Itinerary

2 PEOPLE: 12 Day Amsterdam to Berlin River Cruise

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

Day 1: Amsterdam, Netherlands ~ Embark Ship

Welcome to Amsterdam, the starting point of your 12 day river cruise through the Netherlands and Germany. Today, make your own way to the designated embarkation location in Amsterdam or its surrounding area, where you will board MS Victor Hugo for your journey to Berlin.

Boarding begins at 6:00 pm. Once onboard, settle into your cabin and take some time to familiarise yourself with the ship and its facilities.

Before dinner, join your fellow travellers for a welcome cocktail and meet the crew who will be looking after you throughout your cruise. Afterwards, enjoy your first dinner onboard.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure to relax onboard and prepare for the journey ahead.

EMBARKATION DETAILS:

- **Boarding Time:** From 6:00 pm
- **Exact Boarding Location:** To be confirmed in your final cruise documentation.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- This is a cruise-only package. Flights, airport transfers and pre-cruise accommodation are not included.
- Guests are responsible for arranging their own transportation to the designated embarkation location.
- The exact docking location may vary due to port and operational requirements. Please refer to your final cruise documentation for the confirmed address and boarding instructions.

MEALS: Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

Day 2: Amsterdam ~ Hoorn ~ Lemmer, Netherlands

After breakfast onboard MS Victor Hugo, enjoy the opportunity to discover more of Amsterdam, famous for its historic canals, beautiful architecture and rich maritime heritage.

This morning, you may choose to join an optional guided canal boat tour of Amsterdam. Cruise through the city's famous waterways and admire the historic canal houses, bridges and neighbourhoods that

make Amsterdam one of Europe's most popular destinations.

Alternatively, spend the morning at your own pace before returning to the ship for lunch.

This afternoon, you may choose to join an optional guided excursion to Volendam and Zaanse Schans, two destinations known for their traditional Dutch character. Discover Volendam's fishing heritage, learn about local cheese-making traditions and explore Zaanse Schans, famous for its historic windmills and wooden buildings.

Following the afternoon excursion, return to MS Victor Hugo in Hoorn, where the ship continues cruising towards Lemmer.

Relax onboard as you cross the Markermeer and IJsselmeer, two large inland lakes in the Netherlands. Enjoy the changing scenery as you cruise through this distinctive region, where waterways have played an important role in Dutch history and everyday life.

Arrive in Lemmer during the evening. Enjoy dinner and onboard entertainment before settling in for the night.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Amsterdam Tour by Riverboat***

Discover Amsterdam from the water on a guided cruise through the city's famous canals. Often referred to as the "Venice of the North", Amsterdam is known for its network of historic waterways, picturesque bridges and beautifully preserved canal houses.

Explore the waterways of the historic city centre, including the famous canal network formed by the Prinsengracht, Keizersgracht, Herengracht and Singel.

Learn how Amsterdam's canals developed over several centuries, with major expansion taking place during the Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century. Today, the city's historic canal ring is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As you cruise, admire the elegant architecture and discover how the canals helped shape Amsterdam into an important European trading centre.

Following the excursion, return to MS Victor Hugo in time for lunch.

DURATION: Approx. 2–3 hours

GRADE: Easy

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- The excursion is primarily conducted by canal boat, with minimal walking.
- The exact route and duration may vary depending on local conditions and the ship's docking location.
- The order of sightseeing may vary.
- All timings are approximate.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Volendam and Zaanse Schans***

Experience traditional Dutch culture on a guided excursion to Volendam and Zaanse Schans, two destinations known for their historic charm, local traditions and picturesque surroundings.

Travel by coach with your guide to Volendam, a traditional fishing village located on the shores of the Markermeer. Known for its colourful harbour, historic houses and maritime heritage, Volendam offers a glimpse into the Netherlands' fishing traditions.

During your visit, stop at a local cheese factory to learn about the production of Gouda cheese, one of the Netherlands' best-known products. Discover how the cheese is made and matured before enjoying a tasting of different varieties.

Continue to Zaanse Schans, a historic heritage village famous for its traditional Dutch windmills, wooden houses and workshops. The area preserves the appearance and traditions of Dutch life during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Enjoy the opportunity to explore the village and discover its traditional crafts, including wooden clog-making. Watch a demonstration of how these famous Dutch shoes are made and discover the different styles and designs associated with this long-standing tradition.

Highlights of the excursion include:

- **Volendam:** Discover a traditional Dutch fishing village known for its historic harbour and colourful houses.
- **Cheese Factory:** Learn about traditional Dutch cheese production and enjoy a tasting.
- **Zaanse Schans:** Explore a heritage village featuring historic windmills, wooden houses and traditional workshops.
- **Clog-Making:** Discover the traditional craft of producing wooden shoes and see examples of Dutch clog designs.

Following your visit, travel by coach to Hoorn, where you will rejoin MS Victor Hugo before continuing your cruise towards Lemmer.

DURATION: Approx. 4–5 hours

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- The excursion includes coach transportation and guided sightseeing in Volendam and Zaanse Schans.
- Walking is required during visits to both locations. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- Some pathways may be uneven.
- The excursion finishes with a coach transfer to Hoorn, where guests rejoin the ship.
- The order of visits may vary depending on local arrangements.
- All timings are approximate.

Day 3: Lemmer ~ Friesland – Delfzijl ~ Herbrum, Germany

Today, enjoy a relaxing day of scenic cruising aboard MS Victor Hugo as you travel through the waterways of the Netherlands towards Germany.

After breakfast, settle in for a leisurely day onboard as the ship navigates a network of canals and lakes through Friesland, a distinctive region in the north of the Netherlands. Known for its green countryside, traditional farms and extensive waterways, Friesland offers a glimpse into rural Dutch life.

The region is also known for its strong local identity, with its own language, customs and traditions. As you cruise through the peaceful landscape, admire the passing farmland, waterways and small communities that characterise this part of the Netherlands.

With no scheduled shore excursions today, take the opportunity to relax and enjoy the ship's facilities. Spend time watching the scenery, socialising with fellow travellers or participating in the onboard activities.

In the late afternoon, the ship reaches Delfzijl Lock, an important connection between the Dutch inland waterways, the River Ems and the North Sea. From here, continue cruising towards Herbrum in Germany, where the ship will stop overnight.

Enjoy your included meals throughout the day, followed by an evening of onboard entertainment.

CRUISING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Friesland:** Cruise through a region known for its green countryside, traditional farms, lakes and distinctive local culture.
- **Dutch Waterways:** Experience the network of canals and lakes that form an important part of the Netherlands' landscape and transport system.
- **Delfzijl Lock:** Pass through an important waterway connection between the Dutch inland waterways and the River Ems.
- **Herbrum:** Continue into Germany for an overnight stop as your cruise progresses towards Berlin.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Today is a scenic cruising day, with no scheduled shore excursions or sightseeing stops ashore.
- Onboard activities and evening entertainment are included as part of your cruise experience.
- Arrival times and navigation arrangements may vary depending on water levels, lock operations and other cruising conditions.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

Day 4: Herbrum ~ Papenburg ~ Oldenburg, Germany

Depart early this morning as MS Victor Hugo continues cruising through northern Germany towards the Bollinger Lock. Enjoy breakfast onboard while taking in the passing scenery along the waterways.

During the morning, you may choose to join an optional guided excursion to the famous Meyer Werft Shipyard in Papenburg. Discover how some of the world's largest cruise ships are constructed and learn about the fascinating history of this family-owned shipbuilding company.

Alternatively, remain onboard and enjoy a relaxing morning as the ship continues its journey.

Following the excursion, rejoin MS Victor Hugo and continue cruising along the Küsten Canal, also known as the Coastal Canal. Enjoy the peaceful countryside as you travel through this important inland waterway.

This afternoon, transfer to Oldenburg, a historic university town and former residence of the Grand Dukes of Oldenburg. Enjoy some free time to explore the town at your own pace, wandering through its historic streets and admiring the local architecture.

One of the town's notable landmarks is the Elisabeth-Anna Palace, an impressive red-brick building that once served as a ducal residence. Take the opportunity to admire its distinctive exterior as you explore the town.

Later, return to MS Victor Hugo in Oldenburg and enjoy dinner and a relaxing evening onboard.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Guided Tour of the Meyer Werft Shipyard***

Discover the fascinating world of modern shipbuilding on a guided excursion to Meyer Werft, one of Germany's most renowned shipyards, located in Papenburg.

Travel by coach from the Papenburg lock to the shipyard, where you will learn about its long history and development into an internationally recognised shipbuilding facility.

Founded in 1795, Meyer Werft has remained in the Meyer family for six generations. Originally specialising in small wooden vessels, the shipyard later expanded into building iron ships, ferries, cargo vessels and modern passenger ships.

Today, Meyer Werft is particularly well known for constructing large luxury cruise ships using advanced engineering and shipbuilding technology.

During your guided visit, learn about the different stages of ship construction, from assembling large sections of a vessel to the processes involved in creating modern cruise ships.

The tour takes place within the shipyard's visitor facilities, where large viewing windows provide an opportunity to observe the shipbuilding halls. Your guide will explain the engineering and construction processes involved in producing these impressive vessels.

One of the most interesting aspects of Meyer Werft is its inland location on the River Ems. Once completed, large ships must undertake a carefully planned journey along the river towards the coast before entering the open sea.

Following your visit, return to MS Victor Hugo by coach. The ship continues sailing during the excursion, so guests will rejoin at a designated location beyond the Doerpen or Delfzijl locks.

DURATION: Approx. 2 hours, including approximately 1.5 hours at the shipyard

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- Coach transportation is provided between the designated departure and return points.
- The ship continues sailing while guests participate in the excursion.
- The shipyard visit is conducted on foot within the visitor facilities. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- Ships and construction activities are viewed through large windows. Visitors do not enter the active shipbuilding areas.
- The vessels visible during the visit depend on the shipyard's production schedule and cannot be guaranteed.
- Some information, including introductory films or displays, may be presented in German.
- The return boarding location will be confirmed onboard.
- The order of visits may vary depending on local arrangements.
- All timings are approximate.

Day 5: Oldenburg ~ Bremen, Germany

Today, discover Bremen, one of Germany's oldest maritime cities, known for its historic architecture, trading heritage and charming Old Town.

After breakfast onboard MS Victor Hugo, you may choose to join an optional guided walking tour of Bremen's historic centre. Located along the River Weser, Bremen was once an important member of the Hanseatic League, a powerful network of trading cities that helped shape commerce throughout northern Europe.

During the excursion, explore the picturesque Schnoor district, Bremen's oldest neighbourhood, before continuing to the historic market square. Discover some of the city's best-known landmarks, including the impressive Town Hall, St Peter's Cathedral, the Roland statue and the famous Town Musicians of Bremen.

Alternatively, spend your time relaxing onboard or exploring independently.

Following the optional excursion, return to MS Victor Hugo. Enjoy your included meals onboard and the opportunity to discover more of Bremen at your own pace.

This evening, enjoy some free time to explore Bremen independently. Wander through the historic streets, admire the architecture or soak up the atmosphere of the Old Town before returning to the ship for your overnight stay.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Guided Tour of Bremen***

Discover Bremen's fascinating history on a guided walking tour through the city's historic centre, where centuries of maritime trade and traditional German architecture have shaped one of northern Germany's most charming cities.

Located along the River Weser, Bremen has been an important trading centre for more than a thousand years. Granted market rights in 965, the city later joined the Hanseatic League in 1358, becoming an important centre for shipping and international commerce.

Your tour begins in the Schnoor district, Bremen's oldest neighbourhood. Wander through narrow lanes lined with traditional half-timbered houses and historic buildings. Once home to fishermen, craftsmen and workers connected to the shipping industry, the district takes its name from the rope-making trades that were historically carried out here.

Continue towards the Marktplatz, Bremen's historic market square, where several of the city's most important landmarks are located.

During your guided walk, discover the following highlights:

- **Schnoor District:** Explore Bremen's oldest neighbourhood, known for its narrow cobbled streets, traditional half-timbered houses and maritime history.
- **St Peter's Cathedral:** Admire the impressive historic cathedral overlooking the market square, one of Bremen's most recognisable religious landmarks.
- **Bremen Town Hall:** See the magnificent Town Hall, famous for its Weser Renaissance architecture and recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Roland Statue:** Discover the famous statue erected in 1404, symbolising Bremen's historic civic freedom and trading rights. Together with the Town Hall, it forms part of the city's UNESCO World Heritage listing.
- **Town Musicians of Bremen:** See the well-known bronze statue depicting a donkey, dog, cat and rooster, inspired by the famous Brothers Grimm fairy tale.
- **Böttcherstrasse:** Walk along one of Bremen's most distinctive streets, celebrated for its unusual architecture and artistic character.
- **Lichtbringer Artwork:** Admire the striking golden artwork above the entrance to Böttcherstrasse, depicting the Bringer of Light.

Throughout the walking tour, your guide will share stories about Bremen's development as a major trading city, its maritime connections and the history behind its famous buildings and landmarks.

The tour concludes with a walk along Böttcherstrasse, known for its distinctive expressionist architecture and historic buildings.

Following the guided tour, enjoy some free time to explore Bremen independently before returning to MS Victor Hugo.

DURATION: Approx. 2 hours

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- The excursion is conducted primarily on foot through Bremen's historic centre.
- Some streets are cobbled or uneven, so comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- Historic landmarks are viewed during the walking tour. Entry to individual buildings is not specified as included.
- Free time is provided following the guided tour before returning onboard.
- The order of visits may vary depending on local arrangements.

- All timings are approximate.

Day 6: Bremen ~ Nienburg ~ Stolzenau ~ Minden, Germany

Depart Bremen early this morning as MS Victor Hugo continues cruising along the Weser River towards Nienburg, a charming town in the German state of Lower Saxony.

Enjoy breakfast onboard while taking in the passing scenery, including peaceful countryside, small riverside communities and the landscapes of northern Germany.

Upon arrival in Nienburg, you may choose to join an optional coach transfer into the historic town centre. Known as the "Red Town" for its distinctive red-brick architecture, Nienburg is home to historic buildings, traditional streets and a rich local heritage.

During your visit, enjoy free time to explore independently. Discover landmarks such as the Weser Renaissance-style Town Hall, St Martin's Church and the Kleine Nienburgerin statue, or simply wander through the town at your own pace.

Alternatively, remain onboard and enjoy a relaxing afternoon as the ship continues its journey along the Weser River.

While guests explore Nienburg, MS Victor Hugo continues sailing towards Stolzenau. Those participating in the optional excursion will rejoin the ship at the designated meeting point before continuing towards Minden.

Enjoy the passing scenery as you cruise towards Minden, arriving later in the day. This evening, relax onboard and enjoy your included dinner.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Transfer to Downtown Nienburg***

Discover the historic German town of Nienburg on this optional excursion, offering the opportunity to explore its traditional streets, local landmarks and charming town centre at your own pace.

Travel by coach with your ship's hostess to downtown Nienburg, located along the Weser River in Lower Saxony. Once you arrive, enjoy free time to discover the town independently rather than following a guided sightseeing tour.

Nienburg is particularly well known for its asparagus production and traditional northern German architecture. The town is often referred to as the "Red Town", a reference to the red bricks used in many of its historic buildings and streets.

For those interested in discovering the town's main attractions, follow the marked "bear's footsteps" trail, a walking route created by the local tourist office to guide visitors past several historic landmarks.

During your free time, you may choose to discover:

- **Nienburg Town Hall:** Admire the historic Town Hall, known for its distinctive Weser Renaissance architectural features.

- **St Martin's Church:** Discover one of Nienburg's notable historic churches, with a statue of Charlemagne located nearby.
- **Kleine Nienburgerin Statue:** See the bronze statue inspired by a traditional German folk song, one of the town's recognisable local landmarks.
- **Former Post Office:** View the historic building associated with postal connections between the Kingdoms of Hanover and England.
- **Historic Town Centre:** Wander through the traditional streets, admire the red-brick buildings and experience the relaxed atmosphere of this riverside community.

As this is a self-guided visit, you are free to choose which attractions to explore during your time ashore. Entry to individual buildings and attractions is not included unless otherwise advised.

Following your free time in Nienburg, return by coach to rejoin MS Victor Hugo at the designated location, which may be Stolzenau or Hoya depending on the ship's sailing arrangements.

DURATION: Approx. 4 hours

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- Coach transportation is provided, accompanied by the ship's hostess.
- This is a self-guided visit with free time to explore Nienburg independently. A local guided walking tour is not included.
- Comfortable walking shoes are recommended, particularly for exploring the historic streets.
- Walking distances and the attractions visited will depend on how you choose to spend your free time.
- The ship continues sailing while guests are ashore.
- Guests will rejoin the ship in Stolzenau or Hoya, depending on operational arrangements. The final location will be confirmed onboard.
- The order of activities and return arrangements may vary.
- All timings are approximate.

Day 7: Minden ~ Anderten ~ Hanover ~ Wolfsburg or Rühen, Germany

Enjoy breakfast onboard MS Victor Hugo as your river cruise continues through the waterways of northern Germany towards Anderten, near Hanover.

Spend the morning relaxing onboard and taking in the passing scenery as the ship travels through the region's network of canals.

This afternoon, you may choose to join an optional guided excursion to Hanover, the capital of Lower Saxony and one of Germany's important economic and cultural centres. Known for its royal history, impressive architecture and beautiful gardens, Hanover offers an interesting combination of historic landmarks and modern city life.

During the excursion, discover some of Hanover's best-known attractions, including the famous Herrenhausen Gardens, the impressive New City Hall and the historic Old Town. Learn about the city's connections to the British monarchy and its development through centuries of European history.

Alternatively, remain onboard and enjoy a relaxing afternoon as MS Victor Hugo continues cruising.

Following the excursion, return to the ship at the designated meeting point and continue cruising towards Wolfsburg or Rühen, depending on navigation arrangements.

This evening, enjoy a special gala dinner and evening onboard. Join your fellow travellers for a memorable evening of dining and entertainment as your cruise continues towards Berlin.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Guided Tour of Hanover***

Discover Hanover, the capital of Lower Saxony, on this guided sightseeing excursion combining panoramic coach touring with visits to the city's historic landmarks.

Travel by coach with your local guides and learn about Hanover's fascinating royal history. The city became particularly important in European politics during the 17th and 18th centuries, gaining international prominence in 1714 when George I, Elector of Hanover, became King of Great Britain. This connection established a personal union between the British and Hanoverian crowns that continued until 1837.

Begin with a panoramic drive past the famous Herrenhausen Gardens, renowned for their formal Baroque landscaping and association with Hanover's royal heritage. The gardens are viewed from the coach rather than visited during this excursion.

Continue to the impressive New City Hall, one of Hanover's most recognisable buildings. During your visit, discover four scale models illustrating the city's development in 1875, 1939, 1945 and the present day. These models provide an interesting insight into Hanover's growth, the destruction experienced during the Second World War and its subsequent reconstruction.

Your excursion continues with a panoramic tour of Hanover, passing several of the city's important landmarks.

Highlights include:

- **Herrenhausen Gardens:** Pass the famous royal gardens, known for their beautiful Baroque design and historical significance.
- **New City Hall:** Visit the impressive civic building and discover scale models illustrating Hanover's history and development.
- **Maschsee Lake:** See the large artificial lake near the city centre, created during the 1930s and now a popular recreational area.
- **Opera House and Grand Theatre:** Admire two of Hanover's important cultural landmarks, reflecting the city's artistic heritage.
- **Aegidien Church:** See the ruins of this historic church, preserved as a memorial to the destruction of the Second World War.
- **Nana Sculptures:** Discover the colourful sculptures created by French artist Niki de Saint Phalle, located along the banks of the River Leine.

Continue with a guided walk through Hanover's Old Town, where you will discover historic streets and buildings that reflect the city's medieval and royal past.

See the Market Church, one of Hanover's most important historic churches, and the nearby Old City Hall, a fine example of northern German brick Gothic architecture dating from the 15th century.

You will also see Leibniz's House, associated with the famous German philosopher and mathematician Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, who spent much of his career in Hanover.

Following the guided sightseeing, enjoy some free time in the modern city centre before returning by coach to rejoin MS Victor Hugo at the designated boarding location.

DURATION: Approx. 5 hours

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- The excursion combines panoramic coach sightseeing with guided walking sections.
- Stops are scheduled at the New City Hall and Hanover's historic Old Town.
- Herrenhausen Gardens are viewed from the coach. Entry to the gardens is not included.
- Other landmarks are primarily viewed during the panoramic tour unless a stop is specified.
- Comfortable walking shoes are recommended, as some streets and pathways may be uneven.
- MS Victor Hugo continues sailing while guests participate in the excursion.
- Guests return to the ship by coach at a designated boarding location, which may be Hanover Anderten or Minden depending on operational arrangements.
- The order of visits may vary depending on local conditions and arrangements.
- All timings are approximate.

Day 8: Wolfsburg or Rühen ~ Magdeburg ~ Genthin ~ Wusterwitz, Germany

Enjoy breakfast onboard MS Victor Hugo as your river cruise continues through the waterways of northern Germany. Spend a relaxing morning admiring the passing countryside and scenery as the ship makes its way towards the historic city of Magdeburg.

This afternoon, you may choose to join an optional guided excursion to Magdeburg, a city located along the Elbe River and known for its fascinating history, impressive architecture and connections to the Holy Roman Empire.

During the excursion, discover some of Magdeburg's most important landmarks, including its magnificent Gothic cathedral, historic churches and central marketplace. Learn about the city's connections to Emperor Otto I and its importance as a centre of political and religious power during the Middle Ages.

Alternatively, remain onboard MS Victor Hugo and enjoy the scenery as the ship continues cruising.

Following the optional excursion, guests will rejoin the ship at the designated location. The cruise continues via Magdeburg and Genthin towards Wusterwitz, where the ship will remain overnight.

Enjoy your included meals and a relaxing evening onboard as your journey continues towards Potsdam and Berlin.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Guided Tour of Magdeburg***

Discover the fascinating history of Magdeburg on this guided excursion through one of Germany's most historically significant cities.

Located along the Elbe River, Magdeburg has played an important role in German history for more than a thousand years. The city rose to prominence during the reign of Emperor Otto I, becoming an influential centre of religion, trade and imperial power.

Travel by coach to Magdeburg, where you will meet your local guides and begin exploring the city's historic landmarks.

Your tour begins with a visit to Magdeburg Cathedral, one of Germany's most important Gothic churches. The cathedral is the burial place of Emperor Otto I the Great, who became Holy Roman Emperor in 962. Learn about his role in shaping medieval Europe and Magdeburg's development as an important religious centre.

Continue discovering the city's religious heritage through its historic churches and monuments. Magdeburg was once a major centre of Western Christianity, and its surviving buildings provide an insight into the city's importance during the Middle Ages.

Your excursion includes the following highlights:

- **Magdeburg Cathedral:** Visit the impressive Gothic cathedral, home to the tomb of Emperor Otto I and one of the city's most significant historic landmarks.
- **Monastery of Our Lady:** Discover one of Magdeburg's important Romanesque buildings, reflecting its medieval religious heritage.
- **Historic Churches:** Learn about Magdeburg's religious history and see notable landmarks such as St John's Church and other historic religious buildings.
- **Former Citadel:** Discover part of Magdeburg's military and architectural history during a panoramic tour of the city.
- **Central Marketplace:** Visit the historic marketplace, home to several important monuments and civic buildings.
- **Magdeburger Reiter:** See the replica of the famous medieval equestrian statue, one of the city's most recognisable monuments.
- **Magdeburg Town Hall:** Admire the historic civic building and its decorative bronze doors depicting scenes from the city's past.

Throughout the excursion, your guide will explain how Magdeburg developed and changed over the centuries, from its importance during the Holy Roman Empire to the destruction experienced during the Second World War.

As you travel through the city, see the contrast between historic buildings, restored architecture and developments from the period when Magdeburg formed part of East Germany.

The tour concludes with some free time to explore independently before returning to MS Victor Hugo at the designated boarding location.

DURATION: Approx. 5 hours

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- The excursion includes coach transportation, guided sightseeing and walking through parts of Magdeburg.
- Comfortable walking shoes are recommended, as some streets and pathways may be uneven.
- The tour includes a visit to Magdeburg Cathedral. Other religious landmarks may be viewed during the guided or panoramic sightseeing rather than visited inside.
- Some free time is included following the guided sightseeing.
- MS Victor Hugo continues sailing while guests participate in the excursion.
- Depending on water levels on the Elbe River, the ship may dock at Rothensee Lock instead of central Magdeburg.
- Return to the ship may be on foot or by coach, depending on the docking location and navigation arrangements.
- The exact reboarding location and instructions will be confirmed onboard.
- The order of visits may vary depending on local arrangements.
- All timings are approximate.

Day 9: Wusterwitz ~ Brandenburg ~ Potsdam, Germany

Depart early this morning as MS Victor Hugo continues cruising through the waterways of eastern Germany towards Brandenburg. Enjoy breakfast onboard while taking in the passing countryside and peaceful scenery.

Upon reaching Brandenburg, you may choose to join an optional guided excursion to Potsdam, a historic city known for its magnificent royal palaces, beautiful gardens and connections to the former Kingdom of Prussia.

During the excursion, discover the famous gardens of Sanssouci Palace, the former summer residence of Frederick the Great. Explore the landscaped grounds and learn about the palace's history and its importance during the Prussian monarchy.

Continue with a panoramic coach tour through Sanssouci Park, home to an impressive collection of royal buildings and historic monuments. Afterwards, enjoy some free time in Potsdam's charming Dutch Quarter, known for its distinctive red-brick houses and historic streets.

Alternatively, remain onboard and enjoy a relaxing day as MS Victor Hugo continues cruising towards Potsdam.

Following the excursion, rejoin the ship in Potsdam. Enjoy your included meals onboard before an evening of entertainment and dancing with your fellow travellers.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Panoramic Tour of Potsdam and Visit to the Sanssouci Gardens***

Discover the royal history and architectural heritage of Potsdam on this guided excursion through one of Germany's most elegant historic cities.

Located southwest of Berlin, Potsdam was once an important residence of the Prussian kings and German emperors. The city is particularly associated with Frederick the Great, who transformed Potsdam into a centre of royal life, culture and architecture during the 18th century.

Travel by coach from Brandenburg with your local guides towards Potsdam, where you will discover the city's royal heritage and some of its most famous landmarks.

Your excursion begins with a guided walk through the gardens of Sanssouci Palace, one of Potsdam's best-known attractions. Built between 1745 and 1747, Sanssouci Palace served as the summer residence of Frederick the Great, offering him a peaceful retreat from the formalities of royal life.

The palace is renowned for its distinctive Frederician Rococo architectural style, reflecting the king's personal tastes and appreciation for art, music and elegant design.

Stroll along the flower-lined pathways and terraced gardens leading towards the palace, admiring the landscaped surroundings and impressive exterior architecture. Your guides will share insights into the history of Sanssouci and its significance during the Prussian monarchy.

Please note that this excursion includes the gardens and exterior views of Sanssouci Palace only. Entry to the palace interior is not included.

After exploring the gardens, continue with a panoramic coach tour through Sanssouci Park. This extensive landscaped park is home to a remarkable collection of historic buildings, royal residences and architectural monuments associated with Prussia's former rulers.

During the excursion, discover the following highlights:

- **Sanssouci Gardens:** Enjoy a guided walk through the landscaped gardens, including the famous terraces and flower-lined pathways.
- **Sanssouci Palace:** Admire the exterior of Frederick the Great's former summer residence and learn about its royal history.
- **Sanssouci Park:** Travel by coach through the extensive royal park, viewing its impressive collection of historic buildings and landscaped grounds.
- **Potsdam's Royal Heritage:** Learn about the city's history as a residence of Prussian kings and its importance in European history.
- **Dutch Quarter:** Enjoy free time to explore a charming historic neighbourhood known for its traditional red-brick houses and Dutch-inspired architecture.

The excursion concludes with some free time in Potsdam's Dutch Quarter, one of the city's most distinctive neighbourhoods.

Built during the 18th century, the Dutch Quarter features rows of red-brick houses inspired by traditional Dutch architecture. Today, the area is known for its historic streets, small shops and cafés.

Enjoy time to wander through the neighbourhood independently, admire the architecture or relax at a local café before returning to MS Victor Hugo in Potsdam.

DURATION: Approx. 4 hours

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- The excursion includes coach transportation, guided sightseeing and a walking visit through the Sanssouci Gardens.
- Walking through the gardens involves steps, including the terraced garden stairways. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- **Only the gardens of Sanssouci Palace are visited. Entry to the palace interior is not included.**
- Other buildings within Sanssouci Park are viewed during the panoramic coach tour. Interior visits are not included.
- Free time is included in Potsdam's Dutch Quarter.
- MS Victor Hugo continues sailing towards Potsdam while guests participate in the excursion.
- Guests rejoin the ship in Potsdam at the designated boarding location.
- The order of visits may vary depending on local arrangements.
- All timings are approximate.

Day 10: Potsdam ~ Berlin, Germany

Enjoy breakfast onboard MS Victor Hugo as your river cruise continues towards Berlin Spandau, located in the western part of Germany's capital. Spend the morning relaxing onboard and admiring the passing scenery as you approach one of Europe's most historically significant cities.

Upon arrival in Berlin Spandau, you may choose to join an optional guided panoramic tour of Berlin. Discover the city's fascinating history, famous landmarks and remarkable transformation from a divided Cold War city into the modern capital of reunified Germany.

Berlin has played an important role in European history for centuries. Once the capital of Prussia and later the German Empire, the city experienced significant destruction during the Second World War. Following the war, Berlin became divided between East and West, with the Berlin Wall becoming one of the most recognisable symbols of the Cold War until its opening in November 1989.

During the optional excursion, see some of Berlin's most famous landmarks, including the Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag building, Victory Column and Checkpoint Charlie. Learn about the historical events that shaped the city while discovering its impressive architecture and cultural heritage.

Alternatively, remain onboard and enjoy a relaxing day at your own pace.

Following the excursion, return to MS Victor Hugo and enjoy dinner onboard. Spend the evening relaxing as your Amsterdam to Berlin river cruise approaches its final days.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Panoramic Tour of Berlin***

Discover the fascinating history and famous landmarks of Germany's capital on this guided panoramic sightseeing tour of Berlin.

Depart from Berlin Spandau by coach with your local guide and travel through the city, learning about its royal heritage, political history and transformation into one of Europe's most important cultural centres.

Berlin's history spans centuries, from its role as the capital of Prussia and the German Empire to the events of the Second World War and the Cold War. Following the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961, the city became a powerful symbol of the division between Eastern and Western Europe.

Today, Berlin combines historic monuments, modern architecture and cultural landmarks that reflect the city's complex past and vibrant present.

Your panoramic tour begins with a drive along Straße des 17. Juni, one of Berlin's major historic boulevards, passing several important monuments and landmarks.

Continue through the city towards the famous Brandenburg Gate and Reichstag building before travelling along Unter den Linden, a grand boulevard lined with historic buildings and cultural institutions.

During the excursion, discover the following highlights:

- **Straße des 17. Juni:** Travel along one of Berlin's major boulevards, which passes through the central Tiergarten district.
- **Victory Column:** See the impressive monument commemorating Prussian military victories during the 19th century.
- **Bismarck Memorial:** View the monument dedicated to Otto von Bismarck, the statesman who played a central role in German unification in 1871.
- **Brandenburg Gate:** Admire Berlin's famous neoclassical landmark, once located beside the divided city's border and now recognised as a symbol of German reunification.
- **Reichstag Building:** See the historic home of the German parliament, known for its impressive architecture and modern glass dome.
- **Unter den Linden:** Travel along Berlin's grand historic boulevard, lined with monuments, cultural institutions and notable buildings.
- **Museum Island:** Pass the UNESCO World Heritage-listed museum complex, home to several internationally renowned museums, including the Pergamon Museum and Alte Nationalgalerie.
- **Alexanderplatz:** Discover one of Berlin's best-known public squares, located in the former East Berlin.
- **Berlin TV Tower:** See the famous Fernsehturm, one of Berlin's tallest and most recognisable landmarks.
- **Checkpoint Charlie:** See the historic crossing point between East and West Berlin, which became an important symbol of the Cold War.

Throughout the tour, your local guide will share insights into Berlin's history, architecture and the significant events that shaped the city.

The excursion is primarily conducted by coach, with opportunities for photo stops at selected locations. This provides an excellent introduction to Berlin's major landmarks without requiring extensive walking.

Following the panoramic sightseeing tour, return to MS Victor Hugo in Berlin Spandau.

DURATION: Approx. 4 hours

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- The excursion is primarily conducted by coach, with stops for photographs.
- Some short walking sections or steps may be required depending on the sightseeing stops and arrangements made by your guide.
- Landmarks are viewed during the panoramic tour or at designated photo stops. Entry to museums, historic buildings and individual attractions is not included.
- Museum Island is included as a sightseeing location only. Entry to the museums, including the Pergamon Museum, is not included.
- Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- The order of sightseeing locations may vary depending on traffic, local conditions and operational arrangements.
- All timings are approximate.

Day 11: Berlin

Today, enjoy another day discovering Berlin, Germany's vibrant capital, known for its fascinating history, impressive architecture and cultural attractions.

After breakfast onboard MS Victor Hugo, you may choose to join an optional excursion to Charlottenburg Palace, one of Berlin's most magnificent royal residences. Discover the history of the Prussian monarchy as you explore the palace's beautiful gardens and richly decorated interiors.

Alternatively, enjoy the morning at your own pace, relaxing onboard or exploring Berlin independently.

This afternoon is at leisure, giving you the opportunity to discover more of Berlin. You may choose to explore the city's historic neighbourhoods, visit museums, browse local shops or experience its café culture.

Berlin offers a fascinating mixture of historic landmarks and modern city life, with plenty to discover for those wishing to continue exploring independently.

Return to MS Victor Hugo for your included meals and enjoy your final evening onboard before disembarking tomorrow.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Victor Hugo

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: ***Tour of Charlottenburg Palace***

Discover one of Berlin's most impressive royal residences on this optional excursion to Charlottenburg Palace, renowned for its elegant Baroque architecture, richly decorated interiors and landscaped gardens.

Travel by coach from Berlin Spandau with your guides to Charlottenburg Palace, the largest surviving royal palace in Berlin. Originally built at the end of the 17th century as a summer residence for Sophie Charlotte, the palace was later expanded by successive Prussian rulers.

Your visit begins with a stroll through the palace gardens, where you can admire the landscaped surroundings and impressive exterior of the royal residence. The gardens reflect the artistic tastes and traditions of the Prussian monarchy.

Following your time in the gardens, enter Charlottenburg Palace for a self-guided visit using an audio headset. Explore a selection of beautifully decorated rooms while learning about the lives of the Prussian royal family and the palace's history.

Depending on which wing of the palace is visited, highlights may include:

- **White Hall:** Discover the former audience chamber and dining room of Frederick the Great, once used for royal gatherings and formal occasions.
- **Golden Gallery:** Admire an elaborate Rococo-style gallery, renowned for its decorative gold detailing and elegant interiors.
- **Winter Apartments:** Explore rooms associated with royal life, featuring period furnishings and decorative details.
- **Queen Luise's Bedroom:** Discover the elegant private chambers of Queen Luise, featuring furnishings partly designed by renowned architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel.
- **Palace Library:** Learn about the intellectual interests and private collections of the Prussian royal household.

As you explore the palace, discover the artistic styles, furnishings and architecture that reflect the wealth and influence of the Prussian monarchy.

Please note that only one section of Charlottenburg Palace is visited, either the New Wing or the Knobelsdorff Wing. The rooms available to view will depend on which section is included in the excursion.

Following your visit, return to MS Victor Hugo by coach. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore Berlin independently.

DURATION: Approx. 3 hours

GRADE: Classic

NOTES:

- This is an optional excursion and is not included in the standard cruise package.
- Return coach transportation is provided from Berlin Spandau.
- Charlottenburg Palace opens at 10:00 am, so the gardens are visited before entering the palace.
- The interior palace visit is self-guided using an audio headset.
- **Only one wing of the palace is visited, either the New Wing or the Knobelsdorff Wing. Access to individual rooms and collections depends on the section visited.**
- The excursion includes walking through the palace gardens and interior rooms. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.
- Bags can be left at the palace luggage office.
- The order of visits may vary depending on local arrangements.
- All timings are approximate.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The afternoon is at leisure for independent sightseeing in Berlin. Any additional sightseeing, attraction entry fees or transport required for personal activities are not included unless otherwise specified.

Day 12: Berlin ~ Disembark Ship

Enjoy your final buffet breakfast onboard MS Victor Hugo as your 12 day Amsterdam to Berlin river cruise comes to an end.

After breakfast, disembark the ship in Berlin and farewell the crew and your fellow travellers. Your journey through the Netherlands and Germany concludes after exploring historic cities, charming riverside towns and picturesque European waterways.

Following disembarkation, make your own onward travel arrangements. You may choose to extend your stay in Berlin and explore more of the German capital or continue your journey by air, rail or other transportation.

DISEMBARKATION DETAILS:

- **Disembarkation Time:** To be confirmed by the cruise operator.
- **Exact Disembarkation Location:** To be confirmed in your final cruise documentation or onboard.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- This is a cruise-only package. Flights, airport transfers, onward transportation and post-cruise accommodation are not included.
- Guests are responsible for arranging their own transportation from the ship following disembarkation.
- The exact disembarkation time and docking location will be confirmed by the cruise operator.
- When arranging onward travel, please allow sufficient time for disembarkation and transportation to your departure point.

MEALS: Breakfast