

Cruise the

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT
for Solo
Travelers

Rhine & Moselle Rivers

BASEL TO AMSTERDAM



SPONSORED BY

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association

August 25 – September 2, 2025

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

We invite you to join us on this enriching, seven-night cruising adventure along the Rhine and Moselle rivers, from Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands! Unpack once aboard your first-class ship, designed specifically for river cruising, and enjoy more time to relish the cultural riches of great river cities and towns in France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Throughout your voyage, delight in many highlights, such as sailing through the Rhine Gorge, a winding stretch renowned for its beauty, marveling at UNESCO World Heritage cathedrals in Cologne and Speyer and floating along Amsterdam's charming canals. Plus, tailor your experience with a choice of included excursions, featuring cycling, hiking and culinary tours, in select ports.

On this engaging program, gain meaningful historical and cultural insights from expert local guides and lecturers. You'll also enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group and feel the thrill of making your own discoveries. Space on this popular cruise always fills quickly, so we encourage you to make 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. **The 17th-century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht, Netherlands**
 2. **Cologne Cathedral, Germany**
 3. **Upper Middle Rhine Valley, Germany**
 4. **Speyer Cathedral, Germany**
 5. **Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt, France**
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A World of Discovery



Experience European history firsthand on this enriching journey to France, Germany and the Netherlands! Embark on a seven-night cruise that reveals the cultural riches of Old World cities and towns along storied rivers. Cruise through the legendary Rhine Gorge, marvel at magnificent cathedrals in Cologne, Speyer and Strasbourg, and savor the beauty of Amsterdam's vibrant, iconic canals.

*Top: Cologne Cathedral | Above: Upper Middle Rhine Valley
Cover: Amadeus fleet sailing the Rhine River
Mail panel: Wine tasting, Rüdesheim | Strasbourg*

Inspiring Moments



- Delight in the Alsatian flavor of Grande-Île, **Strasbourg's historic heart.**
- Feel enveloped in the **Rhine Valley's enchanting scenery** of hilltop castles, vine-laced slopes and medieval towns.
- Take in the **serene Moselle river valley** from the castle high above Cochem.
- Be awed by the Gothic grandeur of **Cologne Cathedral**, more than 600 years in the making.
- Revel in Amsterdam's wonderful ambience as you float along its **picturesque Golden Age canals.**
- Savor **regional wines** along the way.
- Experience five **UNESCO World Heritage sites.**

ALUMNI CAMPUS
ABROAD®



Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Zürich, Switzerland. 🚗

Day 2 | Zürich, Switzerland | Basel

Transfer 🚗 to Basel and board the river ship. Gather for a Welcome Reception tonight.

Day 3 | Strasbourg, France

The ship arrives in the capital of the culturally rich and picturesque Alsace region.

🌟PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Strasbourg Panorama.** Discover the unique blend of German and French influences here on a guided scenic tour and walk. See stately architecture and visit Notre-Dame Cathedral.
- **Strasbourg Canal Cruise & Petite France Walking Tour.** Discover centuries-old heritage of this charming quarter on a canal cruise and walking tour, and visit Notre-Dame Cathedral.
- **Culinary Strasbourg.** Sample authentic Alsatian dishes and wines in *winstubs*, small wine pubs, and other local cafés and shops, and visit Notre-Dame Cathedral.

Free Time: A shuttle between the ship and city center is available this afternoon for those who want to explore more of Strasbourg at leisure.

Day 4 | Speyer, Germany | Mannheim | Heidelberg

Speyer Walk. On a guided tour through one of Germany's oldest cities, walk through the grand, 13th-century Altpörtel, Old Gate, admire the extraordinary Romanesque cathedral and see other notable landmarks.

Enjoy lunch on the ship and cruise to Mannheim.

🌟PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Heidelberg Castle and Town.** Explore the red-walled castle above the Neckar Valley, and take the funicular down to the city center for a stroll around the romantic old town.
- **Hike Heidelberg's Philosopher's Way.** Trek up this famous path to the Philosopher's Garden for gorgeous river valley views. *(Active)*

Day 5 | Rüdesheim | Rhine Gorge | Koblenz

Panoramic Tour. Board the Rüdeshimer Winzerexpress train for a panoramic tour of the village and surrounding vineyards.

🌟PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Wines of the Rhine.** In Rüdesheim's old town, see the bustling Drosselgasse, and try wines from this renowned Riesling region at a winery.

Amsterdam





Cochem & Reichsburg Castle on the Moselle River

• **A Musical Walk in Time.** On a guided walk, see Rüdesheim's medieval walls and its main street, and then tour a delightful museum with self-playing musical instruments.

Cruise through the enchanting scenery of the Rhine Gorge, a splendid stretch lined with more than 40 castles and fortress ruins, and pass by the legendary Loreley Rock.

Enrichment: Castles & Legends of the Rhine.

Koblenz. Meander along cobblestone lanes through this storied town, established over 2,000 years ago where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. See the Church of Our Lady, the romantic Jesuitenplatz Square and other sites.

Day 6 | Koblenz | Cochem

After sailing through a narrow portion of the Moselle River, flanked by colorful villages and tiered vineyards, the ship moors in Cochem.

German Lunch. On the sun deck, gather for this traditional German treat of a glass of beer with fresh pretzels, sausages and mustards.

Cochem & the Reichsburg Castle. Learn about Cochem's rich folklore and admire its charming, half-timbered houses on a guided walk along narrow, winding streets and stepped hills draped in a tangle of grapevines. Then, tour the famed hilltop castle, admire panoramic views and savor a glass of wine.

Free Time: Explore more of charming Cochem during time at leisure this afternoon.

Return to the ship and visit a nearby winery to sample wine from the Moselle region.

Day 7 | Cologne

Cologne Walking Tour. In one of Germany's oldest cities, tour the old town on foot. Admire the exterior of the majestic Gothic cathedral and step inside to see the stone columns soaring upward toward the vaulted ceiling. Then, do some shopping or linger in a café. Enjoy lunch and an afternoon of cruising. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Koblenz, where the Rhine & Moselle rivers meet



View of Heidelberg from Philosopher's Way





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **Unpack once** and sail for **7 nights** aboard the **exclusively chartered**, first-class MS Amadeus Star.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 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.
- **Free time** to pursue your individual interests.
- 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.

Day 8 | Amsterdam, The Netherlands

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Rijksmuseum.** Take a panoramic tour en route to visit this national museum. Admire masterpieces by 17th-century Dutch artists, including Rembrandt, Vermeer and Hals.
- **Waterland Bicycle Ride.** Embrace the local cycling culture as you pedal through this lush area dotted with historic villages. Stop for a pastry break in Amsterdam Noord. *(Active)*
- **Canal District Walking Tour.** Join a walking tour of the Herengracht, one of the most beautiful canals in Amsterdam, and then visit the fascinating Museum of the Canals.

After lunch on the ship, enjoy some free time.

Enrichment: *Contemporary Europe.*

Canals of Amsterdam. On a canal cruise, see this beguiling city from the water with an expert guide. Admire the unfolding scenery of gabled canal houses and some of the city's 1,500 bridges and dozens of islands.

Day 9 | Amsterdam | In transit

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

Heidelberg Castle above the historic old town





Interlaken | 2 Nights

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Experience the incredible natural beauty of Switzerland during a two-night stay in the heart of the Bernese Oberland! This extension includes two nights at the deluxe Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa; a guided tour of Bern; daily breakfasts; the services of an AHI Travel Director and Hospitality desk; guide and driver gratuities; transfer and baggage handling from the ship to the hotel; and all taxes and service charges.

\$1,295 per person, double occupancy | \$2,040 single occupancy



Amsterdam | 2 Nights

{ Elective POST-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Explore picturesque Amsterdam in greater depth during an additional two-night stay! This extension includes two nights at a first-class hotel; a guided walk and visit to the National Maritime Museum; daily breakfasts; the services of an AHI Travel Director and Hospitality desk; guide gratuities; transfer and baggage handling from the hotel to the ship; 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 †

August 25 – September 2, 2025

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

Tour dates*

August 26 – September 2, 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)	\$4,540	\$3,790
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$4,740	\$3,990
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$5,240	\$4,490
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$5,440	\$4,690
A-Mozart	\$5,940	\$5,190
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$6,440	\$5,690

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.

Suites feature a balcony. Categories A, B and C feature a drop-down panoramic window. Categories D and E feature a 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/1855A?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.

MS Amadeus Star



The stylish 82-cabin MS Amadeus Star is evocative of a grand European hotel, where your comfort and enjoyment are the highest priority. The crew is dedicated to taking care of each traveler with renowned European hospitality. In addition to attentive service and friendly hospitality, the MS Amadeus Star has a distinctly timeless ambience. From the beautifully appointed surroundings and gourmet dining to generous and comfortable public spaces, your floating luxury hotel provides a stress-free stay while discovering 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

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.



Detail of "The Milkmaid,"
Johannes Vermeer, Rijksmuseum



Notre-Dame Cathedral, Strasbourg

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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Discover the timeless beauty of these iconic waterways!

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