



## Itinerary

### 19 Day Amsterdam to Budapest European River Cruise

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

#### Day 1: Amsterdam ~ Embark Ship

Welcome to Amsterdam, the vibrant capital of the Netherlands, renowned for its rich history, stunning canals, and cultural treasures. This lively city is famous for its iconic narrow houses, charming bridges, and world-class museums such as the Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum. Wander through its picturesque streets, visit the Anne Frank House, or enjoy a leisurely cycle along the scenic canals. For those seeking relaxation, the tranquil Vondelpark provides the perfect escape. With its welcoming locals, diverse food scene, and buzzing cultural atmosphere, Amsterdam promises an unforgettable start to your journey.

Boarding for the cruise begins at 6:00 p.m., where you'll be warmly greeted aboard the ship. Once you've settled comfortably into your cabin, join us for a welcome cocktail, where your friendly crew will introduce themselves and provide an overview of the journey ahead.

Dinner will follow, giving you the chance to relax and enjoy the onboard hospitality. The evening is yours to explore the city at your own pace or unwind on the ship, soaking in the excitement of your upcoming adventure.

**MEALS:** Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

#### Day 2: Amsterdam

Spend another day in Amsterdam exploring this incredible city at your own pace or join one of the optional excursions.

After a day full of exploration, return to the ship and set sail as the ship cruises overnight to Nijmegen, preparing for the adventures ahead.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*MORNING: Guided tour of Amsterdam*

*MORNING: Amsterdam by bike*

*AFTERNOON: Excursion to Volendam and Zaanse-Schans*

*AFTERNOON: Excursion to the Keukenhof Gardens*

### Day 3: Nijmegen ~ Krefeld

Your day begins with a stop in Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands, known for its rich Roman history, charming architecture, and lively atmosphere. Nijmegen's historic streets and welcoming locals make it a delightful place to explore on your own or join in on the optional excursion.

Reboard your ship sails, take the opportunity to relax on deck, enjoy the passing scenery, and reflect on the day's discoveries as you make your way into Germany. Dinner will be served onboard as you approach Krefeld in the evening.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

#### **CLASSIC OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*MORNING: Visit of the Dutch Open-Air Museum of Arnhem*

### Day 4: Krefeld ~ Cologne

Your journey continues today with a relaxing morning spent cruising along the picturesque Rhine River. Take this opportunity to unwind on deck, soak in the beautiful river scenery, and enjoy the tranquil pace of life on the water.

In the afternoon, you arrive in Cologne, one of Germany's oldest cities and a hub of history, culture, and architectural marvels. Cologne is renowned for its magnificent Cologne Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a stunning example of Gothic architecture. The city is also famous for its vibrant old town, colourful houses lining cobblestone streets, and its role as a centre for arts, trade, and, of course, its iconic Kölsch beer.

You can enhance your visit by joining the optional guided walking tour of Cologne. Explore the city's highlights with an expert guide, including the towering cathedral, historic squares, and charming alleyways. Along the way, you'll uncover the stories and legends that make this city so captivating.

After your time in Cologne, you return to the ship and continue cruising toward Rudesheim, a charming wine town known for its quaint streets and famous Riesling vineyards. As evening sets in, relax with a delicious onboard dinner and enjoy the journey as you sail to your next destination.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*AFTERNOON: Guided walking tour of Cologne*

### Day 5: Rudesheim

Today, you immerse ourselves in the beauty and charm of the Romantic Rhine, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed stretch of the river known for its breathtaking scenery, medieval castles, and picturesque villages. Spend the morning cruising this iconic waterway, taking in the majestic sights as you make your way to the charming town of Rudesheim, nestled in the heart of Germany's wine country.

Upon arrival in Rudesheim, you'll have the option explore on your own or join an optional excursion.

In the evening, you may want to explore the Drosselgasse, Rudesheim's famous cobblestone lane known for its lively atmosphere, traditional Rhineland bands, and cosy wine taverns. It's the perfect spot to soak in the local culture and enjoy an unforgettable evening.

As night falls, return to the ship and set sail for Mannheim, cruising through the peaceful waters of the Rhine. Dinner will be served onboard, offering a chance to relax and reflect on the day's highlights.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*AFTERNOON: Rudesheim: wine tasting and visit of the Museum of Mechanical Musical Instruments*

*AFTERNOON: Hiking through the vineyards in Rudesheim*

## Day 6: Rudesheim ~ Mannheim

Your journey continues as you spend another morning cruising along the scenic Rhine River, a stretch renowned for its natural beauty, historic castles, and charming towns. Relax onboard, take in the picturesque views, and enjoy the tranquil rhythm of the river as you sail toward Mannheim.

In the afternoon, you'll have the opportunity to join an optional excursion to the stunning city of Heidelberg, one of Germany's most romantic and historic destinations. Known for its charming old town, impressive Heidelberg Castle, and the prestigious university that dates back to 1386, Heidelberg offers a perfect blend of history, culture, and breathtaking scenery.

In the evening, return to the ship for a special gala dinner, a highlight of the journey. Enjoy a festive evening of fine dining, great company, and celebrations as you continue cruising through the beautiful Rhine region. This memorable day will leave you with stories to share and moments to cherish.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*AFTERNOON: Guided tour of Heidelberg and its castle (outdoor)*

## Day 7: Strasbourg

Wake up to a delightful buffet breakfast onboard as you dock in the captivating city of Strasbourg, often referred to as the "Capital of Europe." Strasbourg is a city where French and German influences

intertwine, offering a unique blend of culture, history, and charm. Its old town, the Grande Île, is a UNESCO World Heritage site and home to half-timbered houses, winding canals, and the breathtaking Strasbourg Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture.

The day is yours to explore this vibrant city at your own pace. Stroll through the charming streets of the La Petite France district, known for its picturesque canals and medieval buildings. Visit the famous cathedral, shop for local delicacies, or enjoy a leisurely lunch (own expense) at one of the many bistros serving Alsatian cuisine, such as tarte flambé and choucroute. Strasbourg also houses the European Parliament, adding a modern and international flair to its historic character.

After a day of discovery, return to the ship in the late afternoon to relax and prepare for the next leg of your journey. As evening falls, you'll set sail toward Mainz, cruising through the serene waters of the Rhine and enjoying dinner onboard. This day offers a perfect mix of relaxation and the opportunity to experience the unique charm of Strasbourg.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

### Day 8: Mainz ~ Frankfurt

This morning, you arrive in Mainz, a charming city where history and modernity come together beautifully. Situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Main Rivers, Mainz is best known as the birthplace of Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press. Its historic old town features colourful half-timbered houses and the impressive Mainz Cathedral, a thousand-year-old Romanesque masterpiece.

By late morning, you set sail toward Frankfurt, Germany's dynamic financial and cultural hub. Nicknamed "Mainhattan" for its striking skyline along the Main River, Frankfurt is a city of contrasts, where sleek skyscrapers stand beside historic landmarks.

In the afternoon, you may opt to do an optional excursion or explore the city on your own.

After a day of exploring, return to the ship to unwind and reflect on the day's adventures. Dinner will be served onboard as you continue your journey along the scenic waterways of the Rhine.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*AFTERNOON: Guided tour of Frankfurt*

*AFTERNOON: Frankfurt - "Mainhattan" and the Main Tower*

### Day 9: Miltenberg ~ Wertheim

Your day begins with a visit to the enchanting town of Miltenberg, located along the Main River and surrounded by lush green hills. Known for its picturesque old town, Miltenberg offers a peaceful escape with a touch of medieval charm. Stroll through its quaint marketplace, lined with beautifully preserved half-timbered houses that seem to come straight from a storybook. Explore the bustling main street, admire

the historic Hotel Reisen, and take in the sight of the Old Town Hall, a symbol of the town's rich history.

After the morning's exploration, you return to the ship to enjoy a delicious lunch onboard as you sail toward Wertheim, another gem of the region. Wertheim is a delightful town at the meeting point of the Main and Tauber Rivers, known for its half-timbered houses, narrow winding streets, and welcoming atmosphere.

Upon arrival in Wertheim, you'll have some free time to explore at your own pace. Wander through the charming streets, visit the ruins of Wertheim Castle for panoramic views of the area, or browse the local shops for unique crafts and souvenirs.

In the evening, you'll return to the ship for dinner, offering the perfect opportunity to relax and reflect on the beauty and history of these two remarkable towns. This day is sure to leave you with lasting memories of Germany's idyllic riverside treasures.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

### Day 10: Wertheim ~ Würzburg

This morning, you continue your serene journey along the Main River, cruising toward the charming town of Karlstadt. As you pass through this scenic region, take time to unwind on deck, enjoy the peaceful surroundings, and watch as the riverbanks come to life with picturesque vineyards, quaint villages, and rolling hills.

In the afternoon, you reach Würzburg, a historic city located on the right bank of the Main River. Würzburg is renowned for its stunning architecture and cultural significance, making it a highlight of the region. You'll have the option to join an excursion to explore the city.

To conclude the day, enjoy a delightful dinner and an evening of onboard entertainment. This day combines history, culture, and the peaceful rhythm of river cruising, ensuring a memorable experience.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*AFTERNOON: Guided Tour of Würzburg*

### Day 11: Schweinfurt ~ Rothenburg ~ Bamberg

Your day begins in Schweinfurt, a quaint riverside town with a rich industrial history and a gateway to some of Germany's most stunning cultural landmarks. After breakfast, embark on an optional guided excursion to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, one of the crown jewels of the Romantic Road.

Perched high on the hills above the Tauber River, Rothenburg is a perfectly preserved medieval walled town that seems straight out of a fairytale. Its narrow cobblestone streets are lined with half-timbered houses, charming craft shops, and vibrant flowers. Wander through the historic marketplace, marvel at the intricate architecture, and soak in the timeless atmosphere of this enchanting destination. Rothenburg

is often celebrated as one of the most beautiful towns in Germany, offering a true glimpse into the country's past.

After the excursion, you return to the ship to continue cruising toward Bamberg, arriving in the evening. Bamberg, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is renowned for its picturesque old town spread over seven hills, each crowned with a beautiful church. The city's medieval and baroque architecture, cobblestone streets, and its famous smoked beer create a unique and inviting atmosphere.

Spend the evening relaxing onboard with dinner and enjoy the tranquil cruise, reflecting on the day's journey through Germany's rich history and stunning landscapes.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*AFTERNOON: Guided Tour of Rothenburg*

## Day 12: Bamberg ~ Nuremberg ~ Mühlhausen

Your journey today takes us along the impressive Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, a modern marvel of engineering that connects the Rhine and Danube Rivers. This waterway, officially opened on 25 September 1992, has become a vital link for European river travel. Spend the morning relaxing onboard, enjoying the serene views as you navigate this historic canal, with lunch served onboard.

In the early afternoon, you arrive in Nuremberg, a city steeped in history and culture where you can join an optional tour. Known for its medieval charm, Nuremberg boasts well-preserved walls, towers, and a fascinating blend of old and new.

Returning to the ship in the afternoon, you'll continue cruising toward Mühlhausen, arriving in the evening. Enjoy a delightful dinner and an evening of onboard entertainment as the ship gently glides through the tranquil waterways. Today offers a perfect mix of historical exploration and onboard relaxation, leaving you with memories of Nuremberg's timeless charm.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*AFTERNOON: Guided Tour of Nuremberg*

## Day 13: Kelheim ~ Regensburg

This morning, enjoy a leisurely cruise as you make your way to Kelheim, a charming town located at the confluence of the Altmühl and Danube Rivers. Relax on deck or in the lounge, soaking up the stunning Bavarian landscapes and the tranquil atmosphere of the Danube as you sail.

In the afternoon, you arrive in Regensburg, a historic gem and the fourth-largest city in Bavaria. Here you can join an optional tour if you choose. Regensburg is a vibrant blend of past and present, serving as both

a major industrial hub, with companies like BMW, Siemens, and Triumph, and a city rich in heritage. The old town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is beautifully preserved and offers a glimpse into over 2,000 years of history.

As evening falls, you set sail for your next destination, Passau, cruising through the night. Enjoy a delicious onboard dinner and the peaceful rhythm of the Danube as you continue your journey through Bavaria's rich cultural landscape.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*AFTERNOON: Guided Tour of Regensburg*

### Day 14: Passau ~ Melk

This morning, you cruise along the serene waters of the Danube toward Passau, often called the "City of Three Rivers" because it lies at the confluence of the Danube, Inn, and Ilz Rivers. Passau is a picturesque and historic town with a charm that captivates every visitor.

Once you arrive, you'll have free time to explore this beautiful town at your own pace. Wander through its enchanting narrow streets, admire the stunning baroque architecture, and visit the impressive St. Stephen's Cathedral, home to the world's largest cathedral organ. The vibrant Old Town, with its colourful facades and lively squares, is a delight to explore, and the riverside promenade offers scenic views that are perfect for a leisurely stroll.

After your time in Passau, you return to the ship and continue your journey through the stunning Wachau Valley, cruising past the picturesque landscapes of the Melk region. The Wachau is a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its rolling vineyards, historic abbeys, and charming villages.

As the evening sets in, enjoy a delightful dinner onboard, followed by an evening of entertainment. Relax and take in the peaceful atmosphere as you sail through this enchanting region, setting the stage for more unforgettable moments ahead.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

### Day 15: Melk ~ Dürnstein ~ Vienna

This day is a journey through Austria's most scenic and historic gems, combining breathtaking architecture, picturesque landscapes, and cultural heritage.

You begin the morning cruising along the beautiful Wachau Valley to Melk, arriving early. Melk is home to the magnificent Melk Abbey, perched high on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube. For those who have booked, an optional excursion will take you to this iconic abbey, a masterpiece of Austrian baroque architecture. Explore its grand halls, stunning library, and ornate church, while soaking in panoramic views of the surrounding valley.

Returning to the ship mid-morning, you continue sailing to Dürnstein, a charming village nestled along the Danube. You'll arrive around midday, just in time for lunch. Afterward, enjoy free time to wander through Dürnstein's cobblestone streets, visit its iconic baroque church with its striking blue tower, and learn about the legend of King Richard the Lionheart, who was imprisoned nearby during the Crusades.

In the afternoon, you return to the ship and set sail for Vienna, Austria's elegant capital, arriving in the evening. Known as the "City of Music," Vienna is renowned for its imperial palaces, grand boulevards, and vibrant cultural scene. After dinner onboard, you'll have the option to join an evening excursion to see the city illuminated at night. This tour will showcase Vienna's most famous landmarks, beautifully lit and brimming with charm under the night sky.

Tonight, the ship will dock in Vienna, offering a perfect opportunity to rest and prepare for more adventures in this historic and cultural hub.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*MORNING: Guided tour of the Melk Abbey*

*AFTERNOON: Guided Tour of Vienna by Night*

## Day 16: Vienna

Today is dedicated to exploring the grand and culturally rich city of Vienna, Austria's capital and a city celebrated for its imperial history, classical music, and café culture. Known as the "City of Music" and the "City of Dreams," Vienna offers a blend of architectural splendour, artistic treasures, and vibrant street life.

Wander along the Ringstrasse, visit the grand St. Stephen's Cathedral, or indulge in Vienna's café culture with a slice of Sachertorte and a coffee. Discover the bustling markets, serene parks, or the impressive Hofburg Palace complex, where history comes to life.

In the evening, you set sail toward Esztergom, passing the vibrant city of Bratislava along the way. Tonight, join us onboard for a special gala dinner, celebrating your journey with fine food, music, and company as you continue cruising through the picturesque Danube.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*MORNING: The High Art of Viennese Living: Music and Viennese Cafes*

*MORNING: Guided Tour of Vienne and Schoenbrunn Palace*

## Day 17: Esztergom ~ Budapest



Your day begins in the historic town of Esztergom, once the capital of Hungary during the reign of the Árpád kings. Nestled on the banks of the Danube, Esztergom remains an important cultural and religious centre as the seat of Hungary's archbishops. Spend your morning exploring this charming town at your own pace. Highlights include the stunning Esztergom Basilica, the largest church in Hungary, with its impressive dome and breathtaking views over the river, and the remnants of the former Royal Palace, which offer a glimpse into the grandeur of Hungary's medieval past.

Around midday, you set sail once again, enjoying a delicious lunch onboard as you cruise toward your next destination. By midafternoon, you arrive in Budapest, the spectacular Hungarian capital that straddles both sides of the Danube. Known as the "Pearl of the Danube," Budapest is a city of stunning contrasts, where history and modernity coexist harmoniously. Its iconic skyline, featuring the majestic Parliament Building, Buda Castle, and Fisherman's Bastion, is one of the most beautiful in Europe.

Take some free time to explore Budapest at your leisure. Wander along the bustling Andrásy Avenue, visit the historic Heroes' Square, or relax in one of the city's famous thermal baths. Discover the vibrant energy of Pest and the historic charm of Buda, with its cobblestone streets and medieval architecture.

This evening, return to the ship for dinner. Later, you can join an optional excursion to experience Budapest by night, when the city's landmarks are beautifully illuminated, creating a magical atmosphere that highlights its timeless charm. This unforgettable day showcases the best of Hungary's rich history and vibrant culture.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*EVENING: Budapest by night*

## Day 18: Budapest

Spend the day discovering Budapest, one of Europe's most captivating cities, at your own pace or by joining optional excursions designed to showcase its rich history, vibrant culture, and unique attractions. Known as the "Pearl of the Danube," Budapest is a city of stunning contrasts, where the historic charm of Buda meets the lively energy of Pest across the iconic river.

After dinner onboard, the final evening is yours to enjoy as you wish.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** MS L'Europe

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

*MORNING: Tour of Budapest*

*AFTERNOON: Gellert Baths and Spa*

*AFTERNOON: Budapest Market Halls*

*EVENING: Traditional evening in Budapest*

## Day 19: Budapest – Disembark Ship

Today marks the final day of your incredible journey along the Danube. Wake up to one last delicious breakfast onboard as you soak in the views of Budapest, a city that has offered unforgettable experiences, from its historic landmarks to its vibrant culture and scenic beauty.

Disembarkation will take place at 9:00 a.m., marking the official end of your services. As you bid farewell to the ship and its crew, take with you cherished memories of the stunning destinations, cultural highlights, and new friendships formed along the way.

Whether you plan to continue exploring Budapest, extend your travels, or begin your journey home, this unforgettable cruise will leave you with lasting impressions of Europe's most iconic rivers and cities. Safe travels and thank you for joining us on this remarkable adventure!

**MEALS:** Breakfast