



VIKING CRUISES

Exploring the World in Comfort®

Grand Rivers of Europe **2013 At-A-Glance**



Are you ready to spend 22 days discovering highlights of seven European countries? This spectacular itinerary combines a one-week *Rhine Getaway* from Basel to Amsterdam with a two-week *Grand European Tour* from Amsterdam to Budapest. From the stunning scenery of Switzerland to the historic castles and cathedrals of Germany; from Dutch canals and windmills to an Austrian abbey; from the graceful palaces of Vienna to the dynamic Eastern European capitals of Bratislava and Budapest—this journey is truly a feast for the senses.

Sail dates available May to October 2013

Budapest to Basel *or* Basel to Budapest

Ships sailing this itinerary: Viking Bragi, Viking Forseti, Viking Rinda, or Viking Var

Grand Rivers of Europe **Journey Highlights**

Included Features

- 22-day cruise with river-view stateroom
- 18 guided tours with audio headset
- All meals: 21 breakfasts, 20 lunches, 21 dinners, featuring regional specialties and including Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner and Captain's Farewell Dinner
- Visit 13 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Culture CurriculumSM: Glassblowing demonstration; cheese & *jenever* tasting, Bavarian folkloric music performance, German language lesson, The Dutch Masters, The European Union, Travels Along the Rhine, Great Canals and Locks, Life and Works of Mozart

Included Tours:

Budapest city tour
Bratislava city tour
Vienna city tour
Melk Abbey tour
Passau walking tour
Regensburg tour
Nuremberg city tour
Bamberg walking tour
Würzburg city tour
Wertheim walking tour
Marksburg Castle and
museum tour
Cologne walking tour
Kinderdijk windmills
Heidelberg excursion
Strasbourg city tour
Black Forest excursion

Optional Tours:

Romantic Road excursion
Vienna concert
Schönbrunn tour
Danube Gorge and Weltenburg Abbey
Nuremberg WWII tour
Colmar excursion
World War II excursion

Note: Optional tours are purchased on board ship and are subject to availability and minimum participation.

Grand Rivers of Europe **Journey Highlights**

Medieval Toll Booths

The castles along the Rhine Valley were originally constructed as fortified residences to protect the land from marauders—but castle owners also utilized their strategically advantageous positions to impose tolls on passing merchants. This may explain why you will see so many castles along the 35-mile stretch of the Rhine between Mainz and Bonn.

Ancient Heidelberg

Heidelberg is home to Germany's oldest university, founded in 1386. It also features one of the Rhine's most distinctive landmarks—the red sandstone ruins of Heidelberg Castle. Situated high above the town, the castle has sweeping views of the Neckar River Valley and of Heidelberg's red-roofed charm. Stroll along Heidelberg's narrow cobbled streets, shop in the stalls lining its wide squares, see the imposing gates of the Old Town area and walk across the town's famous Old Bridge.

Alsatian Cuisine

This region produces a savory cuisine that perfectly merges hearty German fare with French elegance. A typical dish is *choucroute*, featuring fermented white cabbage layered with spicy smoked pork—best served with potatoes and an Alsatian pinot blanc. Other meat specialties include *Baeckeoffe*, a traditional stew of marinated beef or lamb; charcuterie, sausages and other cured meats; goose liver pâté and Munster cheese.

Sensational Strasbourg

The multicultural city of Strasbourg, capital of France's Alsace region, owes its blend of French and German influences to its location along the Rhine River at the border between the two countries. Its historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, features traditional wooden houses and picturesque canals. On your tour, see the carefully restored Cathedral of Notre Dame, most recognized for its graceful 465-foot-tall spires.

European Wine Regions

This itinerary takes you through several of Europe's famous wine regions. Enjoy the sun-drenched white rieslings of the Moselle and Rhine region, the Franconian wines along the Main and the peppery Grüner Veltliners in the Wachau Valley. And, be sure to try the rich dessert wines of Hungary.

Bavarian Bamberg

Founded in 902, Bamberg's Old Town area is a beautifully preserved UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk past neat rows of patrician houses to the remarkable Old City Hall, sited in the middle of the Regnitz River and accessed by bridges on both sides. Sample the town's famous smoky beer, *Rauchbier*.

Charlemagne's Dream

As far back as 1,200 years ago, Emperor Charlemagne contemplated connecting the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers to facilitate river travel through Europe. Lack of technical resources prevented this idea from being realized—until the Main-Danube Canal was completed in 1992. Employing ingenious river locks, vessels can now travel 2,200 miles through 10 countries, from the North Sea to the Black Sea. The canal makes this journey possible.

Grand Rivers of Europe Budapest to Basel Itinerary

Day 1 Budapest, Hungary

- Budapest airport transfer*
- Embark ship
- Free day to explore Budapest at your leisure

Included Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Budapest, Hungary

- Tour Budapest, a UNESCO Site, including the National Opera House, Heroes' Square, Parliament, Fishermen's Bastion, Matthias Church, Chain Bridge and Elizabeth Bridge
- Scenic cruising along the Danube River
- Welcome Reception & Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Bratislava, Slovakia

- Bratislava city walking tour, including Town Hall, Michael's Tower, Trinity Church and St. Martin's Cathedral
- Free time to explore Bratislava

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Vienna, Austria

- Tour of Vienna, a UNESCO Site, including *Ringstrasse*, *Innere Stadt* ("Inner City"), Hofburg Palace, St. Stephen's Cathedral and State Opera House
- Vienna leisure time
- Optional tour of Schönbrunn Palace, a UNESCO Site
- Optional classical concert by Viennese Orchestra

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Melk, Austria

- Scenic cruising along the Danube River
- Tour of Melk Abbey

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Passau, Germany

- City tour of Passau including *Veste Oberhaus* and St. Stephan's Cathedral
- Organ concert
(Please note that the organ concert is not held on Sundays or from November to April.)
- Optional Open Air Museum

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Regensburg, Germany

- Tour Regensburg, a UNESCO Site including Gothic St. Peter's Church, Old Town Hall and Old Stone Bridge
- Optional Danube Gorge cruise and Weltenburg Abbey tour

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Nuremberg, Germany

- Nuremberg city tour including Palace of Justice and Market Square
- Optional World War II historical tour including a visit to The Documentation Center
- Nuremberg leisure time

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Bamberg, Germany

- Tour Bamberg, a UNESCO Site, including the cathedral
- Free time to explore Bamberg

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Continued....

* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship check-in or check-out day only.

Grand Rivers of Europe

Budapest to Basel Itinerary continued

Day 10 Würzburg, Germany

- Würzburg city tour including Bishops' Residence, a UNESCO Site
- Optional Romantic Road excursion
- Glass-blowing demonstration

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 Wertheim, Germany

- Walking tour
- Free time to explore Wertheim

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 Middle Rhine & Koblenz, Germany

- Scenic cruising along the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO Site
- Tour of Marksburg Castle
- Free time in Koblenz
- Captain's Farewell Reception & Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 Cologne, Germany

- Walking tour including Old Town and Cologne Cathedral
- Free time to explore Cologne

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

- Tour the windmills of Kinderdijk, a UNESCO Site
- Dutch cheese & *jenever* tasting

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Change ships
- Free time to explore Amsterdam

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 16 Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

- Dutch cheese & *jenever* tasting
- Tour the windmills of Kinderdijk or free time
- Welcome Reception and Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 17 Cologne, Germany

- Free time to explore Cologne

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 18 Koblenz & Rudesheim, Germany

- Free time
- Scenic cruising along the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO Site
- Free time to explore Rudesheim

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 19 Heidelberg & Speyer, Germany

- Tour of Heidelberg including Heidelberg Castle and Old Town
- Free time in Speyer

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 20 Strasbourg, France

- City tour of Strasbourg including European Parliament and cathedral
- Free time to explore Strasbourg

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 21 Breisach, Germany

- Black Forest excursion
- Cuckoo clock-making demonstration
- Free time in Breisach
- Optional excursion to Colmar
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 22 Basel, Switzerland

- Disembark
- Basel airport transfer*

Included Meas: Breakfast

* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship check-in or check-out day only.

Grand Rivers of Europe Basel to Budapest Itinerary

Day 1 Basel, Switzerland

- Basel airport transfer*
- Embark ship
- Free day to explore Basel at your leisure

Included Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Breisach, Germany

- Black Forest excursion
- Cuckoo clock-making demonstration
- Free time in Breisach
- Optional excursion to Colmar
- Optional World War II excursion
- Welcome Reception & Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Strasbourg, France

- City tour of Strasbourg including European Parliament and cathedral
- Free time to explore Strasbourg

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Heidelberg & Rudesheim, Germany

- Tour of Heidelberg including Heidelberg Castle and Old Town
- Scenic cruising
- Free time in Rudesheim

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Braubach & Koblenz, Germany

- Scenic cruising along the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO Site
- Tour of Marksburg Castle and its museum
- Free time in Koblenz

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Cologne, Germany

- Walking tour including Old Town and Cologne Cathedral
- Free time to explore Cologne

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

- Dutch cheese & *jenever* tasting
- Tour the windmills of Kinderdijk, a UNESCO Site
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Ship transfer
- Free time to explore Amsterdam

Included Meals: Dinner

Day 9 Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

- Tour the windmills of Kinderdijk or free time
- Dutch cheese & *jenever* tasting
- Welcome Reception and Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10 Cologne, Germany

- Free time to explore Cologne

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 Koblenz & Middle Rhine, Germany

- Free time
- Scenic cruising along the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO Site
- Free time in Koblenz

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 Miltenberg, Germany

- Scenic cruising along the Main River
- Miltenberg walking tour
- Free time to explore Miltenberg
- Glass blowing-demonstration

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Continued....

* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship check-in or check-out day only.

See your travel agent or call us at 1-877-668-4546
www.vikingrivercruises.com

Grand Rivers of Europe **Basel to Budapest Itinerary continued**

Day 13 Würzburg, Germany

- Würzburg city tour including Bishops' Residence, a UNESCO Site
- Optional Romantic Road excursion

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 Bamberg, Germany

- Tour Bamberg, a UNESCO Site, including the cathedral
- Free time to explore Bamberg

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 Nuremberg, Germany

- Optional World War II historical tour including a visit to The Documentation Center
- Nuremberg city tour including Palace of Justice and Market Square
- Nuremberg leisure time

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 16 Regensburg, Germany

- Tour Regensburg, a UNESCO Site including Gothic St. Peter's Church, Old Town Hall and Old Stone Bridge
- Free time in Regensburg

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 17 Passau, Germany

- City tour of Passau including *Veste Oberhaus* and St. Stephan's Cathedral
- Organ concert
(Please note that the organ concert is not held on Sundays or from November to April.)
- Optional Open Air Museum tour

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 18 Melk & Krems, Germany

- Tour of Melk Abbey
- Scenic cruising through Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Free time to explore Krems

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 19 Vienna, Austria

- Tour of Vienna, a UNESCO Site, including *Ringstrasse*, *Innere Stadt* ("Inner City"), Hofburg Palace, St. Stephan's Cathedral and State Opera House
- Vienna leisure time
- Optional tour of Schönbrunn Palace, a UNESCO Site
- Optional classical concert by Viennese Orchestra

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 20 Bratislava, Slovakia

- Bratislava city walking tour, including Town Hall, Michael's Tower, Trinity Church and St. Martin's Cathedral
- Free time to explore Bratislava
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 21 Budapest, Hungary

- Tour Budapest, a UNESCO Site, including the National Opera House, Heroes' Square, Parliament, Fishermen's Bastion, Matthias Church, Chain Bridge and Elizabeth Bridge

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 22 Budapest, Hungary

- Disembark
- Budapest airport transfer*

Included Meals: Breakfast

* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship check-in or check-out day only.

Explore More

More days means more to discover. We offer exciting ways to see even more of the region with extension packages you can add before or after your Viking journey.

Lucerne Extension **2 nights for \$599 per person**

Extend your journey in picturesque Lucerne, Switzerland; enjoy the scenic landscape of the Swiss Alps with a view from your hotel, situated on the shores of beautiful Lake Lucerne. Two nights at the **Hotel Schweizerhof** (or similar), daily breakfasts, guided walking tour and ship/hotel transfer are included along with the services of a Viking host.

Hotel Schweizerhof is located right in the historic quarter of Lucerne, next to Lake Lucerne and was built in 1845. The hotel has two restaurants and a bar. The guest rooms have individually adjustable air conditioning and heating, a sitting area with table and chairs, desk with modem connection, mini-bar, direct-dial telephone, radio, cable TV with all major national and international stations, pay TV, LAN, guest information system, high-speed Internet access.

Budapest Extension Itinerary **2 nights—\$399 per person**

Explore this legendary Hungarian capital, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its elegant boulevards, Parisian atmosphere and outstanding museums. Take a stroll in the parks of Margaret Island, discover the hidden medieval courtyards of the castle district and eat your fill of savory Hungarian cuisine. Extension package includes two nights at **Hilton Budapest**, daily breakfasts and hotel/ship transfers along with the services of a Viking host.

The moderate deluxe **Hilton Budapest** Hotel is located in the heart of the city's Castle District, a UNESCO Site, next to the Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church. The hotel has a restaurant, lobby lounge and bar; room service and laundry service; fitness room, a business center and gift shop. Rooms feature mini bar; television; telephone with voicemail; in-room safe and hair dryer.

Prague Extension **3 nights—\$699 per person**

Extend your journey by discovering the Czech Republic's vibrant capital, the "City of a Hundred Spires." Three nights at the **Hilton Prague** (or similar), daily breakfast, panoramic city tour and the services of a Viking host are all included.

The superior first class **Hilton Prague** is conveniently located on the right bank of Vltava River within walking distance from the city center and major attractions, and the bus and underground stations are only a five-minute walk from the hotel. The hotel has three restaurants, a bar and a wide selection of shops; a health club and spa offering a swimming pool, dry and wet sauna, jacuzzi, gym, health bar; beauty salon and other amenities. Air-conditioned rooms are equipped with a television, telephone, safe and hair dryer.

* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

The Viking Experience

Quietvox Tour Earphones

With our Quietvox tour earphones, there are no worries about missing any interesting details during your shore excursions. Each guest will receive a lightweight, portable receiver that can be worn around the neck or slipped into a pocket. The comfortable earpiece with individual volume control allows you to hear your guide's comments no matter where you are standing and makes every place on your tour the "best seat in the house."

Onboard Enrichment

Culture CurriculumSM. To help you further appreciate the countries that you will visit, we complement your shore excursion with a broad range of immersive activities, on board and ashore. Your cruise includes a Glassblowing demonstration; Cheese & *jenever* tasting, Bavarian folkloric music performance, lectures on The Dutch Masters, The European Union, Great Canals and Locks, Life and Works of Mozart Details and a German language lesson.. Times and locations will be announced on board.

As part of our Culture Curriculum, we have partnered with the Smithsonian Institution to bring you exclusive onboard lectures. Artists, performers, historical eyewitnesses and professors all contribute to a fascinating and entertaining program that gives you true insight into the places you visit.

Expert Program Directors. Viking River Cruises Program Directors are selected for their comprehensive knowledge of the regions you will be visiting. They have a fine appreciation of each destination's nuances and a genuine passion for travel and are there to help from the first moment to the end of your journey. If you have any questions, would like recommendations or have any concerns during your itinerary, do not hesitate to contact your Program Director.

General Physical Fitness

Our tours and cruises are not physically demanding, however, *because of the nature of many of the sites you will be visiting, this tour may not be appropriate for guests with certain medical conditions and physical restrictions*. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs and steep inclines. If you have concerns or questions, please discuss the nature of your itinerary with your Viking River Cruises Travel Consultant.

Complimentary Wine with Onboard Dinner and Lunch Service

Enjoy regional wine from the Wachau Valley of Austria that is bottled exclusively for Viking River Cruises by Mörwald vintners. We feature two of Austria's most well-known varietals—Grüner Veltliner and Blauer Spatburgunder (as Pinot Noir is known in Austria). Both wines pair most beautifully with food.

Before You Go

Visit our website at vikingrivercruises.com (or vrc.com) where you can not only learn more about all the places you might go with Viking, but you can also immerse yourself in the experience from the comfort of your own home. There is information abound and you can watch videos of destinations, take a virtual tour of a cruise ship or get a list of recommended readings.

Passports & Visas

Passports are necessary however no visas are required for U.S. citizens for this itinerary. Non-U.S. citizens, please check your consulate for visa information.

Viking's All-Inclusive Airfare & Transfers

For your convenience, you can purchase roundtrip trans-oceanic air travel directly from Viking in conjunction with your river cruise or cruisetour. Viking's air packages are a great value because they include your transfers between airport and ship or hotel. And, when you reserve your air with Viking and purchase Viking's all-inclusive travel protection policy, your air travel is covered by the policy as part of your Viking itinerary. Select from more than 165 different gateways (additional gateways available) in economy or the upgraded service of Premium Economy or Business Class (trans-oceanic portion); once your reservation has been made, we will confirm your flight schedules 75 days before departure.

E-Check Program

Viking offers special incentives when you pay via e-check (electronic debit to your checking account)—a quick and convenient way to pay for your vacation. Ask for details when making your reservation.

Viking Travel Protection

Viking Travel Protection allows you to cancel your trip for any reason. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that whatever may arise—even a pre-existing medical condition—you retain 100% of your travel value. Premiums are based on trip cost and start at only \$249 per person!

Climate – Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

<u>Destination</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Amsterdam	63/45	68/50	71/53	71/53	66/49	58/44
Budapest	71/53	77/58	80/61	80/60	72/54	61/46
Cologne	63/48	68/53	71/56	71/56	65/52	57/46
Melk	66/49	73/55	77/58	75/56	68/51	57/42
Vienna	67/49	72/55	77/59	77/59	69/53	57/43

*Information contained in this document is subject to change without notice

See your travel agent or call us at 1-877-668-4546
www.vikingrivercruises.com