

### SPONSORED BY



Traveling Aggies

**JULY 25-AUG. 8, 2016** 



which twists and turns through ancient towns, medieval villages, past gorgeous churches and ruins from another time. Flowing through much of Eastern Europe, the Danube is steeped in thousands of years of history. Known since medieval times as a major thoroughfare for trade and commerce, it also was a frontier of the Roman and Byzantine empires, and in ancient and modern times, it has been an inspiration to artists, writers and composers.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ➤ Solo traveler friendly; single supplement waived.
- ► Explore the timeless cities of Prague, Czech Republic, and Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Cruise for eight nights aboard the exclusively chartered MS Amadeus Silver.
- ➤ Discover the history and culture of **eight countries**.
- ➤ An included excursion in each port of call, plus Personalize Your Cruise with a choice of included excursions in select ports.
- ► Experience Eastern
  European culture, and see
  Old World capitals, storybook
  villages and beautiful Danube
  River landscapes.
- ► Gain insight into local history and culture during **exclusive lectures.**

# | UNESCO |

Four UNESCO World Heritage sites are featured in this program:

Budapest, Hungary, including the banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue; the Historic Center of Vienna, Austria; the Wachau Cultural Landscape; and the Historic Center of Prague, Czech Republic.

# | PERSONALIZE YOUR CRUISE |

**New for 2016,** enjoy a customizable journey with a choice of included excursions in select ports of call. At no extra cost to you, we have enhanced the itineraries for our European river cruises to offer a personalized experience. Enjoy a bike ride along a vital waterway, explore the culinary and winemaking traditions of different regions, take a closer look at historical and cultural places and events, or tour the cities you have always dreamed of visiting. These excursions are detailed in the itinerary.

# Howdy, Ags!

We invite you to join us on a cultural journey to explore elegant Eastern European cities and Old World towns along the storied Danube River. We'll spend three nights in Prague, Czech Republic, before embarking on our cruise in Passau, Germany. As we travel the Danube, we'll stop to visit historic abbeys, admire centuries of architectural flair and wander through regal palaces.

We'll disembark the ship in Vidin, Bulgaria, and venture into the Balkan peninsula to explore Sofia.

Travel in comfort and enjoy the excursions, cultural events and meals selected especially for you. New for 2016, enjoy a customizable journey with a choice of included excursions in select ports of call.

A dedicated travel staff is committed to ensuring you create many fond memories on your journey. This is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture, cuisine and landscapes of eight countries on a deluxe travel program.

With all its special features, this once-in-a-lifetime adventure is an incomparable value.

Space is limited and sure to sell out quickly, so make your reservations today!

Gig 'em!

Jermifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director, Travel Programs
The Association of Former Students

"Traveling Aggies trips are always exemplary! We look forward to more of their well-planned and perfectly executed trips in the future"

> Robert '66 and Darlene Mosty

"I began my trip not knowing anyone and ended with fond memories and new friends."

Dr. Carol Cass '75

"Absolutely unbelievable scenery, you have to see to believe. Pictures just don't do it justice."

Hubert Hillman '75

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel







#### DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for Prague, Czech Republic. ♣

\*Provided for AHI FlexAir passengers.

#### DAY TWO

### PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Upon arrival, transfer<sup>★</sup> to the hotel.

**Independent Exploration:** Spend the afternoon at leisure in Prague, or settle in at the hotel.

Later, gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception.

#### DAY THREE

#### PRAGUE

### **Excursion:** Prague Castle and Old Town.

See the Castle Square; the Chapel of the Holy Cross; and the Prague Castle Gallery, home to works of art by Titian, Rubens and other renowned artists. Visit the Royal Palace and St. Vitus Cathedral. Walk along the Golden Lane, then continue to Charles Bridge and the Old Town Square.

**Independent Exploration:** The remainder of the day is at leisure.

### DAY FOUR PRAGUE

## Excursion: Prague's Historic Jewish

**Quarter.** Explore the Jewish Quarter and the Prague National Jewish Museum, a showcase of Jewish history and religious treasures.

**Independent Exploration:** Spend your last afternoon in Prague pursuing individual interests.

### DAY FIVE

BID

## PRAGUE | PASSAU, GERMANY

After breakfast, transfer to Passau, Germany, and embark the ship.

**Excursion:** *Picturesque Passau.* Passau has been called "one of the most beautifully situated towns in the world." See the many highlights of this delightful village, including the medieval Veste Oberhaus, Rathaus, Niedernburg Abbey and St. Stephen's Cathedral.

This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Aboard Reception and Dinner as the ship sails for Melk, Austria.



DAY SIX

BILID

MELK, AUSTRIA | DÜRNSTEIN

**Excursion:** *Melk Abbey.* Visit Melk's Benedictine abbey, an architectural jewel with impressive interiors. The baroque building dates from 1736, and an amazing view of the Mighty Danube awaits on the abbey's terrace. This afternoon, enjoy daytime sailing through the picturesque Wachau Valley, one of the

**Personalize Your Cruise:** Choose from three included excursions in Dürnstein.

finest landscapes in all of Europe.

**Excursion:** *Dürnstein Walking Tour.* Here, where King Richard the Lionheart of England was held captive during the Crusades, tour baroque architecture, pass by gorgeous scenery, see vineyards and visit the magnificent Stiftskirche.

**Excursion:** *Wachau Cycling.* During this two-hour adventure, explore parts of the 745-mile (1,200-kilometer) Danube Bicycle Trail, which runs from Germany to Hungary, with an expert guide.

**Excursion:** *Wachau Winery.* Head out of Dürnstein, passing stunning vineyards and lush scenery en route to a local winery, where you will enjoy a tour and samples from its cellar.



DAY SEVEN

BILID

**V**IENNA

Educational Focus: Timeless Vienna.

Discover the history of Vienna.

**Personalize Your Cruise:** Choose from three included excursions in this port.

**Excursion:** *Imperial Vienna.* Explore the Imperial Apartments of Hofburg Palace, then drive along the Ringstrasse, one of the most magnificent boulevards in the world. See the University, the Houses of Parliament and the Opera House.

**Excursion:** *Art and Wine.* Overlooking the Danube, the 12th-century Klosterneuburg Monastery, home to the Verdun Altar, boasts a winding cellar. Explore the maze, learn about wine making and enjoy a sampling. Afterward, return to Vienna for a short tour.

**Excursion:** *Waltz Vienna.* A panoramic city tour ends at Beethoven Platz, where you will meet professional ballroom guides in traditional dress who will teach you the history of the Viennese waltz. Then, enjoy a walking tour of Vienna's First District.

**Independent Exploration:** Spend the afternoon at leisure in Vienna.

DAY EIGHT

BILID

BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA
Educational Focus: The Velvet

**Revolution.** This pivotal event led to the end of communism in Czechoslovakia and preceded the country's split into two countries.

**Personalize Your Cruise:** Choose from three included excursions in this port.

Excursion: *Bratislava City Walking Tour.*Marvel at St. Martin's Cathedral, once the site of Hungarian coronations. See the Slovak National Theatre and St. Michael's Gate, the only remaining gate of the city's medieval



fortifications. Continue to Primate's Palace. then visit a café for a lesson in pastry making.

**Excursion:** Classical Music. Once the stage for Mozart, Beethoven, Hummel and more, Bratislava has a storied musical history. Explore Old Town, focusing on the venues associated with these renowned composers, then tour the Historic Opera Building.

Excursion: The Old Capital. Discover Pressburg, as Bratislava once was called. See the imposing Bratislava Castle. Once the royal residence, the castle now serves as the venue for the Slovak Parliament and houses collections of the Slovak National Museum. Afterward, tour Old Town.

### DAY NINE

BILID

#### **BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

Personalize Your Cruise: Choose from three included excursions in this port.

Excursion: Highlights of Budapest. This capital was once two cities — Buda and Pest — on opposite sides of the Danube. Visit Heroes' Square, the Opera House and the Gothic-style Parliament Building. Enjoy stunning views from Fisherman's Bastion.

**Excursion:** *Living Local.* Take a guided tour of Budapest's 19th-century Great Market Hall. Continue to a local coffee house to learn how pastry chefs craft the tastiest strudels. Enjoy a piece of strudel and a sampling of Palinka, or Eastern European schnapps.

Excursion: Jewish Interest Tour. Explore Budapest's Jewish Quarter, including a visit to the 19th-century Great Synagogue, the largest



Jews who fell into the Danube after being shot by Nazis in the 1940s. End your tour at the Holocaust Memorial Center.

### DAY TEN

BILID

### PÉCS

**Excursion:** *Pécs.* Enjoy a walking tour of this city, known for its Roman ruins and Ottoman mosques, which have been turned into churches. Also, discover the flavors of the region during a wine tasting.

#### DAY ELEVEN

BILID

#### BELGRADE, SERBIA

Educational Focus: Modern Serbia. Get an in-depth look at life in Serbia.

**Excursion:** *Highlights of Belgrade.* This fourth-century capital now is a hub of



architecture and culture. Marvel at the ornate Orthodox cathedral and step into St. Sava, a shining feature of Belgrade's cityscape.

**Independent Exploration:** Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. A shuttle will be available.

**Cultural Event:** After dinner tonight, enjoy a local folk show on the ship.

#### DAY TWELVE

BILID

### IRON GATE GORGE | DOBRETA-TURNU SEVERIN, ROMANIA | ORSOVA

Sail past the dramatic cliffs of the Carpathian Mountains. Enter the Iron Gate Gorge, one of Europe's most magnificent natural wonders.

**Excursion:** *Drobeta-Turnu Severin & Orsova.* The three hamlets — Drobeta, Turnu and Severin — that compose this village date from Roman times. Tour the city center and admire statues of King Decebal and Roman Emperor Trajan. Visit the World War I memorial, then drive through the scenic Iron Gate region to Orsova for a live organ concert at The Catholic Cathedral.

#### DAY THIRTEEN

BIL

#### VIDIN, BULGARIA

After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to Sofia.

# Excursion: The Ancient City of Vidin.

During a panoramic tour of one of Bulgaria's oldest towns, see the Mosque, Library of Osman Pazvantouglu and other highlights. Visit the 17th-century St. Panthaleimon Church and the ninth-century Baba Vida fortress.

**Local Flavor:** Savor a memorable lunch and stunning views of rock formations at The Rocks restaurant.

After lunch, continue to Sofia and check in to the hotel.



#### DAY FOURTEEN

BID

#### SOFIA

**Educational Focus:** A Prologue to the Bulgarian Revival. Learn about the condtions and events that led to the Bulgarian Revival of the 19th century, when Ottoman forces were defeated and expelled.

**Excursion:** *Sofia.* Bulgaria's capital is a fascinating wonder. Today, discover its many landmarks. See the ancient ruins of Serdica. Admire St. George Rotunda, Alexander Batenberg Square, home to the former Royal Palace, and the Cathedral of St. Alexander of Neva.

**Independent Exploration:** The remainder of the day is free to continue exploring Sofia on your own.

In the evening, join your fellow travelers for a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant, and enjoy a live folk show.

#### DAY FIFTEEN

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#### IN TRANSIT

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city. \( \frac{1}{2} \)

**NOTE:** Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Excursions may require walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or other uneven surfaces.

Included meals indicated each day as  $B \mid L \mid D = Breakfast \mid Lunch \mid Dinner$ .





# MS AMADEUS SILVER

The state-of-the-art MS Amadeus Silver offers the utmost in service, safety and comfort. Step into the elegant reception area and immerse yourself in the ambience of a high-end hotel. Relax on the sun deck, indulge in a soothing massage, browse in the boutique or connect with friends at the Internet station. If you wish to be more active, practice your golf game on the putting green or exercise in the fitness room. Savor international cuisine at the restaurant's breakfast and lunch buffets, and enjoy regional specialties at dinner. At the end of each day, return to the comforts of your cabin, appointed in bright, modern décor and featuring a river view, a satellite TV and a private bathroom with shower. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available, but access may be limited.

# AHI EXCLUSIVE RIVER CRUISE EXTRAS

### All AHI River Cruises feature:

- •A first-class river cruise ship providing **all outward-facing accommodations**; friendly, personalized service; limited capacity; and exclusively designed sailing itineraries.
- Delicious dining aboard the ship featuring special extras such as morning coffee, wine with lunch and dinner and expertly prepared culinary specialties of the region.
- •Expert local guides leading thoughtfully designed excursions to enrich your experience of the area.



### Reserve your Danube River cruise program, today!

#### Trip #:3-22301W



The Association of Former Students 505 George Bush Drive

Attn: Traveling Aggies

College Station, TX 77840-2918

Fax: 979-845-9263 Phone: 979-845-7514

Toll Free: 800-633-7514 Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

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NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL. The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to them-selves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promo tional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINER-ARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancel lation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s). BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline poli-cy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with our pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

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CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. {Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.} Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAIL-ABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

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# LAND/CRUISE PROGRAM

# July 26-Aug. 8, 2016

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price
E-Haydn (Aft)	\$4,945	\$250	\$4,695*
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$5,145	\$250	\$4,895*
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$5,445	\$250	\$5,195*
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$5,545	\$250	\$5,295*
A-Mozart (Aft)	\$5,745	\$250	\$5,495*
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$6,245	\$250	\$5,995*

Suites feature a balcony. Categories A, B, and C feature a French balcony. Categories D and E feature a window.

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

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

# AHI FLEXAIR | July 25-Aug. 8, 2015

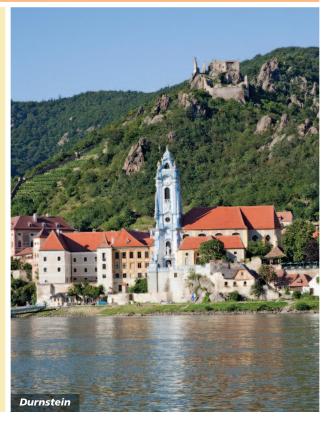
Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans. AHI FlexAir participants automatically receive flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms.

# **ITINERARY**

- Day 1 Depart Gateway City\*
- Day 2 Prague, Czech Republic
- Day 3 Prague
- Day 4 Prague
- Day 5 Prague | Passau, Germany
- Day 6 Melk, Austria | Dürnstein
- Day 7 Vienna
- Day 8 Bratislava, Slovakia
- Day 9 Budapest, Hungary
- Day 10 Pécs
- Day 11 Belgrade, Serbia
- Day 12 Dobreta-Turnu Severin, Romania | Orsova
- Day 13 Vidin, Bulgaria
- Day 14 Sofia
- Day 15 Return to Gateway City\*

**Note:** Itinerary subject to change.

★Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.



# | INCLUDED FEATURES |

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

- Three nights in Prague, Czech Republic, at the deluxe Art Deco Imperial Hotel.
- Eight nights aboard the MS Amadeus Silver.
- **Two nights** in Sofia, Bulgaria, at the deluxe **Sofia Hotel Balkan**.

# TRANSFERS AND PORTERAGE

 Deluxe motor coach transfers from the Prague hotel to the ship and from the ship to the Sofia hotel, including baggage handling.

### **MEALS**

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including 13 breakfasts, eight lunches and nine dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with lunch and dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Attend special a Welcome Reception and a Farewell Dinner.

# YOUR EXCITING TRAVEL PROGRAM

(For details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs,** presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- Personal VOX listening devices allow you to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Excursions in each port of call, including the opportunity to Personalize Your Cruise with a choice of included excursions in select ports.
- Folk shows that showcase the unique cultures of your destinations.

### MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated
   Passenger Service Representative prior to departure.
- Services of an **experienced Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of all excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

# | ACCOMMODATIONS |



# ART DECO IMPERIAL HOTEL PRAGUE

Built in the early 1900s, the elegant Art Deco Imperial Hotel is listed on Prague's register of historic buildings. With an art deco façade and a curvilinear art nouveau interior, the hotel is one of the city's architectural gems. It sits in the heart of historic Prague near restaurants, shops and historic attractions. A spa, fitness center and Complimentary Wi-Fi are among the hotel's many amenities, and the Café Imperial is considered to be one of the most beautiful restaurants in the city.



# SHERATON SOFIA HOTEL BALKAN

Located in the center of Sofia near cultural and historic sites, restaurants and upscale shops, the Sofia Hotel Balkan is a city landmark. After exploring Sofia, enjoy fine dining in the hotel's restaurant or linger in the hotel's lounge over a cocktail before retiring to your comfortably appointed guest room. With an array of services and amenities designed to meet all your needs, the Sofia Hotel Balkan is a true home away from home during your travels. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.



Traveling Aggies

The Association of Former Students Attn: Traveling Aggies

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