

CRUISE SHIP OF THE MONTH



THE SPIRIT OF COLUMBUS

A look at Cruise & Maritime Voyages' newest flagship, the mighty *Columbus*.

In the library, curled up in a big leather Chesterfield armchair with a steaming mug of hot chocolate and a book about Rembrandt to hand, I watched the port of Amsterdam draw ever closer on the horizon. It was the second day of a five-day long CMV voyage onboard the *Columbus*, and it was little wonder I'd found it so easy to settle into the comforts offered onboard.

I was on an Amsterdam and German Christmas Market Cruise, which took in the main sites of the famous Netherlands city and Germany's city of Hamburg. Over five days we sailed from London Tilbury to Amsterdam to Hamburg and then home, with a day at sea to make the most of the facilities on board.



Throughout the cruise, Christmas spirits were high (and not just because of the inclusive drinks packages that can be bought and enjoyed throughout any CMV cruise).

Amsterdam was a dream of sparkling lights, bicycles decorated with tinsel, shop window fronts laden with cheese and wine and festive gifts, and art galleries sporting special exhibitions dedicated to the great Dutch Masters.

Hamburg was even more of a Christmas treat. This German coastal city boasts not just one, not even just two, but at least seven major Christmas markets every year; the perfect excuse to take in the sights while doing some serious shopping.

The cruise offered much more than solely shopping opportunities; but do note that if you are planning on taking a Christmas cruise with CMV in the future, you will have at least one full day to peruse the many markets to your heart's content.

Art and history themes were prevalent throughout the cruise, in our shore excursions and in the onboard entertainment programme.

The Captain says...



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Cruise calendar

This winter, Columbus will embark on a number of festive trips, including a 15-night Christmas & New Year cruise to the Canaries and Madeira. Its 2018 programme includes a 121-night Grand Round the World Cruise setting sail in January, trips to, and around, the Norwegian Fjords, British Isles, Baltic cities and a European Cities break.



> Hamburg Christmas Market.



Group benefits with CMV

Parties of 12 or more have access to group benefits including up to 10% discount in addition to Saver Fares. Bookings of 20 or more come with a free place, or two free places for parties of 40 or more. GTOs can also take advantage of a special onboard welcome cocktail party, preferential group dining arrangements, and an exclusive shore excursion programme if required for your group.

COLUMBUS FACTFILE

- Named after Christopher Columbus, the 'discoverer of the new world'
- Capacity of around 1,400 passengers
 - 775 passenger cabins
 - Five dining options
 - Seven lounge bars
 - Six entertainment venues

CONTACT INFORMATION
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