



River Princess

15 Nights

European Jewels



For a limited time save up to €1,600 per stateroom on select 2018 cruises!

Summary

Uncover Europe's majestic jewels.

Indulge your passion for majestic art, architecture, music and history on an all-encompassing journey through four countries along three great rivers— the Danube, Main and Rhine—and to numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites.

From exotic Budapest, “Queen of the Danube,” to imperial Vienna, “City of Waltzes,” to the sky-high spires of Cologne’s Gothic cathedral—centuries of intriguing history and culture unfold before your eyes. The Melk Abbey’s great library overlooking the Danube, the Würzburg Residence’s soaring ceiling fresco by Tiepolo and the Winter Palace of Prince Eugene will leave you mesmerized. And throughout your journey, tantalize your senses with exclusive wine, apricot brandy and beer tastings, along with regional culinary delicacies. Discover the grand sweep of history and the dynamic present along legendary rivers on a magnificent journey that gives you the best of Europe’s great treasures as well as off-the-beaten- path gems.

Travellers wishing to discover the full spectrum of European culture, history, art and architecture; and connoisseurs of fine food and world-class wine.

Overview

Country:	Austria, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands
Cities:	Budapest, Vienna, Weissenkirchen, Engelhartszell, Passau, Regensburg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Würzburg, Wertheim, Frankfurt, Rüdesheim, Cologne, Amsterdam
Season:	June – October 2018
Duration:	16 days /15 nights
Port of departure:	Budapest
Starting Price:	€5399

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Itinerary



Day 1: Budapest (Embark)

Arrive at Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport. If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

Day 2: Budapest

Located on opposite sides of the Danube, Buda and Pest each has its own distinctive character and charm. Get acquainted this dynamic and multi-faceted city with your choice of excursions—whether you see it on four wheels or on your own two feet, there is much to discover in the Hungarian capital. Called the “Queen of the Danube,” in part because of the way the city hugs the banks of the river, Budapest is an enchanting city that vibrantly mixes East and West, medieval and modern. Made up of two parts—Buda (the hills) and Pest (the flatlands)—and divided by the Danube, Hungary’s capital presents an array of architectural styles that reveal its long and varied history. You’ll have two enticing ways to experience the city—a panoramic guided tour aboard a motorcoach, or discover the Budapest that locals love on a special walking tour.

Choice of Budapest city tour or Exclusive “Do as the Locals Do” Budapest walking tour

Day 3: Cruising the Danube River

Today is your day to relax onboard, enjoying the luxuries of your river cruise ship while soaking in the spectacular scenery all around you. Come up to the Sun Deck to admire the city’s landmarks—strung along the riverbank like pearls on a necklace—as the ship sails out of Budapest toward Vienna. A variety of activities will be available throughout the day, and you’ll have plenty of time to converse with new friends or simply unwind in your riverview stateroom or suite.

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Day 4: Vienna

Vienna is a cultural treasure trove revered for its art and music (and sinfully rich pastries). Experience the City of Waltzes with your choice of excursions, as well as VIP access to an extraordinary collection of art—having an opportunity to see these masterpieces in complete privacy is an extra special treat reserved solely for Uniworld guests. And to cap off a perfect Viennese day? An evening concert featuring works by Mozart and Strauss. The grand dame of the Danube, Vienna was the heart of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and remains, to this day, the political and cultural center of Austria. Klimt painted here; Beethoven and Mozart composed here; Freud developed his theories here. It's a treasure trove of splendid architecture, astonishing art collections and inviting cafés—and it's yours to enjoy. To begin your exploration of this delightful and historic city you may choose between two different guided tours: a panoramic city tour or our exclusive “Do as the Locals Do” walking tour. Another highlight today—our exclusive “Morning with the Masters” at the Vienna Art History Museum. Later, you can discover the endless charms of Vienna at your leisure. Featured Excursion:

Exclusive “Morning with the Masters” at the Vienna Art History Museum

Choice of Vienna city tour or Exclusive “Do as the Locals Do” Vienna walking tour or Vienna Mystery Tour

Day 5: Cruising The Wachau Valley, Weissenkirchen (Weissenkirchen Or Melk)

Named for its white church, Weissenkirchen may very well be the prettiest village in the Wachau Valley. A local expert will show you around and introduce you to some regional delicacies; later, you can stretch your legs with a vineyard hike that includes a wine tasting. Prefer to go for baroque? Visit the 900-year-old Melk Abbey and its extraordinarily opulent library. Sail through the spectacular scenery of the Wachau Valley—one of the most beautiful stretches of river landscape in all of Europe. The 19-mile-long (30-kilometer-long) valley was formed over many centuries by the Danube River, which slowly wore away a rocky gorge in the foothills of the Bohemian Forest between Krems and Melk. This enchanting region—which boasts steep-sided, densely wooded southern slopes and northern slopes composed of a picturesque mixture of crags and vineyards—is a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape. Dotted along the banks are boutique winemaking communities and historic small towns, like the pleasant village of Weissenkirchen, which you will have the opportunity to explore on a delightfully savory excursion. Or, if you're feeling active, consider a vineyard hike that will lead you high above the village. Some of Austria's best white wines are produced from grapes ripened on the terraces that cling to these rocky slopes, including Grüner Veltliner, which is grown almost exclusively in Austria. If you have a taste for history rather than wine, consider a visit to Melk Abbey, where you'll explore its massive library and admire its magnificent architecture.

Choice of Weissenkirchen “Village Day” with “Let's Go” vineyard hike and wine tasting or Melk Abbey with library visit

Day 6: Engelhartszell, Cruising the Danube River, Passau

Passau is a crossroads in more ways than one—three rivers meet here and three nations nearly do, making for a fascinating cultural mosaic. Get to know the town with a choice of guided walks or “Let's Go” with an invigorating riverside bike ride. Today you'll open your eyes to one of the most breathtaking stretches along the Danube. Just before reaching Passau, the ship will pass through the famous Schöngener Schlinge—a “gooseneck” or hairpin turn in the Danube. It's simply beautiful and will warrant some Instagram-worthy photos. Located at the confluence of three rivers—the Danube, Inn and Ilz—Passau is well known for its ornate baroque cathedral. Long ago, it was a Roman colony in the province of Noricum, called Batavis after an ancient Germanic tribe. Today, the city is unusually well preserved, having been spared the brunt of Allied bombing during WWII, as you'll see on your walking tour of Passau. If you'd like some active touring, join us for a guided bike ride along the Danube.

Choice of Passau walking discovery tour or “Let's Go” hike along the Ilz River or “Let's Go” Bavarian River bike ride

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Day 7: Regensburg

Today in Regensburg you have three options for experiencing this medieval gem of a city—select one for the morning and another for the afternoon. You can travel through time, get a crash course on making craft beer, watch high-tech robots assemble the Ultimate Driving Machine or enjoy a bird's-eye view of the town. Regensburg is a friendly town with quaint cobblestone streets, historic Roman ruins and a UNESCO World Heritage—designated medieval city center. This unspoiled gem was the capital of Bavaria for about 700 years, from the 6th to the 13th centuries. The remnants of Regensburg's golden age are still on display, particularly in the Stone Bridge, the first bridge to span the Danube, built in the 12th century. This bridge, which is 1,014 feet (309 meters) long, was an architectural wonder in its day. But don't let Regensburg's illustrious history fool you into thinking the town's best days are all in the past. Modern Regensburg is a popular center of higher learning, with more than 30,000 students attending its various colleges and universities. In fact, Pope Benedict XVI was a professor of theology at the University of Regensburg until 1977. Regensburg also frequently appears on lists ranking the world's best places to live, thanks to its outdoor spaces, historic city center, lively cultural and nightlife scenes, and great shopping. Choice of "2,000 Years in One Hour" Regensburg walking discovery tour or "From Hops Field to Beer Stein" farm visit or BMW factory visit

Day 8: Cruising the Main-Danube Canal, Nuremberg

Head up to the top deck or find a seat with a good view—you won't want to miss seeing the ship navigate its way through a marvel of modern engineering, the Main-Danube Canal. Your destination today is the historic city of Nuremberg, which you can explore in two different ways. The canal is the fulfillment of a millennia-long dream, permitting ships of all shapes and sizes to travel from the North Sea to the Black Sea. A formidable set of locks, 16 in all, lifts your ship to the crest of the European "continental divide." Unlike the US and Canada, where the Continental Divide is in high mountains, in Europe the watershed changes at 4,382 feet (1,332 meters), and the countryside is a gentle slope. Regardless of altitude, it's amazing to watch each lock open and fill with water and to feel the ship rise and move forward. Later, arrive in the archetypal medieval German city of Nuremberg. Nuremberg is justifiably famous for its gingerbread and pocket watches, and it was also the site of some key moments in 20th-century history. You'll choose between two memorable ways of exploring this exceptional city. You can hop aboard a motorcoach for a guided city tour, or you can accompany a local expert to the city's most important WWII sites, including the enormous Nazi Party Rally Grounds—the actual site of the Nazi party rallies. The choice is yours. Choice of Nuremberg city tour or Nuremberg WWII historical tour with Documentation Center

Day 9: Bamberg, Cruising The Main River

Your floating time machine takes you to Bamberg today, a well-preserved town that offers a fascinating glimpse of medieval times. Explore the city on foot or opt to head deeper into the Franconian countryside to experience an authentic slice of rural life—including a tractor ride! Today, your ship will dock in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bamberg, which has one of the largest intact medieval town centers in Europe. Like Rome, the city is built on seven hills—but in Bamberg, a church tops each one. During the Middle Ages, Bamberg was split in two, divided by the Regnitz River, one side controlled by the prince-bishop and the other by the burghers (a formally defined class in medieval Germany). As a result of this division, the Old Town Hall was built on a tiny island in the middle of the Regnitz to serve both sides of town. Marvel at this medieval city's striking architecture and stirring history on a walking tour through Bamberg's Old Town. Or leave the city behind for an experience of Franconian rural life with a visit to a charming village in the verdant hills just outside of town.

Featured Excursions:

Bamberg walking discovery tour

Exclusive Franconian "Village Day"

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**Day 10: Würzburg (Rothenburg)**

Opulent Palace Or Medieval Castle? You Will Visit Both Today, Rest Assured It Will Be Completely Enchanting. The Würzburg Residence is a 300-room palace with a famous staircase and a gigantic ceiling fresco (even larger than the Sistine Chapel's). Step into a fairytale version of the Middle Ages in Rothenburg and visit a medieval castle that's been described as a miniature Versailles. Your ship will dock in the charming Franconian town of Würzburg, where you can visit the extraordinary Würzburg Residence—one of the most opulent baroque palaces in Europe—and a fairytale town and medieval castle.

Day 11: Wertheim

After today, you may never eat a pretzel again without thinking of the Bavarian town of Wertheim. You'll meet one of Germany's best pretzel makers here, as well as the owner of a historic wine estate, before heading off on a guided vineyard hike. If you're more in the mood for a scenic bike ride, you are welcome to do that instead. Luxuriate onboard your impeccably appointed ship as it meanders down the wonderfully scenic Main River toward your next destination, delightful Wertheim.

Choice of Wertheim walking tour with pretzel making and wine tasting at a private wine estate or "Let's Go" bicycle tour from Wertheim to Freudenberg

Day 12: Frankfurt

Frankfurt is known as the "Mainhattan" of Europe due to its profusion of bankers and soaring skyscrapers, which co-exist with the city's traditional Old Town architecture. Experience Frankfurt's many contrasts today by visiting Germany's oldest museum or taking a guided "Let's Go" bike ride. Delve into exciting Frankfurt today. A major European financial and trade center, vibrant Frankfurt boasts world-class museums, soaring skyscrapers, cozy wine taverns and lovely parks. Choose a brief tour that gives you an overview or a more in-depth walking tour and then explore on your own. There's a lot to discover, including a great bike path along the Main, if you'd like to get out and about for some exercise.

Choice of Exclusive "Do as the Locals Do" Frankfurt walking tour or Heidelberg with castle visit

Day 13: Rüdesheim, Cruising the Romantic Rhine River

Experience Germany's fabled Rheingau in one of two ways today. Take in spectacular views of the region's famous vineyards from the perspective of an aerial cable car, or venture within an atmospheric medieval monastery and taste the Rieslings made on site. Like many cities along the Rhine, Rüdesheim has a lengthy history that stretches back to Roman times. These days, the town is best known for its narrow avenue of shops and wine bars called the Drosselgasse and its impressive Niederwald Monument. Later in the day, you'll experience the most spectacular scenery on the Rhine.

Choice of Aerial cable car ride to the Niederwald Monument or Kloster Eberbach medieval monastery tour with Riesling tasting

Day 14: Cologne

You simply cannot visit Cologne without paying homage to its most notorious site, the Gothic masterpiece that serves as the city's cathedral. A local expert will show you favorite haunts around the Old Town, introduce you to the famous local brew, and share some of the cathedral's most intriguing and Magi-cal secrets with you. Cologne is the largest and oldest city of the Rhineland and a cultural mecca, with more than 30 museums and hundreds of art galleries. A congenial atmosphere and a mix of ancient, modern and reconstructed buildings characterize the heart of the city.

Featured Excursion:

Cologne walking tour with Cologne Cathedral visit and Kölsch beer tasting

A special Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

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Day 15: Amsterdam

Enjoy the luxury of a full day in the “Venice of the North,” starting with a private “Morning with the Masters” tour of the Van Gogh Museum. You’ll have the museum’s extraordinary collection all to yourself, with an art historian to show you the highlights. Afterwards, explore the city with a canal ride or on foot with a local expert.

Featured Excursion:

“Morning with the Masters” at the Van Gogh Museum

Choice of Amsterdam canal cruise or Exclusive “Do as the Locals Do” Amsterdam walking tour

Day 16: Amsterdam (Disembark)

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport for your flight home.

Prices Include	Prices Exclude
15-night cruise in a River view stateroom	International airfare
All transfers on arrival and departure days	Port charges
All meals on board: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners	
4 countries: Austria, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands	
Unlimited beverages onboard, including fine wine, beer, spirits,	
8 UNESCO World Heritage sites	
soft drinks, specialty coffee and tea, and mineral water	
Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions	
Welcome and Farewell Gala Dinners	
12 days of excursions, including “Choice Is Yours” options,	
all fully hosted by English-speaking local experts	
"Let's Go," "Do as the Locals Do" and "Village Day" programs	
State-of-the-art Quietvox portable audio headset system on all	
excursions	
Use of bicycles and Nordic walking sticks	

Category	Ship	Price
Category 5	River Princess	5399
Category 4	River Princess	5499
Category 3	River Princess	6599
Category 2	River Princess	6999
Category 1	River Princess	7499

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Suite	River Princess	9499
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