

15 Days Grand European Tour

Budapest to Amsterdam








VIKING INCLUSIVE VALUE

MORE FEATURES INCLUDED:

- One complimentary shore excursion in every port of call
- Free Wi-Fi (connection speed may vary)
- Beer, wine & soft drinks with onboard lunch & dinner
- 24-hour specialty coffees, teas & bottled water
- Port taxes & fees
- Ground transfers with Viking Air purchase
- Visits to UNESCO Sites
- Enrichment lectures & Destination Performances

ALL STATEROOMS INCLUDE:

- Outside staterooms with river view
- Bottled water replenished daily
- Voltage: 220V & 110V (US outlet), plus USB ports
- Queen-size Viking Explorer Bed with optional twin-bed configuration
- All Upper & Middle Deck staterooms have a full veranda or French balcony (a floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door)
- Private bathroom with shower; heated floor & anti-fog mirror; premium Freyja toiletries; robes & slippers (upon request)
- 40" or 42" flat-screen Sony® TV with infotainment system featuring Movies On Demand, plus CNBC, CNN, FOX & more
- Telephone, safe, refrigerator, hair dryer & individual climate control
- ** All amenities on board Viking Longships; amenities vary on other ships.*

 Cultural Curriculum®	 Meals including regional specialties	 Most al fresco dining on the rivers	 Walking track & sports deck	 24-hour Guest Services	 Welcome Cocktails & Farewell Dinner	 Curated library	 Viking Service Guarantee
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Itinerary

Day 1 — Budapest, Hungary

Welcome to Budapest, capital of Hungary. Transfer to your ship from the airport.* After boarding, the afternoon is yours to relax or do a bit of exploring. Tonight, return to your ship for a traditional Hungarian dinner. (Dinner)

* Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

Day 2 — Budapest, Hungary

Today we visit highlights of the hilly Buda and cosmopolitan Pest sides of the city, starting with Pest's National Opera House and historic Heroes' Square. In Buda, walk along Castle Hill to Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church. Enjoy lunch on board your ship; the rest of the day is yours to explore the city. You may choose to join us on an optional excursion to experience the thermal springs, restorative natural spas whose waters locals have bathed in for centuries. Or, perhaps select another of our optional excursions designed to allow you to delve deeper into the history, culture and cuisine of this fascinating city. Return to your ship for dinner and evening departure. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Included: Panoramic Budapest (4 Hours)

Take in one of Europe's great cultural capitals. Over the last few decades, Budapest has reemerged as one of the continent's iconic cities, divided by the lilting Danube and connected by the graceful Chain Bridge. Meet your guide for a panoramic tour, beginning in modern Pest. Along the elegant Andrassy Avenue, the Champs-Élysées of Budapest, admire the Hungarian State Opera House. Drive through Heroes' Square, a wide-open plaza of monuments and statues commemorating the Magyar state. Across the river, explore the more traditional Buda side of the city. Here you will visit the Castle District with its massive hilltop castle complex, the turreted Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church, named for the country's most popular medieval king. From the heights of Buda Hill, enjoy fantastic views of the famous Chain Bridge, the first span to ever connect the two halves of the city when it opened in 1849.



Day 3 — Vienna, Austria

Enjoy a day of scenic cruising along the beautiful Danube toward Vienna. As we sail, perhaps join this morning's German language lesson to learn a few key words and phrases. You may also choose to attend an afternoon presentation on Viennese coffee houses. We arrive early this evening. After dinner, relax or enjoy an optional classical concert. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 4 — Vienna, Austria

Today we tour the Austrian capital of Vienna. Ride along the Ringstrasse, which replaced the city walls in the mid-19th century. See some of the city's baroque architecture, including the world-famous Opera House, St. Stephen's Cathedral and Hofburg Palace.

Return to your ship for lunch. The rest of the day is yours to further explore. As always, your Program Director can help you plan your free time. Alternately, you may wish to join us on one of the day's optional excursions, perhaps touring Schönbrunn Palace, the "Versailles of Vienna," visiting the Spanish Riding School's famed Lipizzaner stallions, or celebrating a local tradition this evening at a high-spirited Heurigen dinner.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Included: Panoramic Vienna (3 Hours & 30 Minutes)
See the magnificent architectural highlights of one of Europe's most elegant and romantic cultural capitals. The center of arts and intellect during the reign of the Hapsburgs and beyond, Vienna dances to a tempo all its own. Meet your guide and drive into the city for a half-day motor coach and walking tour, focusing on the splendid buildings on the remarkable Ringstrasse, the gracious boulevard laid out on the site of the old city walls in the mid-19th century. Imposing palaces, elegant public buildings and grand residences line this world-famous avenue. You will see the magnificent Hofburg Palace, winter residence of the Hapsburgs and home of the Spanish Riding School with its Lipizzaner horses. Admire the great, Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral, crowned with a gleaming spire and colorful roof tiles. And view the beautiful Vienna State Opera concert hall, its facade adorned with elaborate frescoes depicting Mozart's opera The Magic Flute.



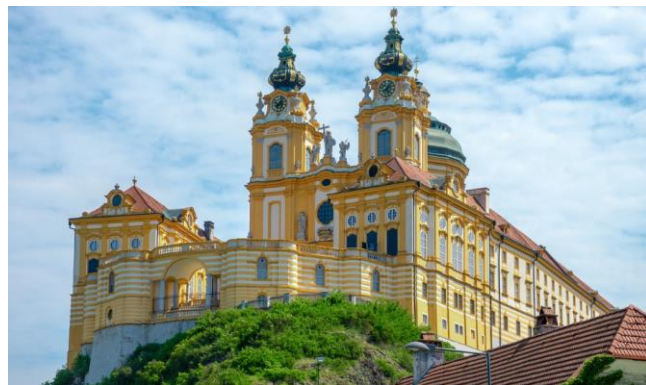
Day 5 — Melk, Austria

Today, visit the abbey at Melk, a 900-year-old Benedictine monastery featuring Austria's finest Italian baroque architecture. See its wonderful frescoes and admire the comprehensive collection of medieval manuscripts in its library. Rejoin your ship and cruise through dinner.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Included: Melk Abbey (3 Hours)

Tour the renowned Melk Abbey, a masterwork of baroque brilliance. Perched on dramatic cliffs high above the Danube, this ochre-colored confection is perhaps the most graceful landmark of the Wachau Valley. At the abbey's entrance, you will meet your guide. Rebuilt during the 18th century after the original 12th-century building was destroyed by fire, its library is now home to a wide range of medieval manuscripts. The interior of the abbey's church is a kaleidoscope of red, orange and gold, with a magnificent carved pulpit and colorful ceiling frescoes. You will also see the imperial rooms, which are now home to a museum chronicling the abbey's history from its inception to modern times. Be sure to step onto its gracious terrace for breathtaking views of the Danube, the city and the expanding valley.



Day 6 — Passau, Germany

Arrive this morning in Passau, at the confluence of the Inn, Ilz and Danube Rivers. Your guided walk along the town's narrow streets takes you through Old Town and past traditional patrician houses. Admire the New Bishop's Residence and see the impressive baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral; its ornate interior is home to the Europe's largest church organ.

Enjoy lunch on board your ship, and return to the city for further exploration on your own. Alternately, set out this morning with your guide to enjoy a full-day optional tour of picturesque Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart and setting of *The Sound of Music*. We depart just before dinner and cruise through the night.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Passau Walking Tour (1 Hour & 30 Minutes)

Explore the Italianate-style streets of Passau, where three European rivers have converged to shape a distinctive city. Meet your local guide and begin your walking tour through delightful old-world streets, taking in a pastel rainbow of building facades as you stroll. You will see the impressive Bishops' Residenz from which powerful prince-bishops ruled secular and religious life for hundreds of years. Continue past the 14th-century Rathaus, or Town Hall, built on the site of a former fish market on the Danube.

Conclude your walk at the magnificent 17th-century St. Stephen's Cathedral. This baroque wonder houses Europe's largest pipe organ, with more than 17,000 pipes, and inspired Franz Liszt to write his Hungarian Coronation Mass. Enjoy free time to explore more of the city on your own before returning to your awaiting ship.



Day 7 — Regensburg, Germany

Arrive in Regensburg after breakfast and tour this wonderfully preserved medieval city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including structures dating back to Roman times. Discover many 13th- and 14th-century patrician houses and see the splendid St. Peter's Cathedral.

During free time, visit the Alte Würstküche (Old Sausage Kitchen), Germany's oldest restaurant.

Alternately, you may choose to disembark this morning and drive with your guide to Munich for an optional full-day tour of this cultural and historic city, rejoining your ship before our evening departure. Cruise through dinner.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Regensburg Walking Tour (1 Hour & 30 Minutes)

Witness a true medieval city untouched by World War II bombing and rich in architectural splendor. Regensburg is one of Germany's best-preserved cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To get acquainted with this gem, explore it on foot with a local guide, who will share a personal view of the city he knows so well. See some of the Roman city walls erected by Marcus Aurelius upon its founding.

Walk past the Old Town Hall and see the 12th-century Old Stone Bridge, a 16-arch marvel of medieval engineering that still carries traffic today. See the famous Alte Wurstküche (Old Sausage Kitchen), Germany's oldest restaurant, and admire its idyllic courtyards.

At the Gothic St. Peter's Cathedral, gaze up at the Donkey Tower, a remnant of the former cathedral that was left to support this one. Marvel at the structure's superb stained-glass windows before returning to your ship at your leisure.



Day 8 — Nuremberg, Germany

Cruise the Main–Danube Canal this morning.

Or, instead, disembark for a short drive to the center of Nuremberg and use your free time to explore until lunchtime.

After lunch, venture out on a tour of the city. Visit the ruins of Zeppelin Field, the Nazi parade grounds of the 1930s, and see the Palace of Justice, site of the infamous Nuremberg Trials.

See the Old Town area as you walk past the Albrecht Dürer House and Main Market Square. Alternately, you may choose to join an optional afternoon World War II tour including the illuminating Documentation Center. Dinner is served on board your ship before we depart late this evening.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Nuremberg through History (4 Hours)

Tour one of Germany's most renowned and intriguing cities on this included excursion. Tour one of Germany's most renowned and intriguing cities on this included excursion. Meet your guide at your ship, then drive to the Old Town, where you can delve into Nuremberg's complex past.

This medieval city is still surrounded by 14th-century walls, with many gates and watchtowers fully intact. It grew into a toy-making capital of Europe, where craftsmen also shaped metal into inspiring sculpture and carved wood and other materials into decorative crafts.

After you see the grounds on which Nazi rallies were staged and pass the Palace of Justice, admire the Imperial Palace, one of Europe's most formidable fortresses. Then, stroll down the castle hill past half-timbered houses and browse the stalls at the Market Square.

One of Europe's most celebrated, it is famous for its gingerbread and its Gothic Schöner Brunnen, or Beautiful Fountain. Cap your tour with time at your leisure to explore on your own.



Day 9 — Bamberg, Germany

Continue along the Main–Danube Canal this morning, arriving in Bamberg in early afternoon.

Enjoy a tour of Bamberg, with its medieval city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Your walking tour includes a visit to the magnificent 11th-century cathedral, reworked in late Romanesque style in the 13th century, and the picturesque city hall built on a tiny island in the middle of a river. Take some free time to enjoy Bamberg and sample some of the town's distinctive smoke-flavored beer before returning on board.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Bamberg Walking Tour (4 Hours & 30 Mins)

See the burial place of emperors and the home of smoked beer on this included excursion.

Join your local guide and head to the medieval city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Visit the magnificent 11th-century cathedral with its four imposing towers. The church was rebuilt in late Romanesque and early Gothic style in the 13th century; this is where both Emperor Henry II and Pope Clement II are buried.

You can pause to admire the detailed statue of the Bamberger Reiter, or Bamberg Horseman, here.

You will also see the picturesque Rathaus, or Town Hall, built in the middle of a double-arched bridge over the Regnitz River.

From here, you can see fishermen's cottages on the nearby riverbanks. You will have time to follow your own whims in Bamberg, perhaps sampling some of the town's distinctive *rauchbier*, or smoke-flavored beer, before rejoining your ship.



Day 10 — Würzburg, Germany

Today, tour Würzburg's Bishops' Residenz, one of Germany's largest and most ornate baroque palaces and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Or, you may choose to disembark this morning to experience an optional full-day journey along Germany's picturesque "Romantic Road" to Rothenburg, with its turreted city wall and impressive Gothic and baroque architecture.

Rejoin your ship for dinner and an evening glassblowing demonstration.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Würzburgs Residenz & Walk (3 Hours)

Tour Würzburg's Bishops' Residenz, one of Germany's largest and most ornate palaces and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Drive with your guide to the former residence of the Würzburg prince-bishop that was built over a 25-year period, beginning in 1719.

Admire the overhead ceiling with its stunning, 6,400-square-foot "Four Continents" fresco painted by Venetian artist Giovanni Tiepolo.

You will see several of the building's ornate rooms, the colonnaded chapel and the baroque and English-style gardens lined with ornate statues. A highlight is sure to be the Mirror Cabinet. Incredibly, the entire complex was meticulously reconstructed after suffering extensive damage from World War II bombing.

Afterward, continue to the Old Town of Würzburg, where a walking tour shows you the stunning Romanesque Cathedral, the Neumünster church, the market square and Town Hall, and the oldest wine bar in town.



Day 11 — Wertheim, Germany

Wertheim is located at the confluence of the Main and Tauber Rivers.

During your morning walking tour, experience life in a typical small German town.

Stop in a bakery and a butcher shop, and learn about Wertheim's glassblowing tradition.

Enjoy free time to explore before returning to your ship for lunch.

Alternately, depart this morning on an all-day optional excursion that offers a rare glimpse into noble life, enjoying Privileged Access visits to two very different castles: Schloss Mespelbrunn and Schloss Löwenstein.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Wertheim Walking Tour (1 Hour)

Explore Wertheim, a tiny town that has played a strategic role at the confluence of the Main and Tauber Rivers.

You will join your guide to experience this quaint village, squeezed into a narrow triangle in the shadow of Wertheim Castle.

As you stroll, its red sandstone towers and fortifications mark your progress from their perch, striking a dramatic pose against the lush hillside forest.

You will walk past the Pointed Tower, round at the bottom and octagonal at the top. Over its 800 years, it has tilted to one side. Amble among beautifully restored half-timbered houses built in Franconian style.

At the historic marketplace, you will pass a bakery and butcher shop, where you may stop after your tour to learn more about how these important professions help uphold German traditions.

You can also stop by a glassblowing shop to admire the intricate works.



Day 12 — Koblenz, Germany

Today, we cruise past hilltop castles along the Rhine; this stunning stretch of the river is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Be sure to keep an eye out for the Lorelei Rock, which marks the river's narrowest point; the rock is named after a legendary Rhine Maiden who lured sailors to their demise.

This afternoon, we'll stop to visit Marksburg Castle, the only Rhine fortress never destroyed. Rejoin your ship in Koblenz and dine on board.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Marksburg Castle (3 Hours)

Visit the only castle in the Rhine Valley to have never been destroyed. You will drive with your guide to Braubach, where the incredible Marksburg Castle watches over the town as it has since the 13th century.

Because this magnificent structure was built with strong fortifications, it was never besieged by enemies. Upon arrival on its lofty grounds, enjoy spectacular views of Braubach, the Rhine and the surrounding countryside from its 300-foot perch. Tour the citadel, see the impressive kitchens in the Gothic Hall building and study the Gimbel Collection, including its life-size figurines detailing changes to armor and weaponry through the ages.

The distinct butter-churn tower, so named because the upper reaches have a smaller diameter than the lower, is a beloved landmark of the town with its distinct profile. Today, Marksburg Castle is home to the German Castles Association, which works to preserve medieval fortifications all over Germany.



Day 13 — Cologne, Germany

Begin your day with a morning tour of Cologne, Germany's fourth-largest city.

Stroll through Old Town past St. Martin's Church and see the Dom, Germany's largest cathedral and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Spend your free time enjoying Cologne's atmospheric waterfront, or perhaps join an optional excursion on which you ascend to the Dom's roof for up-close views of the cathedral's architecture and bird's-eye vistas of Cologne.

Afterward, return on board for dinner. Alternately, you may set off on an optional excursion to explore Cologne's spirited beer culture, sampling *Kölsch*, a light, crisp beer brewed only in Cologne, and enjoying a *brauhaus* dinner. After, return to your ship for a late-evening departure.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Cologne Walking Tour (2 Hours)

Learn about Cologne's heritage and view its iconic cathedral, towering over the city in all its Gothic splendor.

Step into a rich past, following some of the city's preserved historic street patterns and hearing about its Roman and medieval history along the way.

As you stroll, your guide will regale you with tales of local folklore figures, Tünnes and Schääl, and the city's flourishing Jewish community.

In Old Cologne, pass the elegant silhouette of St. Martin's church and stop to view Cologne's magnificent Gothic cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Construction of this towering structure began in 1248 and continued in several stages over the next seven centuries.

The largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, this magnificent church boasts two soaring spires and beautiful stained glass windows, and largely escaped the damage that ravaged the city and the rest of Germany during World War II.



Day 14 — Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

We sail along the Rhine during the morning hours. Admire scenic views and enjoy a morning of enjoyable Dutch diversions: sample Dutch cheeses and *jenever*, a distilled juniper liquor, and take in a culturally enriching presentation on the Dutch Golden Age.

This afternoon, your ship arrives in Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Disembark for an afternoon tour of this ingenious network of windmills and other flood management devices. You learn why the windmills were built and see how they work, plus you enter a working windmill for a tour of its mechanisms and living quarters. Board your ship for departure and dinner. Arrive in Amsterdam around midnight.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Included: Kinderdijk Windmills (2 Hours)

See the picturesque Dutch countryside and the original technological marvels of historic Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

You will walk with your guide into the serene polder lands of South Holland. As you cross the dike to the windmills, you will notice that they in fact are at a lower elevation than your ship, as much of this part of The Netherlands is below sea level.

Built in the mid-18th century, these 19 windmills, the largest concentration in The Netherlands, stand like sentinels on a hushed landscape. You will learn why they were built and see firsthand how they work, even stepping into a working windmill to observe its mechanics and living quarters.

Families who live in these mills are required to keep them in working order. This excursion provides a revealing look at these marvelous buildings that helped shape the legendary Dutch landscape.



Day 15 — Amsterdam, The Netherlands

After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the airport for your return flight.* Or, extend your journey with 2 additional nights in Amsterdam; take time to explore the city's neighborhoods, museums and exciting nightlife. (Breakfast)

* Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

* One shore excursion included per port; all others available at an extra charge. Itinerary is subject to change.



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Tel: **(626)910-5288** • Fax: **(626)910-5388** • Toll Free: **1-888-680-5688**
18472 Colima Rd., Suite 202F, Rowland Heights, CA 91748
CST # 2116316-40