

Magnificent Europe – Westbound

15 Day River Cruise Budapest to Amsterdam



Vacation Overview

From Budapest to Amsterdam, and many exciting stops along the way, you'll be immersed in the culture of Central Europe in a unique way on this timeless river cruise vacation.

Your river cruise adventure begins with visits to three of Europe's vibrant capital cities: Budapest, Hungary; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Vienna, Austria. A Local Guide will show you the must-see sites in each city and you'll have plenty of time to explore on your own. See the famous Heroes' Square in Budapest, stroll through Bratislava's Old Town with its winding streets and bronze sculptures, and stop in a classic Viennese café for a decadent treat. Sail through the picturesque Wachau Valley and the dramatic Rhine Gorge. Visit Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey and Würzburg's baroque Bishop's Residenz. Enjoy a tasting of Wachau wines.

Explore quaint towns like Dürnstein with its blue and white baroque Stiftskirche; Passau, known for its narrow cobblestone streets and the stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral; and Bamberg, with its town hall straddling the River Regnitz. Enjoy guided walks in historic Nuremberg, Würzburg, and Regensburg—one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. In the charming Rhine Valley town of Rudesheim, enjoy a stroll through its famous cobblestone Drosselgasse lined with shops, restaurants, and lively taverns. Straddling both sides of the Rhine River is Cologne, Germany—a 2,000 year-old city known for its gothic architecture. Here, enjoy a guided walk and see its famous twin-spired cathedral.

This European river cruise would not be complete without a visit to Holland's lively capital of Amsterdam. See the treasures of this 700-year-old city from a unique perspective—on a canal cruise along the elegant Grachten. Your European cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam is filled with new discoveries and simple pleasures of ancient cultures that you'll hold in your memory for many years to come.





Itinerary

Day 1 **BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (EMBARKATION)**

Welcome to Budapest—Hungary’s Captivating Capital

Flights into Budapest must arrive by 3:30 pm. Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

The day is yours to relax and enjoy the city with time for photographs, cafés, and confections.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BUDAPEST

 Dinner

Day 2 **BUDAPEST**

The Pearl of the Danube in the Heart of Europe

CLASSIC Enjoy a Guided City Sightseeing, including the iconic Heroes' Square.

The afternoon is free to enjoy Budapest on your own. Be sure to savor a piece of cream cake in the world-famous Gerbeaud Café, consider a scenic hike in the hills above the Danube, or a visit to one of Budapest's world-famous thermal baths.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BRATISLAVA

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 3 **BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA**

Castles, Vineyards, and Cosmopolitan Culture

CLASSIC Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Old Town's cobblestone streets to Town Hall. Visit the gothic halls of St. Martin's Cathedral—Kingdom of Hungary's centuries-old coronation church, OR:

ACTIVE Follow your Avalon Adventure Host on a hike to lofty Bratislava Castle.

Alternatively, in your free time take a bicycle and a picnic from the ship to explore the local sights along the Danube. Later, enjoy live entertainment onboard.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VIENNA

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 4 **VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Royal Collections, Amusing Attractions, and Culinary Confections

CLASSIC Step into the legendary Habsburg Empire with a morning Guided City Tour of Vienna's gilded landmarks. See the Imperial Palace complex—the winter residence of the Imperial Family, the historic Vienna Opera House and stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral.

Join a Guided Optional Excursion to Schönbrunn Palace—the Habsburg empire summer home for 300 years.

You may also take a tram to Austria's Prater amusement park or to one of the many museums nearby. Consider joining an Optional Excursion to attend Royal Waltz Concert in an elegant hall.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO DÜRNSTEIN

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 5 **DÜRNSTEIN—WACHAU VALLEY**

Fairytale Castles, Kings, and Cobblestones

CLASSIC Join a Guided Walk, and hear the legendary tale of King Richard the Lionheart—who was imprisoned in the castle above the village during the Crusades, OR:

ACTIVE Take a Guided Hike up to the castle ruins to take in the spectacular view of the village, Danube, and the Wachau Valley below.

Later, stretch out on the Sky Deck as you sail through the Wachau Valley past vineyards, castles, and charming villages on your way to Melk.

MELK

Striking Frescoes and Breathtaking Views of the Wachau Valley

CLASSIC Take a Guided Tour of Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey to marvel at its frescoed ceilings, statues, incredible library, and ornate pipe organ.

DISCOVERY Later, enjoy a Wine Tasting on board as you prepare to sail to Passau.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO PASSAU

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 6 **PASSAU, GERMANY**

The Three Rivers of Medieval Passau

CLASSIC Join an afternoon Guided City Walk to learn more about this beautiful "City of Three Rivers."

Alternatively, consider a Guided Optional Excursion for a full day in Salzburg, Austria—the city of Mozart—or a Guided Optional Excursion to the picturesque Bohemian Czech town of Český Krumlov.

EVENING CRUISE TO REGENSBURG

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 7 **REGENSBURG**

Magical Regensburg—Bavaria's Medieval Miracle

CLASSIC Join a Guided City Walk and see the Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall) and Porta Pretoria—built in 179 AD as the entrance to Castra Regina fortress.

You may join a Guided Optional Excursion to the Benedictine Monastery in Weltenburg.

Spend a free afternoon exploring Regensburg on foot or by bike through its charming streets.

This evening, enjoy live entertainment after dinner as you cruise toward Roth.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ROTH

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 8 **ROTH. EXCURSION TO NUREMBERG**

Living Heritage and History Lessons

DISCOVERY While sailing to Roth, enjoy an onboard Lecture about the Main-Danube Canal—linking these two rivers to make a vital connection enabling navigation between the North and Black Seas.

CLASSIC Enjoy a Guided Sightseeing Tour of the Bavarian town of Roth—with its half-timbered houses, market square, and 1535 hunting lodge, Schloss Ratibor, OR:

CLASSIC Choose a Guided Tour of Nuremberg’s medieval architecture, gilded fountain, gothic cathedral, and Kaiserburg Castle, OR:

CLASSIC Join a Guided Tour of the historic Nuremberg Rally Grounds—used by the Third Reich.

Tonight, relax on board with live entertainment as you sail to Bamberg.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BAMBERG

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 9 **BAMBERG**

One Thousand Years of History in the City of Seven Hills.

CLASSIC Take a Guided Walking Tour of the former home to imperial dynasties, and see its Romanesque cathedral, Old Town Hall, and seven hills crowned with churches.

Enjoy live entertainment on board while sailing this evening.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO WÜRZBURG

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 10 **WÜRZBURG**

A Pearl, a Painting, and a Glass of Wine for the Perfect Afternoon

CLASSIC Take a Guided Sightseeing Tour of the “Pearl of the Romantic Road” with its Old Main Bridge, towering fortress, and baroque Bishop’s Residenz—with the largest known ceiling fresco.

In your free time you may explore the city or enjoy a smoked beer. Later, enjoy onboard entertainment.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MAIN RIVER VILLAGE

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 11 **MAIN RIVER VILLAGE**

Hidden Gems and Bavarian Beauty of the Main River Village

Start the day with a Morning Stretch with your Avalon Adventure Host.

CLASSIC Join a Guided Walking Tour of a picturesque Main river village.

Spend free time riding a bike through the beautiful villages on the Main river shores. Later, enjoy onboard entertainment as you cruise to Rüdeshheim.

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO RÜDESHEIM

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 12 **RÜDESHEIM—RHINE GORGE**

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry in Wine Country

DISCOVERY Tour the incredible Mechanical Music Museum for a one-of-a-kind instrumental experience, OR:

ACTIVE Take a Hike up to the Niederwald Monument with your Avalon Adventure Host.

DISCOVERY Based on your departure date, enjoy either a Coffee Tasting or a Wine Tasting.

This afternoon cruise through the dramatic Rhine Gorge and see the famous rock of The Lorelei—where mythological siren lured ill-fated sailors to shore.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO COLOGNE

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 13 **COLOGNE**

Prost! Celebrate in the Rhineland's Capital City.

Start the day with a Morning Stretch with your Avalon Adventure Host.

CLASSIC Take a Guided City Walk of Cologne—explore the Old City and see its soaring twin-steeped Gothic cathedral, OR:

DISCOVERY Join a Guided Walking Tour of Cologne's important Jewish heritage sites.

Don't miss the chance to enjoy free time over a glass of Kölsch pale lager—locally brewed for over 100 years!

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO AMSTERDAM

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 14 **AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND**

Colorful Amsterdam—with Canals, Crooked Houses, and Cuisine of a Golden Age

CLASSIC Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam with a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam's "Golden Age."

Spend free time on your own to explore the colorful cafés, galleries, bridges, and canals of Amsterdam.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 15 **AMSTERDAM (DISEMBARKATION)**

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

 Breakfast

Vacation Highlights

Day 1 Budapest (Embarkation): onboard welcome reception

Day 2 Budapest: guided tour, see Heroes' Square

Day 3 Bratislava: guided sightseeing, visit St. Martin's Cathedral

Day 4 Vienna: guided sightseeing

Day 5 Dürnstein–Wachau Valley–Melk: choice of guided walk, or hike up to the castle ruins in Dürnstein; cruise through the Wachau Valley; guided tour of the Benedictine Abbey in Melk; wine tasting

Day 6 Passau: guided walk

Day 7 Regensburg: guided walk;

Day 8 Roth–Nuremberg Excursion: choice of guided sightseeing of Roth; or guided sightseeing in Nuremberg, or Nuremberg Rally Grounds tour

Day 9 Bamberg: guided walk, see the Old Town Hall

Day 10 Würzburg: guided sightseeing, visit the Bishop's Residenz

Day 11 Main River Village: guided walk

Day 12 Rudesheim–Rhine Gorge: visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum; special treat; cruise through the Rhine Gorge

Day 13 Cologne: choice of Cologne highlights walking tour, or Jewish Heritage walking tour

Day 14 Amsterdam: canal cruise

Day 15 Amsterdam (Disembarkation): vacation ends this morning

- In the event of water level problems or any problems of a technical nature, it may be necessary to operate the itinerary by motorcoach or to alter the program.
- Included visits and special features are subject to change. If a change is necessary, a substitute will be offered.
- Please check visa requirements with your local consulate(s); responsibility for obtaining visas rests with the traveler.

Hotels

Budapest



InterContinental Budapest

Hotel as shown or similar

Deluxe

Few would argue the InterContinental Budapest is in the city's best location: right on the Danube across from Castle Hill and the Royal Palace. With the Chain Bridge and the Parliament just steps away, there's no shortage of superb sightseeing opportunities. The Váci Utca shopping street, Central Market Hall and the Gellért Baths are also nearby.

Amsterdam

Moevenpick Amsterdam City

Hotel as shown or similar

Superior First-Class

A stylish 408-room hotel in the perfect location, this waterfront property offers Free Wi-Fi internet access throughout. The chic restaurant serves creative international cuisine and there is a fabulous bar serving drinks and light snacks which is also a great spot for a nightcap. For relaxation there is a Lifestyle Studio featuring a gym, Finnish sauna, bio sauna & ice fountain.



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