

## 16 Day Classic European River Cruise

### River Cruise Package Includes

- 14 nights outside cabin aboard the Deluxe [Monarch Empress](#), the Deluxe [Monarch Queen](#)
- River port charges of \$380 per person
- Cruise portage
- All transfers included only with airfare purchase on package arrival & departure dates†
- 41 meals: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners
- Cruise director & activities host throughout cruise
- Services of local guides in all major cities
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring during excursions

### Special Features

- See magnificent panoramic views of Budapest from atop Fisherman's Bastion
- Tour romantic Vienna with its legendary opulence and elegance
- In Melk, join a guided tour of the historic Benedictine Abbey
- Marvel at the beautiful churches and ancient stone bridges in Regensburg
- Cruise the Main-Danube Canal, considered a marvel of modern engineering.
- Walk in Bamberg's medieval center with its 11th century Romanesque cathedral.
- View the mighty Lorelei Rock named for the siren "Lorelei" rising vertically from the waters.
- Sail on the legendary Rhine to Cologne, capital of the Rhineland
- In Amsterdam, board a glass-top boat and cruise the winding canals

### River Cruise Features & Amenities

- Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner
- Wine and beer with dinners
- Locally inspired recipes
- Early riser breakfast in addition to buffet breakfast
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access in public areas
- Self-serve coffee and tea station
- Lounge serving premium spirits
- Fitness center
- Non-smoking ship interior
- Shore excursions conducted exclusively in English by licensed guides

### DAY 1, Saturday - Depart for the Netherlands

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### DAY 2, Sunday - Arrive in Amsterdam

Welcome to Amsterdam, Holland's sophisticated and modern capital. Transfer to the port. After arrival formalities, rest and relax on board, or begin your discovery of the many cultural sites this city has to

offer. This evening, meet your Cruise Director and enjoy dinner as it sets the mood for your delightful river cruise

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Dinner

### **DAY 3, Monday - Amsterdam City Tour**

Today's panoramic tour of 700-year-old Amsterdam introduces you to both the old and the new sections of this city. View the Royal Palace on Amsterdam's Dam Square, the Queen's official home-away-from-home. On to the Dutch National Monument dedicated by Queen Juliana as a memorial to the victims of WWII and to the unusual Skinny Bridge, once so narrow that pedestrians could not pass each other. Then, board a glass-top boat and cruise the winding canals for an up-close view of the stately historic homes, 16th-century warehouses and charming churches with striking bell towers

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 4, Tuesday - Cologne City Tour**

Today join a walking tour of Cologne, highlighted by the soaring twin-steeple Gothic cathedral that is the geographical and spiritual heart of the city. Known for its vibrant art scene, Cologne abounds with cafes, galleries, shops and taverns. After dinner on board, time to explore Cologne's vibrant nightlife before setting sail

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 5, Wednesday - Morning in Koblenz & Afternoon Cruising**

The ship docks this morning in Koblenz, located at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. Join an orientation walk this morning and free time to explore the Romanesque architecture and imposing defensive towers of this 2000-year old city. Or, join the *optional* tour to the dramatic Marksburg Castle, the only hill castle on the Rhine that's never been destroyed and has been continuously occupied for over 700 years. During lunch, set sail and enjoy a relaxing afternoon on board, taking in the spectacular vistas as the ship sails past castles perched on lofty cliffs, terraced vineyards and tiny villages. Pass the mighty Lorelei Rock on the eastern bank of the Rhine rising vertically from the waters, named for the siren "Lorelei" who bewitched sailors passing by

**Optional:** Marksburg Castle Tour (AM)

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 6, Thursday - Miltenberg Walking Tour**

After a leisurely morning on board, arrive in the picturesque Bavarian village of Miltenberg, a jewel on the banks of the Main River. Discover the Market Square with its Renaissance-era fountain, the Merchant Hall with its stunning Gothic architecture and the unique 14th and 15th century half-timbered houses. Rejoin the ship just before dinner and set sail for Wurzburg

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 7, Friday - Wurzburg City Tour**

Discover Wurzburg, named the "Pearl of the Romantic Road," with its dramatic Marienberg fortress, 15th century bridge and lush vineyards. Your tour takes you to the ornate Bishops' Residenz Palace, a stunning example of Baroque architecture, home to the largest ceiling fresco ever painted, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon, explore the town on your own or relax on board

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 8, Saturday - Bamberg City Tour**

Today, dock in historic Bamberg, former residence of one of Germany's most powerful imperial dynasties and today a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin your walk in the medieval city center with its impressive 11th century Romanesque cathedral and gorgeous Rose Garden. After, view the very unusual City Hall built on a tiny island in the middle of the Regnitz River and Little Venice, an area of colorful fishermen's houses. This afternoon is free to explore Bamberg independently, before setting sail this evening while you dine on board

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 9, Sunday - Nuremberg City Tour**

Today explore Nuremberg, an energetic city with a visible history of almost one thousand years. The guided excursion visits the historic Palace of Justice where the War Crimes Tribunal met in 1946 and continues to the vibrant Market Square. After lunch on board the ship, the afternoon is free to further discover this wonderful city on your own. Stroll through the shops that fill the Old Town or walk along the fortified walls of Nuremberg Castle. In the late afternoon set sail for Regensburg

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 10, Monday - Regensburg City Tour**

This morning relax on board as the ship cruises the Danube River. Arrive to Regensburg in the early afternoon, one of Germany's largest and best preserved medieval cities, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The guided walking tour highlights the city's stunning architecture as you view the Old Town Hall, Dom St. Peter and the Porta Praetoria, gateway to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. Marvel at beautiful churches and one of the oldest stone bridges crossing the Danube. Return to the ship or spend the afternoon at leisure discovering the delights of Regensburg on your own. Tonight, after dinner, set sail for Passau

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 11, Tuesday - Morning in Passau**

Dock this morning in 2500-year-old Passau, known for its pastel patrician houses, cafes, cobblestone lanes and riverfront promenade. Passau is a Bavarian town with a mix of Roman, Italian Baroque and Gothic architecture. Explore Passau on a guided walking tour in the morning, or join the *optional* full day tour to picturesque Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and setting for the *Sound of Music*. The walking tour will include some of Salzburg's most historic sites including the Mirabell Palace, the Abbey, Salzburg Cathedral, and St. Peter's Cemetery. After lunch at a local restaurant, there will be time to discover Salzburg on your own before returning to the ship. If you choose to remain onboard the ship, continue sailing during lunch and relax this afternoon. In the early evening, all passengers will rejoin the ship and continue sailing for Melk

**Optional:** Full Day Tour of Salzburg

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 12, Wednesday - Melk Abbey**

Disembark in Melk this morning for a guided tour of the historic Benedictine Abbey, considered one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture in Europe. View the Abbot's chambers, the Kaiser's walk and the lavish library. Then, return to the ship and continue cruising through the scenic Wachau Valley. This Afternoon, arrive in the village of Durnstein, one of the prettiest towns on the Danube. Free time to stroll this quintessential village in the heart of the Wachau wine district. Walk along medieval cobblestone streets revealing 16th-century town houses and wine taverns

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 13, Thursday - Vienna City Tour**

Your morning tour of romantic Vienna introduces you to this Imperial city with its legendary opulence and elegance. Drive along the famed Ringstrasse, Vienna's main boulevard, lined with magnificent palaces, parks and monuments, as well as the Opera House and the Austrian Parliament. You will walk through the lavish Hofburg Palace on the way to St. Stephens Cathedral. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure, or, join the *optional* tour to the magnificent Schonbrunn Palace, once summer residence of the Habsburgs. Visit the gorgeous apartments and stroll through the world-famous manicured gardens. Tonight, perhaps take the opportunity to attend an evening of Viennese culture in the "City of Music" at an *optional* concert performance of the classical masterpieces of Mozart and Strauss, two of Vienna's most famous citizens

**Optional:** Schonbrunn Palace Tour (PM)

**Optional:** Classical Viennese Recital (PM)

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 14, Friday - Bratislava City Tour**

This morning, enjoy the tranquil scenery as you sail along the scenic Danube. At noon, arrive in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, a mix of modern and Baroque architecture. This capital city is among the youngest in Europe, yet retains a rich history dating back more than 2000 years. Walk along the cobblestone lanes of the historic town center; view St. Martin's Cathedral, coronation site of the kings of Hungary, the 13th century Old Town Hall and the Franciscan church. Time to explore this colorful city on your own before returning to the ship for dinner as you sail for stunning Budapest

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 15, Saturday - Budapest City Tour**

Your morning tour begins on the Pest side of the city; view the Parliament, City Park and Heroes Square. Admire the Buda side with beautiful views of the Royal Palace, Matthias Church and the graceful medieval architecture. Explore the city's wonderful shops and cafes this afternoon on your own. Tonight, enjoy a lavish dinner on board

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 16, Sunday - Depart Hungary**

This morning, disembark and transfer to the airport for your departure flight. Disembarkation will end at 9:30 AM

**Meals:** Breakfast