Europe's Historic Rivers

Main, Rhine & Moselle

Sponsored By

ALUMNI

University of Illinois Alumni Association

October 30 – November 9, 2026

ALUMNI

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Embark on a journey to uncover the rich history of storied towns within Germany on a nine-night cruise along the great rivers of Europe! Unpack once on your first-class river ship and travel from Passau to Trier, with excursions in historic Old-World cities and towns specially designed to immerse you in local culture and history.

Grab your camera and capture the breathtaking scenery unveiled as the ship sails through the Main-Danube Canal. Marvel at the beauty of lush vineyards, colorful villages and fairy-tale castles as you glide across the Rhine and Moselle river valleys. Surround yourself with grandeur architecture, ancient monuments and the captivating highlights of each town with guided walking tours in Regensburg, Miltenberg, Koblenz, Cochem and Trier. Choose your desired excursions in select ports and indulge in regional dishes and local wines along the way!

This thoughtfully designed journey features Enrichment from expert guides and lecturers, along with the security and ease of group travel. Plus, you'll appreciate the camaraderie of other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time.

Don't miss the chance to experience Europe's historic rivers! Guarantee your spot by making your reservation today!

Sincerely,

David Bambrey
President

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

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Old Town of Regensburg
2. Town of Bamberg
3. Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square
4. Upper Middle Rhine Valley
5. Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St Peter and Church of Our Lady in Trier

Würzburg Residence

Porta Nigra, Trier

Discovery begins here

Journey along the storied Main, Rhine and Moselle rivers to uncover the historic riches of Old-World cities and towns. Revel in enchanting scenery, picturesque canals and hilltop castles as you travel through the Rhine and Moselle valleys. Delve into the unique backgrounds and awe-inspiring views offered in each region. Plus, choose from a variety of included excursions, culinary tours and cultural experiences in Nuremberg, Bamberg and Würzburg.

Top: Upper Middle Rhine Valley | Above: Zum Riesen, Miltenberg

Cover: Reichsburg Castle, Cochem | Mail panel: Detail of Gothic fountain, Nuremberg | Bamberg

Inspiring Moments

- Cruise through the **Rhine-Main-Danube Canal,** an engineering marvel.
- Delight in the **Rhine Valley's enchanting scenery** of hilltop castles, vine-laced slopes and medieval towns.
- Immerse yourself in charming **Bamberg.**
- Admire the iconic half-timbered houses and medieval walls of **romantic Cochem.**
- Witness Reichsburg Castle perched high above the **serene Moselle River Valley.**
- Learn about Germany's **world-renowned wine region** along the Moselle.
- Discover the ancient monuments of **Trier,** Germany's oldest city.
- Uncover storied and historic **German towns** through local immersion.
- Experience five **UNESCO World Heritage sites.**

Regensburg

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your home city for Munich, Germany.

Day 2 | Munich, Germany | Passau

Arrive and transfer to Passau to embark the ship. Early arrivals can join a walking excursion of Passau to see some of the city's highlights.

Tonight, meet your fellow travelers at a festive Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Regensburg

Historic Regensburg Walking Tour. Explore one of Germany's most charming towns to see iconic landmarks, including the ancient Roman tower and gateway of Porta Praetoria, the 12th-century Stone Bridge, the Altes Rathaus bright yellow Town Hall dating back to the 1200s and the enthralling St. Peter's Cathedral with its stunning stained-glass windows. Visit the Thurn und Taxi Palace to learn about its rich history and see the ballroom and throne room.

Enrichment: *Main-Danube Canal.* Discuss the history and importance of Europe's greatest man-made passageway with a local expert.

Gather for dinner on board this evening as the ship enters the Main-Danube Canal.

Day 4 | Nuremberg

Wake this morning to the Nuremberg cityscape.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- *Sights of Nuremberg.* Join a panoramic drive through the city, passing by the courthouse that held the World War II trials. See the renowned hilltop castle, lively old town and 14th-century Gothic fountain, known as the city's most famous attraction, on a guided walking tour.
- *History of Nazi Party Exhibit.* Visit a special Interim Exhibition that presents the history of the Nazi Party Rallies and the Rally Grounds.

This evening, head to the Sun Deck to capture photos of the breathtaking scenery as the ship sails through the Main-Danube Canal.

Day 5 | Bamberg | Hassfurt

Arrive in endearing Bamberg this morning.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- *Bamberg Walking Tour.* Witness colorful Gothic and baroque masterpieces on a guided walking tour of this fairy-tale town. Visit the most famous fountain in Bamberg to see its centerpiece, the statue of Neptune. Then, continue towards the Obere Brücke and wander under the grand rococo archway to marvel at the red-roofed fishermen's houses and baroque mansions of Bamberg.
- **AHI Connects |** *Culinary Delights.* Learn about and sample local delicacies with Bavarian and Franconian influences during a culinary tour of Bamberg. Walk the town to visit a local deli, bakery, butcher shop and candy store.

Return to the ship in Hassfurt. Relax and utilize the ship's amenities while cruising to Würzburg.

Day 6 | Würzburg

Disembark for the day and enjoy a scenic drive to Würzburg, a romantic region of Bavaria.

Trier

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- ***Würzburg Residenz & City Walk.*** Relish a visit inside one of the finest baroque palaces in Europe. The renowned Würzburg Residence boasts its Imperial Hall, the Hall of Mirrors and an impressive staircase with a brilliant fresco. Stroll through the city center to see St. Kilian's Cathedral, the Neumünslerkirche, the Old Town Hall and the scenic market square.
- ***Romantic Road.*** Traverse the Franconian heartland along the Romantic Road, a famous historic path that offers captivating views of the varying landscapes, fairy-tale castles and alleyways decorated with colorful blooms. Then, spend time in the well-preserved medieval city, Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

Day 7 | Miltenberg

Miltenberg Walking Tour. Stroll through picturesque Miltenberg to relish the traditional half-timbered houses, historic taverns and 16th-century octagonal fountain. See the Town Hall and Germany's oldest working inn, Zum Riesen, with its storybook facade. Enjoy a liqueur tasting at St. Kilian Kellerei, a wine shop set above a 15th-century vaulted cellar.

Moselle white wine

Culinary Experience. Gather for lunch to experience a German tradition. Sip and socialize as you enjoy a local beer paired with fresh pretzels, sausages and mustards.

Day 8 | Koblenz

Koblenz Discovery. Wander the cobblestone lanes through this storied town, established over 2,000 years ago at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers. View awe-inspiring landmarks within Koblenz, including the Town Hall, the Church of Our Lady, the Old Castle and the Old Merchants' Hall. Continue to see the notable monument of Emperor Wilhelm II, situated on the German Corner.

Free Time: Spend the remainder of your evening in beautiful Koblenz at leisure.

Day 9 | Koblenz | Cochem

Witness colorful villages and tiered vineyards as you sail from Koblenz to Cochem through a narrow portion of the Moselle River.

Enrichment: ***Moselle Wine Tasting.*** Learn about and sample wines from the Moselle region with a sommelier from a nearby winery.

Koblenz

Cochem & the Reichsburg Castle. Learn about Cochem's rich folklore and admire its charming, half-timbered houses on a guided walk along the narrow, winding streets and stepped hills. Enjoy a tour of Reichsburg Castle, nestled on a hilltop with sweeping views of the town below. Here, you can savor a glass of wine and take in panoramic views of the Moselle River Valley from above.

Day 10 | Trier

Admire dramatic vineyards and noteworthy castles as you sail through the Moselle Valley. Enjoy lunch on board and set out to uncover the colorful history of Germany's oldest city.

Trier Walking Tour. Witness breathtaking art and architecture at every turn on a guided walking tour of beautiful Trier. See the Porta Nigra gate, the Cathedral of Trier, the Roman Baths and the Roman amphitheater.

This evening, raise a glass to your adventure during a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 11 | In Transit

Transfer to the Luxembourg airport for the return flights 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.

Activity Level

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 cruise for 9 nights aboard the **exclusively chartered,** first-class MS Amadeus Star.

Transfers {with baggage handling}

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Cruise program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 9 breakfasts, 8 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

- **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.
- **Electives** and 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.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Old Town, Würzburg

EXTEND YOUR STAY

Munich

Munich | 3 Nights

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Launch your journey through Germany with a three-night stay at a vibrant oasis located in the heart of Munich. This extension features a visit to the baroque Nymphenburg Palace to revel its Gallery of Beauties and a specially arranged lunch to sample delicious Bavarian specialties. See the Frauenkirche, Old Town Hall and St. Peter's Church with ample opportunity to relish the beautiful sites of Munich.

$1,495 per person, double occupancy | $1,990 single occupancy

EXTEND YOUR STAY

Luxembourg

Luxembourg | 2 Nights

{ Elective POST-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Indulge in the capital city of Luxembourg for two nights. Brimming with historic monuments, fascinating museums and beautiful architecture, Luxembourg has many treasures to share. Join an included city tour that showcases its many highlights. Visit the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, where more than 5000 U.S. service members are buried. During ample time at leisure, craft your own path through Luxembourg!

$995 per person, double occupancy | $ 1,390 single occupancy

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates ✈ **October 30 – November 9, 2026**

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

Tour dates* **October 31 – November 9, 2026**

* 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	Special Savings Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	$5,045	**$4,295**
D-Haydn (Midship)	$5,245	**$4,495**
C-Strauss (Aft)	$5,845	**$5,095**
B-Strauss (Midship)	$6,045	**$5,295**
A-Mozart (Aft)	$6,545	**$5,795**
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	$7,345	**$6,595**

***This Special Savings Price includes our $250 Early Booking and $500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is $750 per person.
Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

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

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/1934A?schoolId=69.

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

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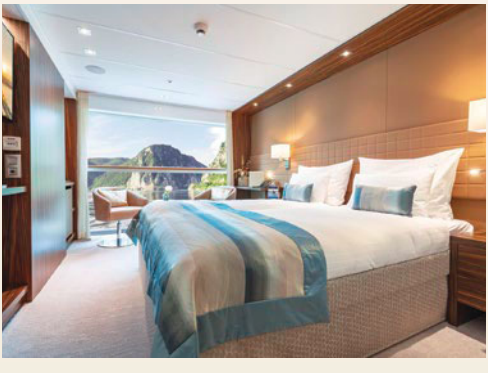
MS Amadeus Star

The stylish 82-cabin MS Amadeus Star, evocative of a grand European hotel, is staffed by a professional crew ready to pamper you throughout your journey. Step aboard and embark on a cruise where your comfort and enjoyment are the highest priority. In addition to attentive service and friendly hospitality, the MS Amadeus Star has a distinctly timeless ambiance. From the beautifully appointed surroundings to gourmet dining to generous and comfortable public spaces, your floating luxury hotel provides a stress-free stay while discovering Europe's most stunning rivers.



AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

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

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

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

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

Book your journey today!

844-414-0369 **https://uiaa.org/explorers/**

ALUMNI

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Explore storied villages along Europe's great rivers!

Committed to connecting travelers to the people, places and cultures of the world for more than 62 years.

Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

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