



Magnificent Europe: Amsterdam to Budapest

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1. Arrive Amsterdam, Embark Ship

Be met on arrival and transferred to your ship before a Welcome Reception this evening. (D)

Stay: 14 Nights: one of APT's luxurious Aria or Concerto river ships

Day 2. Amsterdam, Freedom of Choice

Choose from three activities today. You may like to take a canal cruise and admire the city from a glass-top boat as you glide past 17th-century homes, churches and 16th-century merchant houses. Or, tour the Anne Frank Museum, located in the building where Anne Frank went into hiding and composed her famous diary during World War II. Alternatively, take an excursion to Zaanse Schans, a picturesque village famous for its wooden windmills, barns and houses. Here you'll enjoy time to explore and a tasting of the region's cheeses before returning to your ship. Set off along the Rhine River, enjoying a Gala Welcome Dinner on board. (B, L, D)

Day 3. Cologne, Freedom of Choice, Bonn, Andernach, A Royal Invitation

Cruise into Cologne this morning. Disembark your ship and perhaps discover the city on a guided sightseeing tour, which will give you a great insight into the history, culture and architecture or explore the Fragrance Museum. Alternatively, travel to Bonn where you can explore the city with a local guide or discover the Bonn Botanic Gardens with a presentation from the gardeners. Later, rejoin your ship in Bonn and cruise to the 2,000 year-old town of Andernach. This evening, Princess Heide von Hohenzollern has opened the doors of her turreted home, Namedy Castle, exclusively for APT guests. Enjoy some free time to wander about the castle's opulent rooms, hidden nooks and manicured gardens at your leisure. Later, head to the castle's exquisite ballroom for a lavish royal banquet. (B, L, D)

Day 4. Rudesheim, Freedom of Choice

Today cruise through the Rhine Gorge on what is known as the most beautiful stretch of this enchanting river, where crumbling ruins cling to rocky cliffs and rolling hillsides are marked with perfectly planted vineyards. Arrive in Rudesheim, and ride the Winzerexpress mini-train to your selected sightseeing activity. Perhaps tour Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most beautiful collections of automated musical instruments. Alternatively, take a ride in a gondola to the Niederwald monument for incredible views over the Rhine Valley. (B, L, D)

Day 5. Miltenberg

After an onboard glass-blowing demonstration this morning, disembark in Miltenberg, a pretty Franconian town set amongst the spectacular scenery of the Odenwald Forest. Spared from the destruction of World War II, its stunning half-timbered houses and historic buildings offer a wonderful insight into medieval times gone by. Miltenberg also boasts one of the oldest inns in Germany. Today, you're invited to discover the local way of life on a unique village experience. Explore quaint shops and swap stories with the locals during a day to remember. (B, L, D)

Day 6. Würzburg, Freedom of Choice

In Würzburg today, you may like to embark on a tour that will take you through the city to the magnificent Residential Palace, past churches ranging in styles from Baroque, Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance to modern. Inside, marvel at intricate tapestries, gilded stucco work and ceiling frescoes by Tiepolo. Alternatively, travel to Rothenburg on the Romantic Road and set out on a tour of this medieval walled town. (B, L, D)

7. Bamberg, Freedom of Choice

Travel to World Heritage-listed Bamberg, another of the few German cities that wasn't destroyed during the bombings of World War II. Bamberg also lies in the heart of a region that boasts nearly 300 breweries. Upon arrival, disembark and set off on your chosen activity. Perhaps explore this beautiful medieval city on a walking tour. Or, learn about ancient brewing techniques on a walking tour that includes a tasting of Rauchbier (smoked beer). (B, L, D)

Day 8. Nuremberg, Freedom of Choice

Arrive in Nuremberg and choose to either embark on a historic city tour or tour the Faber-Castell Old Lead Factory Museum. The historic city tour visits a selection of World War II sites, including the Reich Party Rally Grounds, where six Nazi Party rallies were held between 1933 and 1938. Discover the spectacular medieval architecture, including the 900 year-old ramparts that surround the city, the Imperial Castle and more. Alternatively, step back in time at the Faber-Castell Old Lead Factory Museum where a unique guided tour brings the industrial history of the 19th century to life. Back on board your ship, enjoy the opportunity to sample some freshly baked gingerbread, a local favourite, before continuing along the Main-Danube Canal. (B, L, D)

Day 9. Regensburg

Known as one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities, Regensburg is home to one of the oldest bridges spanning the Danube River. On arrival here, disembark your ship for a guided tour of the architectural highlights. See such sites as the Old Town Hall, the World Heritage-listed city centre and the ancient Romanesque Porta Pretoria. You'll also admire Germany's oldest vaulted stone bridge, which arches gracefully across the Danube River. (B, L, D)



Day 10. Passau, A Royal Invitation, Salzburg, Linz

Arrive in Passau and board the Majestic Imperator for a privileged insight into the luxury of imperial rail travel as you travel to Linz. Enjoy morning tea and refreshments en route to Salzburg where you'll disembark for a tour that takes you to several sights from Rogers and Hammerstein's classic film, 'The Sound of Music'. Re-board your train and delight in drinks and entertainment as your journey continues to the city of Linz. (B, D)

Day 11. Melk, Freedom of Choice, Dürnstein

Cruise through the spectacular Wachau Valley today. Disembark in Melk for a guided tour of Melk Abbey. Alternatively, join a walking tour of the town. You may then like to take a guided bicycle ride along the banks of the Danube River from Melk to Dürnstein. Or, rejoin your ship and continue cruising to Dürnstein, where you'll enjoy time at leisure to explore at your own pace. (B, L, D)

Day 12. Vienna, A Royal Invitation

Disembark in the Austrian capital, Vienna. Enjoy a walking tour of the city, and delight in its striking architecture, classical musical culture and its vibrant cafés. Take in a number of the city's most important landmarks during an orientation tour along the Ringstrasse, Vienna's famous ring boulevard officially opened by Emperor Franz Joseph on May 1, 1865. Then visit the Spanish Riding School to witness the Lipizzan horses during a morning practice session. After dinner on board, visit the newly renovated City Palace, a magnificent aristocratic residence in the heart of Vienna. Be welcomed at a Cocktail Reception, then head to the ballroom for a private classical concert featuring members of the Mozart Boys' Choir, a full orchestra performing classical masterpieces by Strauss and an operatic recital. (B, L, D)

Day 13. Vienna, Freedom of Choice

On your second day in Vienna, tour Schönbrunn Palace; join an excursion to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; or explore the Fine Arts Museum. (B, L, D)

Day 14. Esztergom, Budapest

From Esztergom, head into the countryside for a traditional Hungarian farm experience. Learn about rural life on a wagon tour of the farm, experience a daring horse show from Magyar cowboys, then savour a goulash lunch accompanied by gypsy music. Continue overland to Budapest for a guided city tour. See Buda Castle, the Royal Palace, Fisherman's Bastion and more. Later, visit the Hungarian State Opera House for a tour, a glass of sparkling wine and a private opera recital. After a Farewell Dinner, admire the lights of Budapest on a magical twilight cruise. (B, L, D)



Day 15. Disembark Ship, Depart Budapest

Disembark and transfer to the airport. (B)

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Please call NRMA Travel on 1300 053 052 to book

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in community regulations as well as governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.