



# DESTINATION GUIDE CENTRAL EUROPE

---

*Discover the enchanting destinations of Central Europe best explored by river*



# *Welcome to* CENTRAL EUROPE

*Experience the charm and elegance  
of Europe's hidden treasures.*

Embark on an unforgettable journey as you explore the heart of Europe on an enchanting river voyage. More than just a journey, it is a seamless blend of history, culture and magnificent scenery—all enjoyed from the comfort of your floating hotel. Each destination along the way offers a unique glimpse into the region's rich tapestry of history and culture. From the grand cathedrals and castles that dot the landscape to the vibrant local markets, river cruising in Central Europe is a feast for the senses.

You will experience the perfect blend of major cities and charming small towns. Imagine waking up to the sight of Budapest's iconic Parliament building, exploring the artistic treasures of Amsterdam or strolling through the imperial streets of Vienna. These major ports of call offer a wealth of historical landmarks, world-class museums and architectural marvels that will leave you in awe.

The true charm of river cruising, however, lies in the smaller, lesser-known ports where you can experience the true wonder of Europe. Wander through the medieval streets of Bamberg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; explore the charming town of Kinderdijk in the Netherlands known for its historic windmills or savour local wines in quaint villages nestled amongst terraced vineyards along the Rhine and Danube rivers.

Each stop along Europe's rivers tells a different story—of emperors and composers, painters and poets. Admire art that defines centuries and savour the traditional cuisines that have been perfected over generations.

Whether you are a history buff, an art enthusiast, or simply seeking a relaxing and enriching travel experience, a voyage along the rivers of Central Europe offers an unforgettable journey that will leave you with memories to last a lifetime. We hope you enjoy this guide.



VIKING LONGSHIP IN MILTENBERG, GERMANY



NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE IN SCHWANGAU, GERMANY

# CONTENTS

Discover Why Viking Guests Love Central Europe .....	6
Top Highlights of Central Europe .....	8
Explore Iconic Castles and Palaces .....	14
Central Europe: Something for Everybody .....	18
Discover the Hidden Gems of Europe: by Sue Wallace .....	20

## RECIPES

Wiener Schnitzel .....	24
Black Forest Gâteau .....	26

## DISCOVER CENTRAL EUROPE

Map .....	28
Grand European Tour / Rhine Getaway .....	30
Danube Waltz / Romantic Danube .....	32
European Sojourn .....	34
Paris to the Swiss Alps / Cities of Light / Lyon Provence & the Rhineland .....	36
Holland & Belgium / Elegant Elbe .....	38
Christmas Market Voyages .....	40
Explore More: Pre and Post Extensions .....	42
How to Book with Viking .....	46

# *Discover why our loyal guests* **LOVE CENTRAL EUROPE**

*Who better to share the magic of a Viking voyage than those who have lived it? Our guests recount the unforgettable moments that made their journey through Central Europe truly special.*



"As we sailed quietly down the smooth waters of the Rhine, sitting outside on the deck, we both drifted off thinking about how the castles were built, by so few, in a short period of time, and without a hi-vis jacket or crane on site! Then the Viking team gently tapped our shoulder, it was time for our hot chocolate drink and warm biscuit."

*Kerry V*

"Our guided tour of Regensburg showed us the rich history of the city as a centre of power and trade. We were awestruck by the cathedral, the town hall and the tower houses. We finished with eating delicious sausages by the old stone bridge!"

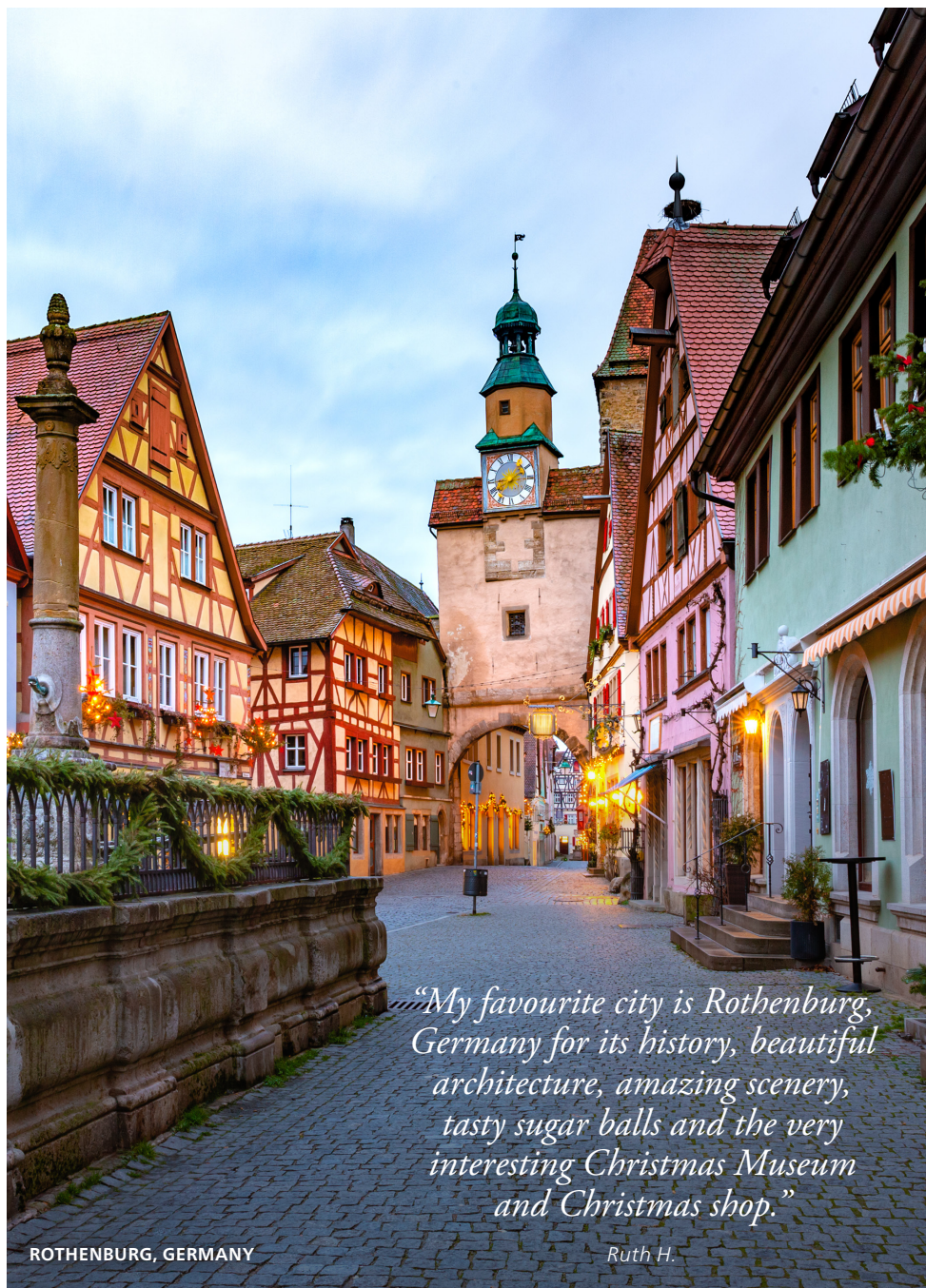
*Paul B*

"Seeing and hearing the Opera in Vienna was our highlight. It was in an original building with excellent acoustics. Imagine people parading up and down the stairs in their gowns; no electronic microphones or high-tech equipment, just a building built for sound. And what an amazing sound."

*Eileen H*

"We purchased tickets for an Alma Deutscher performance in Vienna whilst on our Budapest to Amsterdam river voyage. What an experience—to see and hear the prodigiously talented teenager sing, dance, conduct and play piano was truly wonderful. An unforgettable night that we still talk about."

*Michael A.*



*“My favourite city is Rothenburg, Germany for its history, beautiful architecture, amazing scenery, tasty sugar balls and the very interesting Christmas Museum and Christmas shop.”*

ROTHENBURG, GERMANY

Ruth H.

# Highlights of CENTRAL EUROPE

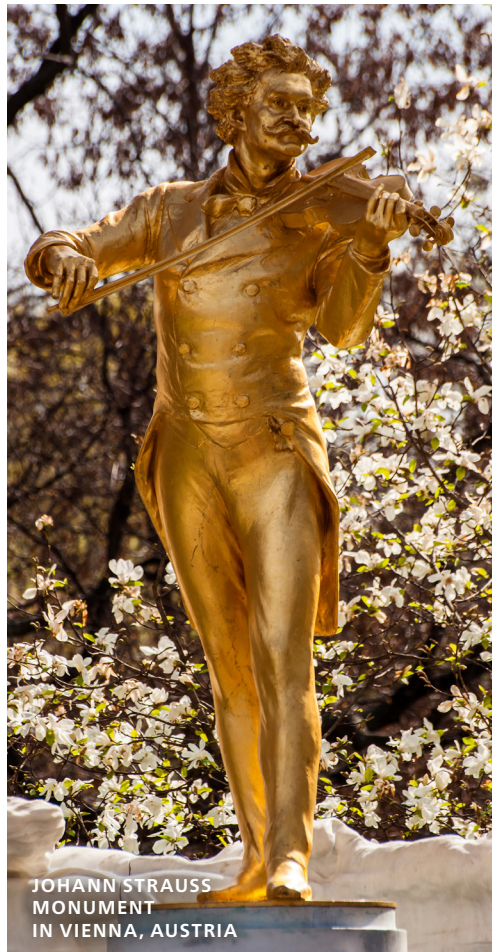
*Immerse yourself in the rich culture and breathtaking landscapes of Central Europe. From the elegant Viennese waltz to the majestic Swiss Alps, explore the iconic traditions and natural wonders that make this region truly enchanting.*

## **THE VIENNESE WALTZ AND MOZART'S MUSIC**

A visit to Vienna, Austria is not complete without delving into its rich traditions of classical music and dance. Don your dancing shoes and learn the elegant steps of the Viennese Waltz, a dance that is not just a form of movement but a symbol of Austrian social life and history. First introduced to modern ballrooms in the 17th century, the waltz gained immense popularity in Vienna during the 1780s, reflecting the city's love for music, dance and celebration.

After mastering the waltz, embark on a tour of the former residence of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at Mozarthaus—Mozart's Vienna apartment. Explore his family residence, see the rooms where Mozart composed some of his greatest works and enjoy a unique glimpse into the daily life and creative genius of one of the world's most celebrated composers.

Or perhaps lose yourself in the enchanting melodies of Vienna's finest music with an orchestral performance at one of the city's renowned musical institutions, featuring renditions of famous compositions by Mozart and Strauss.



**JOHANN STRAUSS  
MONUMENT  
IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

## THE BLACK FOREST

Nestled in the southwest corner of Germany, the fabled Black Forest is a mesmerising blend of natural beauty and enchanting folklore. Wander through the dense, towering fir forests and discover charming villages hidden among the gently rolling hills, idyllic woodlands and lush vineyards.

The Black Forest region is renowned for its cuckoo clocks and glassblowing—you will be captivated by the intricate craftsmanship on display in local shops. Make the most of the opportunity to savour the region's culinary delights, from the rich and creamy Black Forest cake to hearty dishes like schnitzel and spätzle. Hofgut Sternen hotel is a loyal keeper of Black Forest traditions and well worth a visit.

Energetic travellers can explore the region by car or by e-bike, effortlessly navigating scenic woodland trails and rolling fields adorned with vineyards and orchards, while uncovering the rich history and culture of this captivating region.



## KINDERDIJK WINDMILLS

Visiting the Netherlands Kinderdijk windmills is like taking a journey back in time. This UNESCO World Heritage site is home to 19 well-preserved windmills, built around 1740 to manage water levels and prevent flooding in the Alblasserwaard polder. These windmills stand as iconic symbols of Dutch ingenuity in water management.

The best way to explore Kinderdijk is by bike or on foot, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the serene beauty and historical significance of the area. As you wander, make sure to visit the Blokker Windmill Museum, where you can step into the rustic lives of mill keepers and their families. Inside, you will meet the miller and his family and tour the windmill adorned with authentic furnishings and exhibits that bring to life the mechanics of the windmills and their pivotal role in Dutch history.



### THE ROMANTIC ROAD

The Romantic Road in southern Germany, established in the 1950s to boost tourism and revive the post-war economy, is renowned for its fairytale castles, medieval towns and picturesque countryside.

A notable highlight is Rothenburg ob der Tauber, one of Germany's last remaining walled medieval towns. Once a bustling merchant city under the Holy Roman Empire, Rothenburg's decline during the Thirty Years' War and the plague preserved its medieval charm, which was rediscovered by German Romantics in 1802.

Discover the enchanting Plönlein square, with its narrow street lined with half-timbered houses. Stroll along the well-preserved city walls for stunning views of the town and the surrounding countryside, as you imagine the rich history that these walls have witnessed. Admire the High Altar of St. Jakob's Church and the Gothic-Renaissance Town Hall. Rothenburg is also known for its Christmas shops, particularly Käthe Wohlfahrt's Christmas Village, where you can step into a magical Christmas wonderland all year round.

### BAVARIAN BEER CULTURE

Bavarian beer culture is woven with centuries of tradition, craftsmanship and community spirit. Bavaria, often considered the heartland of German beer, is home to almost half of the country's breweries. Central to this culture is the Reinheitsgebot, or Beer Purity Law, enacted in 1516, which mandates that beer can only be made from water, barley and hops. Although these regulations have since been relaxed, purists remain and this tradition has been recognised as an intangible cultural heritage, highlighting its significance to Bavarian identity.

Sample traditional wheat beers, crafted with more wheat than barley, as well as refreshing pilsners from Kneitingen and rich dark beers from Weltenburger. For an authentic brauhaus experience, indulge in homemade Bavarian sausages and sauerkraut, savour a freshly baked breze and enjoy a tasting of various local mustards.



## EUROPE'S FAMOUS WINE TRAILS

The Danube, Rhine and Main rivers flow through some of Europe's most enchanting wine regions, each offering a unique blend of history, culture and exceptional wines.

The Danube's wine regions are steeped in history, with traditions dating back to the Roman Empire. One such region is Austria's Wachau Valley, known for producing some of the world's finest dry Rieslings and Grüner Veltliners. The unique combination of terraced slopes, dry stone walls, hillside castles, vineyards and rich cultural tradition has earned it a place as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, adding to the allure of the wines.

The Rhine River Valley, particularly the Rheingau in Germany and Alsace in France, is celebrated for its Riesling wines. The steep, terraced vineyards produce wines with remarkable aromatic complexity. World-renowned for its viticulture, Alsace is enriched with a dry mild climate, favourable soils and ideal exposure for its vineyards. Its location creates a blend of Germanic and Roman influences, and tells a story started by wine-producing Romans.

The Main River is the longest tributary of the Rhine, flowing through Germany. This region is distinguished by its Silvaner wines, often dry with a crisp, clean profile. The charming towns along this river, with their half-timbered houses and historic wine cellars, offer a picturesque backdrop for sampling fine vintages.



RÜDESHEIM AM RHEIN, GERMANY

## EUROPE'S ARCHITECTURAL TAPESTRY

Central Europe is steeped in history and architectural splendour, with each city telling its own unique story. From imperial palaces to medieval towns, the architecture of this region offers a fascinating journey through time.

In Budapest, the Parliament Building stands as a testament to Hungary's national pride and Gothic Revival architecture, while Cologne's Cathedral, with its towering spires, represents centuries of faith and resilience. Vienna's skyline is a harmonious blend of imperial opulence and modern sophistication, epitomised by the Hofburg and Schönbrunn Palaces, the heart of the Habsburg Empire. Meanwhile, Amsterdam's iconic canals and gabled houses reflect the Dutch Golden Age, with landmarks like the Rijksmuseum and Anne Frank House offering profound insights into the city's rich artistic and historical heritage.

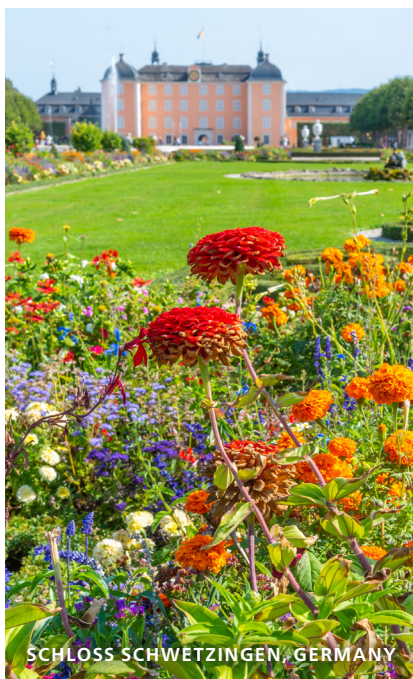


COLOGNE, GERMANY

## THE SWISS ALPS

Embark on an unforgettable adventure in the Swiss Alps, where natural beauty meets rich cultural heritage. Begin your journey in the charming village of Brienz, where you can watch skilled wood carvers bring traditional crafts to life. In Grindelwald, board a cogwheel train to Kleine Scheidegg. This mountain pass, situated between the Eiger and Lauberhorn peaks, offers awe-inspiring mountain views. Interlaken, beautifully situated between Lake Thun and Lake Brienz and surrounded by towering peaks, was once hailed as a spa town to cure the ailments of 19th-century Europeans.

No trip to Switzerland is complete without indulging in its world-renowned chocolate. Celebrated for its smooth texture and rich flavour, Swiss chocolate is crafted from high-quality cocoa beans and fresh Alpine milk, a product that is now synonymous with luxury and excellence. Participate in a hands-on workshop at the Lindt headquarters in Kilchberg to become a Maître Chocolatier, or discover the art of making artisanal Swiss chocolate at Kürzi Kakao, a boutique chocolatier known for its premium creations.



## THE GARDENS OF SCHLOSS SCHWETZINGEN

Visit the stunning gardens of Schloss Schwetzingen in Germany, where baroque architecture meets splendid flora. Stroll through the exquisitely ornate gardens and learn about the palace's rich history as the summer residence of Electors Palatine Charles III Philip and Charles IV Theodore of the House of Wittelsbach. Marvel at the decorative water fountains and sculptures depicting scenes from Greek mythology. The gardens boast a diverse collection of plants, trees and flowers that bloom throughout the seasons, creating a vibrant tapestry of colours year-round. Do not miss the baroque-style theatre, the Temple of Apollo and the 18th-century bathhouse, a favourite retreat of the princes.

# *Iconic castles and palaces* **OF EUROPE**

*Europe is home to some of the most extraordinary castles and palaces, each with its own unique history and architectural brilliance. These magnificent structures offer a fascinating insight into the life and times of bygone eras and showcase the grandeur and cultural heritage of the regions in which they reside.*

## **SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE**

Discover the magnificent home of the Hapsburg Dynasty, situated just outside Vienna's city centre. Their luxurious summer residence reflects the power and influence of one of Europe's most significant dynasties. The origins of Schönbrunn date back to 1569 when Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II built the original hunting lodge, naming it Schönbrunn. In 1775, Empress Maria Theresa, the only female ruler of the Hapsburgs, commissioned the grand neoclassical Gloriette colonnade. A guided tour of the imperial apartments reveals the lavishly decorated rooms where she resided, offering a fascinating glimpse into her extraordinary life. Beyond the palace walls, the expansive gardens are a marvel to explore.



## MELK ABBEY

Set amid the wine-growing region of the Wachau Valley, the charming riverside town of Melk is home to the majestic 900-year-old Benedictine Melk Abbey, a spectacular example of baroque architecture. Rebuilt in the 18th century after the original 12th-century structure was destroyed by fire, the abbey stands as a testament to the resilience and cultural significance of the Benedictine order in Europe. The abbey's beautiful library houses priceless medieval manuscripts and marvellous frescoes by Paul Troger. The interior of the abbey's church is a kaleidoscope of red, orange and gold, featuring a magnificent carved pulpit and vibrant ceiling frescoes. The imperial rooms, now a museum, chronicle the abbey's history from its inception to modern times.



## NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE

Nestled amongst the Bavarian Alps, Neuschwanstein Castle is a 19th-century masterpiece commissioned by King Ludwig II of Bavaria, often referred to as the "Fairy Tale King." Construction began in 1869, driven by Ludwig II's vision of a medieval-style castle that would embody his love for music, art, and the legends of old. Inspired by Richard Wagner, the castle's architecture blends of Romanesque, Gothic and Byzantine elements, creating a fantastical structure that seems straight out of a storybook. The castle's lavish interiors, adorned with intricate frescoes and opulent furnishings, reflect Ludwig's artistic passions and his desire to create a personal retreat away from the pressures of royal life.



## MARKSBURG CASTLE

Painstakingly carved into the slate bedrock of a mountain peak, Marksburg has long stood as one of Germany's most formidable castles. Built in the 12th century, it is the only medieval-era stronghold in the Rhine Valley that has never been destroyed, a testament to its robust defenses and strategic importance. The castle has witnessed the rise and fall of dynasties, each leaving its mark. The castle's distinctive butter-churn tower, named for its unique shape with a narrower upper section, adds to its iconic profile. Navigate narrow, winding staircases to discover the wine cellar, a bedroom, dining area and the impressive kitchen of the Gothic Hall building.



## ELTZ CASTLE

Nestled in the lush hills above the Moselle River, Eltz Castle is a fairy tale brought to life. This enchanting fortress has been owned by the same family for over 850 years, surviving wars and conflicts that ravaged the region. Intertwined with the Holy Roman Empire, it played a crucial role in the region's defense and politics. With its towers and turrets soaring from a rocky perch, the castle reflects the evolution of European styles from Romanesque to Baroque. Step inside to explore the decorated halls and rooms that showcase the castle's remarkable history; 15th-century murals adorn the walls and The Knight's Hall features displays of armour and weapons that date back to the 12th century.



## GÖTTWEIG ABBEY

Overlooking Austria's Wachau Valley is the gracious Göttweig Abbey. Built on land donated by Passau's Bishop Altmann in 1083, this Benedictine monastery has been a centre of learning, art and faith for nearly a millennium. Step through the church's neoclassical portal to admire its colourful and ornate interior. The abbey's museum chronicles its 900-year history as a centre of religious life and its role as a monastic retreat. Climb the Imperial Staircase, crowned by one of the largest and most spectacular ceiling frescoes in the world. The adjoining princely and imperial rooms showcase splendid artwork from the abbey's own collections.



# Something for EVERYONE

*There is so much to experience in Central Europe, catering to every interest and passion. Whether you are an art enthusiast, a culture aficionado, a culinary explorer, a history buff or an architecture lover, this region offers a rich tapestry of experiences.*

## ART

Marvel at the masterpieces of Gustav Klimt at the Belvedere Palace in Vienna, home to the world's largest collection of his works, including the iconic *The Kiss*. Enjoy Privileged Access to the 16th-century Lobkowitz Palace in Prague, where you can explore one of Europe's oldest and finest private art collections, with pieces dating back over 2,000 years. Step inside the meticulously preserved home of impressionist Claude Monet in Giverny, France. Wander through the exquisite gardens, the inspiration behind many of his most famous works.



## CULTURE

Experience a behind-the-scenes look at the world-famous Vienna Boys Choir, who once performed with Mozart and Bruckner. Since 1948, Vienna's Palais Augarten has served as their school. Tour the school, meet some of the talented singers and enjoy a private concert. In Holland, explore the vibrant colours of the Keukenhof Gardens. Spread across 70 acres of parkland with meandering waterways and shaded trails, it features more than 7 million tulips and other flowers. Or discover the life and works of Johann Sebastian Bach at the Bach Museum in Leipzig, Germany. The museum offers interactive exhibits, rare and valuable items, and access to the Organ Chamber.



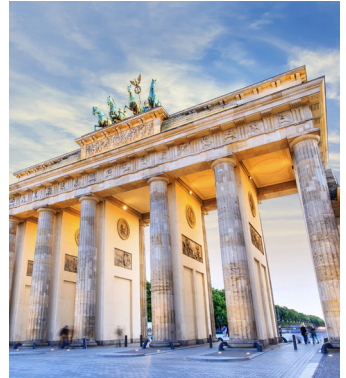


## CULINARY

Savour the delightful flavours of the Alsace region in France, known for its unique blend of French and German cuisine. Taste regional specialties such as flammkuchen—a thin dough sprinkled generously with cured pork, onion and crème fraîche—and allow a sommelier to guide you through paired local wines. Perhaps travel through the lush farmlands of Austria to the tranquil village of Gutau, where a local bread maker will demonstrate traditional baking techniques and invite you to bake your own bread. Or head to the Wachau Valley wine region, to sample fine vintages on a tour of a local winery. Explore the impressive cellars and learn the centuries-old traditions that make its wines so exceptional.

## HISTORY

Witness famous Berlin landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate and the Berlin Wall, which once symbolised division but now stand as powerful emblems of unity and resilience. In Osijek, Croatia, delve into the history of the former Yugoslavia, its dissolution and the subsequent impact on the region. In Trier, Germany, founded in 16BC, walk among ancient Roman ruins and remnants of the Holy Roman Empire. Meanwhile, the medieval town of Nuremberg offers a glimpse into the city's complex past, from its days as a centre of the Holy Roman Empire to its role in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice after World War II.



## ARCHITECTURE

Cologne Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture built between 1248 and 1880, stands as a testament to the grandeur of medieval craftsmanship with its twin spires and intricate façade. Melk Abbey in Austria, with its opulent design, grand halls and elaborate frescoes, showcases the artistic and cultural achievements of the Baroque period. In Budapest, explore the Roman ruins of Aquincum, the Gothic splendour of Matthias Church and the Neo-Gothic Hungarian Parliament Building. The city's iconic sights, including the Buda Castle and the Chain Bridge, offer a visual feast for architecture enthusiasts.



*Discovering the*  
**HIDDEN GEMS  
OF EUROPE**

*By Sue Wallace*

**MARKSBURG CASTLE IN BRAUBACH, GERMANY**

**20** | *Central Europe Destination Guide*



The rhythmic clip-clop of Vienna's famous silky-coated Lipizzaner horses echo on the grey cobblestones, as they return to their stables from a world-class performance. My heart skips a beat as these handsome horses pass by with their ears pricked, manes plaited and braided tails swishing.

Founded in 1565 by the European Imperial Habsburg dynasty, the famous Spanish Riding School is the world's oldest riding academy, where classical horsemanship stars as horses and riders work as one. A visit to the outstanding gold and white trimmed baroque hall of the Winter Riding School at Hofburg Palace is part of our tour. But all eyes are glued on the magnificent horses that drink from marble water troughs in their palatial stables.

It is just one of many "pinch me" moments on Viking's Grand European Tour that sails along the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers, visiting Hungary, Austria, Germany and The Netherlands. From Budapest to Amsterdam or return, the 15-day voyage provides a deep dive into the art, architecture, history, cuisine and culture of these four countries.

And it is a veritable feast for all senses, passing lofty hilltop castles and fortresses that star on the Rhine's most scenic stretch. No wonder the region was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2002—there are more than 40 castles and crumbling ruins dotted between Bingen and Koblenz. Sitting on the top deck in warm sunshine gazing out at these incredible structures leaves me in awe as to how they were built just by manpower.

It is when you venture inside a castle, however, that the stories behind them truly come to life. Our guide, Robert, has many entertaining tales about Marksburg Castle that overlooks the town of Braubach. Pass the wine cellar and the ancient kitchens with huge pots hanging on hooks, and you will reach the master bedroom where a tiny bed sits. "People were shorter back then and often slept sitting up due to superstition about the devil taking them at night," Robert explains. The armoury that follows, with spikey wooden mallets and razor-sharp spears, sends shivers down my back.



KINDERDIJK, THE NETHERLANDS

It is not only the history that showcases each country, but the sensational tastes. I can still recall the hearty goulash in Hungary and the slice of rich Sacher torte in Vienna. Germany has its beer and spicy sausage and you can compare local brews in the city centres of Regensburg, Nuremberg and Bamberg. In the town of Koblenz, marinated pot roast and potato pancakes have a following.



SACHER TORTE IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Visits to stunning art galleries and museums are another treat, especially when you come face to face with famous masterpieces by world-renowned artists. My favourite picks are Gustav Klimt's golden-toned *The Kiss*, at Vienna's Upper Belvedere Palace, that depicts a couple locked in an intimate embrace, oblivious to the world. "Many young lovers copy the scene here with a long embrace—it's a thing for young couples while older people steal a quick kiss," says local volunteer, Marie.

Rembrandt's animated *The Night Watch* at Amsterdam's eclectic Rijksmuseum is another standout. Crowds gather to see the famous Dutch masterpiece, but I also check out what must be the world's most elaborate doll's house. Dating back to 1686 it was owned



SZECHENYI BATHS, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

by Petronella Oortman, the wife of wealthy upper class Amsterdam silk merchant. It has a real marble floor, silk curtains, oak and walnut inlays, plus miniature porcelain that was ordered through the Dutch East India Company and made in China. It would have cost the same as a real canal house, according to the guide.

As for my most swoon-worthy experience, top prize goes to the historic library at Austria's sprawling Melk Abbey in the Wachau wine region. The richly decorated 11th-century baroque abbey sits on a rocky outcrop near the town of Melk, overlooking the Danube. Step inside the library and a pleasing aroma of old leather-bound books greets you — reminding me of spicy cologne. There are thousands of books here and samples of perfect spidery writing from ancient manuscripts. I get an overwhelming urge to run my fingers over the well-preserved tomes including rare medieval manuscripts written by early scholars.

On our last day we visit pretty UNESCO World Heritage listed Kinderdijk, near Amsterdam, where there are 19 well-preserved windmills dating back to the 18th century. A young woman invites us to step inside the typical Dutch structure and explains its unique drainage system that has kept the land dry from the Middle Ages — it is a fascinating insight.

Back at home, memories of fabulous art, history, culture, architecture and cuisine continue to shine—it is all part of the surprise around every river bend.



MELK ABBEY FRESCO IN MELK, AUSTRIA



# Central European Cuisine

## WIENER SCHNITZEL

*Austrian Master Chef Toni Mörwald's classic recipe from Vienna's Michelin-starred restaurant is traditional, simple, and delicious. Originally from Milan, it became a Viennese classic in 1848.*

**SERVES 4**

### **Meat**

- 4 veal cutlets, ½ in (1.3cm) thick
- 1 tbsp sunflower or canola oil
- Salt and pepper
- 30g flour
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 120g breadcrumbs
- 230–450g butter
- 220–440g lard

### **Potatoes**

- 680g small new potatoes
- 115g butter, melted
- 2 tbsp Italian parsley, finely chopped
- Pepper to taste

### **Meat**

1. Place cutlets between two pieces of wax paper and gently pound with a meat mallet. Rub cutlets with oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Coat each cutlet well first with flour, then egg, then crumbs.

2. In a heavy frying pan, melt equal amounts of sufficient butter and lard to cover base of frying pan to a depth of ½ inch (1.3cm). Working two at a time, place cutlets in pan. Shake pan gently as meat cooks to ensure cutlets do not stick. Cook 3–4 minutes over medium heat until cutlets begin to brown; turn over; cook another 1–2 minutes so both sides are golden brown. Drain on paper towels and sprinkle with salt.

### **Potatoes**

1. Meanwhile, boil potatoes in salted water until easily pierced with a fork, about 20 minutes.

2. Drain and place them back on the stove for a minute or so, uncovered. Peel; slice into wedges and place in a serving dish. Pour melted butter over potatoes, sprinkle with parsley and pepper.

# Central European Cuisine

## BLACK FOREST GÂTEAU

SERVES 6

### Sponge cake base

6 eggs (whisk yolk and white separately)  
4 tbsp warm water  
200g white sugar  
200g all-purpose flour  
50g corn starch  
50g cocoa powder  
2 tsp baking powder  
1 pinch of salt

### Filling

1 jar of canned cherries (350g), set 16 pieces aside for final decoration  
2 tbsp corn starch  
1 litre whole cream  
40g cream stabiliser  
1 tbsp sugar  
Kirschwasser  
100g chocolate flakes

1. Prepare a 26cm/10 inch pan and cover the bottom with parchment paper. Preheat oven to 350°F / 180°C.
2. Mix together the egg whites with a pinch of salt and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the sugar until very stiff. Then, separately beat the egg yolks and the remaining sugar well for about 5-6 minutes.
3. Mix all dry ingredients and sift into the egg yolk batter. Fold into the batter gently, alternating with egg whites. Do this in batches so you do not overload the batter at once.
4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for approx. 30 minutes (check inner consistency with a wooden toothpick that should come out clean before removing from the oven). Remove from the pan and let it cool completely.
5. Mix the corn starch with a few teaspoons of cherry juice/liquid to dissolve. Heat the cherries with the remaining juice/liquid in a skillet until almost cooking. Remove the skillet from the stove, pour in the dissolved starch and stir until the initially milky mass becomes clear again. Stir the whole cream with stabiliser and sugar until very firm.
6. Cut the sponge cake horizontally into 3 more or less equal slices. Use the top slice for the bottom layer. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the well-cooled and thickened cherry mass and spread over the cake. Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the whipped cream and also spread over the cherries. Add the next slice of cake and repeat the above procedure. Then add the final slice. Sprinkle with Kirschwasser.
7. Spread the second batch of the whipped cream to the sides, seal well. Spread the remaining whipped cream on the top layer of the cake and carefully seal it, too.
8. Apply the chocolate flakes to the side of the cake, covering the whipped cream. Pipe 16 cream roses on top of the cake and place a cherry, from the cherries set aside earlier, in the centre of each rose.



# Map of CENTRAL EUROPE



- Cruise embarkation & disembarkation
- Select cruise & tour destinations



**GERMANY**



Wittenberg ○  
• Berlin  
• Potsdam

ELBE

Meissen •  
• Dresden

MAIN

MAIN-DANUBE CANAL

Děčín ○

**CZECH REPUBLIC**



Prague •

Nuremberg •  
Regensburg ○

**SLOVAKIA**



Bratislava •

**AUSTRIA**



Salzburg •  
Vienna •

**HUNGARY**



Budapest ○

DANUBE

• Lake Como

# GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR

*Amsterdam to Budapest or vice versa*

15 DAYS | 12 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO NOVEMBER

This incredible voyage showcases the highlights of the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Hungary. Explore Bavaria's fairytale castles and the windmill-studded tulip fields of the Netherlands. Savour a decadent Sachertorte in a Viennese café, enjoy panoramic views of imperial Budapest, and along the way, discover the legend of the Lorelei, the ancient art of glassblowing, the music of Mozart and more.



## Itinerary day by day

**DAY 1** Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**DAY 2** Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

**DAY 3** Cologne, Germany

**DAY 4** Koblenz, Germany

**DAY 5** Miltenberg, Germany

**DAY 6** Würzburg, Germany

**DAY 7** Bamberg, Germany

**DAY 8** Nuremberg, Germany

**DAY 9** Regensburg, Germany

**DAY 10** Passau, Germany

**DAY 11** Melk, Austria

**DAY 12-13** Vienna, Austria

**DAY 14-15** Budapest, Hungary



### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for more details such as itinerary dates and pricing.



BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

# RHINE GETAWAY

*Basel to Amsterdam or vice versa*

**8 DAYS | 6 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES**

**TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO NOVEMBER**

This immersive voyage presents all of the highlights of the legendary Rhine in just eight days. Discover the turreted fortresses, historic cities, medieval towns and stunning scenery of the Middle Rhine—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Soak in rich colours amid the stained glass of Cologne's gothic cathedral. Marvel at the many architectural splendours and enjoy an evening stroll along the cobblestones of Rudesheim. Sip the region's renowned white wines, the roots of its terraced vineyards reaching back to Roman times. Savour the various culinary traditions of Alsace on a journey that reveals a rich landscape of beauty and culture.

## Itinerary day by day

**DAY 1** Basel, Switzerland

**DAY 2** Breisach, Germany

**DAY 3** Strasbourg, France

**DAY 4** Speyer & Rudesheim, Germany

**DAY 5** Koblenz, Germany

**DAY 6** Cologne, Germany

**DAY 7** Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

**DAY 8** Amsterdam, The Netherlands



### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for more details such as itinerary dates and pricing.



KINDERDIJK, THE NETHERLANDS



STRASBOURG, FRANCE

# DANUBE WALTZ

*Budapest to Passau or vice versa*

8 DAYS | 6 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO NOVEMBER

Journey through four of Europe's most enchanting countries—Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany—along the storied Danube River. Explore Budapest's imperial and Art Nouveau delights and discover why it is aptly called the "Paris of the East" with its beautiful evening illumination. Learn why Vienna is known as "the waltz capital" and enjoy learning about its fascinating classical music history. Witness daily monastic life in an abbey on an exclusive visit to Göttweig and explore lesser-known cities like Bratislava and Passau. This eight-day itinerary reveals the best of these places, while cruising leisurely through spectacular scenery.



## Itinerary day by day

**DAY 1** Budapest, Hungary

**DAY 2** Budapest, Hungary

**DAY 3** Bratislava, Slovakia

**DAY 4** Vienna, Austria

**DAY 5** Krems, Austria

**DAY 6** Linz, Austria

**DAY 7** Passau, Germany

**DAY 8** Passau, Germany



### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for more details such as itinerary dates and pricing.



# ROMANTIC DANUBE

*Budapest to Regensburg or vice versa*

8 DAYS | 5 GUIDED TOURS | 3 COUNTRIES

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO NOVEMBER

Visit Budapest's Castle District and cross the famous Chain Bridge. Explore Göttweig Abbey, one of Austria's most revered monastic centres, and make dumplings with Wachau Valley apricots. Visit historic Salzburg. Spend two days in Vienna and celebrate the city's musical heritage at a concert featuring works by Mozart and Strauss. With medieval towns, grand cities and stunning scenery, this eight-day journey on the "Blue Danube" is one you are sure to love.

## Itinerary day by day

**DAY 1** Budapest, Hungary

**DAY 2** Budapest, Hungary

**DAY 3** Vienna, Austria

**DAY 4** Vienna, Austria

**DAY 5** Krems, Austria

**DAY 6** Passau, Germany

**DAY 7** Regensburg, Germany

**DAY 8** Regensburg, Germany



### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for more details such as itinerary dates and pricing.



23 DAYS | 19 GUIDED TOURS | 8 COUNTRIES

# EUROPEAN SOJOURN

*Amsterdam to Bucharest or vice versa*

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON  
MARCH TO NOVEMBER



## LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for more details such as itinerary dates and pricing.

ROCK SCULPTURE OF  
KING DECEBALUS,  
DANUBE, ROMANIA



Enjoy a lifetime's worth of experiences on a single voyage. Sail the canals of Amsterdam. Discover castles on the Rhine. Behold the grandeur of Vienna. Celebrate folk traditions in Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. These travel icons—and more—await you on a 23-day journey combining our *Grand European Tour* and *Passage to Eastern Europe* voyages. Discover eight countries in Western, Central and Eastern Europe while cruising the Rhine, Main and Danube.

## Itinerary day by day

**DAY 1** Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**DAY 2** Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

**DAY 3** Cologne, Germany

**DAY 4** Koblenz, Germany

**DAY 5** Miltenberg, Germany

**DAY 6** Würzburg, Germany

**DAY 7** Bamberg, Germany

**DAY 8** Nuremberg, Germany

**DAY 9** Regensburg, Germany

**DAY 10** Passau, Germany

**DAY 11** Melk, Austria

**DAY 12-13** Vienna, Austria

**DAY 14-15** Budapest, Hungary

**DAY 16** Kalocsa, Hungary

**DAY 17** Osijek, Croatia

**DAY 18** Belgrade, Serbia

**DAY 19** Golubac, Serbia

**DAY 20** Vidin, Bulgaria

**DAY 21** Ruse, Bulgaria

**DAY 22-23** Bucharest, Romania

# PARIS TO THE SWISS ALPS

*Paris to Zürich or vice versa*

12 DAYS | 10 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO NOVEMBER

Pay your respects at the Luxembourg American Cemetery. Discover Roman Trier. Taste Moselle Rieslings and visit the wine town of Bernkastel-Kues. Enjoy scenic sailing past the town of Sankt Goar, home of the Lorelei Rock, and through the Rhine Gorge, a UNESCO Site. Visit fascinating Worms and the university town of Heidelberg. Vineyard-flanked slopes and historic cities, along with hotel stays in Paris and Zürich, make this 12-day voyage irresistible.



## Itinerary day by day

**DAY 1-2** Paris, France

**DAY 3** Reims, France

**DAY 4** Trier & Bernkastel, Germany

**DAY 5** Cochem, Germany

**DAY 6** Koblenz, Germany

**DAY 7** Mainz, Germany

**DAY 8** Speyer, Germany

**DAY 9** Strasbourg, France

**DAY 10** Basel, Switzerland

**DAY 11-12** Zürich, Switzerland



### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for more details such as itinerary dates and pricing.

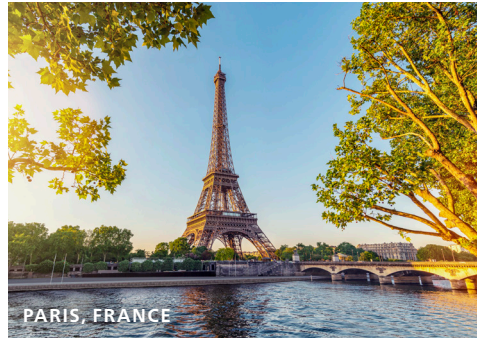


# CITIES OF LIGHT

*Paris to Prague or vice versa*

12 DAYS | 10 GUIDED TOURS | 3 COUNTRIES

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO NOVEMBER

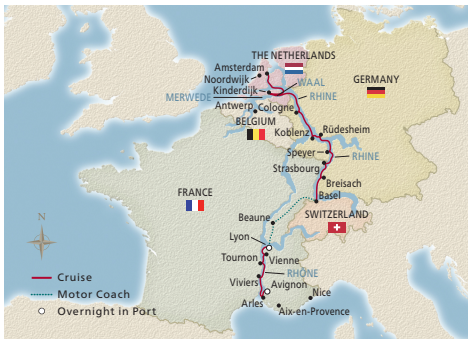


# LYON, PROVENCE & THE RHINELAND

*Avignon to Amsterdam or vice versa*

15 DAYS | 14 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO NOVEMBER



## *Discover more of France with Viking*

Be it the Rhône, Seine, Dordogne or Gironde, France's rivers reveal some of the world's most celebrated locales: majestic Bordeaux, gastronomic Lyon, historic Normandy, picturesque Provence and elegant Paris. Let Viking immerse you in rich culture and tradition.

# HOLLAND & BELGIUM

*Amsterdam to Antwerp or vice versa*

10 DAYS | 8 GUIDED TOURS | 3 COUNTRIES

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO NOVEMBER

Journey through the inland waterways of the Low Countries—Holland and Belgium. Enjoy an overnight stay in vibrant Amsterdam. Sail through a vast network of canals and rivers, stopping in key cities to soak up Dutch, German and Flemish culture. Witness feats of Dutch engineering. See modern Rotterdam and the windmills of Kinderdijk, and visit Antwerp, Europe's diamond capital. In the spring, visit Keukenhof Gardens in bright bloom.



## Itinerary day by day

**DAY 1-2** Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**DAY 3** Hoon, The Netherlands

**DAY 4** Dordrecht & Rotterdam, The Netherlands

**DAY 5** Kinderdijk & Gorinchem, The Netherlands

**DAY 6** Wesel, Germany

**DAY 7** Nijmegen, The Netherlands

**DAY 8** Maastricht, The Netherlands

**DAY 9-10** Antwerp, Belgium



### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for more details such as itinerary dates and pricing.



ANTWERP, BELGIUM



KINDERDIJK, THE NETHERLANDS

# ELEGANT ELBE

*Prague to Berlin or vice versa*

10 DAYS | 7 GUIDED TOURS | 2 COUNTRIES

TYPICAL SAILING SEASON - MARCH TO JULY & SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER

Discover Berlin's modern chic, Potsdam's rococo whimsy and Prague's Gothic exuberance. Walk in Martin Luther's footsteps in Wittenberg, birthplace of the Protestant Reformation. Admire delicate Meissen porcelain. Celebrate Dresden, a phoenix risen from the ashes of war. View Saxon Switzerland's monoliths. See the Elbe Biosphere Reserve. The Elbe is one of Europe's most unspoiled rivers, and it awaits you on this 10-day voyage.

## Itinerary day by day

**DAY 1-2** Prague, Czech Republic

**DAY 3** Děčín, Czech Republic

**DAY 4** Saxon Switzerland, Germany

**DAY 5** Dresden, Germany

**DAY 6** Meissen, Germany

**DAY 7** Wittenberg, Germany

**DAY 8** Potsdam & Berlin, Germany

**DAY 9-10** Berlin, Germany



### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for more details such as itinerary dates and pricing.



# The magic of Europe's CHRISTMAS MARKETS

*Exploring Europe's famed Christmas markets is like stepping into a winter wonderland filled with history, charm, and festive cheer.*

With some markets dating back to the late Middle Ages, they offer a magical experience with their twinkling lights, beautifully decorated stalls, and the enticing aroma of mulled wine and roasted chestnuts. Wander through cobblestone streets lined with vendors selling handcrafted ornaments, intricate wooden toys, and cosy winter wear. The air is filled with the sounds of carolers and the laughter of children enjoying traditional rides and games. Each market has its own unique atmosphere, from the grand and bustling markets of Vienna and Budapest to the quaint and intimate settings in smaller towns. Europe's Christmas Markets offer an enchanting experience that captures the essence of the holiday season.

## CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE

*Budapest to Regensburg or vice versa*  
**8 DAYS | 6 GUIDED TOURS | 3 COUNTRIES**  
**SAILING SEASON - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**



## CHRISTMAS ON THE RHINE

*Amsterdam to Basel or vice versa*  
**8 DAYS | 8 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES**  
**SAILING SEASON - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**



VIENNA, AUSTRIA



STRASBOURG, FRANCE

\*Christmas Market dates vary year on year and are subject to change, which remains beyond the control of Viking. Holiday closures at some of our destinations may impact our Christmas river voyages excursion program. Viking will do its utmost to keep booked guests advised of any itinerary updates.



VIENNA, AUSTRIA

## CHRISTMAS ON THE RHINE & MOSELLE

*Paris to Zürich or vice versa*

12 DAYS | 10 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES

SAILING SEASON - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



## CHRISTMAS ON THE MAIN & MOSELLE

*Paris to Prague or vice versa*

12 DAYS | 10 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES

SAILING SEASON - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



BASEL, SWITZERLAND



NUREMBERG, GERMANY

# EXPLORE MORE

*See more of the world with our pre and post extensions*

Make every moment count by adding an extension to your river journey. More days mean more time to immerse yourself in the rich culture, history, and beauty of your destinations. Whether you choose to extend your stay in your embarkation or disembarkation city, or venture to an entirely new locale, our thoughtfully designed extension programs are the perfect complement to your itinerary.



LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND

## WHY ADD AN EXTENSION?

**Deeper Exploration:** With additional days, you can delve deeper into the heart of your destination. Explore hidden treasures, enjoy leisurely strolls through historic neighbourhoods and savour local cuisine at your own pace.

**Centrally Located First-Class Hotels:** Enjoy the comfort and convenience of staying in centrally located First-Class hotels. We offer competitive rates in highly sought-after central locations, ensuring you have easy access to the best attractions.

**Seamless Experience:** All Viking Pre and Post Extensions include daily breakfasts, airport transfers, and the services of a dedicated Viking Host. Our local experts are on hand to assist you in planning and personalising your time, ensuring a seamless and enriching experience.

**Exclusive Tours and Meals:** Many of our extension packages include one or more guided tours and additional meals, providing you with even more opportunities to discover and enjoy your destination.

**Premium Hotel Upgrades:** Enhance your stay with our Premium Hotel options, a collection of properties chosen for their rich history, significant architecture, and genuine hospitality. On select itineraries and departure dates, you can upgrade your accommodation to one of these exceptional hotels.



## AMSTERDAM

### 2 Nights or 2 Nights Premium

Your hotel is only a few steps away from the historic city centre in the heart of Amsterdam. Discover Amsterdam's cultural and architectural treasures along the charming canals lined with historic gilded buildings and arched bridges. An included guided walking tour will help acquaint you with this cosmopolitan city. Then spend time on your own exploring the Jordaan district, visit the city's art and history museums such as the Anne Frank House, take a canal boat ride or rent a bike and explore like a local. Savour traditional Dutch dishes like bitterballen (crispy meatballs) and stroopwafels (syrup-filled waffles) and enjoy the vibrant nightlife.



## BUDAPEST

### 2 Nights or 2 Nights Premium

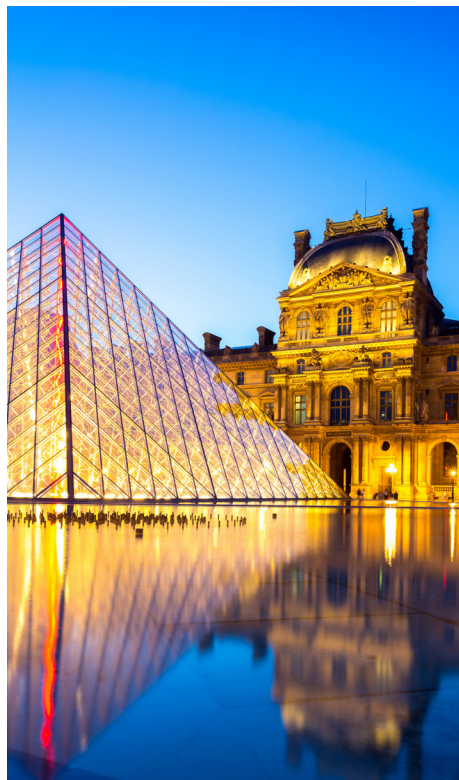
Explore Hungary's legendary capital city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your hotel is perfectly located for easy exploration. Discover the Castle District featuring the majestic Buda Castle, Fisherman's Bastion, and Matthias Church. Cross the Danube via the famous Chain Bridge to explore Pest and shop along Váci Street. Enjoy the hillier Buda neighbourhoods, visit the Hungarian National Gallery or relax at one of the city's elegant thermal spas. Budapest's cuisine is equally captivating - try goulash, a hearty meat and vegetable stew seasoned with paprika, or Lángos, a deep-fried dough topped with sour cream and cheese.



## PRAGUE

### 2 or 3 Nights or 3 Nights Premium

Discover the Czech Republic's vibrant capital, the "City of a Hundred Spires." Few cities embody the past as authentically as Prague, clinging to its history with exceptional examples of medieval, Romanesque, baroque and art nouveau buildings that stir the imagination. Tour Hradčany Castle, visit the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and stroll along Charles Bridge. Explore the Old Town, see the Astronomical Clock and the Lennon Wall. Wander through the Jewish Quarter and see the 13th-century Altneuschul, Europe's oldest active synagogue. Sample hearty local cuisine like goulash, *svíčková* (marinated beef), and *trdelník* (sweet pastry) and sample some famous Czech beer.



## PARIS

### 2 Nights

Become enchanted by the romance of the French capital. Your hotel is located just minutes from the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs-Élysées. Explore Paris's city centre along the banks of the Seine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower reigning over the "City of Light." Visit the Louvre, the Musée D'Orsay or the Georges Pompidou Centre; stroll through Montmartre, or ride to the top of the Eiffel Tower for city views. Sample some of the famous French cuisine or take a Seine cruise on board a *bateau-mouche* to see some of the city's landmarks and lovely bridges lining the riverbank.



## **BASEL**

### **2 Nights**

Basel is a vibrant city, often considered Switzerland's art and culture capital. Nestled along the Rhine River, it is home to a charming old town with picturesque alleyways and over 200 fountains. Your hotel is in the historic Kleinbasel district. Highlights include the Marktplatz Market Square, overlooked by the ornate spires of the Rathaus, and the many museums and art galleries.

## **ZERMATT & GENEVA**

### **4 nights**

Take in the pure mountain air of Zermatt, a car-free haven high in the Alps at the foot of the Matterhorn and explore the rich culture of Geneva. Depart Zürich for a scenic drive through Switzerland to Chur, then board the famed Glacier Express. Pass over trestles, through dramatic mountain tunnels and up and down alpine slopes taking in postcard-like vistas.



## **THE HAGUE**

### **& AMSTERDAM**

### **2 Nights**

Explore The Hague, the vibrant and charming centre of the Dutch government. The city has an intriguing mix of modern and historic architecture, and treasures to admire like the palaces of Dutch royalty and the iconic Peace Palace. View the 13th-century Binnenhof and wander the Mauritshuis, home to some of the world's most famous paintings from the Dutch Golden Age.

## **LUCERNE**

### **2 Nights**

Explore this traditional Swiss town along the banks of Lake Lucerne, with its dramatic alpine backdrop. Your lakeside hotel is minutes from the Old Town. Visit the 14th-century Chapel Bridge, iconic Water Tower, baroque houses and many burgher houses. Join a full-day optional excursion including a cruise on Lake Lucerne and a railway trip to the top of one of the region's spectacular mountains.

## **NEW RIVER EXTENSIONS - OUT NOW**

Uncover the Best of Holland or discover Hungary's northern wine country from Budapest as a compliment to your Danube river explorations. Discover Champagne's lush vineyards, the pink city of Toulouse or the fortified town of Carcassonne before your *Paris & the Heart of Normandy* voyage. While guests on our *Rhine Getaway* itinerary can choose to spend more time exploring the Best of Belgium, or enjoy a stunning rail journey through the Swiss Alps from Italy.

# How to book WITH VIKING

*We are here to help make all parts of your journey as smooth as possible*

## **FIND AND BOOK VIA OUR WEBSITE**

Seven days a week, you can check departure dates, prices or book your preferred itinerary. Browse our many destinations, staterooms and suites, learn about everything that is included and browse the many extensions that are available.

## **CONTACT THE VIKING RESERVATIONS TEAM**

Wherever you choose to go, or whether you need some further information our friendly Cruise Consultants are on hand to answer any questions you may have.

**Call 138 747 (AU) or 0800 447 913 (NZ)**

## **CONTACT YOUR VIKING TRAVEL AGENT**

If you have an existing travel agent, we encourage you to discuss your future voyage plans and get expert advice.

## **DISCOVER SAILING WITH THE SMALL SHIP EXPERTS**

Designed to evoke a sense of comfort akin to a floating hotel, our small ships boast a serene atmosphere with light-filled spaces and a quiet, understated elegance.

## **ORDER A BROCHURE**

Learn about the many fascinating destinations you can visit on our voyages. Our inspiring, full colour brochures are available free of charge and provide all the information you need to plan your next Viking journey.



Simply scan the QR code  
to order a brochure.



EXPLORER SUITE





## DISCOVER MORE OF THE WORLD WITH VIKING

### Viking.TV

Access complimentary livestreams and on-demand programs focused on science, art, literature, music and more. Delve into the world's most iconic destinations — which you can explore with us.

### Facebook

Explore our Viking Facebook page and discover the many destination-focused journeys we offer on rivers, oceans and lakes across all seven continents.

### YouTube

Discover a library of videos including a virtual tour of our fleet of vessels, destination insights and experiences across our river, ocean and expedition voyages.



**NO KIDS • VOTED WORLD'S BEST • ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICING**

 **VIKING.COM**

**TO BOOK CONTACT YOUR VIKING TRAVEL AGENT**



Visit [Viking.com](https://www.viking.com) for full booking terms and conditions.

