



Alumni Travel



Great European Journey

June 15, 2027 - June 26, 2027

Program Overview

Embark on an exhilarating European adventure steeped in storied history, grand architecture and breathtaking scenery on this fabulous 12-day, 11-night itinerary. In Switzerland, discover unforgettable Montreux, hub of music and culture. Marvel at the beauty of Lake Geneva on a sightseeing cruise and the sweeping grandeur of the Alps during a panoramic train ride. Explore the picturesque towns of Gruyères and Basel. Then board the sumptuous Amadeus Queen, boasting luxurious amenities and impeccable service, to enjoy a deluxe 7-night river cruise. Soak up the timeless beauty of the Rhine and Moselle rivers as you wind past storybook towns, terraced vineyards and forested hills crowned by castles. After embarking in Breisach, Germany, call at Strasbourg, France; Heidelberg, Germany; Rüdesheim; Cochem; Cologne and Amsterdam, Netherlands. Add to your amazing European exploration with an optional post-tour extension in Amsterdam.



Timbered houses in Strasbourg, France



Château de Chillon, Lake Geneva, Switzerland



Rudesheim vineyards, Germany

Program Highlights

- Cruise from Breisach, Germany, to Amsterdam, Netherlands, aboard Amadeus Queen, an exclusively chartered, deluxe riverboat.
- 7-night cruise and 3 nights in Montreux, Switzerland at a first-class hotel.
- Featured guest speaker Ben Coates, author and journalist.
- Specially arranged excursions throughout your journey.
- Visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage sites — Strasbourg, Grand Île, France; Upper Middle Rhine Valley and Cologne Cathedral, Germany; 17th-Century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht, Netherlands. One UNESCO Creative City — Montreux, Switzerland.
- Included meals | 3 receptions, 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 7 dinners.
- Amsterdam Post-Tour Extension. (Available at additional cost.)



Day-by-Day Program Itinerary

- The Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands.

Mild excursions involve:

- Walking for 1.5 hours or more over uneven terrain
- Walking on challenging surfaces: cobblestones, uneven paths and/or pavements
- Climbing stairs and hills and crossing rail tracks
- Ascending and descending narrow (and sometimes steep) gangplanks
- Stepping on and off motorcoaches with 3-6 steep steps

Moderate excursions could involve the above, plus:

- Walking for 3 hours for distances of a mile or more
- Walking on uneven terrain: narrow cobblestone streets, stone floors, and/or slippery surfaces. There may be several flights of stairs, some without railings

Active excursions could involve the above, plus:

- Walking on uneven terrain: sandy or rocky beaches and/or steep inclines
- Standing for 2 hours or more at a time, possibly without areas to sit
- Climbing 100 stairs or more
- Additional challenges, such as long jeep rides, bumpy boat rides or hikes

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives to active excursions may be available.

Day 1 | Depart Home City

Depart for Geneva, Switzerland. Please check your bags from your gateway city to your arrival city. Be sure to attach the provided Gohagan & Company luggage tags for each piece of luggage, including carry-ons. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: GVA.

Day 2 | Geneva, Switzerland | Montreux

Arrive at Geneva International Airport.

Take a scenic guided transfer to beautiful Montreux, where you'll check in to the first-class Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic, with panoramic views of Lake Geneva and the Alps.

Free time: Settle in and make your own plans for lunch. The Gohagan Travel Hospitality Desk at the hotel stands ready with dining suggestions.

Walking Tour of Montreux. This afternoon, take a guided walk of Montreux, known as the Jewel of the Swiss Riviera. Stroll along the lakeside promenade — lined by lush gardens and art installations — and revel in gorgeous mountain views. Montreux, known for its music scene, was home to Queen's Freddie Mercury, who died here in 1991. Visit a statue of him here on the lakefront. Walk through the picturesque Old Town, with its cobbled streets and multi-colored stone buildings. Afterward, you will have free time to explore on your own, perhaps visiting some of the shops. (Moderate activity level)

Welcome Reception: Join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception this evening at the hotel.

Free Time: Make your own plans for dinner tonight.

Day 3 | Montreux | Lake Geneva

Free Time: Enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel, then spend the morning at leisure. Walk along the lakefront or continue to explore Montreux on your own.

Chillon Castle. In the late morning, depart to visit the 13th-century Chateau de Chillon, an imposing medieval castle situated at the lake's edge. During your tour, note the painted walls in the Grand Burgrave Hall and the original 15th-century wooden ceiling in the Grand Ducal Hall. The castle was also famously used as a prison, and, completing the romantic image, the covered bridge was once a drawbridge. (Moderate)

Lake Geneva Cruise. Following the tour, board a Belle Époque paddlewheel steamboat for a two-hour cruise along the shores of Lake Geneva. This scenic body of water — the largest lake in central Europe — was a requisite stop on the Grand Tour of Europe during the 19th century, and its beautiful vistas inspired many artists and writers. In fact, Byron and Shelley met here and spent some days just as you are doing — boating on the serene waters! Savor a delicious lunch in the ship's elegant dining room as forested hillsides and picturesque villages glide by. (Moderate)

Free Time: Spend time this afternoon and evening at leisure, and make your own plans for dinner. Please visit the

Gohagan Travel Hospitality Desk for sightseeing and dining suggestions.

Day 4 | Gruyeres | Broc

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel this morning. Then depart for today's memorable excursion.

Gruyères.

Board a comfortable, modern train to travel along the Golden Pass route — gazing out at breathtaking Alpine scenery — from Montreux to Montbovon. From there, a short countryside drive takes you to the charming medieval town of Gruyères. Set off on foot to explore the picture-postcard historic town independently. Meet up for a group lunch — including fondue! — at a local restaurant. (Moderate)

Broc. Continue to the small village of Broc to the famous Maison Cailler chocolate factory for a fun and captivating tour. Learn the secrets of chocolate-making and, of course, taste the delicious final product! (Moderate)

Transfer back to the hotel. Make your own plans for dinner tonight. The Gohagan Travel Hospitality Desk is happy to offer dining suggestions.

Day 5 | Montreux | Basel | Breisach, Germany | Embark

Savor a delectable breakfast at the hotel before checking out. Marvel at the beautiful scenery on a drive to Basel.

Basel, an Alpine Art Hub. Arrive in Basel, Switzerland's only port. Ancient Basilia was a Roman settlement established in 44 B.C. — nowadays it's a vibrant, modern city known for its annual Art Basel festival of contemporary art. Enjoy a guided city tour and lunch at a local restaurant. (Moderate)

Transfer to Breisach, Germany and embark Amadeus Queen, your home for the next week! Settle in to your cabin and unpack. This afternoon, attend a welcome briefing and safety drill. Enjoy a relaxing dinner on board tonight (and every night on the cruise!).

Day 6 | Strasbourg, France

Enjoy a delicious breakfast on board each morning of the cruise.

Strasbourg. Discover the medieval grandeur of Grand-Île, the historic center of Strasbourg and a UNESCO World Heritage site, during a walking tour. See the bridges and watchtowers of the 13th-century Ponts Couverts, and meander past the many half-timbered houses in the canal-lined Petite France district, where tanners, millers and fishermen once lived during the Middle Ages. Visit Notre Dame Cathedral, an exquisitely ornamented Gothic beauty. Gaze at its famed Astrological Clock, created by a team of artists, mathematicians and technicians during the Renaissance. Across from the Cathedral, notice the Kammerzell House, now a hotel and restaurant. This beautiful building dates to 1427; cheese merchant Martin Braun, then owner, commissioned the incredible exterior work in 1589. (Moderate)

Free Time: Return to the boat for a delicious lunch. Spend the afternoon at your leisure. If you'd like to return to town, hop on a shuttle or borrow a bicycle from the boat.

Welcome Reception: Join your fellow travelers for the Welcome Reception and Dinner later tonight.

Day 7 | Mannheim, Germany for Heidelberg

Heidelberg. Dock in Mannheim and journey to romantic Heidelberg to visit the ruins of its grand castle, built in the 13th century, overlooking the picturesque Neckar Valley. Take in the ancient castle walls, surrounding grounds and gorgeous views. One of the more intriguing features of the castle is the world's largest wine barrel in its basement, complete with a dance floor on top. Take a walking tour in the lively, cobblestoned Altstadt (Old Town), filled with Renaissance and Baroque gems, such as the old bridge, Alte Brücke. As you cross it, keep your eyes peeled for a most singular statue—of a monkey with a mirror! (Moderate)

Free Time: Return to the boat for a delicious lunch and free time in the afternoon.

Day 8 | Rüdesheim | Lorelei Passage

Riesling in Rüdesheim. Arrive in the heart of Riesling wine country today. Ride on the Winzerexpress, a mini train that will take you on an informative tour through the vineyards, featuring a stunning view of Rüdesheim and the Rhine. The tour ends with a wine tasting in the picturesque old town. (Moderate)

Head back to the boat to settle in for a delicious lunch on board, or stay and lunch in town, if you wish.

Unforgettable Cruise on the Rhine Gorge. The Rhine has been an important passage connecting Europe's northern and southern parts since prehistoric times, making trade and cultural exchange possible. Small settlements sprang up along the riverbanks 2,000 years ago and evolved into a string of small villages and towns. Now this enchanting Upper Middle Rhine Valley, also known as the Rhine Gorge and a UNESCO World Heritage site, is dotted with some 40 hilltop castles, palaces and fortresses. Marvel at the breathtaking vistas, complete with vineyard terraces along the steep valley walls. These views have inspired great artists, poets and composers over the past few hundred years—as you glide along this magnificent stretch of river, perhaps you will be reminded of the paintings of J.M.W. Turner, the words of Lord Byron or the music of Richard Wagner's "Ring Cycle." Admire the striking outcrop called Lorelei Rock—a symbol of Rhine Romanticism that inspired myriad poems and songs.

Day 9 | Cochem

Cochem. Sail through a splendid, narrow section of the Moselle River, lined with colorful towns and tiered vineyards, then dock in charming Cochem. As you disembark, delight in the brightly painted houses on the riverfront. On a walking tour, stroll the narrow cobblestoned streets and take in the squares and half-timbered houses. Visit Reichsburg Castle, perched atop a forested cliff high above the town. The original castle here was demolished by King Louis XIV's troops in 1689. The building sat in ruins for almost 200 years before a wealthy businessman bought and refurbished it, in a neo-Gothic style. The castle offers the most stunning views of the river, valley and town... a wonderful photo opportunity! (Active)

Free Time: Return to the boat for lunch on board. Spend the afternoon at your leisure. Stay in town, if you wish, to lunch and explore Cochem on your own.

Enjoy a delicious dinner tonight.

Day 10 | Cologne

Cologne. One of the largest European cities in medieval and Renaissance times, Cologne is known for its lively spirit. On a walking tour, meander down winding lanes in the medieval old town, appreciating the colorful houses, leafy squares and picturesque courtyards. Have you ever wondered why your bottled fragrance is called Eau de Cologne? The term is French for “water of Cologne,” and the world’s oldest perfume factory has been located here since 1723.

But Cologne may be most famous for its magnificent Gothic cathedral, Kölner Dom, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This location has been occupied by Christian churches since the fourth century, and the current cathedral was built over a period of more than 630 years, finally completed in 1880. The cathedral houses the Shrine of the Three Kings, a gilded reliquary, the largest one in Europe. Admire the cathedral’s impressive exterior on our walking tour. (Moderate)

Free Time: Return to the boat for lunch on board. Spend the afternoon at your leisure. Stay in town, if you wish, to lunch and explore Cologne on your own.

Day 11 | Cruising | Amsterdam, Netherlands

As we sail to the Netherlands, enjoy time this morning on the riverboat. Exercise in the fitness center, indulge in a sauna or steam bath in the wellness area, or simply relax on deck with a book. After a delicious lunch, disembark in Amsterdam.

Canal Cruise. Set off on a private cruise through Amsterdam’s world-famous UNESCO-inscribed canals, which have been connecting the city since the early 17th century. Glide under iconic bridges and past brightly colored houses, stately stone buildings and hundreds of cyclists! (Moderate)

Farewell Reception: This evening, attend the Farewell Reception and Dinner, and raise a glass to your great European journey!

Day 12 | Amsterdam | Disembark | Return to Home City

Following breakfast, disembark and transfer to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS) for your return flight home.

If you have reserved the Amsterdam Post-Tour Extension, please refer to the separate preliminary itinerary for the extension for more information.

Travel Expert

Ben Coates | Featured Guest Speaker

Ben Coates is the bestselling author of “The Rhine: Following Europe’s Greatest River from Amsterdam to the Alps,” as well as the books “The Invention of Amsterdam: A History of Europe’s Greatest City in Ten Walks” and “Why the Dutch are Different.” He was born in England and, after a career as a political adviser and speechwriter, became an author and journalist specializing in the history, culture and politics of the Low Countries and Germany. He writes regularly for publications such as The New York Times, The Guardian and The Daily Telegraph, and he writes a weekly column for the Dutch newspaper Algemeen Dagblad. He is a Dutch/British dual citizen and lives in a cottage in the Dutch countryside with his wife and children.



Accommodations

Luftner Cruises - Amadeus Queen - 2026

The stylish 81-cabin MS Amadeus Queen, evocative of a grand European hotel, debuted in 2018 as part of the elegant Amadeus fleet. While aboard, your enjoyment and comfort are the highest priority. Experience timeless elegance, beautifully appointed surroundings bathed in natural light, all-inclusive gourmet dining and on-board entertainment. The attentive crew takes care of your every need as you sit back and soak up scenic river views from spacious outdoor settings or intimate nooks. Get ready to explore the rich history and culture of Europe's river cities in style!



Accommodations

Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic

Located on the shore of Lake Geneva, the first-class Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic enjoys a unique setting offering panoramic views of the lake and the Alps. The 155 rooms and suites, decorated in a classic or contemporary style, envelop you in comfortable luxury. Most rooms and suites have a private balcony or terrace and beautiful views. Each room is unique, but all offer air conditioning, Wi-Fi connection, a minibar, bathrobes, slippers and bathroom products. The hotel features a restaurant and bar; the on-site wellness area offers a fitness center, sauna and hammam.



Dates & Rates

Travel Dates: June 15, 2027 - June 26, 2027

All rates are in U.S. dollars per person, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated, and include taxes. The deposit is \$2000 per person. The Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure. Single accommodations are subject to availability.

The Optional Extension(s) is available at an additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

For Terms & Conditions, visit: dart.gohagantravel.com/terms/

The Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full savings. The Special Savings rate is valid if you book by October 8, 2026 and pay in full at the time of booking.

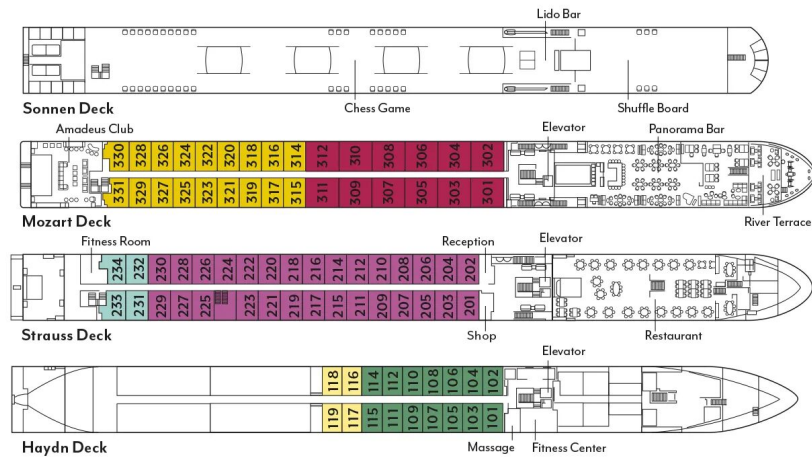
Double Occupancy Rates

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Discount Rate
E	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck 1, mid.	\$6995.00	\$5995.00
D	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck, mid/aft.	\$7195.00	\$6195.00
C	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck, aft.	\$7995.00	\$6995.00
B	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck, mid/aft.	\$8195.00	\$7195.00
A	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Mozart Deck, aft.	\$8695.00	\$7695.00
S	Suite with private, walk-out balcony; walk-in closet; corner sofa; bathrobes and slippers; minibar. 284 sq ft Mozart Deck, mid.	\$10195.00	\$9195.00

Single Occupancy Rates

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Discount Rate
D	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck, mid/aft.	\$8990.00	\$7990.00
C	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck, aft.	\$9990.00	\$8990.00
E	Stateroom with panoramic window (cannot be opened); spacious wardrobe. 172 sq ft Haydn Deck 1, mid.	\$13990.00	\$12990.00
B	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Strauss Deck, mid/aft.	\$16390.00	\$15390.00
A	Stateroom with French balcony; drop-down panoramic window; walk-in closet; minibar. 188 sq ft Mozart Deck, aft.	\$17390.00	\$16390.00
S	Suite with private, walk-out balcony; walk-in closet; corner sofa; bathrobes and slippers; minibar. 284 sq ft Mozart Deck, mid.	\$20390.00	\$19390.00

Luftner Cruises - Amadeus Queen - 2026



Amsterdam Post-Tour Extension

Explore this captivating city graced with leafy canals, gabled houses and thousands of bicycles. Visit a local farm to learn about cheesemaking and try your hand at making Gouda. Soak up the inviting ambience and historic architecture of the picturesque harbor town of Edam. And finally, view acclaimed art by great Dutch Golden Age masters at the incomparable Rijksmuseum. Includes accommodation for two nights at the Amsterdam Marriott Hotel.



The Optional Extensions are available at an additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

All information is accurate as of July 17, 2026. For up-to-date details, please visit:

dart.gohagantravel.com/programs/great-european-journey-2027-1