

Magnificent Europe Avalon River Cruises

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Overview

- From Amsterdam to Budapest, and in many exciting stops along the way, experience the culture of Central Europe in a unique way on this timeless river cruise vacation.
- Amsterdam is Holland's lively capital—both historical and modern. This colorful city is loved for its vibrant mix of sophisticated architecture and classic squares and canals.
- See the treasures of this 700-year-old city from a unique perspective on a canal cruise along the elegant grachten.
- On to Germany for a guided city walk in Cologne—the stunning 2,000-year-old city known for its Gothic-style architecture.
- Sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge, offering the most beautiful view of the Rhine River, and stop in the charming wine town of Rüdesheim

Overview

- Enjoy guided sightseeing in Würzburg, Volkach, Bamberg, Nuremberg, and Regensburg, and sail the Main Danube Canal, which connects the Main and Danube Rivers.
- Your first stop in Austria is the lovely town of Melk. Visit its magnificent Benedictine Abbey, then sail through the picturesque Wachau Valley.
- Your local experts will also introduce you to two capital cities: Vienna, Austria, also known as “The City of Music” for inspiring the creative genius of Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss; and lively Budapest, Hungary, with its unique energy and countless must-see sites.
- This truly is a river cruise to remember!

Map from Avalon Waterways



Day 1 Amsterdam (Embarkation):

- Welcome to Holland. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.
- Flights into Amsterdam must arrive by 3:30 pm.
- Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- During tulip season, you may take a Guided Optional Excursion to the gardens at Keukenhof—with more than seven million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths as well as other bulbs, planted each year.
- Outside of tulip season, consider joining a Guided Optional Excursion to Zaanse Schans to see historic windmills and charming Dutch houses.
- Spend free time exploring the colorful streets, bridges, and canals of Amsterdam—with its many cafés and art galleries.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM**

Optional Tour (Extra Expense)

- **Keukenhof Gardens Visit**
- With more than 7 million dazzling bulb flowers creating incredible works of art, this exciting visit to Keukenhof is a true visual feast!

Optional Tour Keukenhof Gardens



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Keukenhof Gardens



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Day 2 Amsterdam

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam with a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam's "Golden Age."
- This afternoon choose among the Guided Optional Excursions available.
- Optional Tours (Extra Expenses)
- **Medieval Muiderslot Castle**
- From Golden Age paintings to 13th-century arms and armor, discover the wonders of Muiderslot Castle, one of Holland's most beautiful medieval castle fortresses, on this captivating half-day guided tour.
- **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.
- AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO COLOGNE

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



Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 3 Cologne

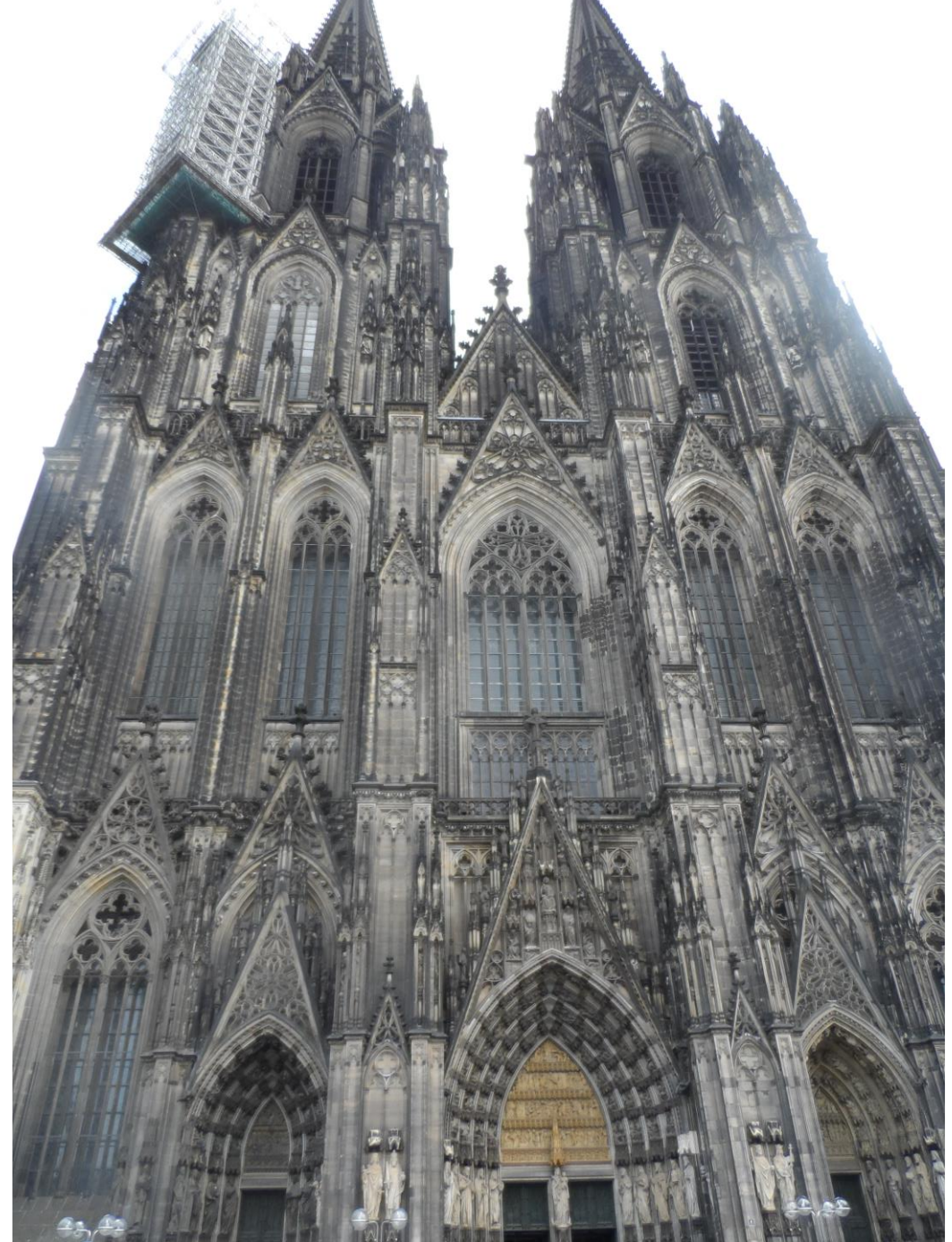
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a bike ride like the locals in Cologne with your Adventure, OR;
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walking Tour of Cologne's important Jewish heritage sites, OR;
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided City Walk of Cologne—explore the Old City and see its soaring twin-steepled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

Cologne Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Cologne Cathedral



German-Roman Museum

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Hohenzollern Bridge



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Christmas Markets in Old Market Square

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Day 4 Rhine Gorge-Rüdesheim:

This morning cruise through the dramatic Rhine Gorge and see the famous rock of the Lorelei.

ACTIVE EXCURSION: Take an open-air cable car ride to the Niederwald Monument. Ride or walk back down through the vineyards; based on your departure enjoy a local special treat, 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.

Later, local musicians will join us on board for live entertainment.

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MILTENBERG

Marksburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader
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Maus (Mouse) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader
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Katz (Cat) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Pfalzgrafenstein Castle (foreground) & Gutenfels Castle on the Hill

Photo Anne Schrader
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Reichenstein Castle



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Sailing into Rudesheim

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum

Photo Hank Schrader
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Photo Hank Schrader
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Gondola Ride Rüdesheim



Germania Monument

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 5 Miltenberg

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

Spend free time riding a bike through the beautiful villages on the Main River shores.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO WÜRZBURG

Alter Markt Platz Miltenberg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

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

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Germany's Oldest Inn Hotel Zum Riesen



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Miltenberg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 6 Würzburg

- **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.
- Enjoy the city on your own or visit a local winery.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN WÜRZBURG**

Marienberg Fortress Würzburg



Old Stone Bridge Würzburg

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Residenz Palace Würzburg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Garden statue Residenz Palace



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 7 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.
- Sail to Volkach and get ready for your afternoon activity.
- **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 BAMBERG

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



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

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.



Photo Anne Schrader
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The Town Hall Volkach



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 8 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.
- Later, enjoy live entertainment performance while sailing this evening.
- AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ROTH

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Photo Anne Schrader
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Bamberg
Rathaus
(town hall)

Bamberg Cathedral



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

New Residence Rose Garden, Bamberg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 9 Roth. Excursion to Nuremberg:

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Roth's Lauter valley with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **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 EXCURSION:** Choose a Guided Tour of Nuremberg's medieval architecture, gilded fountain, gothic cathedral, and Kaiserburg Castle, OR;
- **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
- AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO REGENSBURG

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

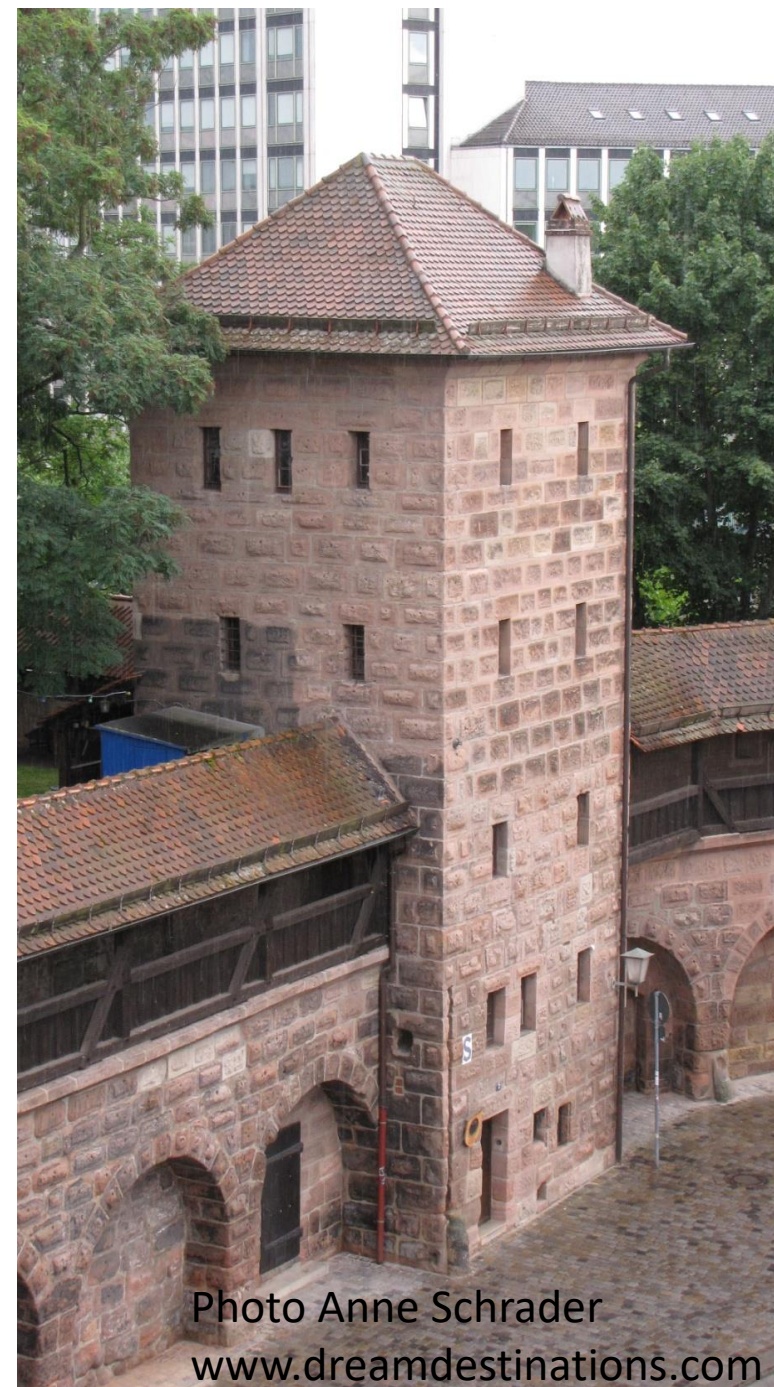


Photo Anne Schrader
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Maxbrücke (also called Hangman's Bridge) at the Pegnitz River—Nuremberg's oldest stone bridge

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Photo Anne Schrader
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Nuremberg

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 10 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 PASSAU**

Walhalla by Bike Active Excursion

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Regensburg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader

www.dreamdestinations.com



Porta Praetoria

Roman ruins used in a new building



Photo Anne Schrader
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Old Town Hall Regensburg

Photo Anne Schrader
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Regensburg St. Peter's Cathedral



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 11 Passau-Linz:

- **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.
- Alternatively, cruise to the lovely town of Linz.
- This evening, feel free to explore Linz on your own
- Later, enjoy live entertainment on board.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MELK**

The Veste Oberhaus

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Passau

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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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Linz Docks



Photo Anne Schrader
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Avalon Ship docked at Linz



Photo Anne Schrader
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The 13th –century Hauptplatz is the largest medieval square in Austria



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Illustration of the
Trinity Column on a
protective cover.
Often key landmarks
need to be
protected or are
under repair as the
column was during
our 2019 visit to Linz



Lithographie von
Johann Haidinger
ca. 1830

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

The 20-meter Trinity Column 2023



A tourist train in
Linz Hauptplatz
2023. In the
background is the
Old Cathedral
(the green church
with 2 towers)



Day 11 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



Mozart Square

Salzburg Austria

Mozart Birthplace



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**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 12 Melk-Wachau Valley-Vienna

- **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.
- Enjoy a coffee or cocktail on the Sky Deck as you sail through the picturesque Wachau Valley to wonderful Vienna this afternoon.
- Optional Tour (Extra Expense)
- **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.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN VIENNA**

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Melk

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Melk Abbey Melk, Austria



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Schonbuhl Castle

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Aggstein Castle Ruins

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Hinterhaus Castle Ruins

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Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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Spitz Wachau Valley

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Wachau Valley

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Krems

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Day 13 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.
- Join a Guided Optional Excursion to Schönbrunn Palace—summer home of the Habsburg family or choose a Guided Optional Excursion to fascinating Bratislava.
- Consider a tram ride to Vienna's Prater amusement park or to one of the many museums nearby.
- Later, enjoy live entertainment as you sail to Budapest
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BUDAPEST**

Day 3 Habsburg Palace

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Vienna Opera House at the end of Karntner Strasse



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

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**



Day 13 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.
- **Bratislava, Jewel of Slovakia**
- Step off the beaten path to discover the beauty and allure of Bratislava during this enriching day trip to the charming Slovakian capital.

Schönbrunn Palace

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Schönbrunn Palace

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Optional Tours Hike Up to Bratislava Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Michael's Gate

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



St Martin's Cathedral



Primacial Palace Bratislava



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Old Town Hall

Photo Anne Schrader
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Slovak National Theater

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 14 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

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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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Day 14 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!
- **Wine Tasting in the Hungarian Countryside**
- Travel into the beautiful Hungarian countryside for an enriching half-day discovery of the Etyek wine region, including two wine cellar visits with wine tasting.

Day 15 Budapest (Disembarkation):

- Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning

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