

# European Jewels Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

By

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# Map from Uniworld



# Overview

- From exotic Budapest, “Queen of the Danube,” to imperial Vienna, “City of Waltzes,” to the sky-high spires of Cologne’s Gothic cathedral—centuries of intriguing history and culture unfold before your eyes.
- The Melk Abbey’s great library overlooking the Danube and the Würzburg Residence’s soaring ceiling fresco by Tiepolo will leave you mesmerized.
- And throughout your journey, tantalize your senses with exclusive wine, apricot brandy and beer tastings, along with regional culinary delicacies.
- Discover the grand sweep of history and the dynamic present along legendary rivers on a magnificent journey that gives you the best of Europe’s great treasures as well as off-the-beaten-path gems.

# Day 1 Embarkation

- Arrive at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.
- 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 delightful tour of the Straat Museum.
- Afterwards, explore the city's canals by boat.

# STRAAT Museum & Canal Cruise

- In Amsterdam Noord, you'll find the NDSM Wharf, a lively area known for its popular bars, restaurants, and artsy atmosphere. Street art proliferates here, where it is not only tolerated but a valued contributor to the culture.
- That makes the NDSM Wharf the perfect place for STRAAT, a unique Amsterdam museum dedicated to street art, built into a former NDSM wharf warehouse. Works by over 170 different street artists are displayed here, all created on site for a larger-than-life scale and ultra-immersive experience.
- After your tour of STRAAT, partake in a classic Amsterdam experience: the canal cruise.

De Waag (Weigh House), once a fortified gate that today houses a popular outdoor café



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

Mint Tower, a gate in the city wall (circa 1400) that marks the intersection of two canals, tram paths, a pedestrian-only shopping street,





# City flower market

Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Canal Boat Tour



Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Gabled Roofs Amsterdam



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# REFUGEE CANAL CRUISE

- Amsterdam has always been a deeply international city.
- In fact, over half of today's population identifies as belonging to two or more cultures.
- Hop aboard a colorful wooden boat—which once ferried refugees across the Mediterranean—and settle into the cushions laid along the floor of the ship for a unique take on the popular canal cruise.
- During your 90-minute ride, you'll listen to stories from your refugee guide that highlight the remarkable contribution of immigrants to Amsterdam over the centuries.
- This MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience supports Global Goal 4: Quality Education; and Global Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities.

# Day 3 Cologne

- Enjoy a delightful tour of Cologne's Old Town, where three medieval gates remain standing, as does the old city hall with its stunning Renaissance façade.
- Wander through the historical center and take in its charming atmosphere and narrow alleyways flanked by old houses.
- No matter how you choose to explore Old Town, you'll also have ample free time to explore the city on your own.
- *In the evening, a special Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you.*
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# COLOGNE WALKING TOUR

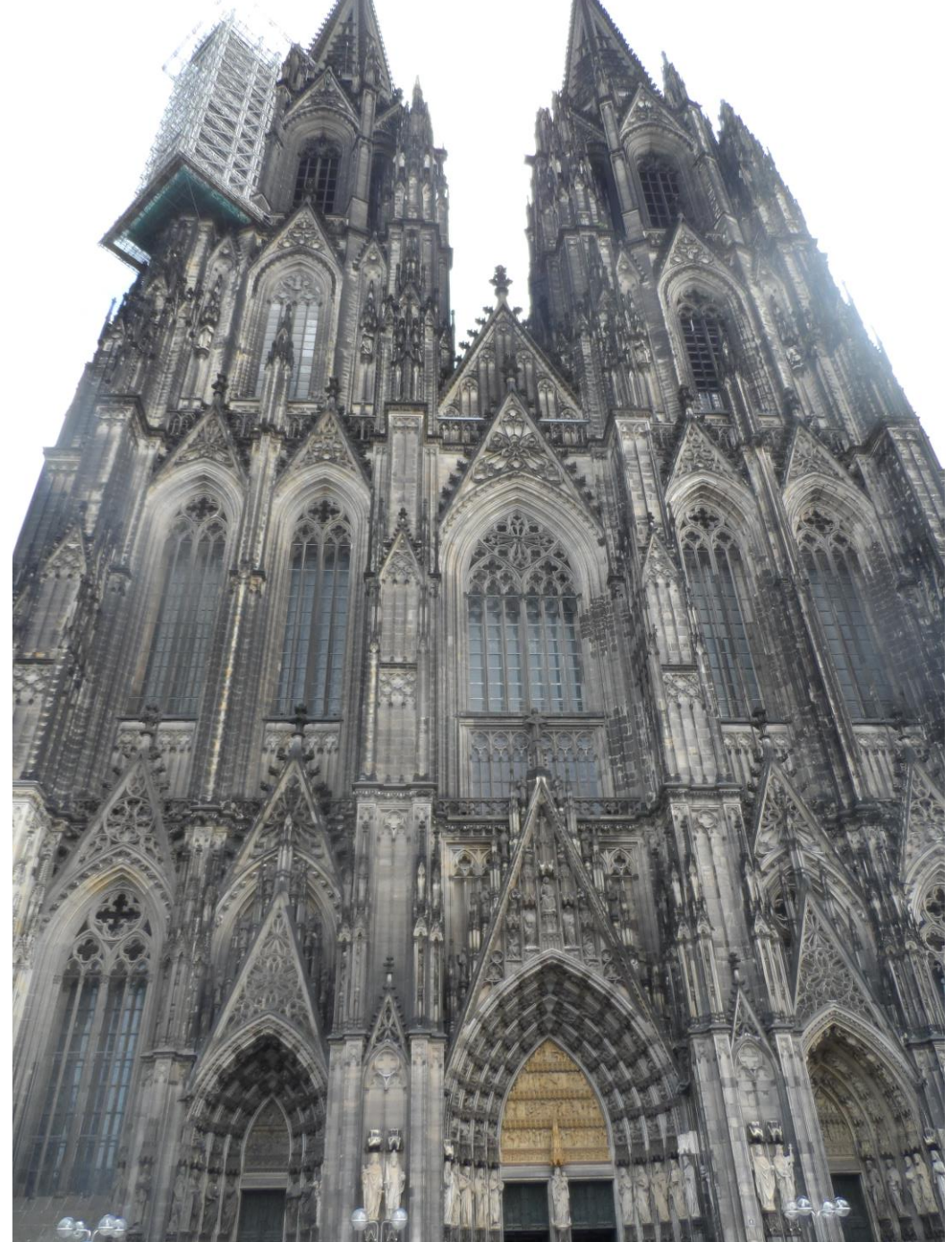
- Follow your guide around some of the most popular sites of Cologne, the largest city on the Rhine.
- You'll pass the old fish market, City Hall with its Renaissance façade, and the old Jewish mikvah (a bath used for ritual cleansing).
- Meander through the narrow, cobbled lanes of Old Town, lined with traditional houses in every color and a plethora of restaurants and pubs.
- One of the city's 12 Romanesque churches provides a castle-like backdrop to this quaint, riverside quarter of Cologne.
- Your local expert will take you all the way to the Domplatte, the square where you'll find the Cologne Cathedral.
- Should you wish, you can head inside this Gothic building on your own to see the Shrine of the Magi and the beautiful stained-glass windows.
- Otherwise, try asking your guide for tips on what to explore. Whatever your interests, our local expert knows all the best spots in town!

# Cologne Cathedral

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# Cologne Cathedral





# German-Roman Museum Cologne

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# Hohenzollern Bridge Cologne



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# Christmas Markets in Old Market Square Cologne



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# Day 4 Rudesheim

- Experience the most spectacular scenery on the Rhine this morning as you cruise past the famous Middle Rhine Valley.
- Later, 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 Monument.

# The Scenic Rhine River Gorge Castles

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# Rhine Gorge Castles



**Pfalzgrafenstein Toll Station, Germany**



**Rheinstein Castle, Rhine River Castles**



**Marksburg Castle, Germany**

# Maus (Mouse) Castle

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# Katz (Cat) Castle

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Lorelei—this tree-covered cliff inspired the legend of a love forsaken siren who lures sailors to their death by her enchanting song in this swift flowing, narrow part of the Rhine.



# Schönburg Castle on the rock massif above Oberwesel

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## RÜDESHEIM WINE VILLAGE AND PANORAMAS OF NIEDERWALD MONUMENT (MID-MAY THROUGH LATE OCTOBER)

- The huge statue of Germania atop the hill above Rüdesheim is visible for miles.
- Erected by Wilhelm I to commemorate the unification of Germany following the Franco-Prussian War in 1877, the monument may perfectly embody 19th-century imperial grandiosity—but the ride to and from it is the real point of your expedition.
- Hop aboard an aerial cable car and begin your ascent to Niederwald Heights. You'll get a great view of the town and the entire Rheingau wine-growing region as you climb high into the air, with the precipitous vineyards falling away below you and spectacular views of the Rhine valley spreading into the distance.
- Don't worry if you find there are far too many glorious things to see as you ascend; anything you miss while going up, you'll have a chance to catch coming back down.
- Explore the historic Niederwald Monument, then head back down into Rüdesheim, where you can enjoy some free time.

# Sailing into Rudesheim

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Gondola Ride Rüdesheim



# Germania Monument

Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Germania Monument





# Rüdesheim

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# RÜDESHEIM



Crowded  
Drosselgasse  
Lane  
Rüdesheim



# ABBHEY EBERBACH MEDIEVAL MONASTERY TOUR WITH RIESLING TASTING

- Kloster Eberbach is a former Cistercian monastery built in the Romanesque and early Gothic style and is considered one of the most significant architectural sites in the region.
- In fact, some of the interior scenes of the 1986 movie *The Name of the Rose*—based on the best-selling novel by Umberto Eco—were filmed here.
- You'll have a guided tour of the monastery followed by a tasting of locally grown Rieslings.

# Day 5

- Vibrant Frankfurt, often referred to as the “Mainhattan” of Europe, boasts world-class museums, soaring skyscrapers, cozy wine taverns and lovely parks.
- Choose a brief tour that gives you an overview of this major European financial and trade center.
- Alternatively, visit romantic Heidelberg and its Renaissance castle.

# HEIDELBERG CASTLE VISIT

- Walk up a cobblestone incline to Heidelberg Castle, where you'll have a guided tour of the courtyard and the Heidelberg Tun—the world's largest wine barrel.
- The views from the hilltop castle ruins, which greatly inspired writers and artists of the Romantic era, are simply spectacular.
- Later, enjoy a leisurely lunch and explore the culinary treasures and charming shops in town before boarding the coach back to your ship.
- *Note: lunch is not included with this excursion.*

# Heidelberg Castle in the Snow

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Old Bridge in Heidelberg

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Old Bridge Gate Heidelberg



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Haus Zum Ritter  
“House of the Knights”  
Oldest burger house in  
the city Heidelberg



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# Church of the Holy Spirit Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Golden Fleece Sign Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader  
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Hauptstrasse—the  
main street in the old  
town of Heidelberg



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# Dirndls (Traditional Dresses) for sale in Heidelberg



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# HEIDELBERG SCHOOL VISIT

- *Please note that participation in this tour requires first joining the “Heidelberg Castle Visit” excursion.*
- Following a guided visit to Heidelberg Castle, take a drive to a local school where you’ll be greeted by a handful of charming student ambassadors of varying grade levels.
- The student ambassadors will give you a tour of the school, explaining its “international” mission and concept and the projects they work on.
- After, you’ll sit for lunch in the dining hall for a Q&A with the school director or a teacher. You may also have a little bit of free time to explore Heidelberg at the end of your tour before it is time to return to the ship.
- This MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience supports Global Goal 4: Quality Education.

# FRANKFURT WALKING TOUR WITH LOCAL TREATS

- Meet your local guide outside the ship and get ready for a tasting tour of Frankfurt.
- Enjoy some iconic favorites, such as *grüne sosse*—a refreshing herb sauce—frankfurters, and apple wine as you make your way to the Hauptwache.
- This central plaza is full of places to shop and eat, so you may want to stick around after our tour.

# Day 6 Wertheim

- After today, you may never eat a pretzel again without thinking of the town of Wertheim.
- You'll meet one of Germany's best pretzel makers, as well as the owner of a historic wine estate.
- If you're more in the mood for a scenic bike ride, you are welcome to do that instead.



# WERTHEIM WALK WITH LOCAL TREATS

- This region of Bavaria is known for its amber-colored beer, spicy bratwurst, traditional soft pretzels, and unique wine bottles with short necks and round bodies—and you'll encounter several of these local specialties today.
- First, though, you get to see a little of Wertheim itself.
- Despite centuries of flooding, a great deal of the Old Town remains.
- The Pointed Tower, used as a jail for drunkards and shrews in the 13th century, leans toward its neighbors, not from age but because flood waters have undermined it.
- It's not the only architectural wonder you'll see on your tour. You may choose to spend some leisure time in the village or head straight to nearby Kreuzwertheim, a wine-growing area, for a hike through the vineyards—your efforts will be rewarded with a glass of sparkling wine and a wonderful view of the Main River valley.
- Whichever option you select, your next stop is a historic winery that produces Franconian wines.
- Its charming sandstone architecture, vaulted cellars, and covered courtyard make for a delightful afternoon.
- You've probably tasted some yummy soft pretzels on your trip already, but these are special:
- Watch a fifth-generation baker make some for you and discover for yourself why he supplies some of Berlin's top hotels.
- Then meet the winery's winemaker, who will present a special wine tasting.

# Wertheim

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# Wertheim Market Square

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The 115-foot tall Sprizer Turm. It dates back to the 1200s and was one of the original 18 watch towers that ringed this city. Wertheim



Photo Anne Schrader  
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# LET'S GO: WERTHEIM BICYCLE TOUR

- Get out and about on one of the finest and most popular cycling routes in Germany, the bike path along the Main.
- Starting in Wertheim, a fairytale town with half-timbered homes and quirky cobblestone lanes, nestled amidst beautiful mountain scenery.
- You can pedal your way along flat stretches of the riverside path, passing red sandstone quarries, farms, verdant fields and meadows, and charming villages.
- Then you'll bike back to Wertheim, where you can explore this enchanting medieval town with its historic castle and town center, or you can visit a nearby wine estate for some well-deserved wine tasting.

## Day 7 Würzburg,

- Your ship will dock in the charming Franconian town of Würzbur, where you can visit the extraordinary Würzburg Residence, one of the most opulent baroque palaces in Europe.

# WÜRZBURG RESIDENCE VISIT WITH COURT GARDENS

- This incredibly lavish 18th-century palace was created under the auspices of two Schönborn prince-bishops, Lothar Franz and Friedrich Carl, who brought enormous knowledge and passion, as well as a budget for the best, to the project.
- Over the course of 60 years, they fostered the creation of a 300-room palace that contains jaw-dropping baroque art.
- The magnificent grand staircase boasts the world's largest ceiling fresco, painted by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo.
- Portions of the building were damaged by Allied bombing in 1945, but, fortunately, most of the historic furnishings had been stored off-site and key rooms were unharmed, so you can see the original—and matchless—artwork, gilding, and statuary.
- Check out both the spectacular Hall of Mirrors and the imposing Imperial Hall, which boasts a large oval dome and 20 half-columns.
- Even the gardens have been restored, right down to the topiary fruit trees in the kitchen garden, which are re-creations of the trees grown there in the 18th century.
- *Note: Visitors may not take photos or videos or carry backpacks inside the Würzburg Residence.*

# Marienberg Fortress



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# Old Stone Bridge

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# Residenz Palace Würzburg



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Garden statue Residenz Palace



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## 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.

# Old Town Walls Kitzingen

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# Another View of the Town Walls Kitzingen



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# Fairytale Rothenburg

- Step into a fairytale version of the Middle Ages in Rothenburg with its great stone walls surrounding the medieval core, linking towers, bastions, and parapets.
- Narrow cobblestone lanes will lead you past the charming old monastery, Germany's oldest half-timbered houses, and splendid fountains before winding your way to the town's perfectly medieval Market Square, a hotspot for locals and guests alike.
- If you're lucky, you'll get to see magnificent Town Hall (which seamlessly blends together Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture), spirited dance performances, and on special occasions—knights pulling horses through the city in a wonderful spectacle.
- Savor a taste of the beloved bratwurst, a type of German sausage made from veal, beef, or pork.
- Take some time to explore the town and have lunch on your own after your tour.
- This afternoon, you'll have a chance to explore or shop on your own.

Translated from German, Plönlein is actually the small square at a fountain". This is probably the most famous picture of Rothenburg.



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# Market Square Rothenburg.



Burger Gate  
(Castle Gate)  
Rothenburg. This  
gate was built  
around 1460 and  
is the western  
gate entrance. It  
is the highest  
gate tower of  
the town  
fortifications.



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# ACTIVE ROTHENBURG WALK THE RAMPARTS \$34

- Everything about this excursion is wonderfully scenic, starting with your journey from the ship to the town--you'll travel along an especially picturesque stretch of Germany's Romantic Road, which is dotted with enchanting little villages.
- And the moment you enter Rothenburg, you'll feel as though you are in a fairy tale, partly because Rothenburg has appeared in so many movies, including Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.
- For a great view of the old town, take the narrow path atop the great stone walls that still surround the medieval core; they still link watchtowers, bastions and parapets.
- Roam the cobblestone streets with your guide, passing historic churches and picture-perfect timber-frame houses to the medieval market square, where you can sample some local sausages before delving into the old dungeon.
- The vaults there now offer exhibits on the Thirty Years War, which hit Rothenburg hard, though in the 15th century debtors and tax evaders--and one of the town's most famous mayors--were imprisoned there.
- Take some time to explore the town and have lunch on your own after your tour.
- It offers everything from a fascinating and gruesome Crime Museum to a terrific year-round Christmas store. Note: lunch will be on your own today.

# Inner Walls of Rothenburg



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# Watch Tower Rothenburg



# Dunking Chair Rothenburg Crime Museum



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# Day 9 Bamberg

- Your floating boutique hotel 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.
- Like Rome, the city is built on seven hills—but in Bamberg, a church tops each one.
- *You'll spend the rest of the day on the peaceful Main River, cruising past quiet Franconian hamlets and picturesque countryside.*
- *It's the perfect time to indulge in the many comforts of your luxury ship while watching some of Europe's loveliest scenery glide by.*

# BAMBERG WALKING TOUR

- Now a pleasant city with a lively student population and a world-famous symphony orchestra, Bamberg was the center of economic and political life for a huge swath of Central Europe in the Middle Ages.
- Spared WWII bombing, the entire heart of historic Bamberg is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The medieval layout of the city remains intact, along with 2,000 historic buildings; it is yours to explore today.
- In the splendid late-Romanesque Imperial Cathedral you will find the only papal tomb in Germany, that of Pope Clement II (who was the bishop of Bamberg before he became pope), as well as the tomb of Emperor Henry II (who established the bishopric).
- Near it is the magnificent Old Palace, the late-Gothic imperial residence (if you saw the 2011 3-D version of *The Three Musketeers*, you'll recognize it immediately), which sits across from the New Residence, where the 17th-century prince-bishops lived, separated by a lovely rose garden.
- Cross the cobblestone footbridge to the Old Town Hall, which is adorned with colorful frescoes, and ramble along the narrow lanes lined with picturesque half-timbered houses.



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Bamberg  
Rathaus  
(town hall)

# Bamberg Cathedral



# New Residence Rose Garden, Bamberg, Germany

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# Franconian Village Day

- If you're interested in getting to know more about the landscape and local farming techniques in the beautiful Steigerwald region, this visit to a Franconian village is perfect for you.
- Meet a local farmer who is determined to make sure that his way of life continues for future generations; he's dedicated to restoring the natural environment around him and making sure that school kids know more about where their food comes from.
- Join him as he introduces his village to you: the typical farmhouses and the crops, the hardships of the life as well as the pleasures of living among the vineyards and forests.
- Take a tractor ride over the rolling hills to a small-scale vintner's where you can sample the wine they make strictly for home consumption.

# Bamberg Beer Experience \$81

- For VIP access to a classic German experience, enter the halls of Kundmüller Brewery.
- You'll be treated to a close-up view of their operations and introduced to their beers with a tasting and some light snacks.

# 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.
- A formidable set of locks, 16 in all, lifts your ship to the crest of the European “continental divide.

# Day 10 NUREMBERG

- Arrive in the archetypal medieval German city of Nuremberg.
- Nuremberg is justifiably famous for its gingerbread and pocket watches, and it was also the site of some key moments in 20th-century history.
- You'll choose between two memorable ways of exploring this exceptional city.
- You can join a tour of a secret Nazi art bunker hidden underground,
- or you can accompany a local expert to the city's most important WWII sites, including the enormous Nazi Party Rally Grounds—the actual site of the Nazi Party rallies.

# NUREMBERG CITY WALK & ART BUNKER VISIT

- Set out on a panoramic drive towards Nuremberg's Old Town. Along the way, look out the window to catch a glimpse of several interesting sites, including the former SS Barracks, Nuremberg's train station, and the old city walls.
- You'll get off the bus near the castle for a walking tour of the historic neighborhood surrounding it, then descend underground to find a secret Nazi art bunker hidden beneath the castle.
- In the medieval period, a network of tunnels was built under the castle hill, and parts of these tunnels were later turned into an artifact preservation bunker during World War II.
- The Nazis stored several highly valuable and symbolic items here to keep them safe from Allied air raids, including the imperial regalia of the Holy Roman Empire, looted artifacts from occupied nations, and paintings by Albrecht Dürer, a German painter whose home you'll have passed on your tour through the Old Town.
- Please note: you may find it beneficial to bring a warm jacket with you on this tour, as the art bunker naturally sits at around 55°C.



# NUREMBERG CITY TOUR WITH WWII RALLY GROUNDS AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER VISITS

- Hitler considered Nuremberg the perfect expression of German culture (partly because of its significance in the Holy Roman Empire, which he called the First Reich), and so beginning in 1927, he chose to hold his massive rallies in the city.
- By 1933, his favorite architect, Albert Speer, had designed the vast Nazi Party Rally Grounds, where thousands upon thousands of Nazi troops saluted Hitler. (Leni Riefenstahl captured these events in her famous propaganda film *Triumph of the Will*.)
- Not all of Speer's plans were executed, and some of his grandiose structures were bombed out of existence, but the remainder stand as vivid testimony to Hitler's megalomania.
- A four-square-mile (10-square-kilometer) complex known as Zeppelin Fields contains parade grounds and a huge grandstand, the excavation site where a stadium for 400,000 people was begun—the hole is now filled with water.
- *NOTE: The permanent exhibition at the Documentation Center will be closed until the fall of 2023. In its place, a special temporary exhibition may be available.*

The Walled City of Nuremberg. There are 4 km of medieval walls and 67 defensive towers that ring the old town

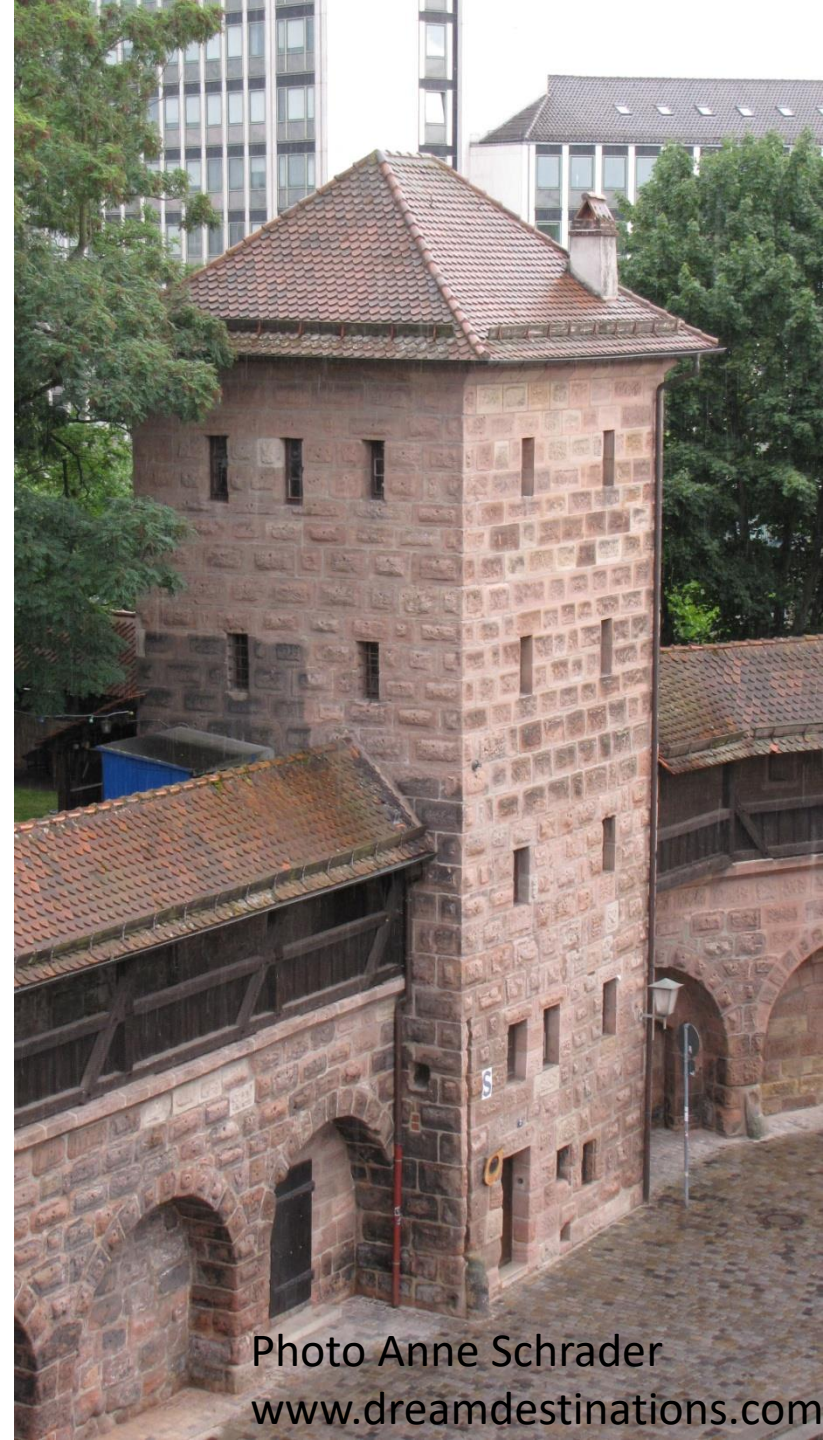


Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Maxbrücke (also called Hangman's Bridge) at the Pegnitz River—Nuremberg's oldest stone bridge

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Day 11 Regensburg

- Bavaria's first capital, Regensburg, owes its impressive historical lineage and rich architectural heritage to 600 years as a Free Imperial City, a fact recognized by UNESCO in 2006.
- Today, you'll discover how the beautifully preserved medieval city coexists with a vibrant modern urban center.

# Regensburg Walking Tour

- People have been describing Regensburg as “old and new” for a thousand years. A single structure perfectly illustrates this: Porta Praetoria, the gate built by the Romans during Marcus Aurelius’ reign.
- The gate and adjacent watchtower have been incorporated into a much newer building, but the plaster has been removed to reveal the ancient stones laid so long ago.
- As you walk through the cobbled lanes of the UNESCO-designated Old Town, the city’s 2,000-year history is similarly revealed: the Stone Bridge that made Regensburg a 12th-century trading powerhouse, the Gothic town hall where the Imperial Diet met for three centuries, the 13th-century fortified patrician houses, and the spectacular Cathedral of St. Peter, whose magnificent 14th-century stained-glass windows alone are worth your walk.
- You’ll have free time to explore on your own.
- It’s very hard to get lost in Regensburg because the spires of the cathedral are visible all over town, so don’t hesitate to roam.
- The historic quarter not only boasts almost a thousand beautiful old buildings, but also many cozy pubs and some great shopping. The ship is docked conveniently close, so it’s easy to drop your treasures off and go back for more.

# Regensburg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader

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# Porta Praetoria

## Roman ruins used in a new building



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# Old Town Hall Regensburg

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# Regensburg St. Peter's Cathedral



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# FROM HOPS FIELD TO BEER STEIN” FARM VISIT

- Hops vines grow up their strings in a field tower almost twice a person’s height.
- They’re grown for their flowers, which add a distinctive flavor to beer—but the fields they grow in add a distinctive flavor to the hops.
- You could call it *terroir* for beer, and you can delve into hops cultivation and hops brewing today.
- Travel through Bavaria’s Holledau region, the largest hops growing district in the world, and meet an enthusiastic ambassador of hops growing and beer making.
- She will give you a quick and lively history of hops in Germany—including Bavaria’s law governing the making of beer, which has specified since 1560 that the only ingredients permitted in beer are water, barley and hops—and lead you on a tour through the growing fields her family owns, followed by a craft beer tasting in the cozy barn turned beer hall.
- It’s a delicious way to get to know a fascinating aspect of the international farm-to-table movement.

# Day 12 Passau

- Located at the confluence of three rivers—the Danube, Inn, and Ilz—Passau is well known for its ornate baroque cathedral.
- 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.

# PASSAU WALKING TOUR

- The skyline of Passau is dominated by two buildings that owe their existence to the prince-bishops who ruled the city until 1803: the great fortress looming on a hill above the three rivers, home to the bishops until the 17th century, and the green onion domes of St. Stephen's Cathedral.
- As you walk through the cobblestone streets toward those green onion domes, you'll realize that Passau retains the layout of the medieval town.
- However, many of the wooden medieval buildings burned to the ground in the 17th century, and the prince-bishops imported Italian artists to build a new cathedral and a magnificent new residence for the bishops themselves.
- As a result, these splendid structures flaunt Italian baroque and rococo style and ornamentation, complete with opulent gilding and wonderful frescoes.
- Your guide will introduce you to some of the architectural highlights—the rococo stairways of the New Residence; the cathedral; and the Town Hall, which boasts a magnificent atrium adorned with large paintings by Ferdinand Wagner—and make sure you get a close-up view of the point where the three rivers meet.

# Passau



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# Passau, Germany

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# Bishop's Residence Passau



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# St. Stephen's Cathedral

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St. Stephen's  
Cathedral. Its organ  
has 17,947 pipes.

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# You Could Hike to the Fortress

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# Passau, Germany Where 3 Rivers Meet



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# LET'S GO: BICYCLE RIDE ALONG THE INN RIVER

- The Inn River rises in the Alps, near Innsbruck (hence the name of the famous Swiss ski resort) and flows through three nations (Switzerland, Austria, and Germany) on its way to Passau, where it joins the Danube.
- While the Danube bike path may be Europe's best-known route for bicyclists, the Inn River bike path, which follows the river from Innsbruck to Passau, has plenty of fans.
- The route through the Inn River valley outside Passau is an especially attractive stretch, with great views of the lovely countryside, picturesque villages, and the sparkling clear river itself.
- Your guide will make sure you know the local traffic and safety rules before you and your group set out along the partly flat and paved path.
- You'll be traveling on both sides of the river, crossing between Germany and Austria as you cross the Inn, and your journey will include a comfort stop before returning to the ship.
- All in all, it's an idyllic way to enjoy the scenery and get some exercise at the same time.

# Day 13 Weissenkirchen (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, including a wine tasting.
- Prefer to go for baroque? Visit the 900-year-old Melk Abbey and its extraordinarily opulent library. Later, you can stretch your legs with a vineyard hike.

# LET'S GO: VINEYARD HIKE

- If you're up for a hike, join a group on a hike up through the vineyards.
- A stairway at the church will take you past the ancient cemetery and up to the hiking trail that leads through the vineyards planted with Riesling and Grüner Veltliner grapes.
- You'll enjoy expansive views over the river valley as you approach your resting point.
- An easy walk back to the ship; instead of a reverse hike, you can comfortably stroll back into the village via a different route, passing many small vintners along the way.

# MELK ABBEY WITH LIBRARY VISIT

- The Babenbergs, a great medieval ducal family that controlled a wide swath of Austria before yielding to the Habsburgs, were the first to erect a castle on the hill above Melk, which they subsequently gave to Benedictine monks.
- These monks, some 900 years ago, turned it into a fortified abbey and the greatest center of learning in Central Europe.
- Their library was celebrated far and wide (and still is—Umberto Eco paid tribute to it in his best-selling novel *The Name of the Rose*).
- Monks there created more than 1,200 manuscripts, sometimes spending an entire lifetime hand-lettering a single volume.
- Today the library contains some 100,000 volumes, among them more than 80,000 works printed before 1800.
- This beautiful complex, completely redone in the early 18th century, is a wonderful example of baroque art and architecture, and the views from its terrace are spectacular.
- As you walk through the abbey's Marble Hall with your guide, look up at the ceiling fresco painted by Paul Troger:
- Those classical gods and goddesses represent Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI, allegorically bringing his people from darkness to light and demonstrating the link he claimed to the original Roman Empire.

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# Melk

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# Melk Abby Melk, Austria

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# Schönbuhl Castle—Watchman of the Wachau



# Aggstein Castle in the Wachau Valley



# Wachau Valley



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# Wachau Valley

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# WEISSENKIRCHEN VILLAGE WALK WITH WINE TASTING

- You've seen the apricot orchards along the riverbanks; now taste the fruit.
- Begin with an easy walk to Weissenkirchen, which may be the prettiest village in the Wachau—and that's saying quite a bit.
- Named for its famous white church, Weissenkirchen is simply picture-perfect.
- Its centuries-old wine estates, houses with colorful flower boxes, lovely gardens, and apricot orchards make for a wonderfully idyllic setting between the river and the mountains.
- Later, sample some Wachau wines at a local winery where your guide will share various details about why these extraordinary wines are so unique.

# Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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# Durnstein, Austria



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**Durnstein from the Danube. The Blue Tower is part of Durnstein Abby**

**Ruins of Durnstein Castle where Richard the Lionhearted was held for ransom in 1192**

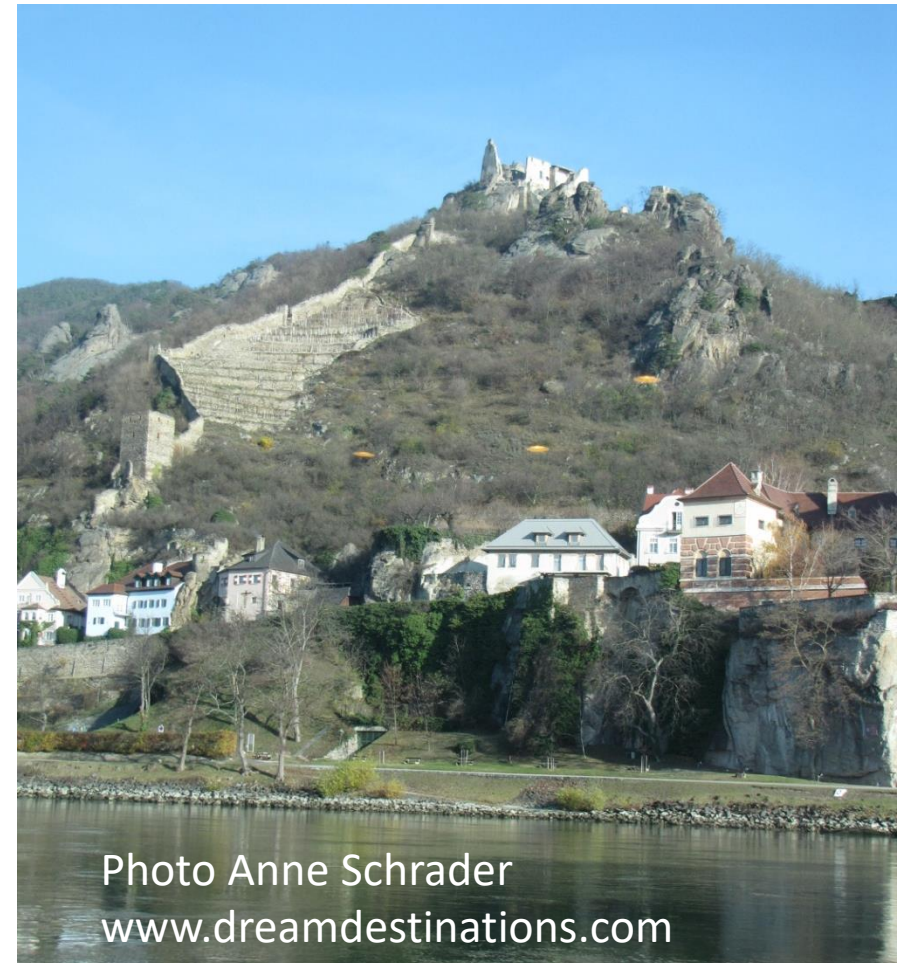


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# Day 14 Vienna

- Vienna is a cultural treasure trove revered for its art and music (and sinfully rich pastries).
- Begin your day at the Vienna Art History Museum, then embark on a tour of the city's imperial highlights.
- *A special Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.*
-

# PRIVATE MOZART AND STRAUSS CONCERT \$140 PER PERSON

- Vienna is linked inextricably with music, as so many great composers lived and worked here: Beethoven, Mozart, Strauss, Schubert, Mahler, Brahms-the list is as long as it is glorious.
- Enjoy an evening of chamber music performed by some of Vienna's world-class professionals in a historic and intimate concert venue.

# “MORNING WITH THE MASTERS”

## AT THE VIENNA ART HISTORY MUSEUM

- The Habsburgs assembled an astonishing collection of artistic treasures over the centuries, which formed the basis for the works now on display at the Vienna Art History Museum (Kunsthistorisches).
- The doors open early especially for you as you join an art historian for a tour of some of the masterpieces gathered here: View a unique group of works by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Vermeer’s *Allegory of Painting*, Raphael’s *Madonna in the Meadow*, and portraits by Rembrandt, Velazquez, Rubens, Titian, Tintoretto, and Van Eyck, among others, in the Picture Gallery.
- Then move onto the Kunstkammer galleries, where you can see Benvenuto Cellini’s legendary salt cellar (the only gold sculpture he created that has survived to the present day) and hear its remarkable story.
- Your tour ends in the magnificent Cupola Hall, perhaps the architectural highlight of the splendid building.

# Vienna - Imperial City Highlights

- Ring Street, the great horseshoe-shaped boulevard lined with many of the city's major landmarks—Parliament, City Hall, the Vienna State Opera, glorious palaces, and museums—is a mere 150 years old, practically an infant for a city of Vienna's age.
- It replaced the walls and fortifications that had protected the city for centuries. Its construction was a testament to confidence, forward-thinking, and grand urban planning, and it resulted in a 50-year building spree.
- You'll pass most of these opulent landmarks on your way to the older section of the city, the area the walls once enclosed.
- Later, you'll walk along Kärntner Street, the celebrated pedestrian boulevard that links the State Opera with St. Stephen's Cathedral, past the elegant shops on the Graben and the Kohlmarkt.
- The neighborhood offers a lively combination of historic architecture, street performances, shoppers' delights, and true Viennese atmosphere.

# Vienna Opera House at the end of Karntner Strasse



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# Day 3 Habsburg Palace

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St.  
Stephens  
Cathedral  
Vienna  
Day 3



# Tiled Roof of St Stephen's Cathedral

**The 2 Eagle side of the roof. These are the Coat of Arms for Austria and the coat of arms of Vienna.  
There are 230,000 tiles on the roof**





# SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE \$81 PER PERSON

- Perhaps the apex of baroque design in Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace's gardens and structures form a perfectly integrated masterwork; it was Empress Maria Theresa's favorite palace, and she made it the social and political center of her empire, beginning in 1740.
- Your visit today will concentrate on the rooms occupied by Emperor Franz Joseph and his empress, Elisabeth (known as Sissi, she was enormously popular in her day).
- Franz Joseph restored the state rooms to their rococo splendor, but his private rooms reflect his rather severe nature, making for an illuminating contrast.

# Schönbrunn Palace

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# Schönbrunn Palace

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Day 15 Budapest

- 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 with a visit to the Parliament, or discover the Budapest that locals love on a special walking tour of the city’s most important landmarks.

# BUDAPEST PANORAMIC HIGHLIGHTS WITH PARLIAMENT VISIT

- Take in the highlights of Budapest on a panoramic tour down Andrassy Avenue, a bustling promenade lined with breathtaking Neo-Renaissance architecture.
- The construction of this street was part of a concerted effort to establish Budapest as a modern metropolis during the 19th century, making the grandeur of these buildings as much a political statement as an artistic one.
- Today, you can enjoy both the beauty and the history of this UNESCO-designated avenue as you pass through, marvel at Heroes' Square, and make your way to the top of Gellért Hill, where you'll look down to incredible views of both the Buda and Pest sides of the city.
- Stepping off the coach, you'll enter the iconic Parliament building that commands Budapest's skyline.
- Likely the most famous building in Budapest, this masterpiece of Neo-Gothic architecture is as spectacular inside as out.

# Buda Castle

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# Fisherman's Bastion

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# Gothic Matthias Church



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# Gothic Matthias Church

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# BUDAPEST WALK WITH LOCAL TREATS

- Today your guide will show you how to snack around Budapest like a local, starting with a tram ride to the House of Parliament.
- Hop off the tram and take a short walk to your first treat: a coffee break at the First Strudel House of Pest.
- Energized by your cup of coffee, you'll continue your walk down to St. Stephen's Basilica—a handsome Neo-Classical building that is one of Budapest's most significant cultural sites.
- From there, we'll head to the Great Market Hall to sample some traditional Hungarian fare, such as salami, sausages, and cheese, while your local expert explains the intricacies of Hungarian cuisine.

# Strudel House



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# St. Stephen's Basilica Budapest

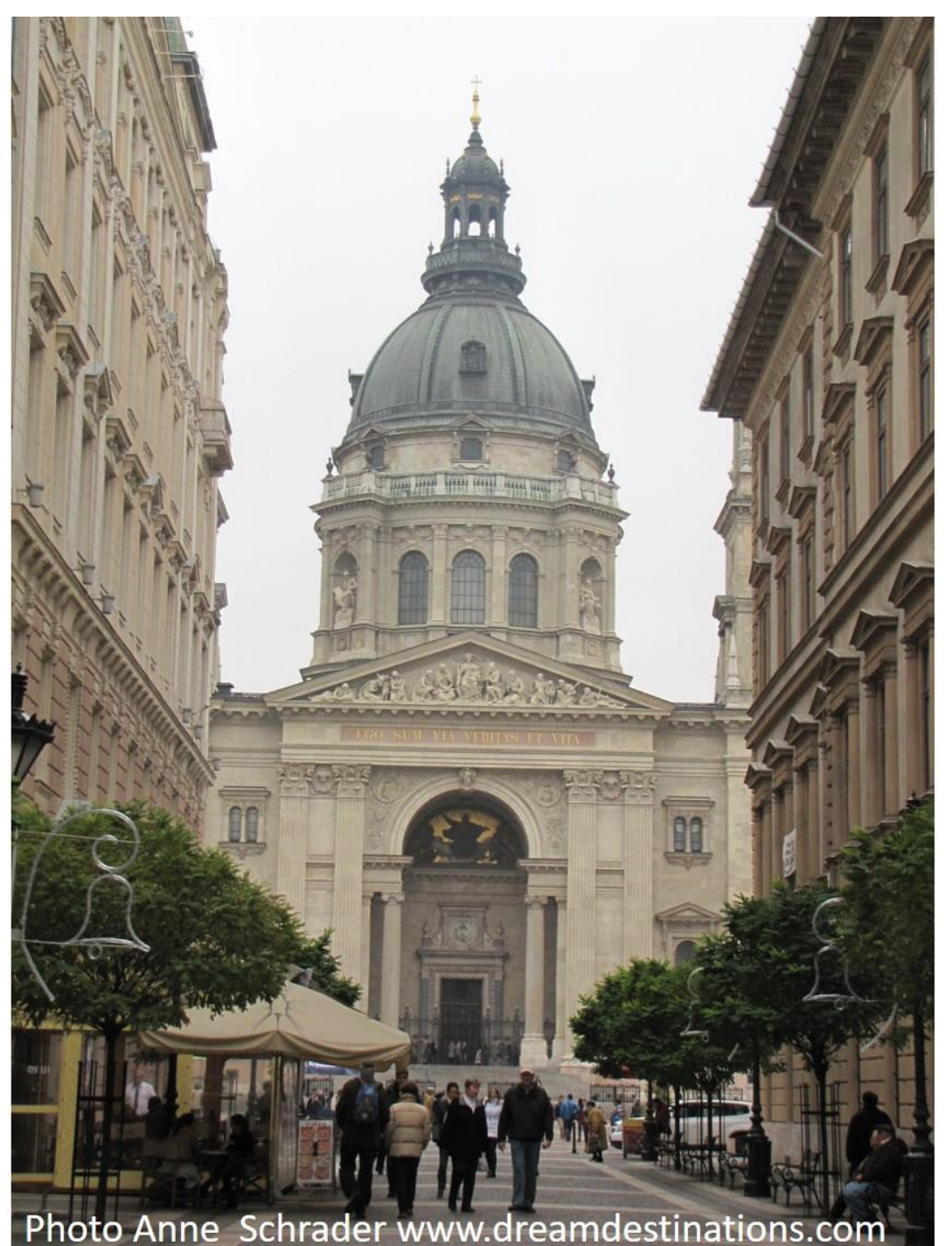


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# Great Market

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# Inside the Great Market



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Inside the Great Market



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# JEWISH BUDAPEST \$117 PER PERSON

- On your way into the Jewish Quarter, take a panoramic drive along the UNESCO-designated Andrassy Avenue and get off the coach near the Dohány Synagogue. The Great Synagogue of Budapest (also known as the Central Synagogue) on Dohány Street is a good starting point to learn about Jewish Budapest. It is one of the largest synagogues in the world and is also home to the Hungarian Jewish Museum. From there, we'll take a walk through the Jewish Quarter and stop at a café in the area for a slice of flodni, a traditional sweet of layered pastry filled with various nuts and jams.



# Day 16 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 International Airport for your flight home.
- Or you can extend your stay in beautiful Budapest with our exciting optional post-cruise extension.
-

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