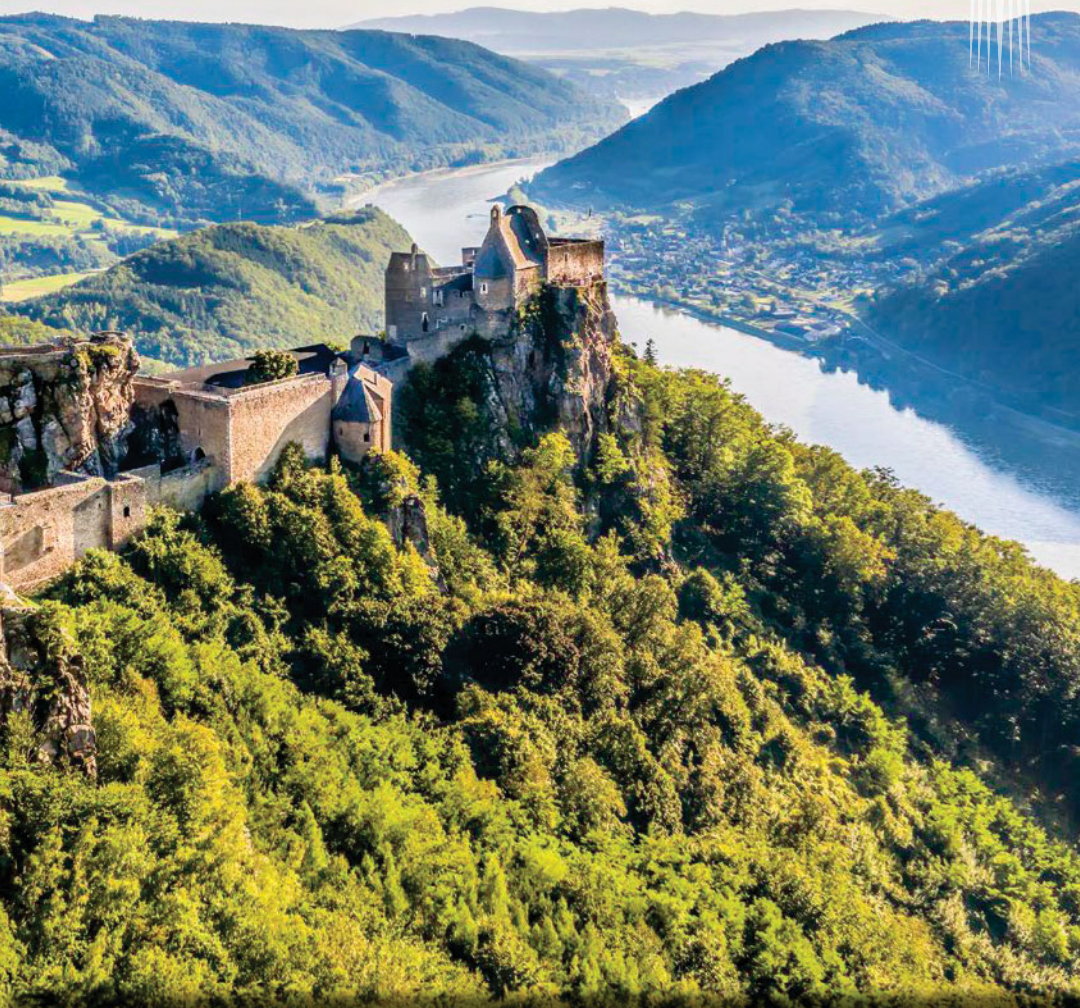

GRAND

Danube Passage

PRAGUE TO SOFIA

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers



SPONSORED BY

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association

May 18 – June 1, 2024



A World of Discovery



Embark on an unforgettable cruise through Europe, a carefree journey that abounds with history and culture! Aboard your first-class river ship, uncover Old World highlights and swathes of lush countryside, colorful port towns and medieval villages. Along the way, learn enriching details from expert guides and lecturers, plus choose from included culinary and cultural experiences in selected ports.

*Top: Dürnstein | Above: Charles Bridge, Prague
Cover: Aggstein Castle on the Danube, Wachau Valley
Mail panel: Hofburg Palace, Vienna | Old town, Prague*

Inspiring Moments



- Witness Budapest's glowing, amber skyline during an evening **sail on the Danube River.**
- Gaze at the **Iron Gate Gorge**, an engineering marvel and scenic wonder.
- Uncover the remarkable history and grandeur of **timeless Vienna.**
- Delight in the captivating cobbled lanes of **Bratislava's old town.**
- Applaud the graceful turns of elegant dancers during an **exclusive waltz performance.**
- Marvel at the lush landscape of the beautiful **Wachau Valley.**
- Savor a moment of quiet thought in the marbled halls of **Melk Abbey.**
- Admire **storybook villages and landmarks** along the Danube River.
- Experience five **UNESCO World Heritage sites.**

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Join us on this cultural adventure through eight countries! The incomparable heritage and fascinating history of Eastern Europe come to life during a cruise along the mighty Danube, the continent's most famous river. Each day is filled with new discoveries as we experience this crossroads of culture, stroll cobblestone alleys of medieval towns and explore buzzing metropolises.

Begin with three nights in Prague, Czech Republic. Then sail along the Danube, reveling in unspoiled riverside landscapes, before concluding in the Balkan city of Sofia, Bulgaria. Along the way, visit inspiring UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the remarkable Wachau Valley, and taste the region's wines and cuisine. Plus, in most ports, customize your cruise with choices of cultural, active and culinary activities designed to highlight Eastern Europe's history as well as its daily life. You are sure to return home dreaming of fairy-tale castles and memorable evenings spent stargazing along the Danube.

Travel in comfort and enjoy the excursions, cultural events and lectures selected especially for you. This is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture, cuisine and landscapes of eight countries on a deluxe travel program. Make your reservations today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
Vice President, Alumni & Student Engagement

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

UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue, Hungary**
2. **Historic Center of Vienna, Austria**
3. **Wachau Cultural Landscape, Austria**
4. **Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn, Austria**
5. **Historic Center of Prague, Czech Republic**





Passau

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Prague, Czech Republic. 🌐

Day 2 | Prague, Czech Republic

Upon arrival in Prague, transfer ➡ to the Art Deco Imperial Hotel.

Free Time: Start exploring this magnificent city. Join us later for a special Welcome Reception.

Day 3 | Prague

Old Town & Charles Bridge. Prague's old town brims with wonders, including the famous astronomical clock and the Charles Bridge.

Free Time: Craft your own path this afternoon.

Day 4 | Prague

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Lobkowicz Palace & Museum.** Witness art, weapons, instruments and other relics. Learn about the life of the Lobkowicz family.
- **Jewish Quarter.** Enjoy exploring this historic quarter and visit the Prague National Jewish Museum for insight into Jewish history.
- **Art Nouveau & Cubist Walking Tour.** Gaze at the city's brilliant architecture designed in the art nouveau and cubist fashions.

Day 5 | Prague | Passau, Germany

After breakfast, transfer to Passau, Germany.

Picturesque Passau. Venture out to see the many highlights of delightful Passau, including Niedernburg Abbey, the medieval Veste Oberhaus and St. Stephen's Cathedral.

Embark your first-class ship and kick off your cruise during a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 6 | Melk, Austria | Dürnstein

Melk Abbey. Visit Melk's Benedictine abbey, featuring frescoes and an incredible library.

Cruise through the stunning Wachau Valley.

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Dürnstein.** A walking tour showcases the town's architecture and Stiftskirche.
- **Danube Cycling.** Pass by villages and vineyards while cycling along the Danube Cycle Trail with a guide. *(Active)*
- **Wachau Winery.** Stop in at a winery for a tour and tasting of delicious Wachau Valley wines.

Day 7 | Vienna

Enrichment: Timeless Vienna.

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Imperial Vienna.** Step inside Hofburg Palace to visit the Imperial Apartments. Continue on an informative drive along the Ringstrasse.
- **Klosterneuburg Monastery & Wine.** See the monastery's impressive art collection. After, visit a wine cellar for a special tasting.

Melk Abbey





Bratislava

- **Schönbrunn Palace.** Tour this opulent royal residence that was the summer home of the Habsburgs. Enjoy a stroll through the garden.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Viennese Waltz.** Watch dancers perform the elegant Viennese waltz!

Day 8 | Bratislava, Slovakia

Enrichment: The Velvet Revolution.

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

- **Old Town & Café.** A walking tour reveals the Slovak National Theater, Primate's Palace, St. Martin's Cathedral and St. Michael's Gate.

- **Old Town & Music.** Explore venues linked to Beethoven and other renowned artists, followed by a show by a young musician.

- **Iron Curtain Bike Tour.** Set off on a gentle cycle along the Slovak-Austrian border, part of the Iron Curtain. *(Active)*

Day 9 | Budapest, Hungary

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

- **Budapest.** See the Hungarian State Opera House, Heroes' Square, the Parliament and Fisherman's Bastion on a panoramic tour.

- **Living Local.** Browse food and craft stalls in the Great Market Hall. Visit a coffee house for strudel and *palinka*, a local schnapps.

Serbian folk dancing



- **Jewish Quarter.** Witness Budapest's Great Synagogue, the poignant Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial and other sites.

Budapest by Night. An awe-inspiring evening cruise reveals an illuminated Budapest.

Day 10 | Pécs | Osijek, Croatia | Vukovar

Pécs. Join your guide to explore Pécs, known for its Roman ruins and Ottoman mosques.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Croatia's Slavonia Region.** Visit Rural House, located in a small village. Sample tasty Slavonian foods and locally produced vintages.

Osijek & Vukovar. Tour Osijek, passing military complexes and university facilities. Continue to Vukovar to see the city center.

Day 11 | Belgrade, Serbia

Enrichment: Modern Serbia.

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

- **Belgrade.** Visit the Belgrade Fortress and see the sights in the city center.

- **Eat Like a Local.** Experience Serbian cuisine. Taste *kajmak*, a creamy cheese, plus other treats with delicious spices and flavors.

Decebalus stone sculpture, Iron Gate Gorge



Included Features



• **Science & Scientist Tour.** Browse exhibits and films at the Nikola Tesla Museum.

Serbian Folk Show. Delight in a lively show, enjoying the melodies of Serbian folk songs.

Day 12 | Iron Gate Gorge

Enter the magnificent Iron Gate Gorge today.

Frühshoppen! Head to the sun deck to tuck into beer, pretzels, sausages and mustards.

Join a Farewell Reception and Dinner on board the ship.

Day 13 | Vidin, Bulgaria | Sofia

Vidin. Tour ancient Vidin, viewing the Osman Pazvantoglu Library and other landmarks.

Continue to Sofia and check in to your hotel.

Day 14 | Sofia

Enrichment: *The Prologue to the Bulgarian Revival.*

Sofia Discovery. Witness ancient Serdica, St. George Rotunda, the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and Alexander Battenberg Square. Gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 15 | 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.

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

Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **3 nights** in Prague, Czech Republic, at the deluxe Art Deco Imperial Hotel.
- **8 nights** aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS Amadeus Silver III.
- **2 nights** in Sofia, Bulgaria, at the deluxe Sofia Hotel Balkan.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 9 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 8 countries** during this program.
- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **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.
- 🌱 **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- 🌍 **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.

Budapest at night



Accommodations



Art Deco Imperial Hotel | Prague, Czech Republic



Sofia Hotel Balkan | Sofia, Bulgaria



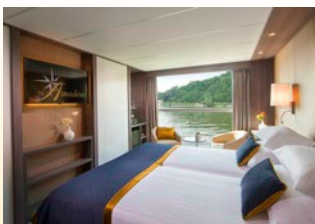
Our travel experts have carefully selected these deluxe hotels for their prime locations. They are ideally situated for exploring each region's renowned landmarks while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of their services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.



MS Amadeus Silver III



Step aboard the Amadeus Silver III and sense an ambience evocative of a grand European hotel. Settle in your comfortable cabin, appointed in modern décor and featuring a private bathroom with a shower. Savor international specialties at breakfast buffets and a choice of appetizing regional dishes at lunch and dinner. Beer, wine or soft drinks are available with lunch and dinner. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.



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 †

May 18 – June 1, 2024

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

Tour dates*

May 19 – June 1, 2024

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

Land | Cruise Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	\$6,145	\$5,895
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$6,345	\$6,095
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$6,845	\$6,595
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$7,045	\$6,795
A-Mozart	\$7,545	\$7,295
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$8,045	\$7,795

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

***Special Price includes \$250 special savings.
Special Price valid if booked
by the date found on the address panel.**

VAT is an additional \$395 per person.

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/1809A?schoolId=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.



Banks of the Danube, Serbia



St. George Rotunda, Sofia

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 without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Shoes on the Danube Bank, Budapest

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.

Passenger Service Representative offers 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.



Pécs Cathedral

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



Sail the legendary Danube River & visit eight countries!

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to our website for the
most current
program information,
discounts and pricing.**

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