

# 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

April, 2026

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### **BAC Meetings:**

April 13 — 6:30 General meet-  
ing—8pm Board meeting — in  
person & Zoom

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Paul Vlasveld  
President

It has been a weird ski season with excellent skiing in Jan and then no more snow by April. The best snow I have had has been in Canada. I hope everyone has been able to ski this season.

### General meeting

**April 13, 2026** – BAC General Meeting 6:30 pm; BAC Board meeting 8:00 pm.  
This will be both an in-person and Zoom.

In-Person – Don Jose's in Castro Valley  
**3430 Village Dr, Castro Valley, CA 94546**

Topic: BAC -- General and Board Meeting

Time: Apr 13, 2026, 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81620380000?  
pwd=evyg21GVnGFZUdwPM07bSfwr5r6ZMb.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81620380000?pwd=evyg21GVnGFZUdwPM07bSfwr5r6ZMb.1)

During our April BAC General Meeting, we will elect our BAC board. We have several positions open, including Treasurer. **It is important that as many Club reps attend as possible for this important meeting.** Contact me or any other BAC Officers (complete contact list on 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 board member!

**FWSA 2026 SkiCon – San Diego, CA – Mission Valley Marriott–  
Jun 11-14, 2026**

Hosted by the San Diego Council  
Theme – ***Lets Get Elevated***

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

[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)

There are many great events at the convention. It is a great location. There are great room rates. Why not make it a mini vacation?

## **BAC Volunteer of the Year**

Harry will be announcing the BAC Volunteer of the Year at the April meeting.

## **FWSA Club Awards**

Also, consider entering the various Club Awards available at the upcoming Far West Ski Associations 2026 SkiCon in June. The entry deadline for all awards was Mar 31, 2026. Even though the deadline has passed you can ask the chairperson for a late submission. Here is the link to the awards program:

[https://www.fwsa.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=623165&module\\_id=339599](https://www.fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=339599)

Some of these awards have some great prizes for the winners. In the past there have been BAC clubs that won various awards including website and newsletter.

Club Reps, contact our Membership director, Benelia Terry, if you require the following:

1. FWSA Digital membership cards
- I have 2 extra Skier Guides available. Contact me, Paul Vlasveld, if you would like a Skier Guide.

## **Travel**

I highly recommend signing up for next year's FWSA Ski week to be held at Big Sky, Montana.

Here is the link for all the travel opportunities: <https://www.skibac.org/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 trips:

FWSA has several trips for 2026 and 2027 in-

cluding a FWSA Fall Foliage Cruise - Quebec City to Boston in Sept, 2025, Belize Dive Trip, Greece, 2026, Summer in Chile Ski Trip

[https://fwsa.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=623165&module\\_id=334825](https://fwsa.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=334825) or <https://www.skibac.org/travel>

BAC –

Bike and Barge – Nov 2026 – Christmas Markets on The Danube  
2027 E-Bike & Barge - Paris to Epernay, France -- September 16-23, 2027

Here is the link for all the travel opportunities: <https://www.skibac.org/travel>

## **Racing**

The 2026 racing season has been completed. Due to the various snow conditions throughout the season only 4 races could be completed. All racers had a great time and the competition was fierce. For Open League, Olympic was the big team winner followed by Snowchasers and Apres. For Singles League, Inskiers was the big winner followed by Rusty Bindings and Snowdrifters. 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/openleaguering/notice>

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.

The mantra is – Enjoy life. Stay Safe and have fun.

Paul Vlasveld  
Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC) President

# Calendar of Activities

<p><b>APRIL</b> (no events posted)</p> <p><b>MAY</b> (no events posted)</p> <p><b>JUNE</b> (no events posted)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THINGS TO COME</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more info/details go to <a href="http://skibac.org">skibac.org</a> [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  
March 9, 2026

President **Paul Vlasveld** called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance on Zoom. Eleven clubs were represented. A quorum of 7 clubs was established.



Karen Davis  
BAC Secretary

**Introductions** were made all around.

**Secretary: Karen Davis** – Dennie Warren made a **motion** to approve BAC general meeting minutes of Feb 9, 2026; seconded by Maarten Vandermeer. Motion approved. A discussion ensued about the BAC meeting quorum; clubs are encouraged to have a club member at BAC general meetings. Palo Alto’s Rebecca noted that many clubs seem to have in-club pre-set patterns with activities and she would like to get new ideas from member clubs for Palo Alto members. Many clubs offer activities other than skiing and racing. There are no repercussions for clubs who do not send a member to BAC general meetings or for clubs who are more social than skiing. Clubs decide and pay annually to be a member of BAC which indicates interest and provides BAC membership to that club. Any club with a racer(s) must belong to BAC to be involved with Open or Singles League racing. Going forward at BAC general meetings, BAC will accept any member club member as a representative to BAC in order to determine a quorum at BAC general meetings.

National Ski Club Federation information and discounts are available at [www.FWSA.org](http://www.FWSA.org). Click on Members’ Corner. To travel with other ski organizations, Google the calendar for all travel opportunities. In addition, go to Skifederation.org.

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

**All nominations will be opened at the April 13 general meeting with elections 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**. Dennie Warren was previously nominated and accepted. There were no further nominations. Maarten Vandermeer moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for BAC **Travel Director**. Karen Albrecht was previously nominated and accepted. There were no further nominations. Maarten Vandermeer moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for BAC **Membership**. Benelia Terry was previously nominated and accepted. There were no other nominations. Harry Davis moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for BAC **Secretary**. Karen Davis was previously nominated and accepted. There were no other nominations. Harry Davis moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for BAC **Public Affairs**. Harry Davis was previously nominated and accepted. There were no other nominations. Maarten Vandermeer moved to close nominations.

Nominations were opened for BAC **Industry Liaison**. Brad Hart was previously nominated and accepted. There were no further nominations. Maar-

## DIRECTOR REPORTS

ten Vandermeer moved to close nominations. Nominations were opened for BAC **Webmaster**. Ashkan Ohani was previously nominated and accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Benelia Terry moved to close nominations. Nominations were opened for BAC **Treasurer**. Kristin Thornquist was previously nominated and has not yet accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Harry Davis moved to close nominations. All nominations were closed and will be reopened April 13 with elections on April 13.

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

- **FWSA 2026 Ski Week** – FWSA Ski Week to **Crested Butte CO** was completed Jan 24-31, 2026.

- **BAC Mini Ski trip** – BAC with 20 participations went to **Sun Peaks** in Canada February 22-27, 2026.

- **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. A BAC flyer with payment details will be sent as soon as all 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 participants and purchasing a trip insurance policy.

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

**BAC** – Karen is planning for a **BAC September 2027 Bike and Barge trip** from Boat Bike Tours. 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.

### **Membership: Benelia Terry –**

Benelia has not yet received payment from the Olympic Club (the club does have racers); Paul will check BAC's post office box. Paul has mailed Skiers

Guides to clubs and has two Skiers Guides copies left.

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

BAC club members are invited to send info and photos about all club activities for publication in the BAC newsletter. Please give Dennie a heads-up if your club would like to invite other club members to your club event.

**Public Affairs: Harry Davis** – All BAC member club presidents and honorees with partner are invited to attend the annual BAC March luncheon on **March 22 at BJs**, 1:00 pm, 2206 Bridgepointe Parkway, San Mateo to honor all volunteers. Clubs have named Barbara Domingo of Apres, Claudia Fernandes of Castro Valley, Monika Trieb of Inskiers, Linda Hennings of Modesto, and Cathy Speakman of Rusty Bindings as Volunteer of the Year in those clubs.

**Industry Liaison: Brad Hart** – Brad skied the back side of Alpine Meadows, which opened yesterday and today. Some hiking was involved. Brad enjoyed Demo Day at Diamond Peak.

**IKON** Pass renewal starts 3/12 with access to 70+ resorts

### 26/27 IKON PASS SPRING PRICING

Ikon Pass starting at \$1,349

Ikon Base Pass starting at \$924

Ikon Session Pass starting at \$299

\$50 off with renewal and there is a larger discount with children

### IKON New Changes

Three new resorts with Unlimited Arapahoe Basin access

Snowmass increase access to 5 days with Base Pass and 7 days on IKON Pass - no reservations for all four mountains

Tamarack permits 2 days

Full refund if not used by 1/15, 50% if only used once

### **Epic** Pass Renewal

Ultimate Access Pass \$1089 with access to 60+ resorts

### **Tahoe Value** Pass

Senior Pass 65+ \$479 which allows Heavenly 7 days, Northstar & Kirkwood 6 days

Reduced price with youth adults aged 18-30

## DIRECTOR REPORTS

**Indy Pass**-get on their waiting list to purchase \$399+\$10 RFID card for 300+ resorts  
2 days free at each resort + 3rd day 1/2 price  
Added 17 more resorts this year

### **Ski Testing “100mm Width 177cm”**

**Nordica Enforcer** W99 L179- best in test for edge hold in firm snow/like a wide race ski

**Volkl Mantra** W96 L177 - very good edge hold in firm snow/  
more versatile in uneven terrain

**Stockli SR** W95 L186 - did not edge hold in firm snow/  
sluggish

**Elan Black Pearl** W96 L175 - good edge hold/nice, even flex  
through the turn

~Rest of test was unable to determine edge hold in firm snow  
due to warming temperatures~

**Blizzard Anomaly** W94 L176 - had a nice feel in initiation and  
throughout arcing turn

**K2 Mindbender** W96 L178 - totally new ski with a damping  
agent called Dark Matter between two sheets of metal, more  
stable feel during arcing turn

**Atomic Bent** W100 L179 - rocker profile - help blast through  
slush

**Salomon Stance** W96 L182 - seem sluggish in turn initiation

**Treasurer: Kristin Thornquist** – Kristin will send BAC’s  
bank account summary report to all clubs. Kristin renewed  
BAC’s membership with NSCF.

**Webmaster: Ashkan Ahari** – Ashkan reports the newsletters  
have been updated on the website. The 2025 BAC Volunteer of  
the Year information has been added. Any new travel infor-  
mation will be sent to Ashkan.

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

Hosted by San Diego Council. The Friday night Auction will  
be 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. Rusty Bindings and  
Inskiers has provided content for Paul’s video.

**Racing:** Check the Open League and Singles League websites  
for all updates. The FWRA Championships will be on Friday,  
March 20 at Alpine Meadows if conditions permit.

### **Club Activities:**

**MODESTO** – Members are skiing but the season appears to be  
a short one.

**FIRE AND ICE** – Members continue monthly Board meetings  
and monthly pot lucks.

**SUNBURST** – Brad reported there isn’t much going on right  
now.

**MONTEREY** – The club has a new treasurer and a new secre-  
tary. Greg had an event at his house to welcome them to the  
club’s Board. Members have enjoyed skiing this season. Cyn-  
thia enjoyed skiing with BAC member clubs and at other re-  
sorts in the last six weeks. The club has community events and  
sets up a table at some of Monterey’s Chamber of Commerce

events.

**RUSTY BINDINGS** – The club has instituted a new system to  
collect monies for club activities using Zeffy.com and replacing  
PayPal. The non-profit Zeffy payment allows donations if de-  
sired and otherwise usage is free. Clubs could use Zelle with  
no fees. Members have a calendar of activities including an  
Oakland theater tour, a play in March, pickleball, pot luck  
events, a charity event in March, summer barbecues starting in  
June, and other activities.

**SNOW DRIFTERS** – Monthly dinner meetings are held. Greg  
has been attending a lot of race training with gates in Tahoe.

**INSKIERS** – Members have monthly general meetings at BJs  
in San Mateo and have meetings at Burton Park in the summer.  
Monthly pot lucks are held. Inskiers will meet at Sports Base-  
ment next month and enjoy a clinic about storing equipment,  
etc. Meet Up is used for various events and a few potential  
members have attended. A fundraiser auction will be held on  
May 30 at BJs in San Mateo. Monika Trieb is the Inskiers Vol-  
unteer of the Year.

**CASTRO VALLEY** – Monthly general and Board  
meetings are held. Members plan international trips  
and holiday activities.

**SNOWCHASERS** –Members meet twice monthly  
at Denny’s with about 7-10 members in attendance  
and once monthly at Rodgers Smith Park in Pleasant  
Hill during summer months. A club-sponsored pizza  
party will be held on April 26 in Concord.

**PALO ALTO** – Things have been slow at the cabin  
because of the weather. The club holds three week-  
end events annually at the cabin for prospective  
members. The next weekend is expected to be  
March 20-22.

**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 -**

**April 13, 2026 – BAC General meeting 6:30 pm;**

**BAC Board meeting 8:00 pm, Zoom**

**No May meeting**

**June 8, 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 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Davis, Secretary

## DIRECTOR REPORTS

### Travel Time:

The snow is melting fast and resorts are closing. With this year winding up, it's time to plan future travel. Where do you want to go? What type of trips would you like BAC to offer? Where do you want to ski next? Send a message to us with your suggestions.



Karen Albrecht  
BAC Travel

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) & she's happy to answer any of your questions!

**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



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

A flyer and link for registration will be out soon. Mark your calendars now!



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

JOIN 24 BAC cyclists – This Champagne tour is an E-bike and barge touring classic that not only allows guests to explore the world famous city of Paris, but also the Champagne region, famous of course, for producing Champagne wines. Every day you will cycle small country roads (including a few un- or semi-paved roads and tracks) that go slightly up and down the beautiful slopes of the wide river valley, through the hills and the Champagne vineyards.



Check your email and/or the BAC website for the trip flyer, detailed itinerary, trip registration and waiver. Get you deposit in to secure a spot.

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

## 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 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 ...

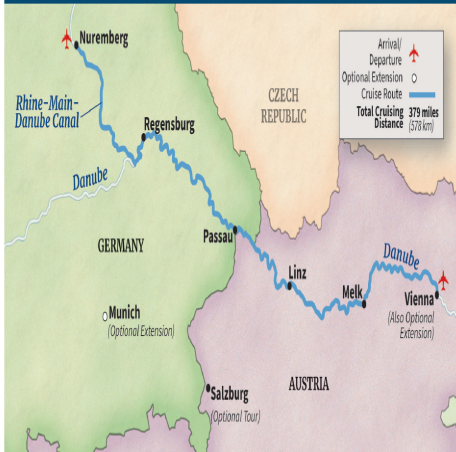
Cruise aboard our privately owned 162-passenger M/S River Adagio

# 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**

[www.gct.com/xms](http://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 at 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

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

[www.gct.com/xms](http://www.gct.com/xms)



Vienna, Austria



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.

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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](http://www.gct.com/gbd)

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

### 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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Web Cams on the Slopes	<a href="http://magnifeye.com">magnifeye.com</a>
Road conditions	800-427-7623 or <a href="http://skibac.org">skibac.org</a>
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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*