

Places you visit



Vincent Van Gogh, self portrait

Day 1: Amsterdam

The thoroughly modern city of Amsterdam has successfully preserved its old world charm. After boarding your ship, you may have time to stroll through its pedestrian-friendly streets.

Day 2: Amsterdam

Today's canal cruise showcases Amsterdam's Golden Age architecture and its intricate canal system with 500 bridges. Visit the Van Gogh Museum to see the paintings of this famous Dutch artist. Return to your ship for lunch and an afternoon departure.

Day 3: Cologne

After lunch, explore the Rhineland's largest city dating back to the 1st century AD. See its magnificent, signature, twin-steeped cathedral, built between 1248-1882 that survived the WWII bombings. Visit a local brewery for a taste of Germany's favourite beverage, Kölsch, Cologne's signature beer.

Day 4: Koblenz & Rudesheim

Cruise past hilltop castles along the Rhine, stopping to visit Marksburg, the only Rhine castle which wasn't destroyed. Late this afternoon you will arrive in Rudesheim, nestled in the heart of the Rhine wine industry. Rudesheim is home to the famed Drosselgasse, a pedestrian-only street lined with pubs, restaurants and wine shops that have been the centre of the Rhine Valley's wine trade for centuries. You have free time to explore at your own pace.

Day 5: Mainz

The university tour of Mainz is located in the centre of the Rhine wine region. After breakfast, take a walking tour and visit the Gutenberg Museum, chronicling the invention of the printing press and featuring two of Johannes Gutenberg's original bibles. Free time before lunch aboard.

Day 6: Wertheim

The beautiful city of Wertheim is situated at the confluence of the Main and Taber rivers. Learn about the city's glassblowing tradition during your walking tour and see a glassblowing demonstration onboard in the afternoon.

Day 7: Würzburg & Rothenburg

After destruction during WWII, Würzburg has been rebuilt into a beautiful Franconian town featuring baroque patrician houses with surrounding vineyards. Visit the magnificent Bishop's Residenz, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Your coach then drives along Germany's Romantic Road past quaint towns, where time seems to stand still. Stop at the medieval village of Rothenburg with its imposing Town Hall and half-timbered houses and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. Free time is available to explore alone.

Day 8: Nuremberg

Nuremberg was rebuilt after WWII to reflect its heritage of medieval culture and artistry. Begin your excursion by visiting the ruins

of the Nazi Party's Zeppelin Field and see the Palace of Justice, site of the Nuremberg Trials. Nuremberg's traditions include the world's oldest toy industry and metalwork.

Day 9: Regensburg

Regensburg was founded 2,000 years ago. Its picturesque medieval skyline features the 12th century St Peter's Cathedral. It is also home to the Alte Wurstküche (Old Sausage Kitchen), Germany's oldest restaurant.

Day 10: Passau & Linz

Cobblestone streets and graceful arcades greet you in the beautiful city of Passau. See the hilltop Oberhaus Fortress from the town below and visit St Stephan's Cathedral, home to Europe's largest church organ with more than 17,000 pipes. Enjoy an organ concert before returning to your ship. Cruise on to Linz which was one of Mozart's favourite cities, to which he dedicated the Linz Symphony. Catch a night view of the town square and imposing Trinity Column. Stop for an espresso and sample the famed Linzer Torte.



Budapest, Fishermen's Bastion

Day 11: Melk & Durnstein

Melk is situated within Austria's wine-growing region. Visit the imposing 900-year-old Benedictine Abbey, with its frescoes and breathtaking views. Cruise on to medieval Durnstein, arriving early evening. Free time to see the ruins of Kuenringer Castle, where Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned in the 12th century, or sample local wines.

Day 12: Vienna

Explore Vienna's capital and its imposing architecture starting with a drive along the Ringstrasse which replaced the city walls in the mid-19th century. See the baroque Belvedere Palace, Opera House, St Stephan's Cathedral and Hofburg Palace. Take the opportunity to attend an optional classical concert in the evening.

Day 13: Bratislava

After an early arrival into Bratislava, embark on a walking tour of the Slovak republic's charming capital, dominated by the enormous castle that towers 92 metres above the Danube. Stroll through the historic Old Town, passing gothic St Martin's Cathedral, Michael's Tower and several baroque palaces from the Habsburg Dynasty. Return to your ship for an afternoon of scenic cruising.

Day 14: Budapest

Visit Budapest's hilltop castle complex, with its turreted Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church. See the Chain Bridge and Elizabeth Bridge, two of several bridges connecting the two halves of the city – Buda and Pest, as well as the National Opera House and Heroes' Square. Experience Hungary's cuisine with a traditional Hungarian dinner, folk dancing and music, onboard.

Day 15: Budapest

Disembark.