Spend the morning catching the sights you just didn’t have time for earlier or doing some last-minute shopping. Then it’s time to say goodbye to Basel, board your motorcoach and make your way to the dock, where you will begin your enchanting holiday river cruise.

Daily buffet breakfast is included with hotel stay.

**Note:** The itineraries presented are subject to modification due to closures because of public holidays or other uncontrollable factors. Every effort will be made to operate programs as planned, but changes may still be necessary throughout the itinerary.

**Note:** All extras, such as bottled water, drinks, telephone calls, laundry and items of a personal nature, are not included in the cost of the trip.
Welcome to Switzerland, the perfect prelude to your winter holiday journey

It may be a small nation, but it boasts a huge variety of traditions, cultures and landscapes. Experience Switzerland’s infinite variety in two delightful destinations: bustling Basel—home to the nation’s largest holiday market—and lovely Lucerne, nestled in the legendary Swiss Alps.

**DAY 1  Basel**

Once you’ve made your way through customs at the airport in Basel, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative, who will help you with your baggage and direct you to the motorcoach that will carry you to your hotel. There, you’ll have the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the famously beautiful hotel. How you’ll spend the rest of your evening is up to you. You can rest up from your journey at the hotel, which is located on the banks of the Rhine and just steps from the historic Old Town and its Christmas markets, or you can begin exploring the many treasures waiting for you by taking a Basel walking tour. Your local host will be happy to point you toward the best restaurants—one of them is in your hotel—and spectacular shopping opportunities.

**Featured Excursion:**
“Do as the Locals Do” Basel walking tour

Basel historically has been divided into two sections by the Rhine: Greater Basel, on the south bank, and Lesser Basel, on the north bank—and the Lällekönig has been sticking his long red tongue out at Lesser Basel since 1640. Though the original beaten-copper head with its crown and clockwork mechanism now resides in a museum, a replica still reigns near the Middle Bridge. It’s your first destination today, as you stroll with your guide from the hotel to the Middle Bridge and from there to Läckerli House for a taste of Basel’s iconic spiced honey-almond cookie. You’ll ramble along the Rhine promenade and, if the weather is fair, take the ferry across the Rhine. You’re aiming for the squares in the historic heart of the city: Cathedral Square, Market Square and Barfüsser Square. Each one holds a special charm. The spectacular red-stone 16th-century town hall faces Market Square; Barfüsser Square, named for the deconsecrated church that now houses the city museum (and the original Lällekönig), leads to one of Basel’s newest and quirkiest landmarks, Tingluey Fountain. Barfüsser Square and Cathedral Square together host Basel’s fabulous Christmas market. That’s not your only Christmas-related destination, though—you and your guide will head to Johann Wanner’s astonishing shop, which glitters with Bohemian crystal balls, glass ornaments hand-blown in almost any shape you can imagine (including whales, mobile phones, cupcakes and tractors), tree toppers, bows and beads. You will truly feel that you have found the heart of the holiday in this narrow but overwhelmingly lavish shop, adored by visitors and locals alike.

**DAY 2  Basel (Lucerne)**

**Featured Excursion:**
Lucerne walking discovery tour with Christmas markets

Head off to beautiful Lucerne after breakfast, where the air is invigorating, the snow-covered Alps provide a holiday postcard setting, and the perfectly preserved Old Town is festively decked for the season. Stroll with your guide to Chapel Bridge, with its iconic medieval tower, and Mill Bridge, which spans the Reuss River. Wine Market Square, with its frescoed palace façades, the town hall and the medieval ramparts—nine original towers remain—make up the heart of the district. A bit farther afield you’ll find the Lion Monument, which commemorates the hundreds of Swiss Guards who died in 1792 defending Louis XVI during the French Revolution. Then it’s time to begin your exploration of Lucerne’s traditional Christmas markets, which offer an intimacy and cordiality utterly befitting this close-knit and friendly city. The largest market is held every year in front of the Franciscan church: Wend your way among wooden stalls offering unique handicrafts and tasty treats, including toffees, spices and roasted chestnuts, and start your Christmas shopping. This afternoon you’ll return to Basel to spend the rest of the day relaxing on your own.