

Travelabout Tours & Cruises

Affordable River Cruising

2019



**CRUISE WITH RIVIERA
AGAIN VOTED BRITAIN'S
NO.1 CRUISE OPERATOR**

Cruise the Heart of Europe

15 Day cruise from Budapest to Cologne or Reverse

5 star new luxury ships ...11 departures in 2019

Prices start from **\$3,850_{pp}**

Balcony upgrade is only **\$900_{pp}**

Price includes all meals, shore excursions & taxes

NO single supplement on all cruises

Limited to 6 cabins on lower deck

MS Thomas Hardy



Travelabout... professional and accurate travel advice based on first hand personal experience!

Cruise the Heart of Europe

Cologne to Budapest – cruise the Rhine, Main & Danube rivers, and Danube-Main Canal

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 Board ship in Cologne

We board our luxury ship moored in Cologne's picturesque historic centre, the dedicated crew will welcome you aboard your first-class floating hotel.

Day 2 Koblenz & Boppard

This morning we drift past the colourful valley for our call to historical Koblenz, dominated by its immense fortress overlooking the confluence of the Rhine and the Moselle. We take a guided walk around the old town exploring its twisting streets and picturesque squares. In the afternoon we cruise to Boppard, 'Pearl of the Rhine'. Its delightful stone quayside and delightful backdrop of archetypical half-timbered buildings and cobbled streets.

Day 3 Rhine Gorge & Rudesheim

Today, we cruise through the Rhine Gorge where the valley narrows and the towering valley sides soar to more than 1,000 feet, spotted with precarious ruins of castles. We pass rocky outcrops and the famous Loreley Rock, where the legend had enchanting maidens luring unsuspecting sailors to watery graves. Next we call at Rudesheim, the picturesque and most famous wine town on the Rhine. Wander the typical backstreets, sample excellent wines and join a chairlift ride above the vineyards enjoying spectacular panorama views.

Day 4 Mainz

A short cruise to the fascinating town of Mainz, where Rhine and Main rivers meet. The former Roman city has the largest amphitheatre north of the Alps and its fine St Stephen's church where light flickers through beautiful intricate biblical figures in the blue stained glass windows. Mainz's most famous son is Gutenberg, father of modern printing and the local museum exhibits two original Gutenberg Bibles, the earliest books ever printed in Europe.

Day 5 Miltenberg & Wertheim

This morning, we cruise through dense forests to the beautiful small town of Miltenberg, one of Germany's best preserved medieval villages. Later we cruise around the many meandering bends which is so characteristic of the River Main, stopping at Wertheim, one of those beautiful towns, completely unknown on the mainstream tourist trail

Day 6 Würzburg

We arrive in Würzburg, situated at the head of Germany's 'Romantic Road' where we have a walking tour of this lovely city. A former seat of the Prince Bishops, their truly magnificent Residenz is one of Europe's finest Baroque palaces.

Day 7 Bamberg

Today we visit Bamberg, quite simply one of the most beautiful small towns in Europe, which began its artistic journey during the 11th century. Not only is it historic, but also stunning too, with a network of canals like Venice and the fascinating tangle of lanes, lined with merchant's houses.

Day 8 Nuremberg

We call at Nuremberg, regarded as the capital of Germany's First Reich, the era that lasted 1,000 years. This morning, we include a guided tour to Kaiserburg Castle, Craftsmen's Court, Church of St Lawrence and the Market Square with its beautiful fountain.



Day 9 Regensburg

This morning, we cruise along the Main- Danube canal to Kelheim and the Danube, one of the most famous rivers in the world. We visit Regensburg's Altes Rathaus and historic city centre with its glorious winding streets and alleyways of the old town.

Day 10 Passau

Our fascinating journey continues to Passau, where the Danube, Ilz and Inn rivers meet. A beautiful city that thrived during the years of the salt trade. Also St Stephen's Cathedral which houses the largest pipe organ in Europe with 17,774 pipes. Reboard, relax as we cruise through the narrowing valley of the Danube Gorge.

Day 11 Melk & Vienna

Today you arrive at the beautiful town of Melk, with the enormous Benedictine Abbey perched atop of the rocky bluff. This morning we enjoy a guided visit of the abbey. Reboard and enjoy lunch as we cruise through the picturesque Wachau Valley, to Vienna the city of Strauss. Upon berthing, a quartet of talented musicians will perform a classical recital on board.

Day 12 Vienna

This morning we will have a guided tour of Vienna, a truly elegant city of culture, ornate architecture, elegant cafés, aristocratic palaces, imposing cathedrals and everywhere is the romantic music of the great composers. The Hofburg, is now home to the crown jewels and relics of the Holy Roman Empire, the Vienna Boys' Choir and the famous Spanish Riding School. The afternoon is free to independently explore the city.

Day 13 Bratislava

This morning we explore Bratislava and wander the beautiful old town of winding streets, characteristic bronze statues and the Main Square. Maybe visit the former old town hall, the great 17th century fortress or the Primatial Palace with its fabulous Hall of Mirrors and rare collection of 17th century English tapestries. This afternoon we cruise through a narrow twisting valley, flanked by high mountains and verdant hillsides, spotted with ruins of castles and historic towns.

Day 14 Budapest

We arrive in Budapest, dominated by the castle, cathedral, Fishermans Bastion on the 'Buda' side of the Danube. The 'Pest' side is the modern city, palatial buildings, parliament buildings and famous monuments that reflect the local culture. Our guided tour will include all of the above. Tonight is the 'Captain's Dinner' and culinary feast where delicious specialities of the countries and regions we have visited during our cruise, will be served. Later admire the illuminated beauty of this magnificent Imperial city.

Day 15 End cruise in Budapest

After breakfast it's time to say goodbye to our crew and new-found friends, as you continue with your travel arrangements.

Some suggestions to add to the 'Heart of Europe' cruise... either before and/or after

Paris 4 Day/3 Night Pre or post cruise option *from \$770*

Day 1 Arrive in Paris – Independent Hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus tour

Arrival in Paris and transferred to our hotel, then begin to independently explore Paris in an included 2-Day Hop-on Hop-off sightseeing bus pass with unlimited travel. Attractions include the Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Notre Dame, the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, Opera and the famous artist area of Montmartre is a must! O/n Ibis Paris.

Day 2 Paris – Independent Hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus tour

Another day to independently explore Paris using our 2-Day Hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus pass. Tonight join a fantastic evening tour of Europe's most illuminated city. O/n Ibis Hotel (B).

Day 3 Paris – Versailles Palace Tour

We join a full day guided tour of the beautiful Versailles Palace and its

magnificent gardens, the former residence of many French Kings. Set on 250 acres outside of Paris and is one of the largest and most visited castles/chateaux in the world. O/n Ibis Paris.

Day 4 Paris – At leisure – Cologne

Morning at leisure to do as you wish. Early afternoon take the Thalys express direct train to Cologne (4.5 hrs) and board the ship and continue with the cruise itinerary.

Amsterdam 3 Days/2 nights pre or post cruise option, with or without Paris *from \$690*

Day 1 Arrive in Amsterdam

Arrive in Amsterdam, either fly or train from Paris or Cologne. Paris and Amsterdam has many express services that take 3.5 hours. Amsterdam and Cologne also has regular express services that take 3 hours. Maybe independently wander the canals and roadways and tonight join an illumination canal boat ride. O/n Ibis Hotel or similar (B)

Day 2 Amsterdam – Independent Hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus and boat

A full day to independently explore the lively Dutch capital. Using the included hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus and canal boats ticket to visit the major attractions, including the National Maritime Museum, Heineken Experience, the Anne Frank House, Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum, and see the masterpieces by Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Frans Hals and others. O/n Ibis Hotel or similar.

Day 3 Amsterdam – Cologne (or Paris)

Morning at leisure to do as you wish and it is suggested that you pre-book to visit the house of Anne Frank, and maybe visit a museum. You determine what train to take to Cologne, a 3-hour journey and make your way to the ship, berthed behind Cologne station. Maybe visit the Cathedral and Old Town of Cologne before dinner.

Prague & Cesky Krumlov 7 Day/6 Night pre or post cruise option *from \$1590*

Day 1 Budapest – Prague

After breakfast it's time to say goodbye to our crew and new-found friends. We continue with our travel arrangements and take either a train or a private transfer to Prague. Both take about 6.5 hours. Arrive in Prague at our centrally located hotel. O/n Prague (B)

Day 2 Prague – Old Town & City Tour

Visit the major historical areas of Prague and walk the cobbled lanes of the Old Town to Wenceslas Square, the Astronomical Clock, Charles Bridge and Kampa Island. Later board a coach and tour around the city, New Town, Lesser Town and the Jewish Quarter. Then visit Prague Castle, the largest castle complex in the world. Our guided tour will include the Golden Lane and Daliborka Tower, and the awe-inspiring St. George's Basilica and Cathedral of St. Vitus. O/n Prague (B,D)

Day 3 Prague at Leisure – Dinner cruise

The entire day is at leisure to relax and independently explore the city. Maybe revisit the Old Town, Kampa Island,

Letenské Sady a wooded city park and enjoy the atmosphere. Tonight is an included illuminations dinner cruise with entertainment. O/n Prague (B,L)

Day 4 Prague - Kutna Hora & Sedlec Ossuary – Telc – Cesky Krumlov

This morning we start with a visit Kutna Hora to visit the extraordinary All Saints Church and St. Barbara's Cathedral, both UNESCO Listed sites. All Saints church is Europe's most famous ossuary 'bone church' that is built in a cemetery. Then continue south deep into the Bohemia to the beautiful UNESCO Listed town of Telc with its huge town square surrounded by colourful gabled buildings and a gothic castle. Then continue to Cesky Krumlov for 3 nights. O/n Cesky Krumlov (B)

Day 5 Cesky Krumlov – Old Town Tour – at leisure

Firstly, a leisurely guided walking tour of this famous fairy tale town, located in the horseshoe bend of the Vltava River. The rest of day is free to relax and independently visit the imposing

Cesky Krumlov Castle towering over the town traditionally protected by its live bear-pitted moat, absorb the wonderful medieval atmosphere with narrow cobbled lanes and over 300 historical buildings of this UNESCO listed cultural town. The afternoon is at leisure. O/n Cesky Krumlov (B)

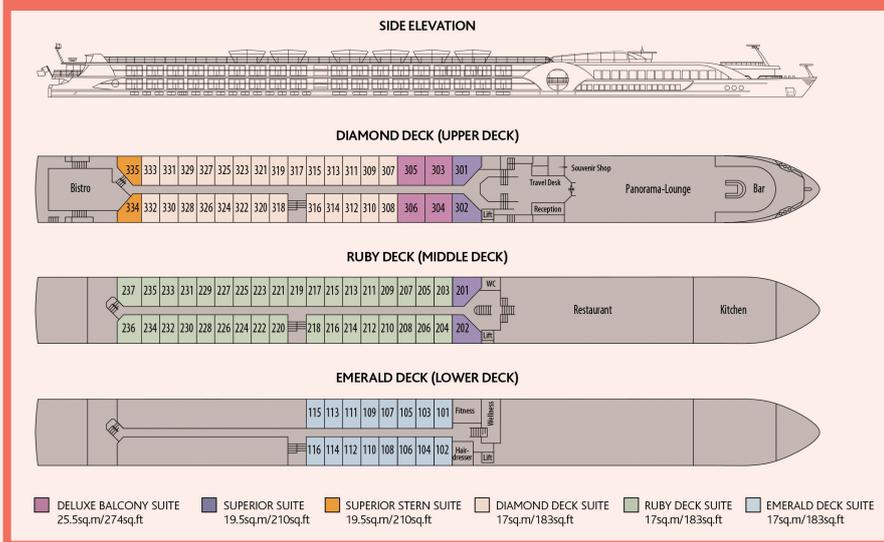
Day 6 Cesky Krumlov – Rosenberg & Hluboka Nad Vltavou excursion

Today's excursion firstly takes us to the magnificent Hluboka Nad Vltavou Castle, one of the most romantic castles and magnificent gardens of Southern Bohemia. We will have an audio guided tour of the interior. Then onto Rosenberg a beautiful and colourful town prominently carved out on 3 sides of the Vltava River. Visit Rosenberg Castle with an audio self-guided tour of Bohemia's oldest castle in Bohemia. O/n Cesky Krumlov (B)

Day 7 Cesky Krumlov – Munich

We leave Cesky Krumlov on a direct transfer to Munich or Munich airport. O/n Inflight

MS THOMAS HARDY DECK PLAN



There are two styles of luxury ships providing these cruises

The larger style suite-ships... namely Oscar Wilde, Emily Bronte and Thomas Hardy, all launched in either 2017 & 2018. George Eliot is under construction for next year's program.

- Maximum capacity is 169 passengers, 87 suites and 40 staff.
- Suites vary between 15m2 and 16m2 in area, superior suites are also available
- All ships are Swiss built and operated by Scylla, an award-winning ship builder with an impressive reputation for technology and quality spanning over 40 years.

Charles Dickens was launched in 2015

- Built by the massive Vega Group long-established in the ship building industry in the Netherlands.
- A maximum capacity of 140 passengers, 70 luxury cabins & 35 staff
- All suites/cabins are elegantly equipped with TV, safe, and hairdryer. Lower deck cabins have high fixed window. Middle & Upper deck suites/cabins have French balcony. All excellent meals are included.



For more information... please go online to www.rivieratravel.com.au

TRAVELABOUT TOURS & CRUISES - RIVIERA 2019

HEART OF EUROPE CRUISE DEPARTURES

No	Ship	Departure	Itinerary	Low season	Low season	Low season	High season	High season	High season
				Lower deck	Middle deck	Upper deck	Lower deck	Middle deck	Upper deck
1	MS Oscar Wilde	24-Apr	Col/Bud				\$4,990	\$5,990	\$6,390
2	MS Charles Dickens	5-May	Col/Bud				\$5,690	\$6,590	\$7,090
3	MS Charles Dickens	23-Jun	Bud/Col				\$5,890	\$6,790	\$7,290
4	MS George Eliot	5-Jul	Col/Bud				\$5,890	\$6,790	\$7,290
5	MS George Eliot	19-Jul	Bud/Col				\$5,890	\$6,790	\$7,290
6	MS Oscar Wilde	31-Jul	Bud/Col				\$5,890	\$6,790	\$7,290
7	MS Charles Dickens	4-Aug	Col/Bud				\$5,690	\$6,590	\$7,090
8	MS Thomas Hardy	12-Aug	Col/Bud				\$5,990	\$6,890	\$7,290
9	MS Emily Bronte	22-Aug	Col/Bud				\$5,990	\$6,890	\$7,290
10	MS Charles Dickens	29-Sep	Bud/Col				\$5,990	\$6,890	\$7,290
11	MS Emily Bronte	31-Oct	Bud/Col	\$3,850	\$4,750	\$5,150			

Contact Sam... Travelabout's river cruise expert

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