

2022 Christmas Markets Orientation Zoom Agenda

Monday, August 8 7:30 p.m. Central

1. Overview of our agenda: travel dates, pre-night lodging, air, final payments, COVID, your questions
2. Deb's AmaWaterways 2021 Christmas Markets experience.
3. Travel dates and pre-cruise lodging:
 - a. Cruise is Dec 8-15. HIGHLY recommend you arrive in Basil on Dec 7 (or 6th) in case of airline cancellations, weather, etc. (U.S. departure on 12/6). It is fine to plan to depart AMS on 12/15.
 - b. I need to know your travel dates tonight or ASAP (by next Monday) by email. Some are adding independent travel before our cruise.
 - c. For the night of Dec 7, I will have hotel reservations in Basil. If you are arriving prior to Dec 7 for independent travel, let me know if you want a hotel room reserved for you on Dec 7 or if you will be making your own lodging arrangements. Once I have lodging costs, I will let you know if a deposit or full payment is required at the time of reservation. NO charges will be made to your credit card without your knowledge/permission.
4. Air:
 - a. I will not be doing any air booking myself. You will either book your own air, or I will work with AmaWaterways to book your air through them. (I am having Ama book my air.)
 - b. If you know what flights or airlines you want to try and fly on, just send me the info and I'll provide it to Ama. Otherwise, I'll work with Ama to find what I consider the best options for you. You'll have a chance to approve the flights prior to booking.
 - c. Booking air through Ama is a \$350 non-refundable deposit for economy and premium economy fare or \$600 for business class. OR, you can pay in full at the time the reservation is made.
5. Airport transfers:
 - a. If you book air through Ama, transfers are included for your flights scheduled on the cruise dates (12/8 and 12/15). In our case, those arriving prior to Dec 8 will NOT have transfers provided through Ama in the outbound but WILL have them provided on the inbound.
 - b. I will help with advising on the best way to get from the airport to our pre-cruise hotel.
6. Final payments:
 - a. I will start processing these on September 2 or 3. This provides a few extra days in case we run into issues with credit cards etc. You will receive a task through the portal asking you to authorize the payment and have it charged to your credit card on file.
 - b. Important! If you have any changes to your credit card since you paid your deposit, please let me know and I'll send you a task to update your card.
7. COVID
 - a. We'll talk more about this at our next Zoom to address the most current situation. Currently no testing required. Some places may require masks, proof of vaccination, etc. so you should have these things with you.
 - b. Challenge is if you get sick while traveling and test positive, you will need to remain behind until you recover. N95 and KN95 masks for your own protection.
 - c. Guests are no longer required to wear masks on Ama ships, but crew are all wearing them. This could change
8. Your questions?
9. Prepare to travel Zoom mid-November.