Northwestern | ALUMNI



Duration
15 days

Activity Level
Moderate

Journey Type
River
Solo-Friendly

Cruise Europe's Heartland

May 6-21, 2027

Starting from $7,545/pp

Unpack once and cruise for 14 nights through the heart of Europe aboard an exclusively chartered river ship! Visit five captivating countries — Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands — as you glide along the legendary Rhine, Main and Danube rivers, where every stop tells a story and every river bend reveals picturesque landscapes. You'll explore medieval villages and step into magnificent palaces, castles, abbeys and cathedrals. Delight in an Amsterdam canal cruise, soak up Vienna's imperial grandeur and feel the magic of Budapest after dark. Plus, personalize your adventure with a choice of included shore excursions in select ports, designed to suit your interests and pace. This first-class voyage offers an intimate, unforgettable way to explore Europe!





Day-by-Day Itinerary

Cruise the Heart of Europe

Air Program: 16 days/15 nights (includes 1 air night)

Cruise Program: 15 days/14 nights

Breakfasts: 14 | Lunches: 13 | Receptions: 2 | Dinners: 14

B | L | D denotes includ ed breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

- A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Cruise Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Cruise Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.
- This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.
- Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Please note, excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches and boats.

Mild: Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour

Moderate: Walk 1-3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50-100 stairs; stand 1-2 hours

Active: Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Amsterdam, Netherlands. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: AMS.

Day 2 | Amsterdam, Netherlands

MS Amadeus Star

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Arrive at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. Proceed through immigration and then to the baggage claim area to retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Cruise Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to the pier and embark on the first-class MS Amadeus Star river ship. The docking location of the ship will be provided in your final documents. Please note that if you arrive before check-in time, your cabin may not be immediately available.

Note: Early arrivals will enjoy a short orientation walk around Amsterdam, including a coffee and/or pastry break (at own expense) before continuing to the ship for embarkation this afternoon.

Canals of Amsterdam. Walk or take a short ride from the ship to a pier and board a canal cruiser for a delightful early evening tour of Amsterdam's iconic waterways. The city's three main canals were dug during the 17th century, a period known as the Golden Age, and the central canal belt is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Listen to commentary from a local expert as you glide past some of Amsterdam's 1,500 bridges, dozens of islands and elegant 17th-century Dutch townhouses. Admire the architectural gems, bustling waterfronts and hidden courtyards that give this vibrant city its unique character and timeless charm. (Moderate; getting on and off the boat requires climbing up and down steep steps that are rocking in the water)

Dinner is served aboard the ship each evening, featuring a gourmet selection of both international and regional cuisine crafted by talented chefs. Savor artfully prepared dishes that highlight fresh, seasonal ingredients, paired with fine wines and attentive service. After dinner, relax in the lounge and enjoy nightly entertainment.

The ship overnights in Amsterdam.

Day 3 | Amsterdam

MS Amadeus Star

B | L | D

Enjoy a full, freshly prepared breakfast aboard the ship each morning during your cruise.

Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands, is both the country's cultural heart and a bustling commercial center. Named for its origins as a dam on the river Amstel, the city today is world-famous for its more than 60 miles of tree-lined canals and waterways, which weave through charming streets and historic neighborhoods, making Amsterdam a truly unforgettable and romantic destination.

Enrichment: Contemporary Holland. Join a discussion with a local expert to explore Holland's role as a constitutional monarchy, its place in the European Union and the country's cultural, economic and political future.

After this morning's lecture, disembark for your chosen PYJ experience.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Rijksmuseum Tour. Immerse yourself in an audio-guided tour of the Rijksmuseum, home to Dutch Golden Age masterpieces, including Rembrandt van Rijn's "The Night Watch," Johannes Vermeer's "The Milkmaid," and works by Frans Hals, Jan Steen and a host of other renowned masters. Afterward, continue exploring the museum at leisure – linger before your favorite paintings or unwind over refreshments in the museum café. (Moderate)
- Waterland Bicycle Ride. Head out on a guided bike ride through the serene Waterland region, a classic Dutch polder landscape north of Amsterdam encompassing nine charming villages. Marvel at the idyllic scenery and timeless Dutch character of hamlets, stopping along the way to savor a traditional pastry and coffee in this peaceful rural setting. (Active)
- Canal District Walking Tour. Take a closer look at Amsterdam's UNESCO-listed canal ring on a guided walking tour along the prestigious Herengracht, including the opulent Golden Bend. Learn about the city's 400-year canal heritage, and visit the fascinating Museum of the Canals, featuring 3D animations, interactive exhibits and more. (Active)

Return to the ship for lunch, then unwind on the Sun Deck or engage in a friendly round of mini-golf, shuffleboard or giant chess as the ship cruises gracefully toward Cologne, Germany.

Welcome Reception and Dinner. This evening, meet your fellow travelers during a festive Welcome Reception and Dinner aboard the ship, the perfect start to your river journey.

Day 4 | Cologne, Germany

B | L | D

MS Amadeus Star

Relax on deck and relish a leisurely morning and lunch as the ship glides along the Rhine. Arrive in Cologne and prepare to discover one of Germany's most vibrant medieval cities. Step ashore to immerse yourself in Cologne's lively atmosphere, storied past and striking architectural treasures.

Cologne Walking Tour & Kölner Dom. Take a guided walk through Cologne's historic quarter and stop to visit the famous 12th-century Kölner Dom, also known as the Cologne Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Before you enter, note the façade, which features twin towers that rise to a height of 515 feet, as well as the pointed arches, ribbed vaults and soaring spires. Inside the Gothic-style cathedral, admire the wooden Gero Crucifix, dating back to the 10th century; the Shrine of the Three Kings, a stunning gilded sarcophagus located behind the high altar; and the vibrant, intricate stained-glass windows, some of which date back to the medieval period. (Moderate)

Return to the ship and relax before dinner.

Later tonight, the ship departs Cologne and sails overnight for Koblenz.

Day 5

Koblenz B | L | D

MS Amadeus Star

Arrive in Koblenz, where the Moselle and Rhine rivers meet, early this morning. The medieval city is dotted with striking monuments, an imposing fortress and charmingly quirky fountains.

After breakfast, step ashore to begin your selected excursion below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Koblenz Walking Tour. Take a guided stroll through the historic streets of Koblenz, where over 2,000 years of history have unfolded. Founded by the Romans at a strategic river confluence, the city reveals its past in landmarks such as the elegant Town Hall, the medieval Liebfrauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), the imposing Alte Burg (Old Castle), the Altes Kaufhaus (Old Merchants' Hall) and the dramatic Deutsches Eck (German Corner), crowned by the commanding monument to Emperor Wilhelm II. (Moderate)
- Ehrenbreitstein Fortress. A cable car whisks you to this famous battlement perched on a rocky promontory high above the Rhine and Moselle rivers. Constructed in its present form between 1816 and 1832, Ehrenbreitstein is the second-largest preserved fortress in Europe, with origins dating to the 11th century. Enjoy a guided tour of the Koblenz State Museum's exhibits to learn about the fortress's storied history. Admire the stunning panoramas from this vantage point overlooking Koblenz and the surrounding rivers. (Moderate)

Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon of sailing through one of the most gorgeous areas of Germany as the ship makes its way through the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a particularly scenic stretch with castles and vineyards peppering the steep hills. At the narrowest point of the Rhine River, see the famous bronze Loreley Statue, representing the mythical siren Lorelei, a figure from German folklore who was said to sit atop the Lorelei Rock.

The ship continues cruising for Miltenberg overnight.

Day 6 | Miltenberg

B | L | D

MS Amadeus Star

Spend this morning relaxing on board as you cruise along the scenic Rhine.

Frühschoppen! Make your way to the deck mid-morning for a truly memorable experience. Savor traditional German beer while sampling a tempting spread of Brezeln (pretzels), weißwurst (sausages) and flavorful mustards, all while mingling and soaking in the riverside ambiance. (Mild)

As the ship cruises, relax in the heated indoor pool, Vital wellness club, or hair salon, or simply stroll along the deck, admiring the panoramic river views.

Early this afternoon, the ship arrives in Miltenberg. Disembark to discover the romantic town.

City of Miltenberg. A walking tour of Miltenberg reveals traditional half-timbered houses, quaint taverns and a decorative, 16th-century octagonal fountain. See the Town Hall and Germany's oldest working inn, named Riesen, which means giant, and take in its storybook façade. Stop at St. Kilian Kellerei, a wine shop that sits over a 15th-century, vaulted ice cellar. Today, ice is no longer stored there, but it is a charming spot for you to enjoy a tasting of Franconian brandies. (Moderate)

Return to the ship and unwind this evening while cruising along the Main River toward Wu rzburg.

Day 7 | Würzburg

MS Amadeus Star

B | L | D

In this romantic corner of Bavaria, the historic Franconian city of Würzburg reveals a tapestry of architecture rich with centuries of stories. Its vibrant Old Town is graced with splendid churches, among them the Gothic St. Mary's Chapel and the baroque Neumünster Collegiate Church. Spanning the Main River, the venerable Old Main Bridge, or Alte Mainbrücke, stands adorned with statues of saints — a striking emblem of the city's enduring heritage.

After lunch, disembark the ship for your chosen excursion below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Würzburg Residenz & City Walk. Begin with a visit to the renowned Würzburg Residence, built between 1720 and 1744. The majestic UNESCO World Heritage site is one of Europe's finest secular baroque palaces. On a guided inside tour, gaze at the sumptuously decorated Imperial Hall, the Hall of Mirrors and an impressive staircase featuring a brilliant fresco. Continue on a walking tour of this old Franconian city to see St. Kilian's Cathedral, the Neumünster Church, the Old Town Hall, the scenic market square and more. (Moderate – Active; there are a fair number of stairs to navigate at the residence)
- The Romantic Road & Rothenburg. Set out by deluxe motor coach along the Romantic Road, once a vital trade route in the Middle Ages. This storied corridor traces a historic path through the foothills of the German Alps and the Franconian wine country. As you travel through tranquil medieval villages and charming Bavarian towns, take in the half-timbered houses, flower-trimmed lanes and fairy-tale castles that define the landscape. Stop to visit Rothenburg, one of Germany's most enchanting and best-preserved medieval towns, still surrounded by its original 14th-century walls. Within this storybook setting, half-timbered houses, cobbled lanes and soaring towers evoke the romance of a bygone era. (Moderate)

After your tour, return to the ship, which departs early this evening for Bamberg.

Day 7 | Bamberg

MS Amadeus Star

B | L | D

The endearing city of Bamberg is a UNESCO World Heritage-inscribed city, situated across seven hills. Its winding cobblestone lanes, well-preserved medieval architecture, baroque churches and charming atmosphere make Bamberg a cultural gem in the Franconia region of Bavaria.

After a morning of cruising and lunch aboard the ship, arrive in Zeil am Main to disembark and board a motor coach to Bamberg for your selected excursion below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Bamberg Walking Tour. Embark on a guided walking tour of Bamberg's old town. See the 17th-century statue of Neptune in the Alte Hofhaltung, Old Court, a striking example of baroque artistry that sits atop an intricately designed sea-themed fountain. Stroll beneath the grand archway of the 18th-century Obere Brücke bridge, an outstanding example of dramatic rococo architecture, and gaze at the sweeping panoramic views of this storybook town. (Moderate)
- Bamberg Culinary Delights. Set out on a walking culinary tour of Bamberg, where Franconian and Bavarian traditions come to life. Pause briefly at a local bakery, butcher, deli and candy shop, savoring the flavors of the region. Along the way, sample Bavarian specialties such as the city's renowned licorice, leberkäse (meatloaf), obatzda (cheese spread), Bretzels, a glass of Bavarian beer and a small cake. (Moderate) Note: The culinary tour takes place outside, with brief standing stops to sample local specialties while learning about the region's cuisine. Samples may vary by season and the timing of the culinary tour.

Return to the ship, now docked in Bamberg, and begin cruising through the Main-Danube Canal for Nuremberg this evening.

Day 9 | Nuremberg

B | L | D

MS Amadeus Star

The cityscape of Nuremberg greets you this morning! Home to Europe's first printing press, Nuremberg is often associated with expansions in science and technology. Ancient city walls from the 14th and 15th centuries lead to medieval gates and towers, while the imposing twin-towered Gothic St. Lorenz church watches over the town.

Disembark the ship to begin your PYJ election below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Nuremberg Sightseeing. Embark on a panoramic drive through the city, passing the historic courthouse where the World War II trials were held, a site steeped in global significance. Then enjoy a guided walk through charming streets, taking in the imposing hilltop castle and its scenic courtyard. In the bustling Hauptmarkt square, marvel at the intricate 14th-century Gothic Schöner Brunnen fountain, the city's iconic centerpiece. Admire the striking 14th-century Frauenkirche, also known as the Church of Our Lady, and the soaring medieval St. Lorenz Church, both testaments to Nuremberg's rich architectural heritage. Return to the ship for lunch. (Moderate)
- History of the Nazi Party Rallies. During the years leading up to World War II and throughout the conflict, Nuremberg was a central hub for the Nazi Party and its propaganda activities. Visit a specially curated Interim Exhibition in the Large Exhibition Hall at the Documentation Center to uncover the history of the Nazi Party Rallies and the expansive Rally Grounds. Explore the ideological and political machinery behind the rallies, learn about the architecture and symbolism used to project power and gain insight into the devastating impact of Nazi policies on Germany and the world. Return to the ship for lunch. (Moderate)
- Franconian Switzerland Tour & Distillery Visit. Journey north from Nuremberg through picturesque Franconian villages and rolling countryside. Explore the Franconian Switzerland Museum to discover the region's traditional way of life, then visit the historic Gößweinstein Abbey, founded in 1127, a cherished pilgrimage site perched above the valley with breathtaking views. Continue to a local distillery where orchard-grown fruits are transformed into fine schnapps and savor a tasting of these artisanal spirits. Conclude the morning with a delightful lunch at a charming traditional inn. (Moderate) Note: If this excursion is chosen, you will have lunch during the tour and miss most of your free time in Nuremberg.

Free Time: After lunch, you are free to head back into Nuremberg to explore at your own pace. A shuttle service will be available this afternoon between the ship and the city center.

The ship departs Nuremberg, cruising for Regensburg this evening.

Day 10 | Regensburg

B | L | D

MS Amadeus Star

Wake this morning to the gentle rhythm of the Danube as you continue cruising for Regensburg, a once-prosperous medieval merchant city set at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz and Inn rivers. Rich in history, Regensburg reveals Roman ruins, Gothic, Romanesque and baroque churches, as well as a vibrant tapestry of 12th- and 13th-century houses.

Regensburg & Thurn und Taxis Palace. After an early lunch on board, disembark the ship and begin a guided walk to explore Regensburg, one of Germany's most charming towns. See the ancient Roman tower and gateway of Porta Praetoria and walk across the 12th-century Stone Bridge. Admire the bright yellow Altes Rathaus and the Old Town Hall, dating back to the 1200s, and gaze upon the soaring St. Peter's Cathedral with its mesmerizing stained-glass windows. Conclude your visit with a guided tour of the Thurn und Taxis Palace, a former Benedictine monastery that features a magnificent ballroom and an opulent throne room, showcasing centuries of aristocratic elegance. (Moderate)

Enrichment: The Main-Danube Canal. Back aboard the ship, gather with a local expert to discuss the history, construction, and importance of the legendary Main-Danube Canal, Europe's greatest man-made passageway, which connects the Main River to the Danube River. Completed in 1992, it was Emperor Charlemagne's vision more than 1,000 years ago.

The ship departs Regensburg tonight, cruising for Passau.

Day 11 | Passau

MS Amadeus Star

B | L | D

Arrive in Passau, beautifully situated at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz and Inn rivers. Step ashore to discover the picturesque "City of Three Rivers."

Passau & St. Stephen's Cathedral. Take a guided walk through Passau's charming Altstadt, where remnants of medieval fortifications still stand. Wander along the Residenzplatz, one of the most beautiful baroque squares north of the Alps. Admire the historic Rathaus Town

Hall, featuring a Renaissance façade and a striking clock tower. Across the river on the left bank, behold the medieval Veste Oberhaus fortress, founded in 1219, perched on a hill. Continue strolling along narrow cobblestone streets, pausing to view the 18th-century Neue Residenz, the New Bishop's Residence, a stunning Viennese baroque palace that was once home to Passau's prince-bishops; and the Alte Residenz, the Old Bishop's Palace, dating to the 14th century. Situated at the highest point of the prominent Domplatz square, the Old Residence has long been the center of ecclesiastical power in Passau. See the Niedernburg Monastery, a historic Benedictine nunnery where Gisela, Queen of Hungary, spent her later years as Abbess. Her tomb is in the adjoining Holy Cross Church.

During your tour, visit the 15th-century, baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral, which houses the world's largest cathedral organ – with 17,974 pipes and 233 registers that produce a truly majestic sound. The cathedral's site has been occupied by a church since the 8th century, with the current structure completed in 1688. Inside, the breathtaking white and gold baroque interior is adorned with ornate ceiling frescoes depicting biblical scenes in exquisite detail. (Moderate)

After a morning of sightseeing, return to the ship for lunch, then unwind during an afternoon of cruising for Melk, Austria. We'll pass through the Schlögener Schlinge, also known as the Danube Loop, an extreme bend in the river and the largest forced meander in Europe. Take advantage of the 24-hour fitness room or enjoy socializing in the yacht-style club.

Day 12 | Melk, Austria | Dürnstein

MS Amadeus Star

B | L | D

Enjoy breakfast and a relaxing morning of sailing as the ship continues toward Melk.

Melk Abbey. Arrive in Melk and step ashore once again to visit the renowned Benedictine abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a baroque architectural jewel dating back to 1736. Admire the stunningly beautiful interiors and spectacular views of the mighty Danube from the abbey's terrace. After the tour, you can walk downhill through the small, charming town center or take a motor coach to return to the ship. (Moderate)

Return to the ship for lunch and take in the beauty of the villages, monasteries and castles as you glide through the Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its dramatic landscapes and historic charm, en route to Melk.

Next, arrive at Dürnstein, a beloved village in the heart of Austria's renowned wine-growing region. The town was once the seat of the medieval Kuenring dynasty and the site of the castle where King Richard the Lionheart was famously imprisoned.

Arrive in Dürnstein and disembark to head out on your selected PYJ excursion below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Du rnstein Walking Tour. Take a guided stroll through the enchanting streets of Dürnstein, where baroque façades glow in the sunlight, and vineyards cascade down the hillsides to the sparkling Danube. Admire the charming scenery and breathe in the aroma of ripening grapes in this celebrated wine region. Step inside the magnificent Stift Dürnstein, the abbey church founded in 1410, and famous for its striking blue and white tower. Marvel at the elegant interior, which reflects centuries of history and devotion. (Moderate)
- Danube Cycling Adventure. Hop on a bicycle for a two-hour guided ride around Dürnstein and the scenic Wachau Valley. Explore sections of the 745-mile Danube Bicycle Trail, which stretches from Germany to Hungary, while passing lush vineyards, quaint villages and rolling hills framed by the glimmering river. Along the way, pause for a refreshing snack and take in the sweeping vistas that make this valley one of Europe's most picturesque regions. (Active)
- Wachau Valley Winery Visit & Tasting. Visit a charming local winery housed in a beautifully preserved historic building. Discover the region's winemaking traditions and sample its distinctive wines in the cellar, savoring flavors that reflect the unique terroir of the Wachau Valley. This celebrated area is particularly renowned for its Riesling and Grüner Veltliner, whose crisp, aromatic profiles perfectly capture the essence of the valley. (Mild)

Early this evening, return to the ship, which cruises for Vienna tonight.

Day 13 | Vienna

MS Amadeus Star

B | L | D

This morning, the ship arrives in the elegant, European capital of Austria – Vienna, one of Europe's most celebrated cities. From its ornate palaces and world-class art galleries to its vibrant coffee culture and revered concert halls, Vienna's treasures are rich, varied and unforgettable.

Enrichment: Timeless Vienna. Join a discussion about Vienna, a city renowned for its elegance, history and artistic legacy.

After your discussion, step ashore to embark on your chosen PYJ.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Imperial Vienna. Explore the sumptuous Imperial Apartments of Hofburg Palace, where lavish décor, intricate frescoes and gilded furnishings reflect centuries of Habsburg grandeur and imperial life. Then drive along the Ringstrasse, one of the world's most magnificent boulevards, lined with historic monuments, elegant townhouses and grand public buildings. Pass landmarks such as the University of Vienna—the oldest in the German-speaking world—the stately Houses of Parliament, the majestic Opera House, and striking monuments to Johann Strauss and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. (Moderate)
- Art & Wine: Klosterneuburg Monastery Wine Tasting. Perched above the Danube, the 12th-century Klosterneuburg Monastery is famed for its gilded copper Verdun Altar, a stunning example of medieval craftsmanship, and for housing Austria's oldest continuously operating wine estate. Explore the winding cellar as you learn about the centuries-old traditions of Austrian winemaking. Conclude your visit with a tasting of the estate's distinguished wines that capture the essence of this scenic region. (Moderate)
- Schönbrunn Palace & Gardens. Step into the magnificent summer residence of the Habsburgs, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a masterpiece of baroque architecture. Wander through the lavish State Apartments, each adorned with elegant frescoes, gilded moldings and period furnishings that evoke imperial opulence. Admire the sunlit grandeur of the Hall of Mirrors and stroll the stunning landscaped gardens, complete with fountains, statues and tree-lined avenues. (Moderate)

Free Time: Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Complimentary shuttle service will run throughout the afternoon and evening between the ship and Schwedenplatz, Vienna's central square, for independent exploration.

Return to the ship and unwind before dinner.

The Viennese Waltz. Tonight, gather for a captivating performance of the Viennese waltz by professional dancers accompanied by a live musical trio. Then, take to the floor yourself to learn the steps of this classic and elegant dance, a quintessential experience of Viennese culture. (Mild-Moderate)

The ship departs Vienna late tonight, cruising for Bratislava, Slovakia.

Day 14 | Bratislava, Slovakia

MS Amadeus Star

B | L | D

The ship arrives in Bratislava in the quiet early morning hours. The striking silhouette of the futuristic Most SNP bridge, also known as the Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising, which spans the Danube, hints at the city's unique blend of history and modernity.

Enrichment: The Velvet Revolution & the Making of Slovakia. Learn about the Velvet Revolution, a pivotal moment that ended communism in Czechoslovakia and set the stage for the nation's peaceful division into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Gain insight into Slovakia's emergence as an independent country and its cultural, political and social development.

After the morning lecture, disembark and proceed with your chosen excursion below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Bratislava's Old Town & Café. Stroll through the medieval old town on a guided walk, marveling at St. Martin's Cathedral, once the site of Hungarian coronations. Admire the Neo-Renaissance Slovak National Theatre, the 14th-century St. Michael's Gate—the city's only remaining medieval fortification gate—and the Primate's Palace, where Hungarian archbishops spent their winters. Stop at a

coffeehouse, located in a former bank hall, featuring art nouveau mosaics and views of the picturesque main square. Savor a traditional local pastry paired with a cup of coffee. (Moderate)

- Bratislava Old Town Musical History Walk. Discover the rich musical heritage of Bratislava, once home to composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn and Liszt. On a guided walk through the old town, pause at venues where these masters performed, taught or conducted premieres, including the Philharmonic Orchestra building and the famed Ventúrska Street, where Mozart is believed to have performed in 1762. Stop near Zichy Palace to enjoy a performance by a talented young violinist and take in other old town highlights, including the 14th-century St. Michael's Gate. (Moderate)
- Hidden Vines of Bratislava. Venture outside the city for a scenic drive through charming Slovak villages, rolling vineyards and emerald pastures. Visit a local winery, where centuries-old winemaking traditions are still practiced. Learn about the region's distinctive grape varieties, including Grüner Veltliner, Welschriesling and Blaufränkisch, and discover how local vintners craft wines that reflect the unique terroir of the Danube region. Cap off your visit with a delicious tasting of crisp and aromatic Slovak wines. (Mild)

Return to the ship for lunch and a leisurely afternoon to relax and take advantage of the ship's amenities.

The ship sets sail for Budapest, Hungary, early this evening.

Farewell Reception and Dinner. Raise a toast to your once-in-a-lifetime cruising adventure along storied rivers through Europe's heart at this evening's reception and dinner aboard the ship.

Day 15 | Budapest, Hungary

MS Amadeus Star

B | L | D

The ship arrives in Budapest very early this morning. The breathtaking capital of Hungary was once two cities—Buda and Pest—on opposite sides of the Danube, until they merged in 1872 to form Budapest, with the river flowing gracefully through the heart of the city.

After breakfast, disembark and set out on your selected PYJ tour below.

PYJ | Personalize Your Journey | Choose ONE of the following excursions and return the included PYJ Reservation Form with your selection by the deadline noted on the form.

- Budapest Panoramic Tour. Set out by deluxe motor coach through the city's Buda and Pest sections, including some short stops along the way. Drive along the iconic, UNESCO-inscribed Andrássy Avenue, pass by the symbolic Heroes' Square, the Neo-Renaissance Hungarian State Opera House and the magnificent Neo-Gothic-style Parliament Building. In the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Buda Castle Quarter, see the 700-year-old Matthias Church, known for its colorful Zsolnay tiles, and take in the panoramic views from the Fisherman's Bastion. (Moderate; ideal for slow walkers)
- Local Cultural Immersion. Experience local life in Budapest today! Begin at the 19th-century Great Market Hall, the city's largest and oldest indoor market. Explore three levels of bustling stalls offering Hungarian foods and handcrafted folk art. Then, continue with a panoramic city tour, stopping at a traditional coffeehouse. Watch pastry chefs craft flaky strudel, then savor a tasting accompanied by coffee or tea, along with a sampling of Hungarian pálinka schnapps. (Moderate)
- Budapest's Jewish Quarter. Discover Budapest's rich Jewish heritage on a coach and walking tour of the historic Jewish Quarter. Visit the 19th-century Moorish Revival-style Dohány Street Synagogue, Europe's largest synagogue. Next, pass by the nearby Weeping Willow Tree memorial park and then explore the Holocaust Memorial Center, which preserves the memory of the 600,000 Hungarian Jews who perished during the Holocaust. Conclude by pausing at the poignant Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial. (Moderate) Note: If the tour falls on a Saturday or a Jewish holiday, the Great Synagogue is closed to visitors. You will be able to view it from the outside and then visit the Páva Street Synagogue instead. If the tour falls on a Monday, the Holocaust Memorial is closed, so you will visit the Jewish Museum at the Great Synagogue.

Return to the ship for lunch and a moment to recharge.

Free Time: Spend the afternoon exploring Budapest at your own pace. Wander the vibrant streets, discover charming cafés or visit historic sites and shops in the heart of the city. Shuttles will be provided from the ship to the town center.

Return to the ship to relax before the evening's festivities.

Budapest by Night. After dinner, savor a memorable farewell cruise along the Danube, circling Budapest just as its grand landmarks come to life in the glow of night. Take in the luminous Parliament Building and the stately Buda Castle, and drift beneath the Chain Bridge, its lights dancing across the water. It's a magical, moonlit finale to your European river journey. (Mild)

The ship overnights in Budapest.

Day 16 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, bid farewell to the heart of Europe and your fellow travelers and disembark the ship in Budapest.

AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Cruise Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

If you are continuing on the Elective Post-Cruise Extension in Budapest, please refer to the separate Post-Program Itinerary for details.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.





What's Included

Program Overview

- Unpack once and cruise for 14 nights aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS Amadeus Star.
- Visit 5 countries during this program.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 2 receptions and 14 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

On-site Features

- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Personalize Your Journey | PYJ: A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.





FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

MS Amadeus Star

Cruise in exceptional comfort and style aboard this sophisticated, 82-cabin ship reminiscent of a grand European hotel while enjoying warm hospitality and personalized attention from its professional crew. The tastefully appointed social spaces feature large windows for expansive views of the unfolding scenery. Savor delicious breakfast and luncheon buffets and indulge in expertly prepared, regionally inspired dinners. Wine, beer and soft drinks complement both lunch and dinner. Each evening, relax in your inviting cabin or suite, which includes a private bathroom with a shower, satellite TV and complimentary Wi-Fi.



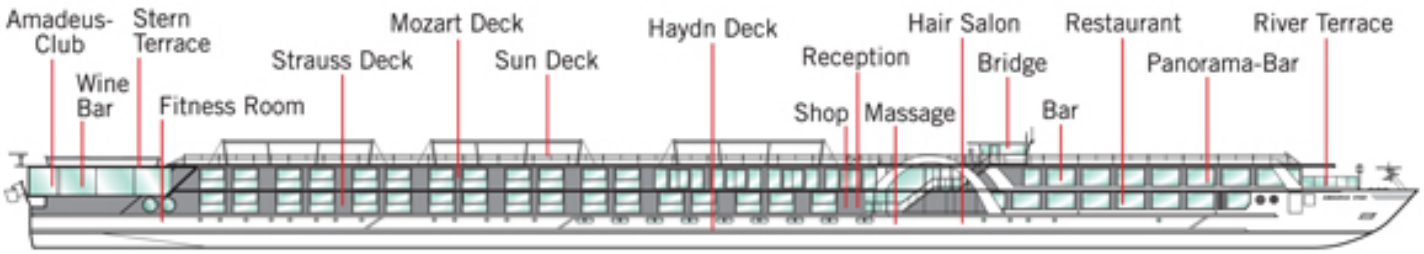
Pricing

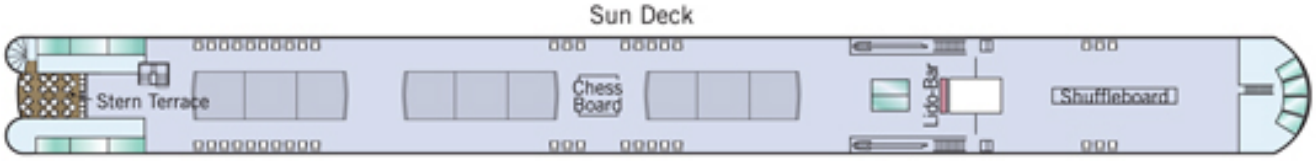
$500 Full Payment Discount expires December 7, 2026

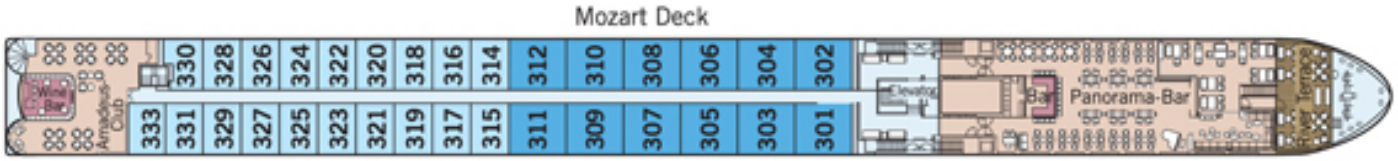
Category/Deck	Base Price	Full Payment Discount*	Special Price
S-Suite Mozart	$10,645	**-$500**	$10,145
A-Mozart Deck Aft	$9,645	**-$500**	$9,145
B-Strauss Deck Mid (WAIT LIST)	$9,045	**-$500**	$8,545
C-Strauss Deck Aft	$8,645	**-$500**	$8,145
D-Haydn Deck Mid (WAIT LIST)	$7,945	**-$500**	$7,445
E-Haydn Deck Mid Aft (WAIT LIST)	$7,545	**-$500**	$7,045

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; US government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. To view Program Terms and Conditions, close this window and scroll to the bottom of the page.

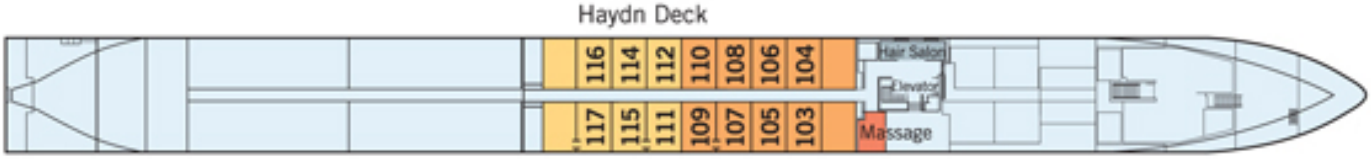
** Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


Amadeus-Club
Stern Terrace
Wine Bar
Fitness Room
Strauss Deck
Mozart Deck
Sun Deck
Haydn Deck
Reception
Shop
Massage
Hair Salon
Bridge
Bar
Restaurant
Panorama-Bar
River Terrace


Sun Deck
Stern Terrace
Chess Board
Lido-Bar
Shuffleboard


Mozart Deck
330 328 326 324 322 320 318 316 314 312 310 308 306 304 302
333 331 329 327 325 323 321 319 317 315 311 309 307 305 303 301
Wine Bar
Amadeus-Club
Elevator
Bar
Panorama-Bar
River Terrace


Strauss Deck
234 232 230 228 226 224 222 220 218 216 214 212 210 208 206 204 202
233 231 229 227 225 223 221 219 217 215 213 211 209 207 205 203 201
Reception
Elevator
Fitness Room
Shop
Restaurant


Haydn Deck
116 114 112 110 108 106 104
117 115 111 109 107 105 103
Hair Salon
Elevator
Massage

Suite A B C D E


Amsterdam
GERMANY
Cologne
Koblenz
Upper Middle Rhine Valley
Würzburg
Bamberg
Miltenberg
Nuremberg
Regensburg
Passau
Dürnstein
SLOVAKIA
Melk
Bratislava
Wachau Valley
Vienna
Budapest
AUSTRIA
HUNGARY



