



AMSTERDAM TO ZURICH **ENCHANTING RHINE**



LÜFTNER CRUISES • MS AMADEUS STAR
SEP 20 - OCT 2, 2024 | 13 DAYS | 27 MEALS
Excursions in Every Port • Journey Leader: Dan Benson

Reichsburg Castle in Cochem, Germany

Europe's magnificence truly comes to life along its extensive river network. This exceptional river cruise embarks from the Netherlands, then meanders through the heart of Europe, ultimately reaching Switzerland.

Throughout European history, people settled near its rivers, which served as vital trade and commerce routes. As we navigate along the mighty Rhine, we pass by legendary castles, majestic cathedrals, and explore age-old marketplaces.

Our voyage takes us through Switzerland, France, Germany and the Netherlands, all while maintaining a luxurious standard. We seamlessly blend breathtaking scenery with cultural enrichment, ensuring your every comfort is met. Designed with the epitome of river cruising in mind, we travel at a relaxed pace, allowing you to explore historic sites and cities. You'll enjoy comfortable staterooms, delectable cuisine, and wine included with dinners. Virtually everything is included in your package: most meals, all taxes, gratuities, and even the majority of your shore excursions, granting you the freedom to savour every moment of your cruise.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy airfare from Canadian cities listed
- 7-night cruise in an outside cabin on ms Amadeus Star
- 4-nights first class hotel accommodations in Lucerne and Zurich as indicated or similar with breakfast daily
- Scenic cruise on Lake Lucerne
- Baggage handling at hotels and shipside
- All meals during the cruise
- Coffee and tea available on board 24 hours a day
- Quality European wines with every dinner on board
- Cocktail reception, Welcome & Captain Gala dinners
- Escorted shore excursions in each port including audio headsets
- All gratuities (including guides and ship crew) and taxes for included services (including departure and port taxes)
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value included with the purchase of group airfare
- Services of your journey leader and/or cruise director
- Swiss folklore dinner show in Lucerne
- Complimentary use of onboard bicycles

Journey Leader

Rev. Daniel Benson, a seasoned traveller and United Church minister, is excited to share his enthusiasm for exploring new places with you. He has travelled extensively across Canada, Europe, the U.K., Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and studied in Switzerland, Israel, Scotland, France, and Italy. Dan's love of people and curiosity make him an intrepid tourist, seeking out the unusual, conversing with locals, and exploring the history and meaning of a place. His interests include art, architecture, history, literature, and beautiful scenery. Join him on this exciting journey along the enchanting Rhine.



Our Cruise Ship • ms AMADEUS Star

Joining the fleet in 2019, The beautiful AMADEUS Star retains the design essence found throughout the AMADEUS line. Spacious personal accommodations, floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows in every cabin, and choice of bed configuration in all categories (double or twin bedding).

Purpose-built to sail the safe scenic waters of Europe's rivers, she has three decks with cabins and public rooms plus a spacious Sun Deck for viewing the countryside.

When the sun lowers in the Western skies, slip into your favorite evening clothes and wander into the elegant wine bar. Soft voices fill the air as new friends gather to enjoy a four-course dinner as the AMADEUS Star's attentive staff anticipates your every request.



SEP 20, Friday

DEPART CANADA

Tour members board their overnight flight to Amsterdam.

SEP 21, Saturday

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Arrive in Amsterdam and transfer to the pier. This afternoon, embark and unpack. A welcome cocktail, followed by a specially-prepared welcome dinner awaits. Enjoy a Shanty Choir performance to end the evening. The vessel remains in Amsterdam overnight.

ms Amadeus Star (7 nights)

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SEP 22, Sunday **AMSTERDAM / UTRECHT**

This morning offers various options. Explore Amsterdam via a canal cruise, or visit Volendam and Edam for Dutch cheese tasting and meet the vessel in Utrecht. Another choice is an excursion to Haarlem and the Cathedral of St. Bavo. In the afternoon, enjoy cruising on the IJsselmeer, one of Holland's largest freshwater lakes. In the evening, dine with your fellow travellers. BLD

SEP 23, Monday **COLOGNE**

After breakfast, witness our arrival at the stunning cathedral city of Cologne. Explore the historic Old Town with its striking High Gothic architecture, visit the iconic twin-spired Cologne Cathedral, and savor the renowned Kölsch beer brewed in the city. You can either enjoy a relaxed afternoon or opt for a more active excursion to Siebengebirge National Park and the remnants of Castle "Drachenfels" (Dragon Rock). BLD

SEP 24, Tuesday **COCHEM**

Our vessel cruises along the Moselle River, known for its steep terraced vineyards and as Germany's 5th largest wine region. After lunch, we reach Cochem. Explore the charming town with its narrow streets, medieval gates, and churches on your own, or take a guided city tour including the impressive Reichsburg Castle. Following dinner on board, visit a local winery to taste the region's exceptional wines before continuing to Koblenz. BLD

SEP 25, Wednesday **KOBLENZ / RUDESHEIM**

Explore Koblenz on foot and by cable car to the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress overlooking the town. In the afternoon, cruise through the stunning Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its vineyard-covered riverbanks and picturesque castles. We then reach the winegrowers town of Rudesheim. Choose between a walking tour of the town with a visit to the Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum's private collection of self-playing instruments, or a visit to a local vineyard for wine tasting and a stroll through the lively Drosselgasse with its wine taverns, garden restaurants, beer bars, and live music venues. BLD

SEP 26, Thursday **MANNHEIM / SPEYER**

Today we dock in Mannheim, offering an excursion to Heidelberg, renowned for its beautiful Heidelberg Castle. Later we visit Speyer, famous for its cathedral where eight Roman emperors and German kings rest. You can opt for a guided tour of the city, including a visit to the medieval Jewish Mikvha, or explore independently. To conclude your day, savor the Captain's Gala Dinner back on board. BLD

SEP 27, Friday **STRASBOURG**

In the morning, we reach the vibrant capital of Alsace, Strasbourg. Discover the city's highlights, including the famous Straßburger Münster cathedral and the Petite France quarter, a former mill and tanner district. Strasbourg boasts half-timbered houses, the Ponts Couverts, the Palais de Rohan, and the Council of Europe, all within its medieval charm. The Grand Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is connected to the city by 22 stone bridges. Explore Strasbourg by canal boat on a guided tour. After lunch on board, enjoy the scenic Rhine views as we make our way toward Switzerland, our final destination. BLD

SEP 28, Saturday **BASEL / LUCERNE**

Disembark and meet your local guide for a walking tour in Basel, Switzerland's second-largest city, strategically



Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site



Heidelberg Castle, Germany



Speyer Cathedral, Germany



Petite France Quarter, Strasbourg

situated at the crossroads of Switzerland, France, and Germany. Explore its rich history through landmarks like the medieval Town Hall and charming 18th-century homes. Depart from Basel and have free time for lunch on your own. On our way to Lucerne, make a stop to visit the Lion Monument. In the evening, indulge in a Swiss Folklore Show accompanied by dinner.

Hotel Astoria or similar (2 nights) BD

SEP 29, Sunday LUCERNE

Enjoy a walking tour of this charming medieval lakeside town. You'll have the opportunity to explore its picturesque cobblestone streets, admire monuments, fountains, public squares, covered bridges, and the vibrant frescoed buildings. In the afternoon, you're free to indulge in shopping for Swiss-made watches, knives, and delicious chocolates. B

SEP 30, Monday LUCERNE / ZURICH

We check out from our hotel, and make our way to Lake Lucerne. Here, relish a serene cruise across the tranquil waters of Lake Lucerne, heading towards Vitznau, where you'll be surrounded by breathtaking mountain vistas. Upon arrival, head off on a scenic drive that takes you past three lakes before reaching Zurich. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure before we meet for dinner.

Hotel Crown Plaza or similar (2 nights) BD

OCT 1, Tuesday ZURICH

Begin your day with breakfast, followed by a half-day tour to the Rhine Falls in Schaffhausen, Europe's largest waterfall. The tour includes a boat ride that takes you right up to the rock at Rhine Falls, where you'll witness the incredible force of about 600,000 liters of water per second rushing down the falls. The afternoon and evening are yours to explore the town at your leisure. We conclude our day with dinner at the hotel. BD

OCT 2, Wednesday DEPART ZURICH

All too soon our journey comes to an end as we bid farewell to Zurich and prepare for our return flight home. B



Lucerne, Switzerland

CT Rating 2.5/5 - Slightly Challenging: Excursions and land arrangements include some extensive walks, often over rough surfaces. Cobblestones are used in many European cities, making walking more difficult. Access to some decks and to shore in some ports may involve steep steps. Members should be in good physical condition, able to walk a kilometre or more without assistance to fully enjoy this cruise.

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Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Cruise / Tour Only	\$7,025
Toronto	\$8,645
Ottawa / Montreal	\$8,795
St. John's / Fredericton	\$8,955
Halifax / Winnipeg / Thunder Bay	\$8,895
Regina / Saskatoon	\$8,995
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	\$8,955
Victoria	\$8,995

Rates are per person based on sharing a Cat C-4 Outside Twin (panoramic window) on Haydn Deck. Cruise/Tour only costs exclude airfares and airport transfers. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carrier are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

Supplement to Upgrade to a Higher Category

CATEGORY/DESCRIPTION/DECK	PER PERSON
C-1 Deluxe Twin (Haydn - panoramic window)	\$430
B-4* Deluxe Twin (Strauss - drop down panoramic window)	\$930
B-1* Deluxe Twin (Strauss - drop down panoramic window) ...	\$1,240
A-1* Deluxe Twin (Mozart - drop down panoramic window)....	\$1,680
Suite Amadeus Suite (Mozart - walk out exterior balcony)	\$2,360

*Cabins have a drop-down panoramic window that extends across the entire width of the cabin and can open to make the stateroom become its own balcony.

Stateroom categories are subject to availability at the time of booking - book early for the best choice. See the deck plan for full details on various categories available. Singles are extremely limited, please enquire for rates or visit our website. River cruise price is based on sharing a twin-bedded stateroom with a private bathroom. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes, and fees effective October 2023, and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. This river cruise will be escorted with a minimum of 20 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window - please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due June 12, 2024
Deposit is \$1,200 per stateroom

To reserve your spot on this cruise, simply complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating cabin type and home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



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