 BAC general meeting with BAC President election at the February 9, 2026 meeting. Nominations will be opened for BAC Officers at the February 9 meeting with election of BAC Officers at the April 13, 2026 general meeting.

**Public Affairs: Harry Davis** – All BAC member club presidents and honorees with partner will be invited to attend the annual BAC March luncheon on **March 22 at BJs** in San Mateo to honor all volunteers. **All names should be sent to Harry by March 1.** An Apres Volunteer of the Year has been named and info sent to that person. The FWSA website has been updated with all 2026 awards and Vol-

unteer of the Year application information. The Volunteer application (for all Volunteers of Year who wish to continue through the BAC process) is an online questionnaire on the FWSA website. BE SURE to save the entry as a pdf and forward that document to Harry. Everyone is encouraged to check the FWSA website for all FWSA awards and variety of awards for individuals and/or clubs and Councils.

### FWSA 93rd Convention June 11-14, 2026 at Mission Valley Marriott, San Diego CA

Hosted by San Diego Council. (The Convention has been renamed **SkiCon.**) Check the FWSA website for information about all FWSA awards. May 1 is the deadline to book one of the room block rooms. Paul is asking for entries to include in his annual Charity video which highlights member clubs and charities. Rusty Bindings has sent an entry to Paul.

**Racing:** The first race at Alpine has been completed with 64 racers and race results are already posted. Karen Albrecht and Paul both noted there were a number of new racers. The schedule is in the BAC newsletter and also available at the website [www.olrc.org](http://www.olrc.org) (or through [skibac.org](http://skibac.org)). Check the website for all updates. The FWRA Championships will be on March 20 at Alpine Meadows.

**Treasurer: Kristin Thornquist** – No report

**Travel: Karen Albrecht** -  
- **FWSA 2026 Ski Week** – FWSA Ski Week to **Crested Butte CO** is Jan 24-31, 2026. BAC has 28 participants in total. Cathy Wilson is the on-site trip leader.

## DIRECTOR REPORTS

### **Travel: Karen Albrecht -**

- **FWSA 2026 Ski Week** – FWSA Ski Week to **Crested Butte CO** is Jan 24-31, 2026. BAC has 28 participants in total. Cathy Wilson is the on-site trip leader.

- **FWSA Ski Week 2027** will be to Big Sky, Montana on January 24-30, 2027. Big Sky is on the IKON pass. Karen attended the site visit and noted that the Huntley and Summit hotels will be used. There are a few condos available. Karen is waiting on all pricing information. Big Sky has installed a new gondola and has installed a new tram to the top of Lone Peak and the glass-enclosed visitor center at the top. The Huntley has been remodeled.

- **BAC Mini Ski trip** – BAC is going to **Sun Peaks** in Canada February 22-27, 2026. This trip is sold out with a waiting list. Sun Peaks is on the IKON pass. Karen Albrecht is now the trip leader.

- **BAC Grand Circle Cruise Line** – BAC's Christmas Market Danube River Cruise trip will be Nov 30-Dec 8, 2026. The cruise will be on the Danube to Vienna and up to Nuremberg. BAC will have a guide and bus for transportation to tour each town during the day. The cruise is inclusive, for 9 days, with 3 sit-down meals daily and wine and beer included. Group air with the tour group is available through Grand Circle Cruise Lines. Mention the code on the flyer when booking. Contact Gail Burns for information.

- **FWSA** is planning the **2026 Mini-Ski Week** to be to **Schweitzer Mountain, Idaho**, February 22-27, 2026 with Sports America.

- **FWSA 2026 International Ski Week** will be in **Chamonix, France**, Feb 26-March 7, 2026 with an extension to Paris and Normandy from March 7-13.

- **FWSA** is planning a trip to **Alyeska, Alaska** in February or early March, 2027.

**BAC** – Karen is arranging a contract for a **BAC 2027 Bike and Barge trip**.

**BAC** is discussing a small group trip (balancing nature and adventure) to **Costa Rica** in 2027.

**BAC Travelers** – Travel insurance is recommended.

### **Membership: Benelia Terry –**

Benelia has received payment and the renewal form from Snowglers and forwarded that check to Kristin. Payment from the Olympic club has not yet been received. Benelia updated the Direct Membership form for the BAC website.

### **Industry Liaison: Brad Hart –**

#### **Lake Tahoe Area Terrain Open -**

Boreal 100% Heavenly 97% Palisades 89%

Sierra-at-Tahoe 94%

Sugar Bowl 97% Tahoe Donner 100% Diamond Peak about 100%

### **PREMIUM CLUBS at different resorts -**

#### **Apex Club at Palisades**

200 members; \$12,000; Daily Ticket 33 sold per day; \$800-1200 high for peak season

Benefits include: Premium parking near kid ski school; Concierge service

Two private lounges - Plaza Bar in Olympic House & Oro Bar in the former ski patrol office at Gold Coast

Priority Lift Lines - Red Dog, The Funitel, Siberia, Shirley Lake, Summit, Roundhouse, Sherwood, Treeline Corque

#### **Mammoth**

Black Pass(2010) \$11,000 individuals \$18,000 families

Benefits include Exclusive events; Premium parking; Front-of-line ski passes

Members-only fine dining on the mountain

#### **Northstar California Resort**

##### **Clubhouse, formerly the Premium Club(2010)**

\$3700 for individuals; \$4700 for family of four; \$150 for day pass

Benefits include:

Similar benefits as Apex and Black Club

Private access to Big Springs Gondola

#### **Sierra-at-Tahoe**

Fast Pass(2006); \$359 upgrade

Benefits include: Skip the line at three of their high-speed lifts

#### **Crystal Mountain WA**

##### **Crystal Mountain Reserve Pass**

\$1499 for individual on top of regular pass; \$199 per day

Benefits include: Express lanes on all high-speed lifts on weekends and holidays

Petition called "Stop the Crystal Reserve Pass at Crystal Mountain" has 5,000 signatures

#### **Vail Mountain Resort**

##### **Vail Mountain Club(2008)**

\$275,000 full membership; \$150,000 without heated underground parking

Benefits include:

Private clubhouse; Slope-side ski valet; Complimentary breakfast and lunch;

Spa and fitness center; First and last tracks ski events

## DIRECTOR REPORTS

### **IKON Resorts Requiring Reservations**

- [Jackson Hole, WY](#)
- [Aspen / Snowmass, CO](#)
- [Summit at Snoqualmie / Alpentel, WA](#)
- [Loon, NH](#)
- [Deer Valley, UT](#)

### **Telluride Ski Patrol Ratifies New Contract, Ends Strike**

Telluride Ski Resort will open Lift 4 this Saturday, January 10th, with further terrain set to open in the near future.

### **Communications: Dennie Warren –**

BAC clubs are invited to send info and photos about club activities. Please identify photo subjects as well as the photographer.

### **Club Activities:**

**RUSTY BINDINGS** – The month of January has two mix and mingle get-togethers scheduled, a movie, three football watch parties, and a buffet lunch was held going into the new year.

**FIRE AND ICE** – Members are gearing up for the NBS Western Region's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Urban Winterfest SkiUnion 2026 to be held at Heavenly Valley.

**SNOWCHASERS** – The race team enjoyed the first race of the season. Members meet twice monthly at Denny's with about 10-12 members in attendance.

**CASTRO VALLEY** – Monthly general and Board meetings are held. Members plan travel excursions during the year.

**APRES** – The club members are planning an IKON Pass weekend at the lodge on January 23-25.

**SUNBURST** – Brad reported that the club president has recovered and Brad enjoyed a ski day with him and both wives. A new Sunburst member had a great race this weekend. Brad enjoys the Indy Pass which has added an open Leki date in Finland.

**INSKIERS** – Members met the first Tuesday in January with 35 members including new members. The cabin opened this weekend at the beginning of a four-month lease. Six members are going to Japan with Cleveland Metro Ski Club and Four Seasons Travel. Members are working to set up a Second Harvest event date. Inskiers had ten or eleven members at the weekend race which included four Snow Drifters and one or more Rusty Bindings members. The club has dining and other events.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Speakers and/or presentations at General Meetings?

Discussion about getting club people other than Board members more involved. Clubs could cross promote events with other nearby clubs.

### **BAC Meetings -**

**February 9, 2026 – [BAC General meeting 6:30 pm; BAC Board meeting 8:00 pm](#), Zoom**

**March 9, 2026 – BAC General meeting 6:30 pm; BAC Board meeting 8:00 pm, Zoom**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Davis, Secretary



Karen Albrecht  
BAC Travel

### **Travel Time: February 2026**

**CRESTED BUTTE – Another FW Ski Week has concluded. A big Thank You to Cathy Wilson for being the on-site trip leader!**

**BAC has 26 participants. From all reports, the BAC Council dinner was quite successful.**

**Next FW Ski Week is at Big Sky, Montana – January 23-30, 2027 – mark your calendars!**

### **SUN PEAKS**

**2026 BAC Mini Ski Week to Sun Peaks, B.C. Canada from February 22-27, 2026 IS SOLD OUT!**

### **SCHWEITZER - FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION MINI SKI TRIP - February 22-27, 2026**

Schweitzer Resort is in North Idaho and is a great destination for our FWSA Mini Ski trip. It has 2,900 acres of lift-served terrain, 92 trails, open bowls, chutes, groomers, and tree skiing. We will be staying at Selkirk Lodge and Humbird Hotel, both ski-in/ski-out properties. **Information & Signup: <http://fwsamini26SW.sat.tours>**

### **CHAMONIX, FRANCE**

**FWSA 2026 Int'l Ski Trip to Chamonix, France - February 28 – March 7, 2026**

Located in the Mont Blanc massif of the Alps Moun

## DIRECTOR REPORTS

tain range. Following the ski week, there is an extension trip to Paris and Normandy, France. The basic Chamonix Ski Week includes 1 night of lodging at the NH Geneva Airport Hotel, ground transfers to and from Chamonix, and 7 nights of lodging at the 4-Star Hotel Alpina Eclectic Chamonix including daily breakfast and 5 nights' dinner at one of the hotel's restaurants. You will dine on your own for 2 nights in Chamonix. See the Far West website travel page for details and forms.

### 2026 BAC Christmas Market Cruise

2026 BAC Christmas Market Cruise on the Danube River from November 30-December 8th, 2026!

**Contact Gail Burns to coordinate a roommate, if needed, before contacting Grand Circle.** Grand Circle Cruise Line was just rated the #2 in the Best River Cruise Line in 2025 by Travel & Leisure! This luxury Grand Circle Cruise Line river ship will embark in **Vienna, Austria** & disembark in **Nuremberg, Germany**. Join us to visit colorful Christmas markets, meet with local experts & walk along the historic streets. Cruise includes three meals daily, beer/wine and daily sightseeing in smaller groups with our dedicated guide in addition to visiting the Christmas Markets! Activity level is rated as 1-easy. Sign-up via phone with the **Grand Circle Cruise line at 1-800-221-2610** using code: **G6-29997** with a \$750 deposit. Book Land Only or book with Airfare Included.

**Gail Burns** is the Trip Leader (650 255-7883) & is happy to answer any of your questions!

Planning for 2027 is underway and trips will be announced soon.

Have a travel suggestion for BAC Travel? Let us know!

Time flies...don't hesitate to live life and travel!

Karen Albrecht



## **FWSA Volunteer of the Year program and BAC Participation**

FWSA's Volunteer of the Year program for 2026 is in process. Who will join the list of past BAC Volunteer of the Year award winners and be recognized as BAC's Volunteer of the Year at the FWSAs 93rd Convention in San Diego, CA?

It is very exciting to see what all of your clubs are doing and the efforts that your club puts into friendship and snow activities. Check within your club for the one that goes above and beyond (I know all of you do that!).

Please send the name of your club's Volunteer to me **by March 1, 2026**. BAC would like to recognize one named Volunteer from each member club at a luncheon on March 22, 2026 at BJ's in San Mateo. BAC invites club presidents and the club Volunteer's spouse/partner from each club whether or not the club Volunteer wishes to continue with the Volunteer of the Year process.

Please let me ([harrykaren@comcast.net](mailto:harrykaren@comcast.net)) know about luncheon attendance and be sure I have the names of your club's Volunteer of the Year.

Harry Davis, BAC Public Affairs

[harrykaren@comcast.net](mailto:harrykaren@comcast.net)

925-768-4903 c

## Snowsports lessons begin December 15th!

Finally, ski season is here! Achieve Tahoe's snowsports program kicks off for the 2025/26 season on Monday, December 15th. This season, we are offering lessons at Alpine, Palisades, Northstar, and Mt. Rose! We invite and encourage people of all skill levels – first-timers to advanced – and abilities to come take a lesson with us. We can accommodate just about anyone with any disability through our specialized teaching techniques and adaptive equipment.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### Ability Challenge Fundraiser

**March 28, 2026**

March is Ability Challenge Month, our biggest fundraising event of the year. Mark your calendars for the Thank You Party at Alpine on Saturday, March 28, 2026!



#### Light of Achievement Gala

**May 16, 2026**

The Light of Achievement Gala is a celebratory evening at Palisades Tahoe with dinner and drinks, a silent and live auction, raffle, and heartwarming presentations honoring those who exemplify Achieve Tahoe's mission.

## **REGULAR SEASON RACES 2026 (Open League and Singles League)**

**Check OLRC ([skibac.org](http://skibac.org) and click on Open League racing) website for updates**

### **Northern California FWRA Sanctioned Races**

- i** *Clinic fees, FarWest Championships and Masters fees are not included in Season Registration Fees*
- i** *Saturday races at Alpine Meadows/Palisades require advance parking reservations at [ParkPalisadesTahoe.com](http://ParkPalisadesTahoe.com)*
- i** *FarWest Waivers are required once per season.*
- i** *Resort Waivers are required once per resort, per season. Must be collected on race morning. See [Race Day Info](#).*
- i** *Course Workers are required to run each race. Please fill out the form. See [Race Day Info](#).*

**RACE #1 – Sunday, Jan 11, 2026 – Giant Slalom – Alpine Meadows**

**RACE #2 – Sunday, Feb 8, 2026 – Slalom – Sugar Bowl**

**RACE #3 – Saturday, Feb 21, 2026 – Morning Race – Giant Slalom – Alpine Meadows**

**RACE #4 – Saturday, Feb 21, 2026 – Afternoon Race – Giant Slalom – Alpine Meadows**

**RACE #5 – Sunday, Feb 22, 2026 – Slalom – Alpine Meadows**

**RACE #6 – Friday, March 13, 2026 – TBD – Sugar Bowl**

**RACE CLINIC - TBD**

**Far West Championships (Not included in Season Fees)**

**March 20 – Friday – Slalom and Giant Slalom – Alpine Meadows**



# FWSA 2026 DIVE TRIP Cayman Brac Beach Resort

September 26 - October 3, 2026

*Grand Cayman 2<sup>nd</sup> Week October 3-10, 2026 Extension Available*

BASIC Dive Package: \$2,669 pp (double occupancy)  
Non-Dive Package: \$2,244 pp (double occupancy)

Oceanfront Room Upgrades and Standard Single supplement rooms are available.

### Cayman Brac Beach Resort Land Package Includes:

7 Nights Beach View Accommodations (*Double Occupancy*)

Three Meals Daily & 21 Drink Package (alcoholic & non-alcoholic)

Complimentary Wi-Fi

PADI 5-star dive operation

6 Days of Diving - 17 Boat Dives with Dive Master, Tanks and Weights Included

Complimentary Nitrox and use of a dive computer

Resort Fees, Taxes & Gratuities (dive gratuities are not included)

Round trip ground transfer from Cayman Brac Airport



*Incredible world-class diving in the Cayman Islands!*



*Enjoy a fantastic resort on the beach – perfect for the diver and non-diver to experience!*

Contact: **Randy Lew**  
FWSA Dive Trip Leader  
829 SE 11<sup>th</sup> Place  
Battle Ground, WA 98604  
Cell: 530/304-0802  
E-mail: fwsa13randy@telis.net

**Gloria Raminha**  
FWSA VP of Int'l Travel  
12707 Windy Ridge Drive  
Bakersfield, CA 93312  
Cell: 661/800-8229  
E-mail: garski2011@gmail.com

*You must be a Member of a Far West Ski Assn. affiliated club or a FWSA Direct Member!*

State of California Registered Seller of Travel # 2038983-40



## Bay Area Snow Sports Council presents ...

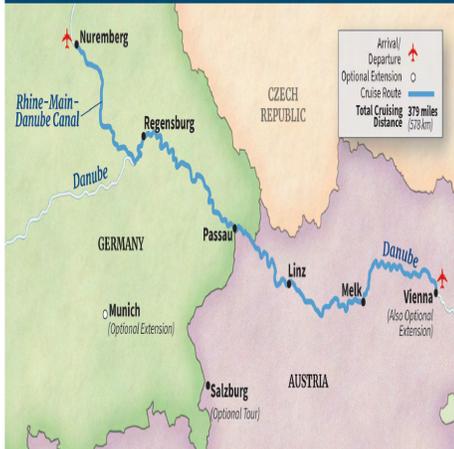
Cruise aboard our privately owned 162-passenger M/S River Adagio

# Christmas Markets Along the Danube

Germany: Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau | Austria: Linz, Melk, Vienna

8 days from **\$2,995**  
River Cruise Tour only

9 days from **\$4,445**  
with international airfare  
from San Francisco



## IT'S INCLUDED

- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges, unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- **Accommodations** for 7 nights aboard a private river ship with wireless Internet access in all common areas and cabins
- **20 meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 7 dinners—plus all onboard house beer & wine, as well as soft drinks
- **5 included tours** with personal headsets, **up to 5 Christmas markets**, and **6 Exclusive Discovery Series events**—Main-Danube Canal conversation • German language lesson • Regensburg choral concert • Stollen baking demonstration • *Christmas Traditions* conversation • Wachau Valley conversation
- **Local Program Directors, a Grand Circle Cruise Line exclusive:** These dedicated experts are with you and your group of 38-45 travelers from beginning to end to provide insider's knowledge and a local perspective
- **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- **All port charges**
- **Baggage handling** for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- **5% Frequent Traveler Credit** toward your next trip



Reservations & Information 1-800-221-2610

## ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Departure **NOVEMBER 30, 2026**

Return **DECEMBER 8, 2026**

**Day 1 • Depart U.S.**

**Day 2 • Vienna, Austria**

Embark ship

**Day 3 • Melk • Wachau Valley**

Included Tour Melk Abbey

**Day 4 • Linz**

Optional Tour Salzburg

**Day 5 • Passau, Germany**

Included Tour Passau

**Day 6-7 • Regensburg**

Included Tour Regensburg

**Day 8 • Nuremberg**

Included Tour Nuremberg

**Day 9 • Nuremberg • Return to U.S.**

Disembark ship

## MAXIMIZE YOUR DISCOVERIES & VALUE

### OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

all with FREE Single Supplements

**Vienna, Austria**  
3 nights pre-trip from \$895

**Munich, Germany**  
3 nights post-trip from \$945

PLEASE MENTION THIS CODE WHEN BOOKING **G6-29997**

## Group Size

- This trip has a group size of 38-45 travelers (with approximately 3-4 groups onboard) each with a local Program Director exclusive to Grand Circle

## Pacing

- 9 days, with 7 nights aboard a private river ship
- Return flights to U.S. often require departing from ship in early morning hours

## Physical Requirements

- Included features on your trip may consist of 3-4 hours of physical activity each day. Travelers should be able to walk 1-3 miles unassisted within a time frame of 1-2 hours, and walk on uneven surfaces, including steep and unpaved paths, hills, riverbanks, 25-50 stairs without handrails, and cobblestones, which can be slick in wet, colder or frozen conditions

## WHAT TO EXPECT

- Optional activities and walks may be offered in addition to the above mentioned activity level
- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them throughout the trip
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- Changes in water-level depths may require adjustments to your itinerary
- Docking for the following locations may be up to 1 hour outside of the city center, with transportation to and from the ship by motorcoach: Regensburg, Germany; Nuremberg, Germany; Passau, Germany

## Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 38-45°F during cruising season
- Rain, ice, snow, and wind are possible during the holiday season

## Terrain & Transportation

- Diverse terrain and uneven walking surfaces, including steep paths, hills, riverbanks, 25-60 stairs without handrails, and cobblestones
- Travel by 162-passenger river ship and 49-seat coach

## YOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 1 • Depart U.S.

Depart the U.S. today on your flight to Vienna, Austria.

### DAY 2 • Vienna, Austria • Embark ship

You'll be met at the airport today and transferred to your private river ship. Mingle with your fellow travelers during dinner onboard this evening. If you began your discoveries early with our optional pre-trip extension to Vienna, Austria, you will join your main group today.

D—M/S River Aria or M/S River Adagio

### DAY 3 • Melk • Wachau Valley discussion

After setting sail this morning, enjoy hot chocolate and relax onboard as your ship

cruises along the Wachau Valley. Your Program Director will provide enlightening commentary about this UNESCO World Heritage Site consisting of sculpted hills and medieval towns built along the river during an **Exclusive Discovery Series** discussion. Later, disembark in Melk for an excursion to the dramatic 900-year-old Baroque Melk Abbey.

B,L,D—M/S River Aria or M/S River Adagio

### DAY 4 • Linz • Optional Salzburg tour

This morning the ship calls at the port of Linz. You have the day free to explore this Old World city. It offers a wealth of discoveries—from its Hauptplatz, one of the loveliest squares in Europe, to the 17th-century Abbey of St. Florian, where Linz's native son, Anton Bruckner, was the

organist and composed many of his famed masterpieces of church music.

Or, join us for an optional full-day tour of Salzburg, the Baroque city of Mozart. Savor hearty Austrian fare over lunch at a local restaurant. Tonight, celebrate the holidays with your fellow travelers at the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

B,L,D—M/S River Aria or M/S River Adagio

### DAY 5 • Passau, Germany • German language lesson • German Christmas Traditions discussion

Begin the day with an **Exclusive Discovery Series** German language lesson, where you can learn some German phrases—such as, *Schöne Feiertage* (Happy Holidays)—commonly used during the Christmas season. In mid-morning, disembark to

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Vienna, Austria

explore Passau on an included walking tour, which includes visits to St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Bishop's Residenz. After time to admire the remarkable artistry displayed at the festive Christmas handcrafts market, gather onboard for an **Exclusive Discovery Series** conversation on the history of German Christmas traditions, as your ship cruises along the picturesque Danube River to Passau.

B,L,D—M/S River Aria or M/S River Adagio

#### DAY 6 • Regensburg • Choral concert

Today, you'll arrive and dock around mid-morning in Regensburg, Germany's largest medieval city. Then, enjoy a walking tour of this hidden treasure. Since the city suffered no damage during World War II, it remains beautifully preserved. Your tour features the Old Town Hall, the famous Stone Bridge, Germany's oldest, and the Regensberg *Christkindlmarkt* (Christmas market) in

Neupfarrplatz. After dinner onboard, join us for an **Exclusive Discovery Series** event as we walk to a local church to hear a choral concert featuring festive holiday music.

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#### DAY 7 • Regensburg • Main-Danube Canal discussion • Stollen baking demonstration • Captain's Farewell Dinner

Enjoy a leisurely morning onboard today. Your cruise toward Nuremberg begins shortly after lunch. During the afternoon, you'll enjoy two **Exclusive Discovery Series**: a discussion outlining how the Main-Danube Canal's innovative system of locks has made Europe's rivers navigable, and a *Stollen* baking demonstration, where you'll learn how to prepare this traditional German bread made with fruit and nuts, and topped with powdered sugar.

B,L,D—M/S River Aria or M/S River Adagio

#### DAY 8 • Nuremberg

Your ship docks at Nuremberg quite early this morning. After breakfast, you disembark for a tour of Nuremberg, one of the most important cities of the Franconia region. Later, visit Nuremberg's famous *Christkindlmarkt* (Christmas market), where you have free time to browse on your own. This is Germany's most famous traditional Christmas market, and it is open throughout the holiday season.

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#### DAY 9 • Disembark ship • Return to U.S.

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home, or join the *Munich, Germany* post-trip extension.

B



Regensburg, Germany

## Christmas Markets Along the Danube

Departure NOV 30, 2026  
Return DEC 8, 2026

### DECK

A	Serenade w/balcony	\$3,345
B		
C	Sonata	\$3,295
D		
E	Cantata	\$3,245
F		
G		\$3,145
H	Prelude	\$2,995

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14 months prior	9%	\$585	\$1170	
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12 months prior	7.5% off	\$488	\$975	
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For more information, visit [www.gct.com/gbd](http://www.gct.com/gbd)

### Reservations & Information:

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-221-2610

Prices, dates and itinerary are subject to change

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*BAC meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant, 3430 Village Dr., Castro Valley*