

# Magnificent Rivers of Europe

## Avalon River Cruises

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

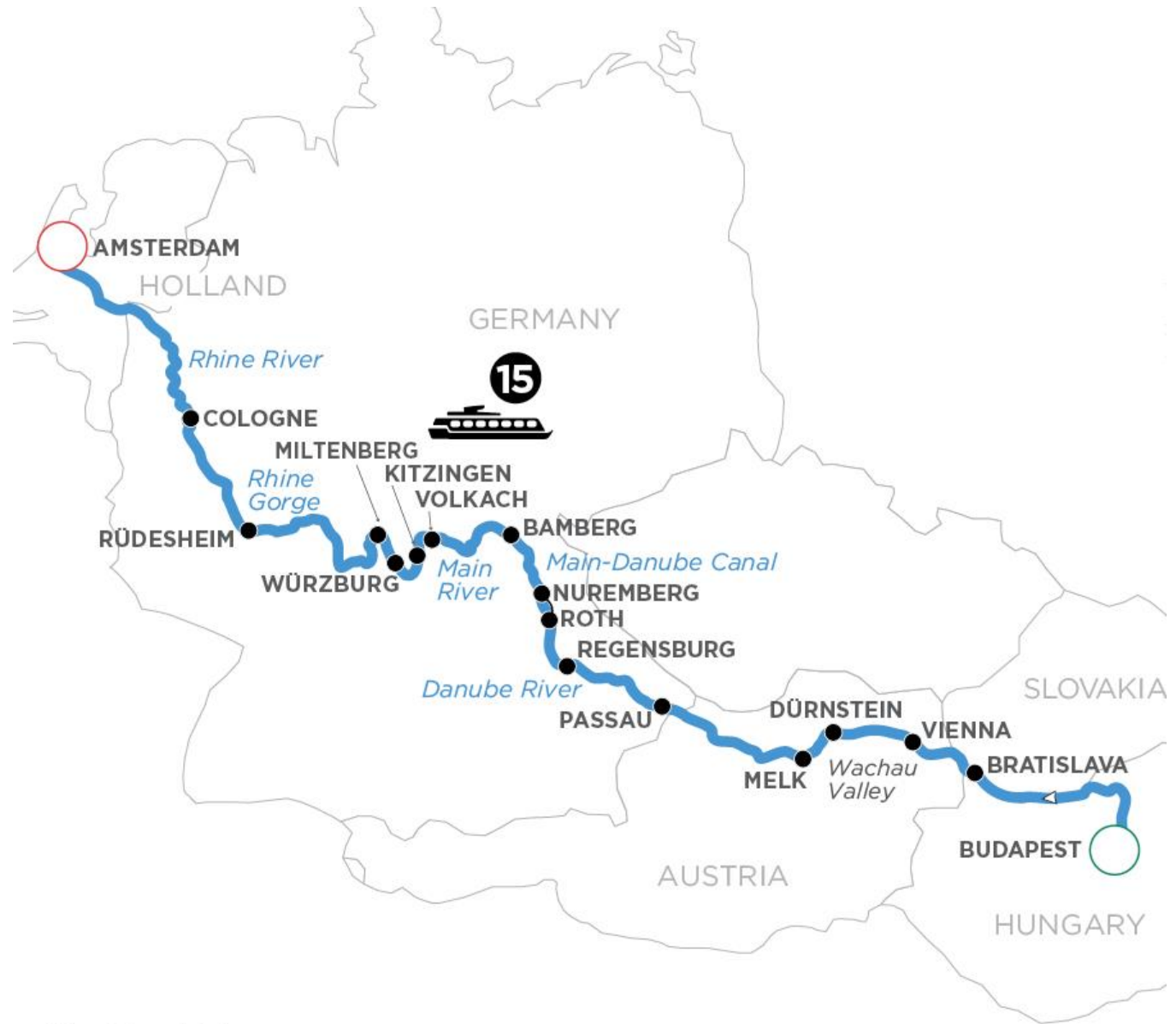
# Overview

- From Budapest to Amsterdam, and in many exciting stops along the way, experience the culture of Central Europe in a unique way on this timeless European river cruise vacation.
- Begin by visiting three of Europe's vibrant capital cities: Budapest (Hungary), Bratislava (Slovakia), and Vienna (Austria).
- A Local Guide will show you the must-see sites in each city with plenty of time to explore on your own.
- See the famous Heroes' Square in Budapest, stroll through Bratislava's Old Town with its winding streets and bronze sculptures, and stop in a classic Viennese café for a decadent treat.
- Sail through the picturesque views of the Wachau Valley and the dramatic Rhine Gorge. Visit Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey and Würzburg's Baroque-style Bishop's Residenz.
- Enjoy a tasting of wonderful local Wachau wines.
- Explore quaint towns like Dürnstein with its blue and white Baroque-style Stiftskirche; Passau, known for its narrow cobblestone streets and the stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral; and Bamberg, with its town hall straddling the River Regnitz.

# Overview

- Enjoy guided tours in historic Nuremberg, Volkach, Würzburg, and Regensburg—one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities.
- In the charming Rhine Valley town of Rüdesheim, enjoy a stroll through its famous cobblestone Drosselgasse lined with shops, restaurants, and lively taverns.
- Straddling both sides of the Rhine River is Cologne, Germany—a 2,000-year-old city known for its Gothic-style architecture.
- Here, enjoy a guided walk and see its famous twin-spired cathedral.
- This European river cruise would not be complete without a visit to Holland's lively capital of Amsterdam.
- See the treasures of this 700-year-old city from a unique perspective—on a canal cruise along the elegant grachten.

# Map from Avalon Waterways



- 1** = Overnights
- = Start City
- = End City

# Day 1 Budapest

- Welcome to Hungary. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.
- Flights into Budapest must arrive by 3:30 pm.
- Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- The day is yours to relax and enjoy the city with time for photographs, cafés, and confections.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BUDAPEST**

# Day 2 Budapest:

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Hike up to a magnificent viewpoint in Budapest with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Guided City Sightseeing tour of Budapest, including the iconic Heroes' Square
- This afternoon choose among the Optional Guided Excursions available or enjoy Budapest on your own. Indulge in a piece of cream cake in one of the many cafés. Consider a scenic hike above the Danube.
- OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BUDAPEST

# Buda Castle

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



# Fisherman's Bastion

Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Gothic Matthias Church



Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Gothic Matthias Church

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



# Day 2 Optional Excursions (Extra Expense)

- **Bites & Highlights of Budapest**
- Experience some of Budapest's most famous sights and most delectable foods on this unique guided foodie tour!
- **Art & Architecture of Budapest**
- Travel back to the Golden Age of Budapest's Belle Époque on this captivating guided excursion featuring Andrassy Avenue where you will visit the crown jewel of Budapest: the incomparable Hungarian State Opera House!

# Day 3 Bratislava

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Follow your Avalon Adventure Host on a short hike to lofty Bratislava Castle, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walking Tour of Old Town's cobblestone streets to Town Hall. Visit the Gothic halls of St. Martin's Cathedral—Hungary's centuries-old coronation church.
- Alternatively, in your free time take a bicycle and a picnic from the ship to explore the local sights along the Danube.
- Later, enjoy live entertainment onboard.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VIENNA**

# Optional Tours Hike Up to Bratislava Castle

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# Michael's Gate

This gate is the only remaining gate from the walled city of Bratislava



# St Martin's Cathedral



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# Primacial Palace Bratislava



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# Old Town Hall

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# Slovak National Theater

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# Day 4 Vienna:

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Vienna's Danube Island by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore the Habsburg Empire with a morning Guided City Tour of Vienna's gilded landmarks. See the Imperial Palace complex—the winter residence of the Imperial Family, the iconic Vienna Opera House and stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral.
- 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 Royal Waltz Concert in an elegant hall.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO DÜRNSTEIN**

# Day 3 Habsburg Palace

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# Vienna Opera House at the end of Karntner Strasse



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St.  
Stephens  
Cathedral  
Vienna



# 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**

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



# Day 4 Optional Excursions (Extra Expense)

- **Schönbrunn Palace, Cultural Gem of Austria**
- Visit magnificent Schönbrunn Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and former summer residence of the Habsburg imperial family.
- **Classical Concert**
- Enjoy a spellbinding evening of classical works by Mozart and Johann Strauss, performed brilliantly by professional Salon Orchestra Alt-Wien musicians in one of Europe's prettiest venues.



# Schönbrunn Palace

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# Schönbrunn Palace

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## Day 5 DÜRNSTEIN—Wachau Valley

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Hike up to the castle ruins to take in the spectacular view of the village, Danube, and the Wachau Valley below, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walk and hear the legendary tale of King Richard the Lionheart—who was imprisoned in the castle above the village during the Crusades.
- Later, stretch out on the Sky Deck as you sail through the Wachau Valley past vineyards, castles, and charming villages on your way to Melk.

# Dürnstein, Austria



Photo Anne Schrader  
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**Dürnstein from the Danube. The Blue Tower is part of Dürnstein Abbey**

**Ruins of Dürnstein Castle where Richard the Lionheart was held for ransom in 1192**



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# Dürnstein

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# Dürnstein Abbey Entrance



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# Wachau Valley

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# Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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# Spitz Wachau Valley

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# Hinterhaus Castle Ruins

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# Aggstein Castle Ruins

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# Schonbuhl Castle

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# Day 5 Melk

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Join your Avalon Adventure Host for a walk along the Danube river and around Melk., OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of the frescoed ceilings, statues, incredible library, and ornate pipe organ of Melk's Benedictine Abbey.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Later, enjoy a Wine Tasting on board as you prepare to sail to Passau.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO PASSAU**

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# Melk

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# Melk Abbey Melk, Austria



## Day 6 Passau:

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided City Walk to learn more about this beautiful “City of Three Rivers.”
- You may join a full day Guided Optional Excursion to Salzburg, the city of Mozart, or a full-day Guided Optional Excursion to the picturesque Bohemian town of Cesky Krumlov.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO REGENSBURG**



# The Veste Oberhaus

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# Passau

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

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# Passau, where three rivers meet—the Inn, the Ilz and the Danube



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# Day 6 Optional Excursions (Extra Expense)

- **Sound of Music Salzburg**
- From Mozart to "The Sound of Music", this delightful excursion provides an in-depth look at both the city of Salzburg and its majestic surroundings.
- **Cesky Krumlov - A Sleeping Beauty Awakes**
- You'll feel like you've stepped right into the Middle Ages on this full-day excursion to Český Krumlov, the "Pearl of the Bohemian Forest".

# Salzburg Austria

## Optional Excursion

### Hohensalzburg Fortress



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### Mozart Square

# Salzburg Austria

**Mozart Birthplace**

**Market Square  
Fountain**



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# Cesky Krumlov (Optional Excursion)

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# Cesky Krumlov



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# Cesky Krumlov (Optional Tour)

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# Day 7 Regensburg:

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Walhalla by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided City Walk and see Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall) and Porta Pretoria—built in 179 AD as the entrance to Castra Regina fortress.
- **Optional Excursion (Extra Expense)**
- **Weltenburg: Bavaria's Oldest Abbey**
- Visit Bavaria's oldest monastery, 7th-century Weltenburg Abbey with its stunning setting in the Danube Gorge, splendid interior, and the oldest monastic brewery in the world!
- Alternatively, spend a free afternoon exploring Regensburg on foot or by bike through its charming streets.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ROTH**

# Walhalla by Bike Active Excursion

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# Regensburg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader

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# Porta Praetoria

## Roman ruins used in a new building



# Old Town Hall Regensburg

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# Regensburg St. Peter's Cathedral



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# Day 8 Roth. Excursion to Nuremberg:

- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** 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.
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Guided Sightseeing Tour of the Bavarian town of Roth—with its half-timbered houses, market square, and 1535 hunting lodge Schloss Ratibor, OR;
- **CLASSIC EXCURSIONS:** Choose a Guided Tour of Nuremberg’s medieval architecture, gilded fountain, gothic cathedral, and Kaiserburg Castle, OR;
- Join a Guided Tour of the historic Nuremberg Rally Grounds—used by the Third Reich.
- Tonight, relax onboard with live entertainment as you sail to Bamberg.
- AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE BAMBERG

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

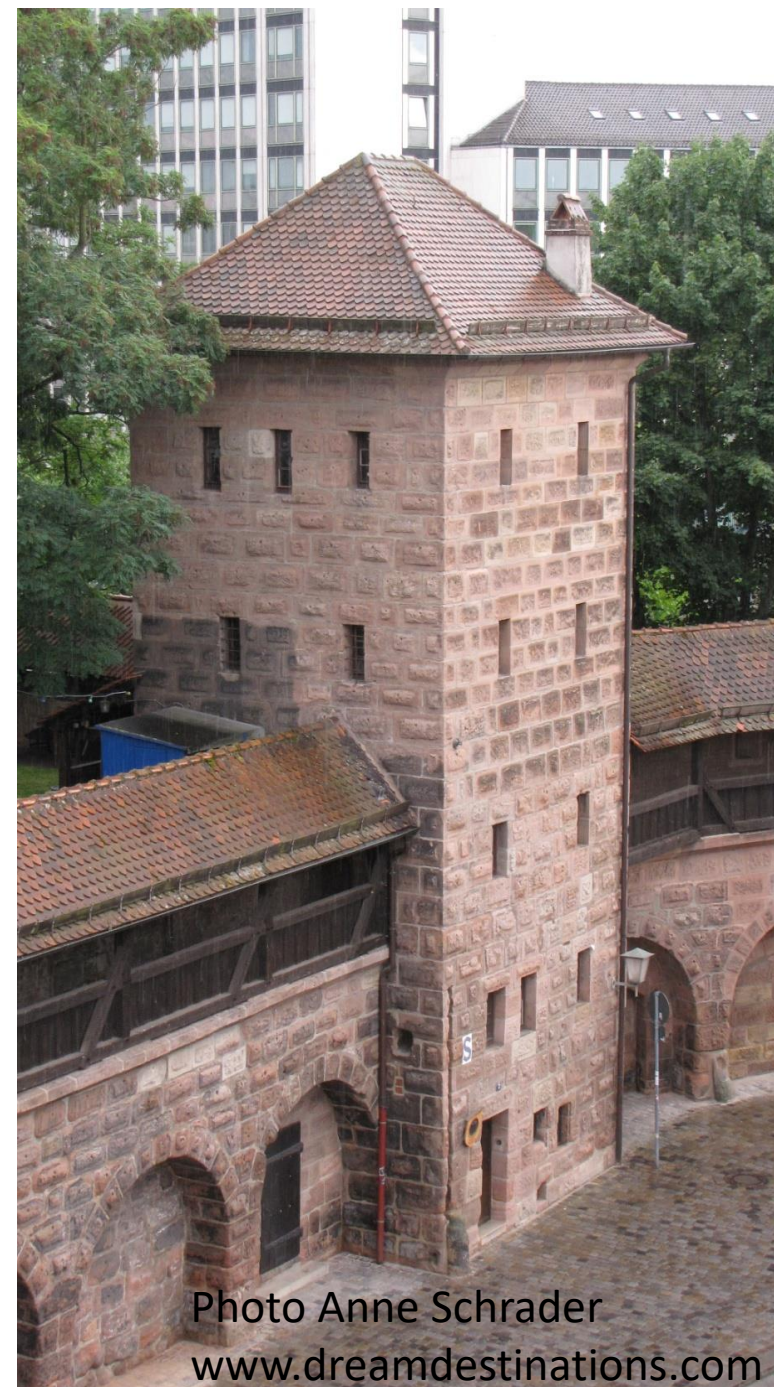


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# Maxbrücke (also called Hangman's Bridge) at the Pegnitz River—Nuremberg's oldest stone bridge

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# Nuremberg

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# Day 9 Bamberg:

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Your bike is ready! Hop on and bike along the canals in Bamberg with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Walking Tour of the former home to imperial dynasties, and see its Romanesque cathedral, Old Town Hall, and seven hills crowned with churches.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Attend an onboard lecture to learn about European history and culture.
- AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VOLKACH

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Bamberg  
Rathaus  
(town hall)

# Bamberg Cathedral



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# New Residence Rose Garden, Bamberg, Germany

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## Day 10 Volkach:

- Optional Tour (Extra Expense)
- **Rothenburg, Jewel of the Middle Ages**
- The Jewel of the Middle Ages awaits your discovery on this half-day guided excursion to fairytale Rothenburg ob der Tauber on Germany's famed Romantic Road..
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Bike along the Main Danube Canal with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Walking Tour of the quaint town of Volkach with its half-timbered houses and cobblestoned streets
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO KITZINGEN

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



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# Market Square



Burger Gate  
(Castle Gate).  
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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# The Town Hall Volkach



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# Day 11 Würzburg

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy an easy bike ride along the river with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Würzburg with its Old Main Bridge, towering fortress, and baroque Bishop's Residenz—with the largest known ceiling fresco.
- This afternoon enjoy a leisurely sailing.
- **AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MILTENBERG**

# Marienberg Fortress Würzburg



# Old Stone Bridge Würzburg

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# Residenz Palace Würzburg



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# Garden statue Residenz Palace



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# Day 12 Miltenberg

**CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walking Tour of Miltenberg, a showcase of medieval half-timber homes and home to Germany's oldest inn .

Later, enjoy onboard entertainment as you cruise to Rudesheim.

**EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO RÜDESHEIM**

# Alter Markt Platz Miltenberg



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# St. Jacobus Church. In the background on the right is Miltenberg Castle

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# Germany's Oldest Inn Hotel Zum Riesen



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# Miltenberg



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# Day 13 Rudesheim—Rhine George

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a hike with your Avalon Adventure Host through the picturesque vineyards of Rudesheim, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Tour the incredible Mechanical Music Museum for a one-of-a-kind instrumental experience; based on your departure enjoy a local special treat.
- This afternoon cruise through the dramatic Rhine Gorge and see the famous rock of the Lorelei—where mythological siren lured ill-fated sailors to shore.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Enjoy a remarkable classical music concert in a lovely baroque venue at Engers Castle, home to the Villa Musica Rhineland-Palatinate National Foundation, one of Germany's largest music institutions.
- AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO **ENGERS**



# Sailing into Rudesheim

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# Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum

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# Marksburg Castle



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# 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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# Pfalzgrafenstein Castle (foreground) & Gutenfels Castle on the Hill

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# Reichenstein Castle



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# Day 14 Cologne

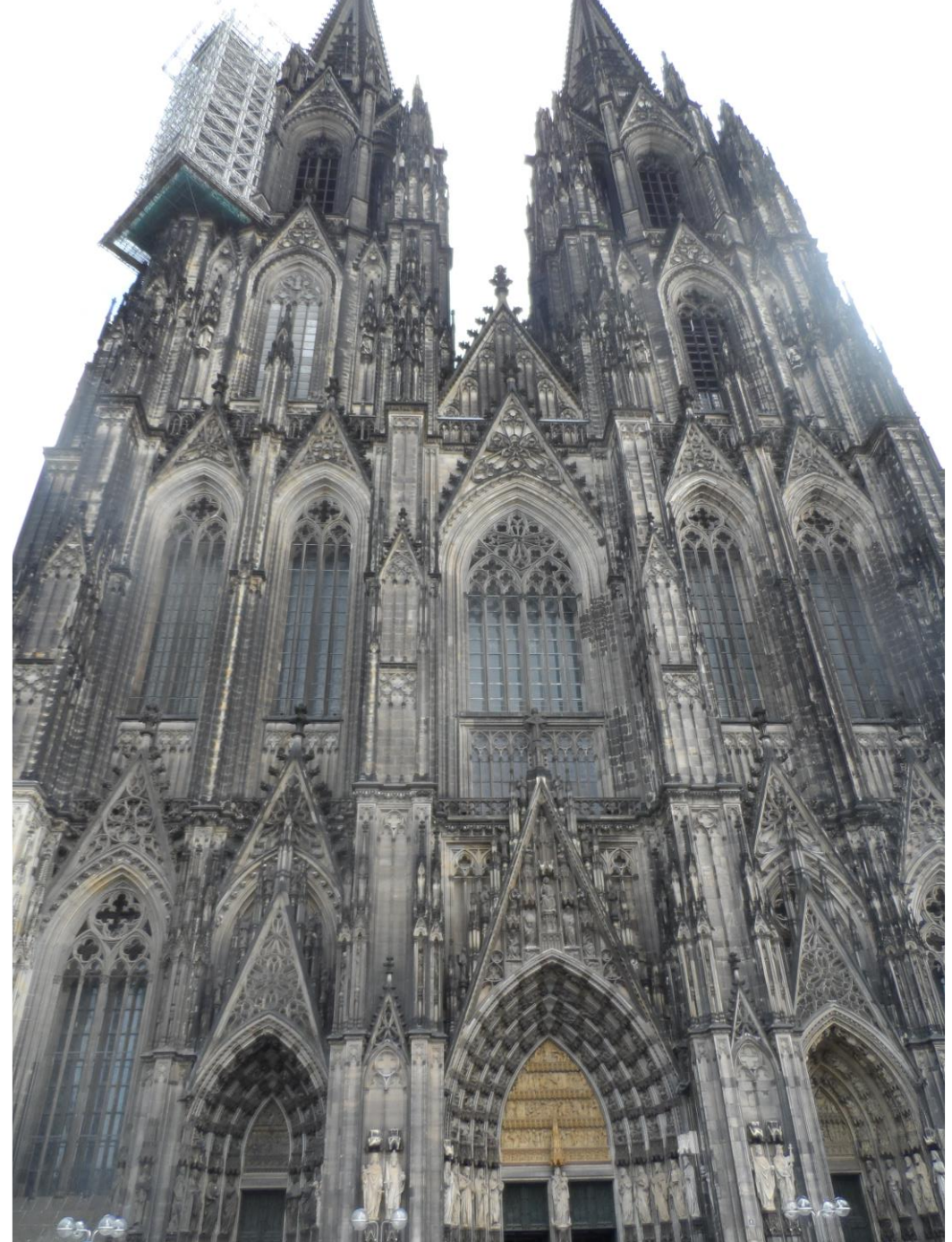
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a bike ride like the locals in Cologne with your Adventure, OR;
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walking Tour of Cologne's important Jewish heritage sites, OR;
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided City Walk of Cologne—explore the Old City and see its soaring twin-steepled gothic cathedral
- Don't miss the chance to enjoy free time over a glass of Kölsch pale lager—locally brewed for over 100 years!.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO AMSTERDAM**

# Cologne Cathedral

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# Cologne Cathedral



# German-Roman Museum

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# Hohenzollern Bridge



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# Christmas Markets in Old Market Square

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# Day 15 Amsterdam

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Start your day joining your Adventure Host on an early morning walk in Amsterdam, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** 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 savory 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 colorful cafés, galleries, bridges, and canals of Amsterdam.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM**



# Canal Boats, Amsterdam

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Typical Gabled Houses as seen from a canal boat cruise in 2013.

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



# Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



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

# Day 15 Optional Tours (Extra Expense)

- **The Netherlands on two Wheels: Into the Dutch**
- Pedal your way past polders, dikes, and quaint, centuries-old villages on this exhilarating guided bike tour through the beautiful Dutch countryside
- **Zaanse Schans & the Symbols of Holland**
- Tour a working windmill, watch wooden clogs being made, and visit a cheese farm on this exciting half-day guided excursion to Zaanse Schans!
- **Bites & Highlights of Amsterdam**
- Discover Amsterdam's charming Jordaan district, and taste the authentic foods the locals know and love on this enjoyable guided foodie walking tour.

# Day 16 Amsterdam

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

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