

European Jewels



16 Days from Budapest to Amsterdam | Pace: Leisurely

Indulge your passion for majestic art, architecture, music and history on an all-encompassing journey through four countries along three great rivers—the Danube, Main and Rhine—and to numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Trip Itinerary

DAY 1: Amsterdam

Arrive at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

DAY 2: Amsterdam

Enjoy the luxury of a full day in the “Venice of the North,” starting with a private “Morning with the Masters” tour of the Van Gogh Museum. You’ll have the museum’s extraordinary collection all to yourself, with an art historian to show you the highlights. Afterwards, explore the city with a canal ride or on foot with a local expert.

Featured Excursion:

“Morning with the Masters” at the

Van Gogh Museum

Choice of Amsterdam canal cruise or Exclusive “Do as the Locals Do” Amsterdam walking tour

DAY 3: Cologne

You simply cannot visit Cologne without paying homage to its most notorious site, the Gothic masterpiece that serves as the city’s cathedral. A local expert will show you favorite haunts around the Old Town, introduce you to the famous local brew, and share some of the cathedral’s most intriguing and Magi-cal secrets with you. Cologne is the largest and oldest city of the Rhineland and a cultural mecca, with more than 30 museums and hundreds of art galleries. A congenial atmosphere and a mix of ancient, modern and reconstructed buildings characterize the heart of

the city.

Featured Excursion:

Cologne walking tour with Cologne Cathedral visit and Kölsch beer tasting

DAY 4: Cruising the Romantic Rhine River, Rudesheim

Experience Germany’s fabled Rheingau in one of two ways today. Take in spectacular views of the region’s famous vineyards from the perspective of an aerial cable car, or venture within an atmospheric medieval monastery and taste the Rieslings made on site. Like many cities along the Rhine, Rudesheim has a lengthy history that stretches back to Roman times. These days, the town is best known for its narrow avenue of shops and wine bars called the Drosselgasse and its impressive Niederwald

Trip Itinerary (continued)

Monument. Later in the day, you'll experience the most spectacular scenery on the Rhine.

Choice of Aerial cable car ride to the Niederwald Monument or Kloster Eberbach medieval monastery tour with Riesling tasting

DAY 5: Frankfurt (Heidelberg)

Frankfurt is known as the "Mainhattan" of Europe due to its profusion of bankers and soaring skyscrapers, which co-exist with the city's traditional Old Town architecture. Experience Frankfurt's many contrasts today by visiting Germany's oldest museum or taking a guided "Let's Go" bike ride. Delve into exciting Frankfurt today. A major European financial and trade center, vibrant Frankfurt boasts world-class museums, soaring skyscrapers, cozy wine taverns and lovely parks. Choose a brief tour that gives you an overview or a more in-depth walking tour and then explore on your own. There's a lot to discover, including a great bike path along the Main, if you'd like to get out and about for some exercise.

Choice of Exclusive "Do as the Locals Do" Frankfurt walking tour or Heidelberg with castle visit

DAY 6: Wertheim, Cruising the Main River

After today, you may never eat a pretzel again without thinking of the Bavarian town of Wertheim. You'll meet one of Germany's best pretzel makers here, as well as the owner of a historic wine estate, followed by a guided vineyard hike. Or, if you're more in the mood for a scenic bike ride, you are perfectly welcome to do that instead. Your port of call today, Wertheim, nestles at the confluence of the Main and Tauber

ivers; it's a picturesque and friendly town dominated by the ruins of a 13th-century castle.

Choice of Wertheim walking tour with pretzel making and wine tasting at a private wine estate or "Let's Go" bicycle tour from Freudenberg to Wertheim

DAY 7: Würzburg

Your ship will dock in the delightful Franconian town of Würzburg, where you will visit the extraordinary Würzburg Residence—one of the most opulent baroque palaces in Europe. The Würzburg Residence is a 300-room palace with a famous staircase and a gigantic ceiling fresco (even larger than the Sistine Chapel's).

Featured Excursion:

Würzburg Residence visit

DAY 8: Cruising the Main River, Kitzingen (Rothenburg)

Step into a fairytale version of the Middle Ages in Rothenburg and visit a medieval castle that's been described as a miniature Versailles. Spend a relaxing day onboard as your ship wends its way along the Main River between Würzburg and Bamberg. It's something of a truism to say that this route takes you from wine to beer, and you'll see the transition as you sail past the vineyard-covered slopes around Würzburg toward Bavaria's famous beer-brewing center, Bamberg. Along the way, you'll pass delightful little villages and romantic castle ruins, drift under lovely old bridges, and have plenty of time to observe the fascinating variety of vessels plying the river, from heavily loaded barges to jaunty little pleasure craft.

Choice of Exclusive guided "Let's Go" scenic Main biking or

Rothenburg medieval city tour

DAY 9: Bamberg

Your floating time machine takes you to Bamberg today, a well-preserved town that offers a fascinating glimpse of medieval times. Explore the city on foot or opt to head deeper into the Franconian countryside to experience an authentic slice of rural life—including a tractor ride! Today, your ship will dock in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bamberg, which has one of the largest intact medieval town centers in Europe. Like Rome, the city is built on seven hills—but in Bamberg, a church tops each one. During the Middle Ages, Bamberg was split in two, divided by the Regnitz River, one side controlled by the prince-bishop and the other by the burghers (a formally defined class in medieval Germany). As a result of this division, the Old Town Hall was built on a tiny island in the middle of the Regnitz to serve both sides of town. Marvel at this medieval city's striking architecture and stirring history on a walking tour through Bamberg's Old Town. Or leave the city behind for an experience of Franconian rural life with a visit to a charming village in the verdant hills just outside of town.

Featured Excursions:

Bamberg walking discovery tour

Exclusive Franconian "Village Day"

DAY 10: Nuremberg, Cruising the Main-Danube Canal

Head up to the top deck or find a seat with a good view—you won't want to miss seeing the ship navigate its way through a marvel of modern engineering, the Main-Danube Canal. Your destination today is the historic city of Nuremberg, which you can explore in two different ways. Your ship

Trip Itinerary (continued)

docks in Nuremberg. One of Germany's leading cities for many centuries, Nuremberg's glowing heritage as a center of German arts, culture and economy was, sadly, also responsible for its disastrous experience in the 1930s and 1940s. Which aspect do you wish to explore? You must choose between two very different but equally fascinating excursions.

Choice of Nuremberg city tour or Nuremberg WWII historical tour with Documentation Center

DAY 11: Kelheim, Regensburg

Today in Regensburg you have three (!) options for experiencing this medieval gem of a city—select one for the morning and another for the afternoon. You can travel through time, get a crash course on making craft beer, watch high-tech robots assemble the Ultimate Driving Machine or enjoy a bird's-eye view of the town. Regensburg is a friendly town with quaint cobblestone streets, historic Roman ruins and a UNESCO World Heritage-designated medieval city center. This unspoiled gem was the capital of Bavaria for about 700 years, from the 6th to the 13th centuries. The remnants of Regensburg's golden age are still on display, particularly in the Stone Bridge, the first bridge to span the Danube, built in the 12th century. This bridge, which is 1,014 feet (309 meters) long, was an architectural wonder in its day. But don't let Regensburg's illustrious history fool you into thinking the town's best days are all in the past. Modern Regensburg is a popular center of higher learning, with more than 30,000 students attending its various colleges and universities. In fact, Pope Benedict XVI was a professor of theology at the University of Regensburg until 1977. Regensburg also frequently appears on lists ranking the

world's best places to live, thanks to its outdoor spaces, historic city center, lively cultural and nightlife scenes, and great shopping.

Choice of "2,000 Years in One Hour" Regensburg walking discovery tour or "From Hops Field to Beer Stein" farm visit or BMW factory visit

DAY 12: Passau, Cruising the Danube River

Passau is a crossroads in more ways than one—three rivers meet here and three nations nearly do, making for a fascinating cultural mosaic. Get to know the town with a choice of guided walks or "Let's Go" with an invigorating riverside bike ride. Located at the confluence of three rivers—the Danube, Inn and Ilz—Passau is well known for its ornate baroque cathedral. Long ago, it was a Roman colony in the province of Noricum, called Batavis after an ancient Germanic tribe. Today, the city is unusually well preserved, having been spared the brunt of Allied bombing during WWII, as you'll see on your walking tour of Passau. If you'd like some active touring, join us for a guided bike ride along the Danube.

Choice of Passau walking discovery tour or "Let's Go" hike along the Ilz River or Exclusive guided "Let's Go" Bavarian River bike ride

DAY 13: Cruising the Wachau Valley, Weissenkirchen (Weissenkirchen or Melk)

Named for its white church, Weissenkirchen may very well be the prettiest village in the Wachau Valley. A local expert will show you around and introduce you to some regional delicacies; later, you can stretch your legs with a vineyard hike that includes a wine tasting. Prefer to go for baroque? Visit the 900-year-old Melk Abbey and its extraordinarily opulent library.

Sail through the spectacular scenery of the Wachau Valley—one of the most beautiful stretches of river landscape in all of Europe. The 19-mile-long (30-kilometer-long) valley was formed over many centuries by the Danube River, which slowly wore away a rocky gorge in the foothills of the Bohemian Forest between Krems and Melk. This enchanting region—which boasts steep-sided, densely wooded southern slopes and northern slopes composed of a picturesque mixture of crags and vineyards—is a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape. Dotted along the banks are boutique winemaking communities and historic small towns, like the pleasant village of Weissenkirchen, which you will have the opportunity to explore on a delightfully savory excursion. Or, if you're feeling active, consider a vineyard hike that will lead you high above the village. Some of Austria's nest white wines are produced from grapes ripened on the terraces that cling to these rocky slopes, including Grüner Veltliner, which is grown almost exclusively in Austria. If you have a taste for history rather than wine, consider a visit to Melk Abbey, where you'll explore its massive library and admire its magnificent architecture.

Choice of Weissenkirchen "Village Day" with "Let's Go" vineyard hike and wine tasting or Melk Abbey with library visit

DAY 14: Vienna

Vienna is a cultural treasure trove revered for its art and music (and sinfully rich pastries). Experience the City of Waltzes with your choice of excursions, as well as VIP access to an extraordinary collection of art—having an opportunity to see these masterpieces in complete privacy is an extra special treat reserved

Trip Itinerary (continued)

solely for Uniworld guests. And to cap off a perfect Viennese day? An evening concert featuring works by Mozart and Strauss. The grand dame of the Danube, Vienna was the heart of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and remains, to this day, the political and cultural center of Austria. Klimt painted here; Beethoven and Mozart composed here; Freud developed his theories here. It's a treasure trove of splendid architecture, astonishing art collections and inviting cafés—and it's yours to enjoy. To begin your exploration of this delightful and historic city you may choose between two different guided tours: a panoramic city tour or our exclusive "Do as the Locals Do" walking tour. Another highlight today—our exclusive "Morning with the Masters" at the Vienna Art History Museum. Later, you can discover the endless charms of Vienna at your leisure.

Featured Excursion:

Exclusive "Morning with the Masters" at the Vienna Art History Museum

Choice of Vienna city tour or Exclusive "Do as the Locals Do" Vienna walking tour or Vienna Mystery Tour

DAY 15: Budapest

Located on opposite sides of the Danube, Buda and Pest each has its own distinctive character and charm. Get acquainted this dynamic and multi-faceted city with your choice of excursions—

whether you see it on four wheels or on your own two feet, there is much to discover in the Hungarian capital. Called the "Queen of the Danube," in part because of the way the city hugs the banks of the river, Budapest is an enchanting city that vibrantly mixes East and West, medieval and modern. Made up of two parts—Buda (the hills) and Pest (the flatlands)—and divided by the Danube, Hungary's capital presents an array of architectural styles that reveal its long and varied history. You'll have two enticing ways to experience the city—a panoramic guided tour aboard a motorcoach, or discover the Budapest that locals love on a special walking tour.

Choice of Budapest city tour or Exclusive "Do as the Locals Do" Budapest walking tour

DAY 16: Budapest (Disembark)

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Budapest Ferenc Liszt Airport for your flight home. Or you can extend your stay in beautiful Budapest with our exciting optional post-cruise extension.

Price Includes

DINING

- All meals onboard, prepared using the finest and freshest ingredients
- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions
- Welcome and Farewell Gala Dinners
- Unlimited beverages onboard, including fine wine, beer, spirits, soft drinks, specialty coffee and tea, and mineral water

EXCURSIONS

- 12 days of excursions, including "Choice Is Yours" options, all fully hosted by English-speaking local experts
- "Let's Go," "Do as the Locals Do" and "Village Day" programs
- State-of-the-art Quietvox portable audio headset system on all excursions
- Use of bicycles and Nordic walking sticks

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 15-night cruise in a riverview stateroom on the stunning River Princess, imperial River Duchess, elegant River Empress, or regal River Queen
- Lavishly appointed riverview staterooms and suites have handcrafted Savoir® of England beds, high-thread count 100% Egyptian cotton sheets and European duvets, and a menu of pillow options
- Free Internet and Wi-Fi access

EXPERIENCES

- 4 countries: Austria, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands
- 8 UNESCO World Heritage sites
- Services of an experienced Uniworld Cruise Manager
- Captivating onboard local entertainment
- Cultural enrichment, including a Signature Lecture: "European Jewels of Art and Architecture"
- All transfers on arrival and departure days
- All gratuities, both onboard and onshore

Extensions

BUDAPEST

Included in your 3-day stay:

- 2 nights at the deluxe Corinthia Hotel Budapest (or similar)
- Breakfast daily and all gratuities, service charges, taxes and portorage
- Budapest walking discovery tour of national treasures
- English-speaking expert
- All transfers

Pricing:

\$499 per person (for 2 guests)

For solo travelers, there is a single supplement of \$199.