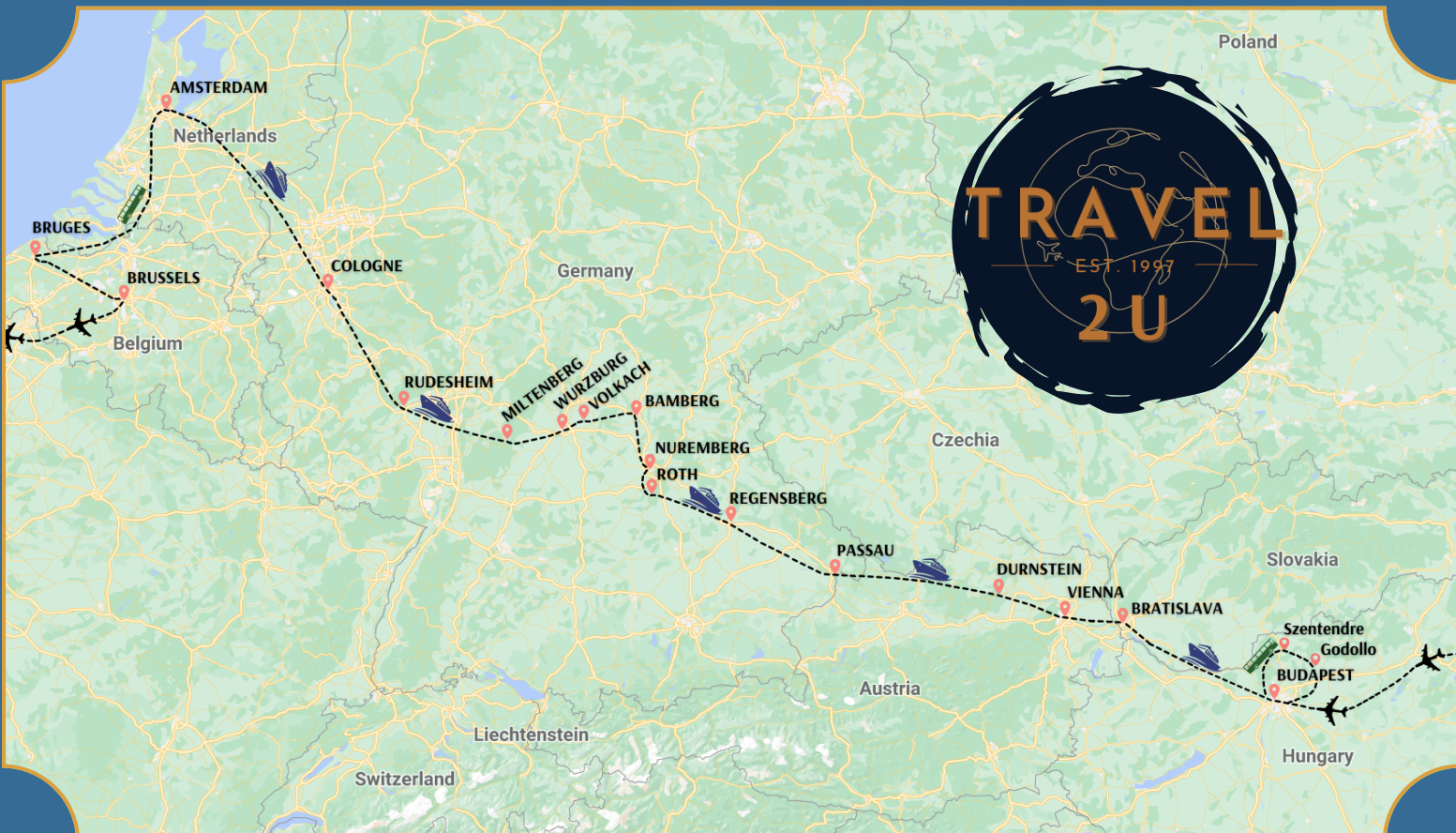


# EUROPEAN RIVER CLASSIC CRUISE

23 AUGUST - 16 SEPTEMBER 2024 • 25 DAYS

Gliding effortlessly along the **Danube, Rhine and Main** rivers' on a **luxurious riverboat** provides the perfect platform from which to enjoy some of Europe's most captivating cities and medieval towns. From the unqualified comfort of your floating luxury hotel, **breath-taking scenes** of riverside life fill your vision and fascinating excursions showcase some of Europe's most enchanting sights. Other senses are gratified by **an abundance of fine culinary fare, incomparable service** and handfuls of fully inclusive everything. Combine fifteen incredible days cruising with **extended stays in Budapest and Bruges** and you have our European River Classic Cruise.





## EUROPEAN RIVER CLASSIC CRUISE



FROM **\$19,770** per person  
share twin

### INCLUDED

- Return Economy Class airfares flying Emirates ex CHC
- 15 day river cruise including all meals, port charges and gratuities based on a Cat 'D' stateroom
- Tips to local guides
- Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on the cruise
- Happy hour on the cruise every evening
- Free wifi onboard
- All transfers and sightseeing as specified
- 2 extra nights Budapest plus sightseeing
- 3 nights Bruges plus sightseeing
- 2 nights stopover Dubai plus sightseeing
- Private touring coach for day tours in Budapest and Bruges
- All breakfasts and 4 dinners on land
- Travel 2U tour pack
- Services of a Travel 2U tour leader

### NOT INCLUDED

- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry, drinks, spending money etc
- Meals other than those stated
- Single supplement (limited to 2) \$7,180

### OPTIONAL p/person

- Upgrade to Premium Economy POA
- Upgrade to Business Class \$9,241
- 3 Nights Prague pre-cruise POA
- Upgrade to Cat A stateroom \$2,880

### NEW ZEALAND- DUBAI- BUDAPEST

**Day 1** Early evening we depart New Zealand on Emirates bound for Hungary and the start of our wonderful journey along the waterways of the Danube, Main and Rhine Rivers of Europe

#### DUBAI

**one night Dubai**

**Day 2** Arriving Dubai early morning we have time to rest and relax before an afternoon tour of Dubai's architectural highlights.

#### BUDAPEST

**two nights Budapest**

**Day 3** This morning we depart for Budapest arriving mid- afternoon. On arrival we will be met and taken straight to our hotel, perfectly positioned high atop Buda hill with commanding views over the Danube and Parliament below.

**Day 4** We begin the day with an orientation tour of the city featuring a visit to the highest point in Buda on the Danube, **Gellert Hill** named after Bishop Gellert, who tragically met his death at the hands of Pagan leaders who rolled him down the hill in a barrel. We'll see inside the ornate **Jewish Synagogue** and a poignant memorial to victims of the Holocaust in the form of a **weeping willow tree made entirely of stainless steel**. No trip to Budapest would be complete without a look through the bustling **Central Market hall**.

**Day 5** A short drive through some beautiful Hungarian countryside takes us to the romantic village of **Godollo**. Surrounded by woods, once the venue of Royal hunts, its attractive squares and serpentine streets beckon the inquisitive. Fascinating curios such as the **Pelican Well** and **World Peace Gong** can be found here. We'll have a brief visit at the **Godollo Palace** before continuing to the picturesque town of **Szentendre**, with its cobbled streets and quaint little shops. Brightly coloured merchant houses encircle the main square and numerous Churches and Galleries will satisfy the most demanding historians amongst us. We've allowed plenty of time to wander at your leisure and have some lunch before we make our way back to the city to join our magnificent ship the **MS Tranquility II**, resting gracefully on the Danube. Tonight we enjoy a Gala Welcome reception with the crew and fellow passengers.

**Day 6** A day at leisure. Our ship is moored centrally along the Danube so its an easy walk to shop or explore more of the charm of Pest before we sail away this evening.

#### BRATISLAVA

**Day 7** During the night the ship slips away from Budapest and continues to **Slovakia**. We enjoy a guided morning tour of Bratislava which includes the **13th century castle** and breath-taking views overlooking three countries- Slovakia, Austria and Hungary. The afternoon is free to shop or explore on your own. An eventful day is followed by an evening filled with an enchanting musical performance on-board.

#### VIENNA

**Day 8** Explore Vienna's Danube Island by bike with the adventure host or, after a short walk of Vienna, join a guided visit of Austria's largest museum, the legendary **Kunsthistorisches Museum** (Museum of Fine Arts). Maybe you'd prefer to explore the Habsburg Empire with a morning guided tour of Vienna's gilded landmarks. See the Imperial Palace complex, the iconic Vienna Opera House and stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral. Join a guided optional excursion to **Schonbrunn Palace**, summer home of the Habsburg empire. Consider a tram ride to Vienna's Prater amusement park or to one of the many museums nearby. Later, consider joining an optional excursion to attend a Royal Waltz Concert in an elegant hall.

# EUROPEAN RIVER CLASSIC CRUISE



## DÜRNSTEIN - MELK

**Day 9** Early this morning we reach the **Wachau Valley**. We stop in Dürnstein and marvel at the magnificent blue façade of the baroque **Stiftskirche**. Above the town you'll spot the ruins of the castle where **Richard the Lionheart**, (King of England) was imprisoned in 1192. We continue on a short cruise to Melk where a guided tour takes us to the town's magnificent **Benedictine Abbey**, one of Europe's largest baroque monasteries. An evening of wine tasting is one of the highlights of our visit to the Wachau Valley, we then continue to Linz just before Midnight

## LINZ - PASSAU

**Day 10** Where the Danube, Inn, and Ilz Rivers meet. Take a guided city walk and learn more about this beautiful "City of Three Rivers." or join an optional excursion to captivating **Salzburg**, the city of Mozart, or to the picturesque Bohemian town of **Cesky Krumlov**.

## REGENSBURG – DANUBE

**Day 11** This morning we arrive at Regensburg, one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. A captivating city, in which you are sure to reel off many photos. Our day includes a guided tour featuring the Town Hall and the **Porta Pretoria** – gates to the ancient Roman fort built in 179AD. Cross the historic **Steinerne Brücke** (stone Bridge) and wander the streets of the **Aldstadt** with its carefully preserved houses, some dating back to the 13th Century, and enjoy Regensburg at a leisurely pace.

## ROTH (Nuremberg)

**Day 12** Enjoy an Onboard Lecture about the Main-Danube Canal, linking these two rivers to make a vital connection enabling navigation between the North and Black Seas, or explore the Bavarian town of Roth with its half-timbered houses, market square, and 1535 hunting lodge, Schloss Ratibor. You may prefer a guided tour of Nuremberg's medieval architecture, gilded fountain, gothic cathedral, and Kaiserburg Castle, or maybe a tour featuring the historic **Nuremberg Rally Grounds** used by the Third Reich interests you more. Tonight, relax onboard with live entertainment as we sail to Bamberg.

## BAMBERG

**Day 13** In Bamberg we take a walking tour of this enchanting medieval town which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. The **Old Town Hall** that straddles the river is one of the main features of Bamberg. Legend has it that the Bishop would not grant the people land on which to build a town hall, so they drove stakes into the river and formed an artificial island, upon which it stands today. The city's charm extends to its twisting streets with quaint houses and some more elaborate 18th century mansions. Our cruising continues along the Main River.

## VOLKACH-KITZINGEN

**Day 14** Bike along the Main Danube Canal with the Avalon adventure host, or join a walking tour of the quaint town of Volkach with its half-timbered houses and cobblestoned streets. You may choose to join a guided optional excursion to the beautiful Bavarian town of **Rothenburg**. See the local sights and enjoy the fairytale atmosphere that has inspired artists. Alternatively, enjoy a relaxing afternoon while cruising to Kitzingen.

## WÜRZBURG

**Day 15** It's a relaxed morning cruise before we arrive in Würzburg, the capital of Lower Franconia. 'The Pearl of the Romantic Road' is surrounded by sloping hills covered with vineyards, teasing us as we glide by. During our morning tour we'll visit major sights of interest including the expansive **Bishops Residence**, and who knows, we may just get to sample some of those local wines at dinner tonight on the ship.

## MAIN RIVER VILLAGE

**Day 16** Miltenberg is a picturesque Bavarian village located on the Main River. The original settlers were Romans who built two castles here for the protection of the **Northern frontier** of the (then) **Roman Empire**. Today the feel is very much medieval and the beautifully timber framed and gabled houses are abundant, due largely to legislation granting residents free construction timber from communally owned forests.

## RÜDESHEIM – RHINE GORGE

**Day 17** Today we arrive in the unique wine village of Rudesheim where we tour the town and visit **Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum**, one of the highlights of previous cruise-tours. In the afternoon we travel along arguably the most beautiful and famous section of the Rhine, passing many castles and fertile fields, and also the legendary Lorelei Rock. Look out young sailors, lest ye too should meet your fate on the rocks upon which fair maidens beckon you with their sweet song.

# EUROPEAN RIVER CLASSIC CRUISE



## COLOGNE

**Day 18** This morning we arrive in Cologne. Immediately you will be awed by the city's fabled **13th century Gothic Cathedral**, taking over 600 years to complete with its soaring twin spires puncturing the skyline. Boasting over **42 museums and 120 galleries** you can be sure to find something of interest. If shopping's more your cup of tea, take a stroll along **Schildergasse**, Germany's most visited shopping street.

There are two significant claims to fame in Cologne. The fragrance world owes its gratitude for the origins of 'Eau de Cologne' (water of Cologne) and Kolsch; a very well-known specialty beer is brewed here under strictly defined guidelines. Perhaps you'll buy a little of both today.

## AMSTERDAM

**Day 19** Enjoying our last morning of leisurely cruising we arrive in Amsterdam. Start your day with the adventure host on an early morning walk in Amsterdam, or explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam with a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam's "Golden Age." In the afternoon you may join an optional culinary walk through Amsterdam to sample savoury and sweet Dutch specialties, or choose an optional biking tour to discover the countryside. You might also consider a guided optional excursion to **Zaanse Schans** to see historic windmills and charming Dutch houses. Spend free time on your own to explore the colourful cafes, galleries, bridges, and canals of Amsterdam. Tonight we gather for a Farewell Dinner with our crew and fellow guests, before we disembark in the morning to continue our tour overland.

## AMSTERDAM - BRUGES

*three nights Bruges*

**Day 20** After breakfast we'll be met portside by our local guide and driver to begin our scenic drive to one of the loveliest medieval cities in Belgium. After settling in to our hotel we'll take you on a short walking tour of the centre of Bruges, a good way to get orientated for the days to follow. Our hotel is conveniently located within walking distance of all that this fine city has to offer.

**Day 21** If you've seen the 2008 movie '**In Bruges**' many sights will look familiar to you on our morning sightseeing today, from the **Belfry Tower** standing an imposing 83 meters in the historical Centre of Bruges, to the canals we'll be cruising, offering you a different perspective of this medieval city. We'll see the impressive **Town Hall** and give you time to browse at your leisure through the many stalls and tourist nooks in '**The Market**'. If its intrigue you seek, the '**Basilica of the Holy Blood**' reputed to hold a phial of Christ's Blood is certain to spark the interest of 'da Vinci code' buffs. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure.

**Day 22** Our centrally located hotel acts as the perfect base for you to roam at your leisure today. There are undoubtedly place you've seen that you wish to spend more time in and today is the day to do just that. For some the call of the many fascinating shops and boutiques will be too much to resist, while others might enjoy a combination of history, shopping museums and art galleries. Being so close, there's an optional tour to **Ypres** for those interested in significant battle sites, bunkers, towns and the history around WWI.

## BRUGES – BRUSSELS – DUBAI

*Transit Dubai*

**Day 23** After a leisurely morning we'll be met by our coach and transferred to Brussels airport to begin our flights homeward. Upon arrival in Dubai late evening we'll make our way to our hotel located inside the airport terminal to enjoy a relaxing sleep prior to our final flight.

## DUBAI – NEW ZEALAND

**Day 24-25** Departing Dubai mid morning we commence our journey home arriving the following afternoon.