

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

March, 2026

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BAC Meetings:

March 9 — 6:30 General meet-
ing—8pm Board meeting —
Zoom only

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Paul Vlasveld
President

All, the skiing in Canada has been fantastic. I just returned from a 12-day Powder Highway tour that started in Calgary and went to the following resorts – Fernie, Whitewater, Red Mountain, Revelstoke, and Kicking Horse. There were 7 days of powder skiing. The best powder was in Whitewater where I skied in the lightest snow that fluffed up, I have ever skied in. It is called “Kootenay cold smoke” by the locals. The tree skiing was fantastic. At Kicking Horse, the powder was excellent. Revelstoke had wetter powder with almost no snow at the base. Driving through Banff, it looked like the Banff resorts also received a lot of snow this season.

General meeting

March 9, 2026 – 6:30pm – The meeting will be a virtual

Zoom meeting only.

Virtual:

Invite Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81620380000?pwd=evyg2lGVnGFZUdwPM07bSfwr5r6ZMb.1>

During our March BAC General Meeting,

We will continue the nomination process for all remaining Elected BAC Officers. All BAC Elected Offices are open for nominations. This process continues till our BAC General Meeting in April when the elections are held. Please contact me or any other BAC Officers (complete contact list and last page of this newsletter) with questions about any of the BAC Elected Offices. We also have a few Appointed Offices. In addition, if you want to volunteer to assist but not hold an office, we'd enjoy having you as a committee member!

BAC Volunteer the Year

I would like to congratulate all the BAC Volunteer of year nominees. The Volunteer Honoree event will be held at BJ's Brewhouse in San Mateo on March 22. We will be announcing the BAC Volunteer of the Year at the March General meeting and in the April Newsletter.

FWSA Club Awards

Also, consider entering the various Club Awards available at the upcoming Far West Ski Associations 93rd Annual SkiCon. The event takes place in San Diego from June 11-14, 2026. The entry deadline for all awards is

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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=512157

Club Reps, if you require the following, contact the membership chair or me.

1. FWSA membership cards. – Membership Chair – Benelia Terry
Far West Skier Guide – I have 2 copies avail -- Paul Vlasveld

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) or FWSA mini trips:

BAC and FWSA

FWSA Domestic Ski Week 2027 – Big Sky, Montana. Information about the ski week will be coming soon.

2026 BAC Christmas Markets Cruise Along the Danube-November 30-December 8th, 2026

https://www.skibac.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=882946&module_id=682310

Go to www.skibac.org on the home page for more details.

FWSA also has several trips – You can visit the below link for details:

https://www.fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=334825

Upcoming events

FWSA SkiCon – San Diego, Ca – June 11-14, 2026, at the Mission Valley Marriott. This should be an exciting and fun convention. There will be optional activities including mini-golf, Pub Crawl, etc. Registration will be available soon. Here is a link to the com-

plete event schedule. Room reservation deadline is May 21, 2026, to the discounted room rate.

Here is the link to the Convention:

https://www.fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=749612

Racing

We have completed 2 races this season. Races 3 & 4 will be held on March 13, 2026. These had to be re-scheduled due to too much snow in Feb. The final racing event will be the FWRA championships to be held Friday Mar 20, 2026, at Alpine Meadows. All the racers have been having a great time. We have approx. 100 racers competing this season. 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.

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

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

Race results -- <http://www.slracing.org/results/>

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.

The mantra is – We always want more Snow.

Paul Vlasveld

Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC) President

Calendar of Activities

<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH</p> <p>(no events posted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <p>(no events posted)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAY</p> <p>(no events posted)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THINGS TO COME</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more info/details go to skibac.org [Calendar of Events]</p> <p>9/26-10/3 FWSA Dive Trip, Cayman Islands 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
February 9, 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. Nine clubs were represented. A quorum of 7 clubs was established.

Introductions were made all around.

Secretary: Karen Davis – Karen explained the BAC By-Laws regarding a quorum for BAC General meetings and the past practice of a designated club member as a BAC meeting representative. All agreed that henceforth a meeting quorum would be reached if a member club is represented by a club member at BAC general meetings. Info from By-Laws:

BAY AREA COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS Revised 4/21

Section 5. Quorum

1. **General Meeting**
A quorum of one-third of the member clubs shall be present for the transaction of business at the general meeting. For voting on the transaction of business, a simple majority (51%) of the eligible voters present is required.
2. **Board of Directors' Meeting**

A quorum at a Board of Directors meeting shall be comprised of 60% of the filled offices of the Board of Directors, **not** including the Open League Racing Director and Singles League Racing Chairperson.

Benelia Terry made a motion to approve BAC general meeting minutes of Nov 10, 2025; Dec 8, 2025; and Jan 12, 2026; seconded by Harry Davis. Motion approved.

BAC Officer Election: BAC President-Elect nominations were first opened in November and were again opened at the February 9, 2026 BAC general meeting. Paul Vlasveld was previously nominated and accepted the position. There were no further nominations. Brad Hart moved to close nominations, seconded by Benelia Terry. Brad Hart made a motion that Paul be elected by acclamation; seconded by Greg Makowski. Motion approved. Congratulations to Paul!!

Nominations for BAC Officers - Nominations were opened for BAC Officers.

All nominations will be opened at the March 9 and April 13 general meetings with election at the April 13 general meeting. New Board Officers will assume office on May 18, 2026 (the third Monday in May).

Nominations were opened for BAC **Communications**. Benelia Terry nominated Dennie Warren, who accepted the nomination; seconded by Rebecca Rhodes. There were no further nominations. Harry Davis moved to close nominations. Nominations were opened for BAC **Travel Direc-**

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tor. Carrie Pierce nominated Karen Albrecht, who accepted the nomination, seconded by Karen Davis. There were no further nominations. Harry Davis moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for **BAC Membership**. Dennie Warren nominated Benelia Terry, who accepted the nomination, seconded by Karen Davis. There were no other nominations. Harry Davis moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for **BAC Secretary**. Linda Hennings nominated Karen Davis, who accepted the nomination, seconded by Dennie Warren. There were no other nominations. Linda Hennings moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for **BAC Public Affairs**. Karen Davis nominated Harry Davis, who accepted the nomination, seconded by Benelia Terry. There were no other nominations. Karen Davis moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for **BAC Industry Liaison**. Benelia Terry nominated Brad Hart, who accepted the nomination, seconded by Karen Davis. There were no further nominations. Harry Davis moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for **BAC Treasurer**. Benelia Terry nominated Kristin Thornquist, who could not commit at this meeting. There were no other nominations. Harry Davis moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for **BAC Webmaster**. Rebecca Rhodes nominated Ashkan Ohani, who was not present at this meeting, seconded by Karen Davis. There were no further nominations. Benelia Terry moved to close nominations. All Nominations were closed and will be reopened March 9 with election on April 13.

Travel: Karen Albrecht -

- **FWSA 2026 Ski Week** – FWSA Ski Week to **Crested Butte, CO** was held Jan 24-31, 2026 with 28 BAC participants. Cathy Wilson was the on-site trip leader. The BAC group dinner was well received. Karen needs final information and FWSA financials with comps before completing BAC financials.

- **BAC Mini Ski trip** – BAC has 28 participations going to **Sun Peaks** in Canada February 22-27, 2026. Sun Peaks is on the IKON pass. Karen Albrecht is now the trip leader. Airfare and transportation is organized with a welcome reception. The restaurant has BAC in two dinner groups because of restaurant size. Snow is expected. The trip is run through

Sports America.

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

- **BAC Grand Circle Cruise Line** – BAC's Christmas Market Danube River Cruise trip will be Nov 30-Dec 8, 2026. Reservations are available. Group air with the tour group is available through Grand Circle Cruise Lines. Prices are Grand Circle prices. Mention the code on the flyer when booking. Contact Gail Burns for information.

- **FWSA Ski Week 2027** will be to Big Sky, Montana on January 23-30, 2027. Big Sky is on the IKON pass. Karen has not received final pricing information from FWSA regarding lodging. A BAC flyer will be sent as soon as the info is available and a flyer can be finalized. Payments go through Sports America, tour operator, on their website. Karen will check with Sports America regarding purchasing a trip insurance policy.

- **FWSA 2026 International Ski Week** will be in **Chamonix, France**, Feb 28-March 7, 2026 with an extension to Paris and Normandy from March 7-13.

- **FWSA** is planning a trip to **Alyeska, Alaska** February 28 – March 7, 2027.

BAC – Karen received a contract for a **BAC September 2027 Bike and Barge trip** from Boat Bike Tours. Karen and Gail will read and check the contract and then will sign and make a deposit. This trip is for 24 people from Paris to Ebernee (the Champagne District), France. It may be possible to book a second boat from Ebernee to Paris if there is enough interest.

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

BAC is researching a 2027 Mini-Ski trip; location to be determined.

BAC Travelers – Travel insurance is recommended. Note for travelers to check travel insurance coverage and requirements when purchasing a trip. Maarten noted that in his recent experience, his claim was denied because he “must buy travel insurance within 21 days of the deposit check” and he purchased the policy after that time frame. Annual insurance can also be purchased.

Membership: Benelia Terry –

Benelia has not yet received payment from the Olympic Club. Paul has nine copies of the FWSA Skiers Guide and will mail a copy to the clubs requesting a copy (Apres, Castro Valley, Fire and Ice, Inskiers, Modesto, Oakland, Palo Alto, San Francisco Vikings, and Snowchasers).

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Communications: Dennie Warren –

BAC club members are invited to send info and photos about ski and club activities for publication in the BAC newsletter.

Public Affairs: Harry Davis – Harry reported that he has received the names of two club Volunteers of the Year from Apres and Rusty Bindings. All BAC member club presidents and honorees with partner are invited to attend the annual BAC March luncheon on **March 22 at BJs**, 2206 Bridgepointe Parkway, San Mateo to honor all volunteers. **All names should be sent to Harry by March 1.** The FWSA website has been updated with all 2026 awards and Volunteer 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.

Treasurer: Kristin Thornquist – Kristin has reconciled BAC's bank account. The NSCF membership will be renewed; Kristin will take care of the billing.

Industry Liaison: Brad Hart –

Brad reported that skiing is not as bad as you might think. Areas that have been shot with manmade snow are mostly covered and groomed well. Snow quality is not much different than any other year in the Sierras. Diamond Peak grooming is outstanding especially where they have snowmaking. Are they still shooting, very unlikely. Fresh snow and sun equals sticky snow. Snowmaking is expensive with water and electricity costs.

Too expensive?

Diamond Peak \$60 days: 3/17, 3/27, 4/19 (closing date)

Alpine Meadows Anniversary celebration is March 17, March 27, and April 19

Homewood Mountain Resort with a 3-day pass \$187/day

Palisades 4-day \$135/day

\$89 Community Day last Wed

A couple of **Community Days at Palisades on February 25 and on March 4** with lift tickets at \$89. Funds will go to support the local community. Tomorrow parking for all three weekend days-

weather ☹️ ↻

Alpine projects closing date of 4/26

Good Sources For Information – subscribe to Open Snow messaging

Unofficial info – subscribe to alpine.com

Palisades Website - Tahoe Weather with Bryan Allegretto

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

Hosted by San Diego Council. The Friday night Auction is also on line. Check the FWSA website for information about all FWSA awards. May 1 is the deadline to book one of the room block rooms. SkiCon registration is not yet available. Paul is asking for entries to include in his annual Charity video which highlights member clubs and charities.

Racing: Slalom racing at Sugar Bowl on Feb 8 was great. Feb 21 (two races) and Feb 22 will be at Alpine Meadows. There may be a race at Sugar Bowl on March 13. The schedule is in the BAC newsletter and also available at the website www.olrc.org (or through skibac.org). Check the website for all updates. The FWRA Championships will be on Friday, March 20 at Alpine Meadows.

Club Activities:

OAKLAND – The Lodge is operating status quo although a little down because of the snow. There are many families with children on the weekends.

PALO ALTO – Things have been slow at the cabin because of weather. The club has installed an electronic lock system on the cabin's front door.

SUNBURST – Brad reported that he has enjoyed skiing with club members. One of the newest members enjoyed the race at Sugar Bowl.

INSKIERS – Members held the general meeting last Tuesday. Six members went to Japan with Cleveland Metro Ski Club and Four Seasons Travel; snow was non-stop at Niseko. The club has 100 members and enjoys adventures in dining. Members will go to San Carlos to celebrate Chinese New Year. A fundraising auction is being scheduled for May to help subsidize the cabin expenses. MeetUp is successful for club events in getting new members. The race team had a good time at Sugar Bowl. Members are going to Sun Peaks.

FIRE AND ICE – Members had a great time at the NBS Western Region's 50th Anniversary Urban Winterfest SkiUnion 2026 in Heavenly Valley over Martin Luther King weekend. There was snowmobiling

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and a digital football playoff event. The monthly pot luck will be Feb 24.

MODESTO – The club has 190 members and is using Club Express, club management program, for events and the lodge. There are many new members below 65 years old with families with young children.

APRES – A youth weekend was held at the Apres Lodge.

CASTRO VALLEY – Monthly general and Board meetings are held. Members plan worldwide travel excursions every year.

SNOWCHASERS – Members meet twice monthly at Denny’s with about 10-12 members in attendance. Race team members enjoyed the race at Sugar Bowl.

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 -

March 9, 2026 – [BAC General meeting 6:30 pm;](#)

[BAC Board meeting 8:00 pm, Zoom](#)

April 13, 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 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Davis, Secretary

Travel Time

The latest storms have done their job! Tahoe should have enough snow for spring skiing. Now we just need the cooler temperatures to maintain the snow! BAC skiers have been traveling this last month to Crested Butte and Sun Peaks. We have photos to share:



Karen Albrecht
BAC Travel

Crested Butte Photos – BAC enjoyed FW Ski Week at Crested Butte and a wonderful Council dinner.



SUN PEAKS

2026 BAC Mini Ski Week to Sun Peaks, B.C. Canada was wonderful! Good snow! Fun with friends!!



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 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!



BIG SKY – FAR WEST SKI WEEK – JANUARY 24-30, 2027

A flyer and link for registration will be out sometime in March. Mark your calendars.

BIKE & BARGE – Paris to Epernay, France – September 16-23, 2027

Another Bike & Barge adventure is planned! The contract has been signed! Mark your calendars. A flyer and registration details anticipated to be out late March. More information to follow.

Have a travel suggestion for BAC Travel? Let us know!
Time flies...don't hesitate to live life and travel!

Karen Albrecht
BAC Travel Director



March 2026

Achieve Tahoe screening of 'Breaking Waves'

Breaking Waves tells the story of Kelda Wood, a British adaptive adventurer who became the first female para-athlete to summit the tallest peak in South America, and was the first para-athlete to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

Save the Date - **Sunday, March 8th** in honor of Women's Day - Achieve Tahoe will be hosting a screening of 'Breaking Waves' at the Tahoe Art Haus in Tahoe City with a Q & A with the director, Alice Rosso.

Tickets are \$20 and are available on the Tahoe Art Haus ticketing site.
<https://tahoearthauscinema.com>

Ability Challenge Fundraiser

February 1 - March 28, 2026

Join Achieve Tahoe's biggest fundraising event of the year by making your fundraising page now - it's easy! You can just click the link above to get started now.

Mark your calendars for the Ability Challenge Thank You Party at Alpine on Saturday, March 28th.

www.achievetahoe.org

[Achieve Tahoe | Achieve Tahoe](#)

Harry Davis, BAC Public Affairs

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.



FWSA 2026 DIVE TRIP Cayman Brac Beach Resort

September 26 - October 3, 2026

Grand Cayman 2nd 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 11th 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

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Departure NOVEMBER 30, 2026

Return DECEMBER 8, 2026

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

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



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

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

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



Reservations & Information **1-800-221-2610**

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

www.gct.com/xms

WHAT TO EXPECT

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

- 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

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

- 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

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



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.

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

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.

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

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

AIR ADD-ON

San Francisco	\$1,450
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Additional departure cities are available. Call for details.

Deposit: \$750 per person.

Travel Protection: Starting from \$389.

Single Supplement: \$795. Single accommodations are limited. To avoid the single supplement, ask about our Roommate Matching Service.

Standard Policies and Terms & Conditions apply; see www.gct.com/tc for details. See www.gct.com/ disclaimers for full policy details. Every effort has been made to publish this information accurately. We reserve the right to correct errors.

Travel Protection Plan (Recommended)

Protect your trip with our Travel Protection Plan, administered by TripMate.

- **100% cancellation protection, for any reason**—up to and including the day of departure.
- **Pre-existing condition coverage**—100% cash reimbursement if purchased within 14 days of initial trip deposit.
- **Medical benefits and assistance**—including emergency evacuation and more.
- **Comprehensive coverage**—includes trip interruption, trip delay, medical expenses, and baggage protection.

Learn more at www.gct.com/tpp

Good Buy Plan

The earlier you pay, the more you save based on a trip value of \$6,500 per person

Months Prior to Departure (Must Pay in full from a checking account)	Guarantee		Savings	
	Your Price and Receive:	Per Person:	Per Person:	Per Couple:
15 months or more	10%	\$650	\$1300	
14 months prior	9%	\$585	\$1170	
13 months prior	8%	\$520	\$1040	
12 months prior	7.5% off	\$488	\$975	
11 months prior	6% off	\$390	\$780	

Good Buy Plan savings is calculated based on total reservation cost

For more information, visit www.gct.com/gbd

Reservations & Information:

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

Prices, dates and itinerary are subject to change

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





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First with Safety Awareness***

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Bay Area Council of Ski Clubs
PO Box 5936
San Jose, CA 95150

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