

STORYBOOK RIVERS: RHINE, MAIN AND DANUBE WITH SERBIA & ROMANIA

AMSTERDAM TO BUCHAREST – 21 DAYS / 20 NIGHTS

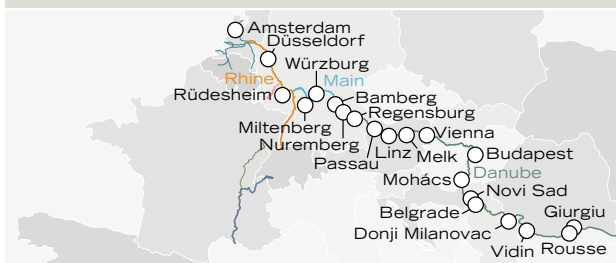


BUDAPEST

This journey along the Rhine, Main, and Danube Rivers will broaden your horizons in unimaginable ways. Embark in Amsterdam in the north and pass through Germany, Austria, and Hungary before entering Serbia and Romania. Visit the cities Düsseldorf, Nuremberg, Vienna, and Budapest as well as places you may never have heard of. All are equally fascinating, with centuries-old histories and scenery from a storybook. The castle-dotted Rhine Valley, 16-lock Main-Danube Canal, and Wachau Valley all provide a visual smorgasbord for shutterbugs. It's three weeks of "fantastic" that most people will never experience in a lifetime.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Amsterdam	Day 12 – Melk/Vienna
Day 2 – Amsterdam	Day 13 – Vienna
Day 3 – Düsseldorf	Day 14 – Budapest
Day 4 – Rhine Valley/ Rüdesheim	Day 15 – Budapest
Day 5 – Miltenberg	Day 16 – Mohács
Day 6 – Würzburg	Day 17 – Novi Sad
Day 7 – Bamberg	Day 18 – Belgrade
Day 8 – Nuremberg	Day 19 – Donji Milanovac/ Iron Gates
Day 9 – Nuremberg	Day 20 – Vidin
Day 10 – Regensburg	Day 21 – Giurgiu/ Bucharest
Day 11 – Passau/Linz	



DATES IN 2027

22 Apr



RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Further enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences—like a VIP, after-hours entrance to enchanting Belvedere Palace. You'll feel like an aristocrat as you bask in the ornate Baroque ambiance; are treated to a private orchestral performance; and enjoy a rare opportunity for a crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful "The Kiss".



RÜDESHEIM

DAY 1 – AMSTERDAM

Welcome to Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands and Venice of the North, where more than 62 miles (100 km) of canals zigzag through the city. Embark the luxurious Riverside Debussy and tonight, after your first gourmet dinner on board, join us for a RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE dessert cruise through the city's romantic canals.

DAY 2 – AMSTERDAM

Begin your day with breakfast before stepping off the ship to explore. With a RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, spend time with the Dutch masters at the famous Rijksmuseum, or use Virtual Reality technology to follow in the footsteps of Anne Frank. A full list of available excursions for your cruise is on our website.

DAY 3 – DÜSSELDORF

Welcome to Düsseldorf, ranked the sixth-most livable city in the world! Learn over 700 years of history on an interesting sightseeing tour; join a guided e-bike ride around the Old Town, Königsallee shopping district, and Media Harbor; or take a fun foodie walk to discover the city's delicacies. Break for lunch, then choose between an art safari or an Altbier discovery, complete with tasting of the famous copper-colored brew!

DAY 4 – RHINE VALLEY SCENIC CRUISING / RÜDESHEIM

A leisurely start to the day, but you won't want to spend it sleeping as your ship passes through some of Europe's most spectacular scenery.

Cruise through the dramatic Rhine Valley, where more than three-dozen ancient castles grace both banks of the river. Also see the mythical Rock of the Loreley and hear its haunting legend. Later, disembark in the quaint wine village of Rüdesheim. Maybe visit the amazing Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum; soar over the area by cable car; or stroll through the local vineyards and attend a tasting of the Middle Rhine's delectable wines!

DAY 5 – MILTENBERG

Awaken this morning on an entirely different river! As you slept, the ship cruised from the Rhine onto the Main for afternoon arrival in Bavarian Miltenberg. You might enjoy a Jewish heritage tour that visits a 13th-century synagogue, mikveh, and more; a nature hike up a 2,000-year-old Roman path and food tastings at the city's 17th-century butcher shop; or an encounter with Miltenberg's fantastic medieval architecture and superb Bavarian cuisine!

DAY 6 – WÜRZBURG

Head out today to discover the wonders of Würzburg through RIVERSIDE CHOICE. Stroll through the resplendent Old Town and wander through the Residenz, one of Europe's most magnificent palaces, or get a real taste of Würzburg's culture on a remarkable walk featuring the cathedral, the Old Town Bridge—and the best sausages in the city! An outing is also available along the famed Romantic Road to the must-see medieval city of Rothenburg.

DAY 7 – BAMBERG

Today is impressive from start to finish. Begin in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bamberg. Dating back to the 9th century, the city extends over seven church-capped hills, leading to its nickname of Franconian Rome. Join a guided walk that visits the cathedral founded in 1004 AD, the canals and quaint fishermen's huts, and the unusual Old Town Hall, built right in the middle of the river in 1386! Don't miss the chance to try Rauchbier (smoked beer), which the city has been brewing for almost 900 years. This evening, the ship enters an engineering marvel: the 106-mile (171-km) Main-Danube Canal. Completed in 1992, it provides a navigable waterway from the North Sea all the way to the Black Sea.

DAY 8 – NUREMBERG

Welcome to Nuremberg, bewitchingly beautiful yet historically damaged. Few cities have suffered the split personality that Nuremberg has, and your time here will provide the backstory. Consider a guided walk through the Old Town; come face to face with sights forever tied to WWII, like the Nazi Party Rally Grounds and the Palace of Justice, site of the Nuremberg trials; or head down into the secret underground rock vaults below Nuremberg Castle, where important art treasures were stored to protect them from WWII bombings.



BEAUTIFUL FOUNTAIN AND CHURCH OF OUR LADY, NUREMBERG

DAY 9 – NUREMBERG

A second day in Nuremberg for another exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion. If you prefer, head out on your own to explore independently or do some souvenir shopping!

DAY 10 – REGENSBURG

Regensburg has existed in some form since the Stone Age. Some of its fascinating milestones include construction of a Roman fort around 90 AD; its role as capital of Bavaria from the 6th to the 13th centuries; and its 12th-century Stone Bridge across the river that opened trade routes and launched the city's golden age. Today, Regensburg's well-preserved Old Town is the largest medieval city site north of the Alps. Excursion options feature an Old Town guided walk and stop at the world's oldest continuously operating restaurant to sample its popular sausages. You could also tour Weltenburg Abbey, where monks began brewing beer in 1050 AD, or learn about the nearly lost art of hat making.

DAY 11 – PASSAU / LINZ

A delightful stop in Passau, where the Inn, Ilz, and Danube come together. Join an expert guide for a stroll through Old Town Passau; visit an artists' workshop; or maybe join an outing to Mozart's exquisite Salzburg or to medieval Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic. Later, dock in Austria's third-largest city for a guided evening walk.

DAY 12 – MELK / VIENNA

There simply isn't a better place to spend your morning than the pleasant town of Melk! You might enjoy exploring the grand Benedictine abbey with its library of ancient manuscripts, or Artstetten Castle, where descendants of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria still reside. Back on board in time for lunch, then a relaxing afternoon of scenic cruising on the way to Austria's beautiful Baroque capital, Vienna. Tonight, channel your inner aristocrat during a RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE concert at Belvedere Palace, followed by a crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful "The Kiss".

DAY 13 – VIENNA

Start your unforgettable day exploring Vienna the way you like best. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a visit to the Habsburg rulers' opulent Schönbrunn Palace; a guided e-bike ride through Prater Park; or time at the world-famous Spanish Riding School, where the amazing Lipizzaner stallions train.

DAY 14 – BUDAPEST

This morning, your ship makes a grand entrance into Budapest! From atop the Vista Deck, admire one of the world's most beautiful cities as the ship passes by its famous icons lining both sides of the Danube. Once you disembark, see the highlights by comfortable coach, visit the vast Hungarian Parliament Building, or take a tour of Empress Sisi's beloved Gödöllő, one of the world's largest Baroque palaces. Your ship remains in port tonight, so feel free to head back out after dinner to explore on your own!

DAY 15 – BUDAPEST

Budapest is a city that demands more time, so enjoy a second day to explore its wonders. Join us on the Buda side of the river, home to the remarkable Castle District, Matthias Church, fairytale Fisherman's Bastion, and more!

DAY 16 – MOHÁCS

Remain in Hungary, cruising farther south for a stop in Mohács, where the Roman and Ottoman Empires both played important roles. With a great RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, learn all about the colorful Busójárás Carnival traditions at the Busó Udvar Museum, explore historic Pécs and tour the Zsolnay Porcelain Factory, or visit the St. Nicholas Watermill and Treadmill, one of the few remaining mills still using traditional stones. A delightful onboard dinner awaits this evening as your ship cruises on to Serbia.

DAY 17 – NOVI SAD

Get an early start this morning in Novi Sad, Serbia's second-largest city. How about seeing the sights by e-bike, visiting a historical ethno farm that's protected as part of the area's cultural heritage, or touring Petrovaradin Fortress, the colossal Gibraltar of the Danube! Another option is our UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE outing to Mount Fruška Gora, site of the country's oldest national park. Surrounded by nature's beauty, you'll explore an ancient monastery, sample brandy made by the resident monks, and then get an introduction to Serbia's wine-growing heritage, followed by a tasting.

DAY 18 – BELGRADE

Today, we highlight the "White Fortress" of Belgrade. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a coach tour of the Serbian capital and a visit to Belgrade Fortress. Or, encounter some of the country's natural beauty during a visit to the Zasavica Nature Reserve—including a scenic cruise and tasting of authentic Balkan donkey cheese!

DAY 19 – DONJI MILANOVAC / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

A relaxed morning—ideal for breakfast, hot coffee or tea, and an abundance of beautiful scenery. By late morning, arrive in Donji Milanovac, a town built on the remains of an 8,000-year-old Mesolithic settlement. Known as the Serbian Hollywood for the many movies filmed here, highlights include the stately Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas. Join us for an exciting excursion to the Lepenski Vir archaeological site and open-air museum, or maybe stroll along the main street with its colorful shops and cafés—a great place for interacting with the locals and sampling delicious Serbian specialties like grilled meats and homemade pastries. Reboard your ship and head to the Vista Deck for a beautiful al fresco dinner during our passage through the stunning Iron Gates gorges, the boundary between Serbia and Romania.

DAY 20 – VIDIN

This morning you'll find yourself in one of the Lower Danube's southernmost sections. Step off the ship in the Bulgarian port city of Vidin, a fertile hinterland known for its wine production, which dates back to the time of the Thracians in 3500 BC. Learn about the many cultures that contributed to the creation of Vidin over the centuries, including the Romans, Serbians, Hungarians, Ottomans, and Austrians. Highlights here include two well-preserved medieval fortresses; Orthodox churches, a synagogue, and a mosque; and a collection of Renaissance-era buildings. Don't miss our excursion featuring the famous Belogradchik Rocks, or a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE visit to a traditional Bulgarian home for a baking demonstration of local specialties. Spend the late afternoon and evening back on the ship, where a pampering massage or a swim in the counter-current pool may be the perfect way to wrap up an exciting day.

DAY 21 – GIURGIU / BUCHAREST

After breakfast, disembark your ship. For River-side transfer details, see our website.