

MAGNIFICENT EUROPE – September 16, 2010

Day 1, September 16, DEPART USA.

Board your overnight flight to Budapest, Hungary.

Day 2, September 17, ARRIVE IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

Arrive in Budapest and transfer to your luxurious river cruise ship. This evening meet your fellow travelers at the Welcome Cocktail Reception followed by dinner. The ship set sails late tonight. (D)

Day 3, September 18, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA.

Relax onboard this morning as you cruise towards Bratislava, capital of the Slovak Republic. An afternoon walking tour reveals the city's major sights, including the Old Town Hall, the stunning Mirbach Palace and Gothic St. Martin's Cathedral. Later there is time to explore on your own. After dinner you can enjoy an enchanting music performance onboard. (B,L,D)

Day 4, September 19, VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

Savor the baroque elegance of romantic Vienna during your guided sightseeing tour, including the lavish Hofburg Palace, the impressive Vienna Opera House, the majestic Ringstrasse, and awe-inspiring St. Stephen's Cathedral. The afternoon is free to stroll along the Kärntnerstrasse or sample Vienna's famous pastries. Tonight, explore the vibrant capital on your own or join an optional evening Mozart and Strauss concert. The ship moors overnight. (B,L,D)

Day 5, September 20, DÜRNSTEIN – MELK.

Early this morning, reach the Wachau Valley. Stop in Dürnstein and marvel at the magnificent blue façade of the baroque Stiftskirche. Above town you'll spot the ruins of the castle where Richard the Lionheart, King of England, was imprisoned in 1192. Your walking tour through medieval cobblestone streets reveals 16th-century town houses and wine taverns. Enjoy your lunch cruising to Melk, followed by a guided tour of the Benedictine Abbey, one of Europe's largest baroque monasteries. An evening wine tasting highlights your visit to the Wachau Valley. (B,L,D)

Day 6, September 21, LINZ – PASSAU, GERMANY.

After breakfast, take an optional full-day excursion to fascinating Salzburg and the Sound of Music sights, or cruise through Upper Austria to Passau in Germany. In Passau, the rivers Inn and Ilz join the Danube. Your city tour takes you on an exploration of this fairy-tale city founded more than 2,000 years ago. (B,L,D)

Day 7, September 22, REGENSBURG.

After lunch, arrive in Regensburg, one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. A guided tour will show you the city's architectural highlights, including the Old Town Hall, and the Porta Praetoria - gates to a Roman fort built in 179 AD. Marvel at beautiful churches and one of the oldest bridges crossing the Danube. Tonight, folklore entertainers will come onboard for your delight. (B,L,D)

Day 8, September 23, NUREMBERG.

This morning, enter the Main-Danube Canal and relax during a leisurely cruise through the beautiful Altmühl Valley. The Main-Danube Canal travels the Franconian Alps via 16 locks, truly a fascinating feat of modern engineering. In the afternoon, decide between a guided tour of the Medieval history of Nuremberg and see the storybook 900-year-old ramparts that surround this historic city and the Imperial Castle, or join the tour centered on the modern role the city played in the 20th-century and see the Zeppelin field and the Justice Palace where the War Crimes Tribunal sat in 1946. (B,L,D)

Day 9, September 24, NUREMBERG - MUNICH.

Transfer to Munich, the capital of Bavaria and one of Germany's largest cities, often given the nickname "Germany's secret capital" for some free time. Celebrate the 200th anniversary of Germany's most famous event and world's largest fair, *Oktoberfest*. During your free time, perhaps visit the Theresienwiese, often called d'Wiesn, and sample German beer in traditional heavy steins and enjoy hearty food while listening to the Bavarian bands play Oompha music. Late this afternoon, return to the ship in Nuremberg. (B,D)

Day 10, September 25, BAMBERG.

This afternoon, arrive in Bamberg for a walking tour of this enchanting town, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. Marvel at the breath taking cathedral, the Old Town Hall that straddles the river, and the city's serpentine streets with charming houses and 18th-century mansions. There is free time before rejoining your cruise, on the Main River. (B,L,D)

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Day 11, September 26, WÜRZBURG.

This morning, arrive in Würzburg, the capital of Lower Franconia. "The Pearl of the Romantic Road" is surrounded by sloping hills covered with vineyards. During your tour, see the major sights including a visit to the magnificent Residenz Palace. This afternoon explore Würzburg on your own, or take an optional tour to Medieval Rothenburg. A beautiful walled city situated on the *Romantic Road*. (B,L,D)

Day 12, September 27, WERTHEIM - MILTENBERG.

Cruise to Wertheim for some free time to explore the town on your own. Later, visit Miltenberg for a guided walking tour along narrow, cobble-stoned streets, seeing the gabled, half-timbered houses. Tonight, the ship sails leaving Bavaria, Franconia and the Main River behind. (B,L,D)

Day 13, September 28, RÜDESHEIM – RHINE CASTLES – KOBLENZ.

This afternoon, arrive in Rudesheim and visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. Explore the Drosselgasse, a narrow alley lined with wine taverns and restaurants during your free time before the ships sails late this afternoon for Koblenz. You will cruise through the Rhine Gorge, the most beautiful stretch of the river, passing castle after castle, don't miss the legendary Lorelei Rock, where sweet songs of local beauties lured enchanted sailors to their doom. Arrive in Koblenz after dinner and enjoy a walking tour of this 2,000-year-old city, situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Mosel rivers. (B,L,D)

Day 14, September 29, KOBLENZ – COLOGNE.

This morning cruise from Koblenz to Cologne, arriving in the afternoon. After lunch onboard enjoy a walking tour of Cologne and visit the spectacular 13th-century Medieval Gothic cathedral, its twin spires amongst Europe's tallest. (B,L,D)

Day 15, September 30, COLOGNE – AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND.

Enjoy your last morning leisurely cruising to Amsterdam. Arrive in Amsterdam after lunch for a guided canal cruise before gathering onboard for a Gala Farewell Dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 16, October 1, AMSTERDAM – USA.

Bid Farewell to Amsterdam and transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)