

European Splendour

~ Combine with Oberammergau!

25 June 2010, 18 Days Fully Escorted & Includes Flights

Magnificent Europe River Cruise Tour on Board the MS Artistry!

Visit the following Countries: Hungary, Germany, Austria. Visit the following cities; Amsterdam, Cologne, Rudesheim, Miltenberg, Wurzburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Grein, Melk & Vienna

**Including ...GUARANTEED!
Sapphire Deck State Rooms
(A & B Category) Upgrade
~ worth over \$1300pp ~**

Unlike other operators, our A & B category Upgrade is included in this price and not "subject to availability".

Your Sapphire Deck Stateroom includes floor to ceiling sliding glass doors and french balconies, 20" flat screen satellite TV & radio and is located on the second top deck of the ship. The ship features a Silent Drive System, with lounge & restaurant at the front for unimpeded views of the passing landscape.

Day 1 & 2, 25 & 26 JUN: Flying Days & Arrival

This morning we will depart Sydney and fly to Amsterdam via Frankfurt. Upon arrival in Amsterdam we will be transferred to our hotel.

Amsterdam Accommodation TBA (1 nights)

Day 3, 27 JUN: AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND (EMBARKATION) (D)

Welcome to Amsterdam! Holland's capital is sophisticated and modern, with a rich and fascinating history. The morning will be free to see the works of famous Dutch masters in world renowned museums such as the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh. This afternoon, the crew of your vessel awaits to welcome you aboard!



Day 4, 28 JUN: AMSTERDAM (BLD)

There is no better way to see Amsterdam than by CANAL BOAT, cruising through the elegant grachten lined with stately homes dating back to Amsterdam's "Golden Age". This afternoon, there is time to explore or perhaps join an optional excursion to a nearby picturesque small town before your ship sets sail for Cologne.

Day 5, 29 JUN: COLOGNE, GERMANY (BLD)

Cologne is one of Germany's largest cities, with a river skyline dominated by the soaring twin spires of its magnificent gothic cathedral. The Germano-Roman Museum next to the cathedral is a must for history buffs! Try a Kolsch in one of the many taverns and shop for a bottle of 4711, the original "eau de cologne".

Day 6, 30 JUN: RHINE GORGE - RUDESHEIM (BLD)

The dramatic RHINE GORGE is the most beautiful stretch of river. Pass the legendary rock of the Lorelei, where sweet songs of local beauties lured enchanted sailors to their doom. Visit SIEGFRIED'S MECHANICAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM in pretty Rudesheim. A SPECIAL TREAT is planned for the afternoon before free time to explore the Drosselgasse and pick up some souvenirs.

Day 7, 1 JUL: MILTENBERG (BLD)

Located on the Main River, Miltenberg is a picturesque Bavarian village that thrived on income from river traffic. Its cultural wealth and affluence are reflected in the beautiful medieval and renaissance houses and the gothic splendour of the Merchant Hall. This afternoon, learn how to bake a local soft cookie specialty.

Day 8, 2 JUL: WURZBURG (BLD)



~ includes Flights!

**\$10,495pppts
\$4259s/s
+ taxes**

AVALON
WATERWAYS

Known as the “Pearl of the Romantic Road”, Wurzburg is surrounded by sloping hills covered with vineyards. The magnificent **BISHOP'S RESIDENZ** is another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 9, 3 JUL: BAMBERG (BLD)

The history of this region is highlighted by another beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site is medieval Bamberg. Your walking tour takes in its breathtaking cathedral, the **OLD TOWN HALL** straddling the River Regnitz, and serpentine streets with charming houses and 18th-century mansions.



Day 10, 4 JUL: NUREMBERG (BLD)

Although Nuremberg suffered extensive damage during WWII, much of it was restored to its original style. Marvel at this historic city with its fabulous gothic churches and elegant patrician houses-all explained by a local expert. Nuremberg's traditions include famous Lebkuchen, toy making, and metal working. After dinner we'll introduce you to some of Germany's famous beers!

Day 11, 5 JUL: REGENSBURG (BLD)

Regensburg is one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. Architectural highlights on your guided tour include the Old Town Hall, the beautiful white and gold **OLD CHAPEL**, and Porta Pretoriana-gates to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. The city is the capital of Upper Palatinate, a bustling university town, and one of Bavaria's cultural centres. It is here you will find Germany's oldest restaurant, the 12th-century Historische Wurstkuche (Old Sausage Kitchen).

Day 12, 6 JUL: PASSAU (BLD)

Passau, ideally located at the confluence of the Rivers Inn, Ilz, and Danube, is a city of graceful arcades and cobblestone streets. St. Stephen's Cathedral houses the world's largest church organ with more than 17,000 pipes.

Day 13, 7 JUL: GREIN, AUSTRIA - MELK (BLD)

At the foot of a bluff in the shadow of its castle, Grein's turreted houses on the main square offer excellent photo opportunities. Situated in the picturesque Wachau Valley, Melk is home to the magnificent **BENEDICTINE ABBEY** that dominates the town and is one of Europe's largest monasteries. The view from the terrace over the Danube and surrounding countryside is breathtaking!

Day 14, 8 JUL: VIENNA (BLD)

Vienna, Austria's capital, is known as the “City of Music” and inspired the creative genius of Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss. Once the centre of the mighty Habsburg Empire, the city has much to offer: the lavish Hofburg Palace, the impressive Vienna Opera House, the majestic Ring Boulevard, and awe-inspiring St. Stephen's Cathedral,

to name just a few of the sights you will enjoy during your included tour. You do not rush through Vienna; you waltz, taking your time to savour each classic sight and sound. Shop in the Karntnerstrasse and enjoy Sachertorte or Apfelstrudel in a neighbourhood cafe. An optional concert is available during your stay.

Day 15, 9 JUL: VIENNA (DISEMBARKATION) (B)

Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning. Free day to enjoy Vienna.

Vienna Accommodation TBA (1 nights)

Day 16 & 17, 10 & 11 JUL: Vienna Flight Home (Meals on Flights)

Today it is time to leave Europe for your flight home to Sydney. Or if you are staying on to join the Oberammergau tour, the day is free for you to enjoy before you are joined by your fellow travellers later this afternoon.

Day 18, 12 JUL : Arrive in Sydney (Meals on Flights)

If you are returning home, your flight arrives in Sydney today. You will be met outside customs by your Northern Highland Travel Greeter, for transfers back to Newcastle.

This magnificent holiday includes a deluxe cruise that reveals the best of Europe along the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers. Enjoy a canal cruise past Amsterdam's 16th-century merchant houses and through the impressive Main-Danube Canal. Sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge past the legendary Lorelei rock; visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum in charming Rudesheim; and pause for a baking demonstration in Bavaria's picturesque Miltenberg. Also - see the sights with local guides in Cologne, Bamberg, Passau, Grein, and Vienna.

Visited Cities

Amsterdam, Cologne, Rudesheim, Miltenberg, Wurzburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, Grein, Melk and Vienna

Meals

Breakfast - 12, Lunch - 11, Dinner - 12

Standard Features

CRUISE: Deluxe 12-night cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna in an outside stateroom with hotel-style beds (Category E)

AMSTERDAM: Welcome reception; canal cruise

COLOGNE: Guided sightseeing

RUDESHEIM: “Winzerexpress” mini train; visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum

MILTENBERG: Guided sightseeing; baking demonstration

WURZBURG: Guided sightseeing, visit the Residenz

BAMBERG: Guided sightseeing

NUREMBERG: Guided sightseeing; beer tasting

MAIN-DANUBE CANAL: Cruise in the canal

REGENSBURG: Guided sightseeing, visit the Old Chapel

PASSAU: Guided sightseeing

GREIN: Guided sightseeing

MELK: Guided visit of the Benedictine Abbey

VIENNA: Guided sightseeing

MEALS: Superb dining with all meals on board daily featuring full breakfast (B), lunch (L), and dinner (D), including a welcome reception, welcome dinner, and Captain's dinner; quality wines from Europe's most famous wine regions with every dinner; one sitting with open seating arrangements

Inside visits as shown in **UPPERCASE** in the tour description, including admission charges, where applicable