



## European Masterpiece & River Cruise 33 Days

### Day 1: Australia – Paris

Depart Australia for Europe today.

### Day 2: Paris

Arrive in Paris. Your friendly tour guide will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to the hotel.

### Day 3: Paris - Reims - Luxembourg (B)

Enjoy a delightful scenic journey through the rolling countryside of the Champagne region, famous the world over for the sparkling white wine produced. Enjoy seeing the historic attractions of provincial capital Reims, including the city's cathedral - a key national heritage site. Drive to Luxembourg, the world's only remaining Grand Duchy, you'll be introduced on foot to the main places of interest, including the Place de Constitution and Pont Adolphe, before having free time for further exploration.

### Day 4: Luxembourg – Trier – Koblenz - Frankfurt (B)

Proceed to Trier, Germany's oldest city. View from the outside the house where Karl Marx the influential philosopher was born, which now called 'the Karl Marx Haus museum'. Look around the city's impressive cathedral, where the celebrated Holy Robe - said to be the tunic of Christ - is preserved and occasionally displayed. Next highlight is undoubtedly Porta Nigra. Later, drive to Koblenz, famous as the location of the confluence of the Rhine and Mosel rivers. Take an option of indulging in a relaxing lunch alongside the water, you can choose to add on a scenic Rhine boat cruise for some city vistas. Later, drive through the wine-making town of Rudesheim and see the bronze 19th century Niederwald monument. Then drive to Frankfurt am Main and discover the delights of Römerberg, a charming plaza.

### Day 5: Frankfurt – Prague (B)

Today after boarding the luxury coach in Frankfurt, sit back and enjoy a scenic ride through some classic German countryside en route to the Czech Republic. Prague, one of Europe's most ornate cities. You will



arrive in the evening, ready to discover this charming capital city with its fairytale architecture, the following morning.

### **Day 6: Prague – Bratislava (B)**

Your Prague adventure begins with a spectacular walk along the Royal Route, following the traditional coronation path of the kings and queens of old Bohemia. You'll start from the top of Castle Hill in the Hradcany district, famous for its views over the red-roofed old city, and then tour Prague Castle. The castle has been the historic seat of Bohemia royalty since the 9th century, as well as home to the nation's presidents in recent times. Your exploration then heads off around the imposing gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and the Old Royal Palace, and along Golden Lane, an ancient thoroughfare lined with some wonderful traditional buildings. Later you will stroll across the iconic Charles Bridge, which arches gracefully over the Vltava, and on through the winding alleys to the Old Town Square, where you can see the City Hall and one of Prague's most well-known sights, the Astronomical Clock. After lunch in the square, you'll make the scenic transfer from Prague to the Slovakian capital, Bratislava - home to another glorious Old Town. Here you'll experience the rich history and grandeur of the heart of traditional Bratislava, taking a short walking tour around the Town Hall, St. Martin's Cathedral and the Slovak National Theatre.

### **Day 7: Bratislava - Budapest (B)**

Today sees you arrive in Hungary, the fourth country of the tour. Its capital, Budapest, is known as the Pearl of the Danube, and is essentially two different cities joined together: Buda on the west of the river, Pest on the east, each with its own distinct characteristics. One of the best ways of seeing this unique location is by taking a river cruise, which many people choose to do. After a morning of activity, you'll relax over lunch at Buda Palace, and then have a chance to look at the exhibitions in the Budapest History Museum and Hungarian National Gallery, or do a spot of souvenir shopping. Next you'll explore both sides of the city on a cultural and historic tour. Highlights on the Buda side of the Danube include the towered terrace of Fisherman's Bastion, the medieval Matthias Church and a walk up to the



summit of Gellert Hill for panoramic views. While over in Pest the sights include the expansive Heroes' Square and Hungary's dramatic riverside Parliament Building. In the evening, you can choose to round off an eventful day with an optional dinner in the heart of Budapest, where you can sample traditional dishes such as goose liver, goulash, duck leg and local wine, accompanied by Hungarian folkdance and music.

### **Day 8: Budapest - Vienna (B)**

Today starts with a short journey to another of Europe's grand capitals, Vienna, where you'll get to explore the Austrian city's resplendent palaces, striking churches and prestigious art museums. Your Vienna adventure begins at one of the city's most popular attractions, Schonbrunn Palace, the Rococo-style summer residence of the Habsburg dynasty, rulers of Europe and the Church for many decades. After lunch in this refined setting, you will take a driving tour past many grand, famous buildings, including the City Hall, the Austrian Parliament, Hofburg Palace and Heroes' Square. You'll drive past the statue of one of Austria's most famous sons, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and also have some shopping time, before adding the Wiener Staatsoper (opera house) to your checklist of key Vienna buildings. Later, opt for dinner in the heart of the city or visit St. Stephen's Cathedral, before taking a stroll in Stadtpark, which is known for its range of sculptures, including the famous gilded bronze statue of Johann Strauss II. In the evening, we recommend the option of attending a Viennese waltz concert, which will allow you the unforgettable experience of hearing the music of Mozart and Strauss in the place where it was composed.

### **Day 9: Vienna – Salzburg – Munich (B)**

From Vienna it's on to another Austrian gem, Salzburg. The city's beautiful historic centre, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, is characterized by numerous baroque buildings, and is one of the most picturesque places in Europe. Salzburg is also famous for its musical heritage, being both the birthplace of Mozart, and also connected with hit musical The Sound of Music. You'll get the chance to see from the outside the house where Mozart was born, explore the city further at your leisure and also have lunch in



Salzburg, before heading across the German border to Munich in the afternoon.

### **Day 10: Munich - Mt. Titlis - Zurich (B)**

You'll leave the big cities behind on Saturday morning and head for one of the world's most famous mountain ranges - the Swiss Alps. The first destination is Engelberg the stunning Swiss resort. From here you can opt to board a cable car that takes you to the summit of the impressive Mount Titlis. To reach to the top of the permanently snow-covered Mt. Titlis is by a combination of gondolas over 3 stages. You'll ascend the last stage by the world's first revolving gondola the Titlis Rotair, that delivers spectacular views of the valleys, glaciers, lakes and forests below, and 360° vistas of the surrounding mountains. At the summit the sun terrace is the perfect place to pause and appreciate the breathtaking panoramas. There's a 150-metre ice cavern through the core of a glacier to explore at the top. Other highlights include walking across Europe's highest suspension bridge for more phenomenal views from Mt. Titlis. You'll come down from the hills to the lakeside for your next stop. Lucerne is a picturesque city of bridges and towers located in what many people believe to be the "true" Switzerland - picture-postcard mountains, lakes, cowbells, Alpine villages and meadows full of edelweiss flowers. Here you will have time to wander through the charming streets, and see the famous Lion Monument, which Mark Twain once described as "the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world". This is a great place to get souvenirs like Swiss watches and fine chocolates, before travelling to the overnight stop of Zurich.

### **Day 11: Zurich - Rhine Falls – Titisee - Frankfurt (B)**

Today the tour begins in Zurich, a city with a reputation as a leading global financial centre. There is chance for a picture stop at the impressive Lake Zurich, before moving on to Rhine Falls, Europe's biggest waterfall. Next you'll cross back into Germany and the Black Forest, the ancient fir-covered mountain range which is famous for its creepy folklore and mythical tales. Here you will see the beautiful lake Titisee, where you can stop at one of the many lakeside cafes to enjoy some of the region's best



Black Forest cherry gateaux. Cuckoo clocks are made in Titisee, making this the ideal place to pick up a few souvenirs from the local shops, and you'll also get to see a demonstration of how these magical mechanisms work.

### **Day 12: Frankfurt – Bonn - Cologne - Amsterdam (B)**

Drive to Bonn, the capital of the former West Germany until reunification. Discover the city's secrets on an orientation stroll through its streets, walking past highlights such as the Rococo-fronted town hall and Ludwig Van Beethoven Haus, a museum celebrating the life of the much-loved composer. Proceed to Cologne, where you'll head inside the city's glorious Gothic cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore Cologne, to do a spot of local shopping, or to simply relax with a suitably refreshing German brew. After lunch drive to the Netherlands.

### **Day 13: Amsterdam - Zaanse Schans - Amsterdam (B)**

Start with a leisurely trip at the Dutch, where you'll get to sample at close quarters some of the things that the Netherlands is traditionally famous for: clogs, cheese and windmills. Visit the hugely popular model town of Zaanse Schans (Or from mid-Mar to mid-May the tour visits Keukenhof Garden. This replaces the visit to Zaanse Schans). Then return to Amsterdam and visit a well-known diamond factory. See the unique cutting techniques that have been practised since the 16th century. Take an optional hour-long pre-dinner canal cruise, to discover more about this unique European city. You'll walk to one of the city's grandest areas, Dam Square, where the Royal Palace is located and the Queen's birthday celebrations take place. Later, enjoy the free time for shopping or further sightseeing.

### **Day 14: Amsterdam – Brussels - Paris (B)**

Across the border into Brussels, the Belgian capital. Stopping at the distinctive Atomium monument, a cell-shaped structure of stainless steel spheres and tubes built for the 1958 World's Fair. Visit Grand Place, as well as see the famous impish Manneken Pis statue. After some free time, during which you can try some mouth-watering Belgian delights. Then from Brussels it's south again across the French border and on to the bright lights of Paris.



### **Day 15: Paris - Versailles - Paris (B)**

Drive along the famous Champs Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Next, visit the iconic Arc de Triomphe, the imposing monument that sits near the western end of the avenue and commemorates the fallen of the revolution and Napoleonic wars. Next, visit the significant historical building as you head to L'Hôtel National des Invalides, where Napoleon's tomb is located. Then it's on to the most legendary of all Paris's icons: the Eiffel Tower. Choose to make the optional ascent of the tower for unbeatable views over the city or take a leisurely cruise along the river Seine, a great sightseeing option that offers views including Notre-Dame Cathedral and Pont Alexandre III. Travel to Versailles, the vast regal château that was the residence of the royal family until the start of the revolution in 1789. Today the palace is another popular Parisian attraction. You can enjoy an optional Paris evening shows.

### **Day 16: Paris (B)**

Visit to the Louvre art museums. Here you'll set your eyes upon some of history's most famous masterpieces, including the Venus de Milo, Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa etc. Opt for a guided gallery tour, which will enhance your experience and allow you to browse through hundreds of works. Afterwards, relax over an lunch in the museum before heading to the area surrounding the Palais Garnier, Paris's opera house. The rest of the afternoon is yours to shop at legendary department stores Galeries Lafayette and Printemps.

### **Day 17: Paris – Lucerne (B)**

Enjoy a scenic journey across classic French countryside en route to mountainous Switzerland. You'll pass through Basel, which is located at the point where the Swiss, French and German borders meet, before arriving at the picturesque lakeside city of Lucerne, nestled at the foot of the snowcapped Swiss Alps. Visit Lucerne's famous landmarks, including Chapel Bridge, the Water Tower, and some wonderfully preserved Baroque and Gothic architecture, followed by some free time to shop.

### **Day 18: Lucerne – Milan – Verona - Venice (B)**

Head into northern Italy, stopping at Milan, a fashion capital of the world.



Visit the city's iconic sights, including the vast Gothic cathedral (Duomo), La Scala opera house, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II - the planet's oldest shopping mall, where you can wander among the boutique shops and take lunch in one of the refined cafes. Drive to Verona, home to some of Italy's finest architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here you'll be taken on foot through streets lined with red-roofed buildings, and walk past the ancient Roman Arena, which stages outdoor opera performances and music concerts to packed audiences throughout the summer. Later, visit the residence of Verona's most famous characters: Romeo and Juliet. Find Juliet's balcony by following the trail of unanswered love letters posted on the passageway walls. Look for the bronze statue of the famous heroine here too. After some free time, you'll head to another vintage Italian city: Venice.

### **Day 19: Venice – Rome (B)**

Spend the morning in the company of a knowledgeable local guide as you explore Venice. Take a waterbus ride to San Marco Island, a memorable crossing of the lagoon that gives you a real taste of the city's charm as you approach the dreamy spires and distinctive waterside buildings. Beginning in the Piazza with the Basilica di San Marco - a stunning piece of Byzantine architecture, Bridge of Sighs, which appears on many a postcard or picture of Venice and connects the old prison to the interrogation rooms in the Doge's Palace. Afterwards visit some traditional Venetian craftwork at close quarters with a demonstration by Murano glassblowers. Later, ride through the warren of waterways on a gondola, and for most people this optional excursion is a must. If you're hungry after an action-packed morning you can choose to fill up with an optional delicious homemade Italian spaghetti meal, before enjoying more free time there. Then proceed to Rome.

### **Day 20: Rome - Vatican – Florence (B)**

Visit to the smallest state in the world, Vatican City, which lies at the heart of the Italian capital. Marvel at St Peter's Basilica, home to Pope Francis and arguably the most significant site in Christianity. The exquisitely beautiful Basilica has been present here for almost 1,700 years and contains a bewildering collection of paintings, frescoes and design crafted by some of



humanity's most famous artists. Join an optional Sistine Chapel tour to view Michelangelo's famous painted ceiling. See the famous Trevi Fountain, where people flock to throw coins into the water and make a wish. After lunch, take a step even further back in time to visit Italy's unrivalled Roman relics. An optional guided tour of the Coliseum, built in AD 72, is highly recommended. Later, visit the Arch of Constantine, then spend some further free time enjoying Rome before transferring to Florence.

### **Day 21: Florence – Pisa – Genoa (B)**

Take in a panoramic overview of the city from Piazzale Michelangelo, which boasts glorious vistas over the red roofs, Arno river and ancient city walls out towards the surrounding countryside. See a demonstration of the traditional craft of leather working at close quarters in a local workshop. Enjoy a guided walk around Florence's many highlights: the Ponte Vecchio over the Arno, the Piazza del Duomo and Campanile Tower. Pass the Uffizi Gallery, containing one of the most notable art collections in Florence. Then enjoy your free time to further explore the city further, before drive to Pisa. You'll free to wander, but be sure to have your camera ready to get a shot of the iconic Leaning Tower, the famous bell tower in the 'Square of Miracles'.

### **Day 22: Genoa - Monaco - Nice - Cannes - Avignon (B)**



Drive along one of Europe's most famous stretches of Mediterranean coastline awaits as you say arrivederci to Italy and head for Monaco. You'll look out for the famous Monte-Carlo casino as you cruise into town. A walking sightseeing tour here takes you to the grand Prince's Palace, the 1920s Courthouse, the cliffside Oceanographic Museum, and the cathedral, where Grace Kelly is buried. We then travel a little further to visit the famous Fragonard Perfume Factory. Next it's Nice, where you'll stop for lunch to sample some excellent local cuisine and warm-hearted hospitality. Your journey continues to Cannes, where many a movie star has enjoyed the sweet smell of success. Visit the Palais des Festival, home to the city's annual international film festival, before transferring to Avignon Nord.

### **Day 23: Avignon - Paris (B)**





Take a well-earned rest today as you sit back and enjoy great views of the changing rural charms of the French countryside on the journey north to Paris.

### **Day 24: Paris - Budapest B,D** ✈️

Today be transferred to the airport for your flight to Budapest. Arrive in Budapest and transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to discover Buda and Pest in this elegant city with its wealth of historic monuments linked by eight graceful bridges.

### **Day 25: Budapest - Cruise Embarkation (B,L,D)** 🚢

Enjoy the morning at leisure, or participate in the optional tour that traces the rich Jewish heritage of Budapest. Begin with a visit to the Great Dohany Synagogue, which ranks among one of the major Jewish sights in Budapest. This Moorish-style building is Europe's largest synagogue and the second largest in the world. View the Jewish Museum, the magnificent Tree of Life and the inspiring Raoul Wallenberg Memorial. Finally, travel across town to explore the chilling Hungarian Holocaust Museum. This afternoon, transfer to the port to embark your cruise. Tonight, a gala Welcome Dinner sets the mood for your delightful river cruise. The ship will set sail at 10pm. Bon Voyage!

### **Day 26: Bratislava (B,L,D)** 🚢

This morning, enjoy the tranquil scenery as the boat sails along the scenic Danube. In the late afternoon, arrive in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, a mix of modern and Baroque architecture. This capital city is among the youngest in Europe, yet retains a rich history dating back more than 2000 years. Walk along the cobblestone lanes of the historic town center; view St. Martin's Cathedral, coronation site of the Kings of Hungary, the 13th century Old Town Hall and the Franciscan church. Time to explore this colorful city on your own before returning to the ship for dinner. This evening, the ship will set sail just before midnight

### **Day 27: Vienna (B,L,D)** 🚢

Your morning tour of romantic Vienna introduces you to this Imperial city with its legendary opulence and elegance. Drive along the famed Ringstrasse, Vienna's main boulevard lined with magnificent Baroque palaces, parks and monuments. View the lavish Hofburg Palace, and the impressive Vienna Opera House. Continue to majestic St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Parliament building. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure, or, join the optional tour to the mag-



nificent Schonbrunn Palace, once summer residence of the Hapsburgs. Visit the gorgeous baroque apartments and stroll through the world-famous manicured gardens. Tonight, perhaps take the opportunity to attend an evening of Viennese culture in the “City of Music” at an optional concert performance of the classical masterpieces of Mozart and Strauss, two of Vienna’s most famous citizens

### **Day 28: Melk (B,L,D)**

This morning, arrive in the Bavarian village of Durnstein, one of the prettiest towns on the Danube. Free time to stroll this quintessential village in the heart of the Wachau wine district. Walk along medieval cobblestone streets revealing 16th century town houses and wine taverns. Continue cruising late this morning and relax on board as the boat cruises through the scenic Wachau Valley, with lovely storybook views of vineyards, castles, hilltop ruins and monasteries. Later, disembark in Melk for a guided tour of the historic Benedictine Abbey, considered one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture in Europe. View the Abbot’s chambers, the Kaiser’s walk and the lavish library. The ship will set sail as you dine on board this evening

### **Day 29: Linz (B,L,D)**

Early this morning cruise into Linz. Founded by the Romans, Linz has cultivated a strong artistic tradition, especially in the field of music. Today is free to explore the city independently, taking in such sites as St. Mary’s Cathedral and Linz Castle, or just relaxing at a café sampling the famous Linzer torte which was named after this quaint city. Alternatively, join the full day excursion to Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic. Travel through the picturesque landscape of Southern Bohemia to Cesky Krumlov, a fairy-tale town with its maze of narrow cobbled streets. Declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site in 1992, Cesky Krumlov has earned an international reputation for its State Castle and Chateau, one of the largest in Central Europe, superbly furnished with priceless art, tapestries and richly decorated weapons. The guided walk through town is highlighted by Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance houses once mansions of noblemen families

### **Day 30: Passau (B,L,D)**

Today presents a wonderful opportunity to join the optional full day tour to beautiful Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and setting for the Sound of Music. The walking tour will include some of Salzburg’s most historic sites including the Mirabell Palace, the Abbey, Salzburg Cathedral,



and St. Peter's Cemetery. After lunch at a local restaurant, there will be time to discover Salzburg on your own before returning to the ship. If you choose to remain on board, the day is free to explore the 2500-year-old Passau. Well known for its pastel patrician houses, cafes, cobblestone lanes and riverfront promenade, Passau is a Bavarian town with a mix of Roman, Italian Baroque and Gothic architecture. In the early evening, all passengers will rejoin the ship and set sail for Regensburg

### **Day 31: Regensburg (B,L,D)**



Arrive in Regensburg this morning, one of Germany's largest and best preserved medieval cities designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The guided walking tour highlights the city's stunning architecture as you view the Old Town Hall, the Dom St. Peter, and the Porta Praetoria, gateway to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. Marvel at beautiful churches and one of the oldest stone bridges crossing the Danube. Return to the boat or spend the afternoon at leisure discovering the delights of Regensburg on your own. The ship will remain docked in port this evening as you enjoy your final night on board

### **Day 32: Munich – Australia (B)**



Transfer from Regensburg to the Munich airport for your departure flight home

### **Day 33: Australia**

Arrive home today