

CRUISE

THE
FACE
OF

SAIL FROM
BUDAPEST TO
AMSTERDAM



Europe

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Traveling Aggies

JUNE 27 - JULY 12, 2015

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Unpack once and experience **five countries** as you sail on the **MS Amadeus Silver** between Budapest and Amsterdam.
- Marvel at **Vienna's Hofburg Palace**, the **Melk Abbey** and the **Cologne Cathedral**.
- Cruise through the **Main-Danube Canal**.
- On land, trace Germany's **Romantic Road** from Würzburg to Rothenburg.
- Experience an incomparable **organ concert** at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Passau.
- Admire the **Loreley** as you sail through the lovely Middle Rhine Valley.

Left: Dürnstein, the Pearl of the Wachau Valley, on the Danube



Imagine thousands of years of European history gently delivered to your doorstep as you glide along the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers. Almost every waking moment reveals an enlightening visual feast, from fairytale castles perched on jagged bluffs to terraced vineyards, Bavarian villages and spirited capital cities built on the banks of Europe's waterways. With panoramic views and large stateroom picture windows onboard, plus seamless walking tours and excursions steps from your modern, elegant ship, you'll indulge in a rich adventure steeped in tradition. Explore

the Romantic Road, a medieval trade route.

Sail through the Main-Danube Canal, a civil engineering marvel inspired by Charlemagne. And take your seat at a

special organ concert in Passau. From regional dishes to soul-stirring vistas, embrace the face of Europe on this epic three-river route.





Left:

Aggstein Castle
ruins on
the Danube River,
Wachau Valley,
lower Austria

Howdy, Ags!

This two-week adventure from Budapest to Amsterdam traces the time-honored features of the continent along its most legendary waterways and is considered the ultimate European river cruising.

Aboard the MS Amadeus Silver, a shining example of the new generation of river cruise ships, you'll enjoy well-appointed accommodations, ample amenities and the professional service of a boutique hotel.

Cruise the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers, as well as the man-made engineering marvel, the Main-Danube Canal. Explore five countries, visiting fascinating ports of call, admiring breathtaking landscapes and discovering hidden treasures with the guidance of local experts.

Along the way, you'll benefit from the value and convenience of group travel without the feeling of being herded from place to place. Plus, you'll enjoy preferred access to popular attractions that will deepen your understanding of Europe's historic landmark sites and interesting cultures, including a larger-than-life organ concert in Passau, Germany.

In addition, a dedicated team of travel experts will assist you with all of your travel needs before your departure and help you customize your trip with extensions or special arrangements. Space is limited and this popular program is sure to sell out quickly, so make your reservation today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

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

Previously we have traveled independently. This trip was the first tour we have ever taken and it exceeded our expectations. The itinerary, the staff, and the arrangements made through the Traveling Aggies were all very positive experiences.

**Wally '57 & Punky
Penberthy**

We experienced a first class trip. The Association of Former Students and AHI did a great job.

Dan '77 & Lynda Kaspar

Travel the world and spread the spirit of Texas A&M. Join the fun and travel with The Association of Former Students' travel program.

Roger '52 & Helen Jenswold



Left: The Imperial Palace, Vienna | **Below:** Bratislava



Hungary

BUDAPEST • Spanning the mighty Danube, Budapest ranks as one of Europe's most striking capitals and premier spa resorts. This Pearl of the Danube is a twin city born in 1873 when historic and romantic Buda on the west bank and bustling Pest on the east bank were united. Budapest's spectacular panorama can best be appreciated from the series of bridges that crisscross the river. Its famous Parliament Building, rich in Byzantine architecture and Gothic flair, is one of the city's most alluring sights. Hungarian nationalism is honored in grandiose Heroes' Square and by 700-year-old St. Matthias Church, a symbol of the city's rich, yet often tragic history. The seven round white towers of distinctive Fishermen's Bastion represent the seven Magyar tribes that gave rise to the nation 1,000 years ago.

Slovakia

BRATISLAVA • An ancient coronation city, Bratislava was the seat of power for the Kingdom of Hungary for more than three centuries in the Middle Ages. Today, it is the capital of Slovakia, a historic region with a charm and character all its own. The compact Old Town is replete with a lively main square, preserved fortifications and austere Gothic

UNESCO

This program features the following UNESCO sites: **Wachau Cultural Landscape** and the **Historic Centre of Vienna** in Austria; the **Upper Middle Rhine Valley**, the town of **Bamberg**, **Cologne Cathedral** and **Würzburg Residence** with the Court Gardens and Residence Square in Germany; and **Budapest** in Hungary.

buildings. Among them, the pale pink-and-white Primate's Palace was built in 1778 and topped with various marble statues and a large cast-iron cardinal's hat.

Austria

VIENNA • Elegant and regal, Austria's crown jewel delights with Hapsburg-era architecture, lush parks and an incomparable musical heritage including Vienna's State Opera House, known for performances of works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss. Explore glorious Hapsburg palace, the former imperial residence in Vienna. See the Ringstrasse, one of the most magnificent boulevards in the world, the historic university and more. At your leisure, perhaps partake in a Viennese afternoon ritual: robust coffee and delicious sacher torte in the shadow of St. Stephen's Cathedral's skyscraping bell tower.

DÜRNSTEIN • The Danube flows between the verdant banks and rocky crags of the beautiful Wachau Valley. It was in Dürnstein, the Pearl of the Wachau Valley, that



WATERWAYS OF TRADE, CULTURE AND BEAUTY



RHINE RIVER • MAIN RIVER • MAIN-DANUBE CANAL • DANUBE RIVER

For 2,000 years, the Rhine River has been the European continent's chief waterway and trade route, linking Central Europe to the North Sea. At its northern end, the river lazily winds through green, peaceful plains and gentle valleys. In the amazing Rhine Gorge, towering escarpments are crowned by fabled castles steeped in myth and mystery. The lush vineyards, tangled woods and ancient ruins set atop rocky spurs are a photographer's dream. Stemming from the Rhine, the Main River (pronounced "mine") meanders past the scenic towns, towers and turrets of Bavaria into the man-made Main-Danube Canal at Bamberg. An engineering marvel of the 20th century that realized Charlemagne's dream, the canal steps along a succession of locks in the picturesque Altmühl Valley and Germany's largest nature preserve. At Kelheim, the canal joins the storied blue Danube River, celebrated in song and saga. This great river travels an impressive 1,800-mile course, carving a serpentine path across eight countries, before ultimately reaching the Black Sea. Throughout the ages, the Danube has been a conduit for cultural influences, and the historic and architectural attractions that line its banks are legendary.

Richard the Lionheart was held prisoner in the 12th century on his way back to England from the Crusades. The treasures within its ancient walls and towers include outstanding baroque architecture, a Renaissance palace and the poignant remains of a 13th-century Gothic church. Step inside the blue-and-white baroque Stiftskirche built on the riverbank.

MELK • Perched on a bluff over the Danube, Melk exhibits a majestic silhouette. Its massive Benedictine Abbey is one of Austria's most breathtakingly ornate monastic houses and a nearly perfect rendering of baroque architectural grandeur. Books as old as 1,200 years are among 100,000 volumes in the library, a quiet testament to the



considerable monastic influence on science and culture through the ages.

Germany

PASSAU • Baron Alexander von Humboldt, the 19th-century scientist, explorer and writer, described Passau as “one of the seven most beautiful cities in the world.” Overlooking the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers, Passau’s appeal remains undiminished by the passing centuries. Witness Passau’s landmarks including Veste Oberhaus, a medieval fortress overlooking the town, and the 13th-century Rathaus, featuring painted murals depicting the town’s history. At the grand St. Stephen’s Cathedral, enjoy an unforgettable organ concert. With 17,974 pipes, the organ is said to be the largest cathedral organ in the world.



REGENSBURG • This enchanting city, seemingly untouched by time, is a vibrant testimony to the passing centuries. An ancient Roman citadel stands above the original Celtic settlement. One of the fort’s gates, constructed in A.D. 179, still survives, while the Stone Bridge spanning the Danube dates from the early 12th century. Nearby, discover the lovely Weltenburg Abbey, the oldest monastery in Bavaria.

NUREMBERG • No other region lives up to the quintessential image of Germany better than Bavaria. Nuremberg, the state’s second-largest city,



*Top: Würzburg
Above right: Nuremberg
Above left: Melk Abbey
Left: Strauss Monument, Vienna*



Top: The Middle Rhine Valley, Katz Castle and legendary Loreley | Above: Melk Abbey

has a style that is gracious and elegant yet open and friendly. The Old Town is virtually a separate medieval village with thick, stone walls, meandering streets, half-timbered houses and quaint shops. See the courthouse where the Nuremberg Trials were held, the hilltop Imperial Castle, and the colorful open-air market punctuated by an elegant 14th-century Gothic fountain.

BAMBERG • The enchanting town of Bamberg is one of the few towns in Germany to have survived the bombings of World War II intact. Built by archbishops on seven hills, Bamberg overflows with red-roofed fishermen's houses, baroque mansions and medieval streets. Beer lovers flock from near and far to taste Bamberg's smoked beer, first brewed in 1536.

WÜRZBURG • Germany's greatest baroque city, Würzburg is backed by vineyard-covered hills. Towering over the banks of the Main is its 12th-century Festung Marienberg, an impressive imperial fortress. Explore the prince-bishop's 18th-century Residenz. Surrounded by gardens in the heart of town, it is one of the largest and most beautiful

Bewitching Beauties: **WACHAU VALLEY, LORELEY & THE MIDDLE RHINE**

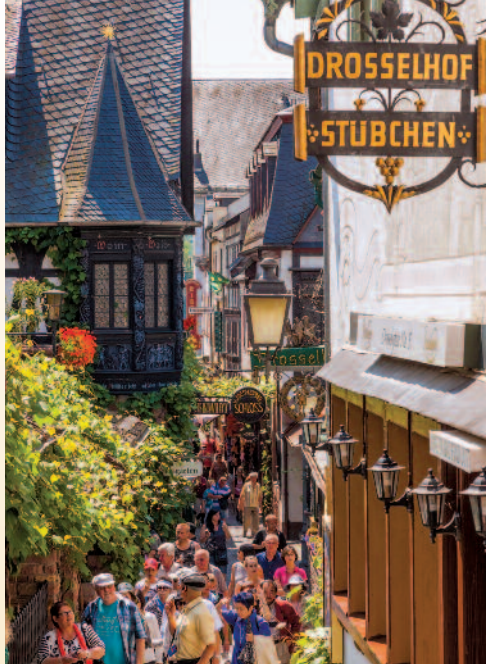
The 40-mile stretch of the Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is home to some of the most stunning scenery in the world, including some 40 hilltop castles and legendary Loreley, the 450 foot slate rock formation that reaches out of the Middle Rhine at its narrowest, deepest point.

Because of fast-flowing currents and the narrowness of the river, Loreley has witnessed many wrecks, including wooden dinghies that crashed into her rocks in the Middle Ages. According to one tale, treasure-guarding gnomes dwelled in her caves.

Loreley has inspired many artists and writers, including German author Clemens Brentano who composed a ballad in the early 1880s, in which a lovesick maiden plummets to her death from the top of Loreley. A few years later, an epic poem by Heinrich Heine told of doomed shipmen seduced by a golden-haired siren atop Loreley.

Wachau Valley, the 24-mile stretch of the Danube, between the towns of Krems and Melk, is equally bewitching. In fact, Wachau's cultural landscape was deemed a UNESCO World Heritage site because its architecture, settlements and agricultural use of the land vividly illustrate a medieval landscape brimming with old world character.

palaces in Germany. A walking tour takes you to St. Kilian's Cathedral, the Old Town Hall and the city's bustling marketplace. Also, enjoy a scenic drive along the renowned Romantic Road.



Above: Drosselgasse, in the heart of Rüdesheim |
Left: Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



MILTENBERG • Medieval tower gates guard the approach to beautiful Miltenberg. The charming market square, with its 16th-century fountain and unusual half-timbered houses, is one of the most photographed in all of Germany. During leisure time, perhaps stop for homemade wurst and a glass of apple wine at one of the cozy wine taverns.

RÜDESHEIM • Although ancient ambience, medieval castles and inviting courtyards are among its draws, the allure of Rüdesheim is wine. It is believed that Charlemagne — who regularly indulged in the pleasures of the grape — planted the first vines himself. Explore this Rhine wine town at your leisure. Along the Drosselgasse, a festive little street at the city's center, friendly wine taverns serve local vintages, offering the perfect way to enjoy your day.

KOBLENZ • In an area known as the German Corner, the ancient, park-filled town of Koblenz has stood at the confluence of the Rhine and the Mosel for more than 2,000 years. Once a Roman stronghold, its strategic location has made this city a vital link in the international river-trade routes of Europe. To enjoy a bird's-eye view of Koblenz and surrounding castles, opt take a cable car ride to lofty Festung Ehrenbreitstein, a mighty hilltop fortress repeatedly invaded by French troops.

COLOGNE • On the banks of the Rhine, 2,000-year-old Cologne is home to Germany's greatest Gothic cathedral. Begun in 1248 and completed in 1880, the vast, light-filled church stands as a powerful testament to European Christianity. While much of Cologne was destroyed during World War II air raids, this famous Gothic cathedral remained relatively intact. Filled with convivial beer halls and known for its namesake fragrance, Cologne is steeped in tradition but also has a decidedly modern edge, including an avant-garde art scene.

Holland

AMSTERDAM • Easy-going and intimate, Amsterdam boasts more than 60 miles of tree-lined canals that trace their way through a city of amazingly diverse architecture, from quaint 17th-century half-timbered houses to patrician Louis XIV manors. Admire the Royal Palace and witness masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer and other Dutch Masters in the Rijksmuseum, the country's recently refurbished premier museum. Soak up Amsterdam's atmospheric pleasures, from bobbing houseboats and the ringing of bicycle bells, to flower stalls overflowing with cheerful blooms.

Reserve your Cruise the Face of Europe trip, today!

Trip #:3-22024W

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College Station, TX 77840-2918
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Fax: 979-845-9263
Toll Free: 800-633-7514

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

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Email:

Guest 2: Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email:

Street Address:

City:

State: ZIP:

Home: () Cell: ()

Sharing room with (Form sent separately.)

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(1) Class Year

(2) Class Year

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Cabin category desired: 1st Choice 2nd Choice
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Cruise Only Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$995 (limited availability).
I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by April 13, 2015 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Make checks payable to AHI International.

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Enclosed is a deposit of (\$600 per person required) to reserve place(s).

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(Signature as it appears on credit card)

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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 AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

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CRUISE PROGRAM

June 28-July 12, 2015

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price
E-Haydn (Mid)	\$5,045	\$250	\$4,795*
D-Haydn (Forward)	\$5,245	\$250	\$4,995*
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$5,545	\$250	\$5,295*
B-Strauss (Mid)	\$5,745	\$250	\$5,495*
A-Mozart (Aft)	\$6,045	\$250	\$5,795*
Suite-Mozart (Mid)	\$6,345	\$250	\$6,095*

Suites feature a balcony. Categories A, B, and C feature French doors. 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 program costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$995 (limited availability).



ITINERARY

- Day 1** Depart your Gateway City[†]
- Day 2** Arrive Budapest, Hungary
Board the
MS Amadeus Silver
- Day 3** Budapest
- Day 4** Bratislava, Slovakia
- Day 5** Vienna, Austria
- Day 6** Dürnstein/Melk
- Day 7** Passau, Germany
- Day 8** Regensburg/Weltenburg
- Day 9** Nuremberg
- Day 10** Bamberg
- Day 11** Romantic Road/Würzburg
- Day 12** Miltenberg
- Day 13** Rüdesheim/Koblenz
- Day 14** Cologne
- Day 15** Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Day 16** Depart for Gateway City[†]

NOTE: This itinerary schedule may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

[†]Provided for AHI FlexAir participants only.

AHI FLEXAIR

June 27-July 12, 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. Specially negotiated air rates are often available. 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.



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MS AMADEUS SILVER

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Top: Cabin A-Mozart | **Above:** View of windmills from the lovely dining room window

Left: Spectacular views from the spacious and comfortable upper deck of the MS Amadeus Silver

INCLUDED FEATURES

- **14 nights** aboard the **MS Amadeus Silver** from Budapest, Hungary, to Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Gather with fellow travelers at **Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners**.
- **Enjoy three full meals each day** — a breakfast, a two-course lunch and a three-course dinner — featuring tea or coffee with all meals and wine with dinner.
- **Personal listening devices** allow you to hear every word of your expert English-speaking guides.

ALL SHORE EXCURSIONS

- See the impressive landmarks of Budapest.
- Marvel at the medieval wonders of Bratislava.
- Admire the Imperial treasures of Vienna.
- Delight in picturesque Dürnstein.
- Experience the magnificence of Melk Abbey.
- Stroll along the charming streets of Passau.
- Discover the Roman heritage of Regensburg.
- Explore historic Nuremberg.
- Wander through perfectly preserved Bamberg.
- Enjoy the romantic ambience of Rothenburg.
- Visit the baroque Residenz in Würzburg.
- Walk among the half-timbered houses of Miltenberg.
- Step inside lovely Cologne Cathedral.
- Tour the highlights of Amsterdam, including the Rijksmuseum.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a knowledgeable **AHI Travel Director** and expert **English-speaking Local Guides** throughout your trip.
- **Tipping** of all excursions guides and drivers.
- Detailed destination and travel information to assist in your planning.
- Complimentary water on excursions.

AHI Exclusive River Cruise Extras:

- 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 dinner and expertly prepared culinary specialties of the region.
- Expert local guides leading thoughtfully designed excursions to enrich your experience of the area.

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Top to bottom:

*Leisure activities on
the upper deck of the
MS Amadeus Silver
Vineyard, Wachau Valley
Scenic Holland
Interior, Melk Abbey*

Cover photo:

*Sailing past the
Parliament Building on
the Danube River,
Budapest*



A word about your Tour Operator

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In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

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