

# Cruise the Heart *of* Europe

**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers

**BUDAPEST TO AMSTERDAM**

SPONSORED BY

University of Illinois Alumni Association

**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

October 19 – November 3, 2025

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

## Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Celebrated in art and song, Europe's great rivers carved borders, created trade routes and cultivated traditions and cultures that live on today. Unpack once and travel in comfort aboard a first-class ship from Budapest to Amsterdam, enjoying an intimate look at five distinct countries: Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany and The Netherlands.

Cultivate epic moments of your travel memoir while cruising along the Danube, Main and Rhine rivers, passing scenic banks steeped in centuries of human history. Indulge in regional foods and wines and gaze at wonderfully preserved architecture in some of the world's grandest cities! Plus, follow your heart's desire during ample free time. We've also included an extensive selection of Personalize Your Journey excursions in many ports, allowing you to fully experience this epic region of Europe.

During your voyage, you'll benefit from the value of group travel and enjoy preferred access to popular attractions that will deepen your understanding of Europe. Space is limited and this popular program is sure to sell out quickly, so make your reservation today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

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### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube
  2. Frontiers of the Roman Empire - The Danube Limes (Western Segment)
  3. Historic Center of Vienna
  4. Wachau Cultural Landscape
  5. Old town of Regensburg
  6. Town of Bamberg
  7. Würzburg Residence
  8. Upper Middle Rhine Valley
  9. Cologne Cathedral
  10. Seventeenth-Century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam
- 







# A World of Discovery



This epic cruising adventure showcases the breathtaking beauty, significant history and rich culture of Europe's most storied rivers! Gaze at picturesque vineyards, dramatic landscapes, imposing castles and charming towns as they unfold before you. Step off the ship in all five countries to explore quaint harbor towns, fabled medieval villages and illustrious cities steeped in legacies. Plus, experience local culture and sample regional foods and wines!

*Top: Dürnstein, Wachau Valley | Above: Spiral staircase, Melk Abbey*

*Cover: Danube River, Budapest*

*Mail panel: Strauss Monument, Vienna | Old town, Bratislava*

## Inspiring Moments



- Unravel centuries of history and culture in **Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna.**
- Delight in **Budapest's twinkling landmarks** during an evening cruise.
- Wander along the cobblestone lanes of **Bratislava's welcoming old town.**
- Relish a **Viennese waltz performance.**
- Linger inside **Melk Abbey**, perched on a rocky bluff above the Danube River.
- View the memorable **Loreley Rock and Wachau Valley** as you glide along the legendary Rhine and Danube rivers.
- Sail through the **Main-Danube Canal**, a civil-engineering wonder.
- Tour the famed **Kölner Dom cathedral.**
- Cruise **Amsterdam's iconic canals** to behold **17th-century Dutch Golden Age canal houses.**
- Experience ten **UNESCO World Heritage sites.**



## Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Budapest, Hungary. 🌐

## Day 2 | Budapest, Hungary

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to your first-class river ship. Meet your fellow travelers during a Welcome Reception and Dinner tonight.

## Day 3 | Budapest

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Budapest.** On a panoramic tour with stops, see Heroes' Square, the Hungarian State Opera House and the old Castle District.
- **Living Local.** Browse food and craft stalls in the Great Market Hall. Visit a coffee house for strudel and *palinka*, the local schnapps.
- **Jewish Quarter.** Visit Budapest's Dohány Street Synagogue, the Holocaust Memorial Center and the Shoes on the Danube Bank.

**Free Time:** Explore Budapest at leisure.

**Budapest by Night.** Thrill to the sights of an illuminated Budapest during an evening cruise.

## Day 4 | Bratislava, Slovakia

**Enrichment:** *The Velvet Revolution.*

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Old Town & Café.** Stroll this medieval town to see historic sites, such as Primate's Palace. Stop at an artistic café to savor local pastry.
- **Old Town & Music.** Explore storied venues associated with Beethoven and other artists and enjoy a performance by a young violinist.
- **Hidden Vines of Bratislava.** Escape the city to see lovely villages, vineyards and a castle. Visit a winery and taste Slovakian wines.

## Day 5 | Vienna, Austria

**Enrichment:** *Timeless Vienna.*

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Imperial Vienna.** Visit the elegant Imperial Apartments inside Hofburg Palace and drive along the Ringstrasse, passing notable sites.
- **Vienna Woods.** Explore the hills and forests of Austria and stop at a local café. *(Active)*
- **Schönbrunn Palace.** Tour this opulent royal palace, once the Habsburgs' summer residence, and stroll the magnificent gardens.

**Free Time:** Explore more of the city at leisure.

🌐AHI Connects | **Viennese Waltz.** Admire dancers perform the graceful Viennese waltz.

## Day 6 | Dürnstein | Melk

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Dürnstein Walking Tour.** Admire baroque architecture and visit the iconic Stiftskirche.
- **Danube Cycling.** Pedal through scenic villages and vineyards with a guide. *(Active)*
- **Wachau Valley Winery.** Visit a local winery to learn about and taste the famed wines.

Sail through the enchanting Wachau Valley.

**Melk Abbey.** Stop to tour the baroque abbey, circa 1736. See the opulent church and library. Stroll the scenic town center to see more gems.

## Day 7 | Passau, Germany

**Passau.** Discover this delightful old city on a walking tour. Visit the baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral. See the Niedernburg Monastery and both the New and Old Bishop's Residences.

**Free Time:** Explore more of the city at leisure.





Budapest by night

## Day 8 | Regensburg

**Enrichment:** *The Main-Danube Canal.*

**Regensburg Walking Tour.** Witness this city's well-preserved history. See the Porta Praetoria, St. Peter's Cathedral, the Stone Bridge and portions of the old Roman Tower. Then visit the Thurn und Taxis royal residence. The ship enters the Main-Danube Canal today.

## Day 9 | Nuremberg

☀️PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Nuremberg.** See the city's castle, its lively old town and the World War II courthouse.
- **History of Nazi Party Exhibit.** Visit a special Interim Exhibition that presents the history of the Nazi Party Rallies and the Rally Grounds.
- **Rural Life.** Experience the tranquil German countryside. Visit a family-run Franconian farm, chat with the family and enjoy lunch.

**Free Time:** Explore Nuremberg at leisure.

## Day 10 | Bamberg

☀️PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Bamberg.** Stroll this medieval Bavarian town to see Gothic and baroque masterpieces.
- **Culinary Delights.** Sample local specialties at a bakery, a butcher shop and a deli.

Half-timbered homes, Miltenberg



## Day 11 | Würzburg

☀️PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Würzburg Residenz & City Walk.** Visit one of Europe's finest baroque palaces, followed by a guided stroll of the historic city center.
- **Romantic Road.** Venture to the Franconian heartland and visit the town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber to see the medieval Altstadt.

**Free Time:** Explore more of the city at leisure.

## Day 12 | Miltenberg

**Frühschoppen.** Relish the German tradition of tasting beer, pretzels, sausages and mustards.

**Miltenberg.** Romantic Miltenberg brims with traditional half-timbered homes and taverns. Pass by the Town Hall and Germany's oldest inn with its storybook façade. Taste Franconian wines and brandies in a 15th-century cellar.

## Day 13 | Koblenz

Glide by the legendary Loreley Rock, and pass by castles of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley.

☀️PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Koblenz City Walk.** See the Town Hall, the Liebfrauenkirche, the Alte Burg and more.
- **Ehrenbreitstein Fortress.** Take a cable car to this storied battlement above the river.

Waltz performance, Vienna





Day 14 | Cologne

**Cologne Walking Tour.** Stroll cobblestoned lanes in the medieval quarter and admire the noble, colorful patrician houses. Then, visit the symbol of Cologne, the 13th-century, Gothic Kölner Dom cathedral to admire its twin spires, stained-glass windows and views. Gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 15 | Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Enrichment: Contemporary Holland.**

**PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

- **Rijksmuseum.** Tour the Rijksmuseum to see works by Rembrandt, Vermeer and more.
- **Waterland Biking.** Embark on an ambitious cycling tour of scenic Waterland. (Active)
- **Canal District.** Relish a tour of the canals and a visit to the Museum of the Canals.

**Free Time:** Explore Amsterdam on your own.

**Amsterdam's Canals.** Board a canal cruiser to witness the city's ornate bridges, traditional gabled houses and classic Dutch architecture.

Day 16 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

PYJ experiences are included.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

**Excursions on this itinerary require:**

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Included Features

**Accommodations** (with baggage handling)

- **Unpack once** and sail for **14 nights** aboard the **exclusively chartered**, first-class MS Amadeus Cara.

Extensive Meal Program

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 14 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Visit 5 countries** during this program.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Personalize Your Journey | PYJ |** A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.



## **EXTEND YOUR STAY**



### **Budapest | 2 Nights**

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Get to know alluring Budapest, including a tour of charming Szentendre! This extension includes two nights at the first-class InterContinental Budapest; daily breakfasts and one lunch; the Szentendre tour and a visit to the Ceramics Museum; gratuities for guide and driver; the services of an AHI Travel Director and AHI Hospitality desk; baggage handling between the hotel and ship; and all taxes and service charges.

**\$895 per person, double occupancy | \$1,245 single occupancy**



### **Amsterdam | 2 Nights**

{ Elective POST-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Explore more of Amsterdam's lively districts and world-class museums! This extension includes two nights at the centrally located, first-class Amsterdam Marriott; a guided visit to the National Maritime Museum in the Old Harbor; daily breakfasts; the services of an AHI Travel Director and AHI Hospitality desk; guide gratuities; baggage handling between the ship and hotel; and all taxes and service charges.

**\$995 per person, double occupancy | \$1,470 single occupancy**



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **844-414-0369** or  
visit **<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates †

**October 19 – November 3, 2025**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**October 20 – November 3, 2025**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Cruise Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Early Booking Special Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	\$6,740	<b>\$5,990</b>
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$6,940	<b>\$6,190</b>
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$7,740	<b>\$6,990</b>
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$7,940	<b>\$7,190</b>
A-Mozart	\$8,740	<b>\$7,990</b>
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$9,240	<b>\$8,490</b>

**Early Booking Special Price includes \$750 special savings.**

\*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

Suite category features a balcony. Categories A, B and C feature a drop-down panoramic window. Categories D and E feature a panoramic window.

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

**Single supplement waived for solo travelers!** This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1859A?schooldId=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.



## MS Amadeus Cara



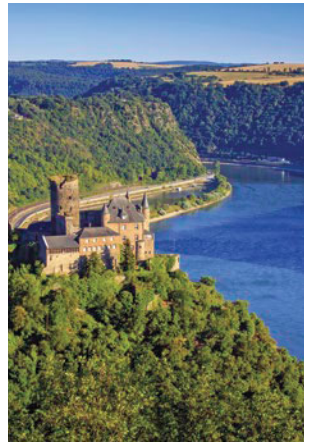
Step aboard the stylish 82-cabin MS Amadeus Cara, evocative of a grand European hotel, and embark on a cruise where your comfort and enjoyment are the highest priority. The seasoned crew of the MS Amadeus Cara is dedicated to taking care of each traveler with warm hospitality and personalized attention. In addition to stellar service, the MS Amadeus Cara has a distinctly timeless ambience. From the beautifully appointed surroundings to gourmet dining to generous and inviting public spaces, your floating luxury hotel provides a stress-free stay as you discover Europe's most stunning rivers. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

### AHI FlexAir

#### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Upper Middle Rhine Valley

### AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

#### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

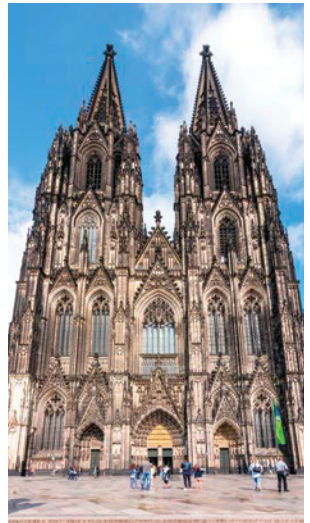
**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

#### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Cologne Cathedral

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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