



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

CRUISING THE RHINE

Legendary Landscapes, History & Art
aboard the 100-passenger *MS River Crown*

JUNE 17–26, 2027





Basel

Dear National Trust Tours Traveler,

Cruise the Rhine River, one of Europe's most iconic waterways, on an eight-night private charter aboard the elegant *MS River Crown*, a spacious and beautifully designed vessel that debuted a comprehensive refurbishment in early 2026. Accommodating just 100 guests, she offers a more personal, social, and relaxed experience than larger modern ships, enjoyed from expansive public spaces including a panoramic lounge as you journey along one of Europe's most storied waterways.

From the moment you embark in Basel to your final days in the Netherlands, each bend of the Rhine reveals a scene worthy of a painting. Cruise through the dramatic Rhine Gorge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where vineyard covered hills rise above the river and centuries old castles stand watch from rocky heights. Wander Strasbourg's enchanting old town, explore the romantic ruins of Heidelberg Castle, and stand beneath the soaring Gothic cathedral in Cologne. In Kinderdijk, a timeless landscape of historic windmills reflects Dutch ingenuity, while Colmar and Dordrecht invite you to slow down among storybook streets and canals steeped in history.

This journey is as enriching as it is beautiful. Trace pivotal moments of history at the Maginot Line, along the Rhine's strategic crossings, and in Arnhem, where the legacy of Operation Market Garden still resonates. Art and culture come to life through celebrated museums and collections, paired with thoughtfully curated excursions designed for smaller groups and deeper engagement.

Along the way, savor the flavors of the region. Sip wines in the heart of Alsace, learn the traditions behind Cologne's Kölsch beer, and sample local specialties in lively markets and inviting town squares. Each experience is designed to immerse you in the culture, history, and spirit of the Rhine.

For those wishing to extend their travels, a three-night post-trip extension in Amsterdam offers even more to explore. With limited space, I encourage you to reserve your space today. Call our office at (888) 484-8785 or email info@nationaltrusttours.com for more information.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MP' or 'Meg'.

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours

The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Small Ship River Cruising**

Eight nights aboard the privately chartered *MS River Crown*, a beautifully refurbished riverboat for up to 100 guests.

- **Dramatic Rhine River Gorge**

Cruise the dramatic UNESCO-protected Rhine Gorge, passing hilltop castles, vineyards, and legendary Lorelei landscapes.

- **Architectural Masterpieces Protected by UNESCO**

Marvel at Cologne's soaring Gothic Cathedral, Heidelberg Castle overlooking the Neckar River, Strasbourg's Old Town with half-timbered houses, and the 19 windmills of Kinderdijk from 1740.

- **Compelling Military History**

Visit the Maginot Line fortification near Strasbourg; strategically critical Allied Rhine River crossings; and Arnhem, where the unsuccessful Operation Market Garden unfolded with a chance to walk the Oversteek Bridge where American soldiers are honored.

- **World-Class Art & Design**

Explore medieval cathedrals and Renaissance squares to modern design in Basel and Cologne, with visits to top collections like the Unterlinden Museum, Kröller-Müller Museum, and Mainz Gutenberg.

- **Storybook Medieval Towns**

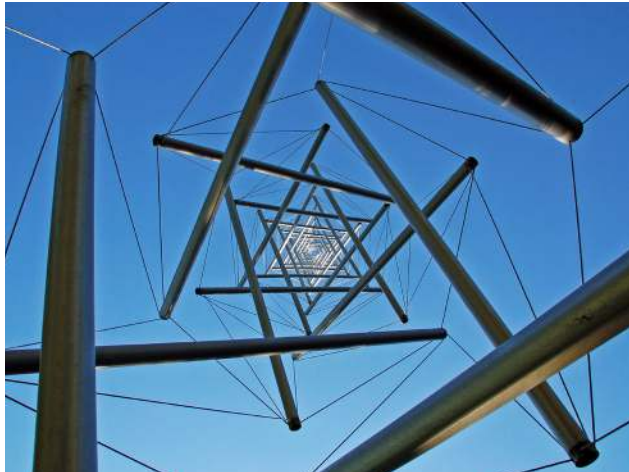
Discover the enchanting timber-framed streets of Colmar and the storied waterways of Dordrecht—Holland's oldest town, founded in 1008—where centuries of trade, art and daily life still echo along the canals.

- **Culinary Flare**

Raise a glass of wine in the heart of the Alsace wine region, learn about Cologne Kölsch beer from a brew master, and sample local specialties in Heidelberg.



Cologne Cathedral



Structure at Kröller-Müller Art Museum



Heidelberg, Germany

THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM, experts from co-sponsoring organizations such as MIT Alumni Travel, Harvard Alumni Travel, and Princeton Seminary Expeditions will be giving lectures.



Itinerary

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 17-18

HOME / BASEL, SWITZERLAND

Depart home on an overnight flight to Basel Switzerland. Upon arrival on June 18, transfer to the elegant *MS River Crown*, your home for the journey ahead. Guests arriving in the morning will be assisted with arrangements in central Basel until it is time to board the vessel later that afternoon. Settle into your cabin and take time to explore the ship before gathering for a welcome reception followed by dinner on board as your voyage begins.

MS RIVER CROWN (R, D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

BREISACH, GERMANY

The day begins with a launch of the onboard lecture series before arriving in the storybook medieval town of Colmar, known for its half-timbered houses, flower-lined canals, and Alsatian charm. Choose between two enriching excursions: visit the renowned Unterlinden Museum to view the extraordinary Isenheim Altarpiece, a masterpiece of Northern Renaissance art, or travel to Riquewihr, a beautifully preserved medieval village in the heart of Alsace and savor a tasting of Alsace's celebrated wines.

MS RIVER CROWN (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

Arrive this morning in Strasbourg, one of the most beautiful cities in France, for a guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Old Town. Wander its cobbled streets lined with colorful timber-framed houses and stop to admire the soaring spires of its magnificent cathedral. Cruise through the canals of the charming Petite France district in small local

boats, passing historic mills, quaint bridges, and waterfront cafés. In the afternoon, choose between visiting Fort Schoenenbourg, a well-preserved Maginot Line fortification that provides fascinating insight into France's defensive strategy during World War II, or enjoying free time to explore Strasbourg independently.

MS RIVER CROWN (B, L, D)

MONDAY, JUNE 21

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

The day begins with an engaging lecture on board before arriving in Heidelberg, a UNESCO City of Literature renowned for its romantic charm and intellectual legacy. Explore the dramatic Heidelberg Castle, perched high above the Neckar River with sweeping valley views, followed by a guided stroll through the atmospheric Old Town with the chance to sample local specialties showcasing the city's rich culinary traditions. In the afternoon, choose between free time to explore Heidelberg at your own pace or visit Mainz for its rich Roman heritage, charming old town, Rhine riverfront setting, and the Gutenberg Museum, where one of history's most revolutionary inventions changed the spread of knowledge forever.

MS RIVER CROWN (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

RHINE GORGE & KOBLENZ

Cruise through the UNESCO-protected Rhine Gorge this morning, one of the most scenic stretches of the Rhine, where steep vineyard-covered slopes, medieval castles, and picturesque villages unfold at every turn. This legendary passage has inspired poets, painters, and travelers for centuries. In the afternoon, choose between exploring Koblenz's historic Old Town, strolling through inviting squares and narrow lanes to the "German Corner," where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet beneath a monumental statue of Emperor Wilhelm I, or



Eusebius Church



Scenic canal in Dordrecht

visiting Fort Ehrenbreitstein for its commanding hilltop position above the Rhine and its fascinating history as one of Europe's great fortified strongholds.

MS RIVER CROWN (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

COLOGNE

Our lecture series continues this morning before arriving in Cologne, to explore the lively Old Town, known for its historic architecture, vibrant squares, and colorful buildings. Walk inside the magnificent Cologne Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an extraordinary example of Gothic architecture. Construction of this iconic landmark began in 1248 and continued for more than 600 years, resulting in its intricate façade, soaring spires, and the renowned Shrine of the Three Kings. In the afternoon, continue exploring Cologne with three options: visit the Netherlands American Cemetery and a former Gestapo headquarters for insight into the city's World War II history; learn about Kölsch beer through a curated tasting with a local brewmaster; or spend free time browsing Cologne's boutiques, cafés, and riverside promenades at your own pace. Enjoy the *MS River Crown* remaining in port this evening for an opportunity to dine ashore independently, a chance to dine at a traditional German brauhaus.

MS RIVER CROWN (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

ARNHEM

Today, choose from three memorable excursions in Arnhem: 1) Airborne Museum to learn about Operation Market Garden, then walk across the historic Oversteek Bridge, a poignant site honoring the bravery of Allied paratroopers; 2) Kröller-Müller Art Museum, home to one of the largest Van Gogh collections in the world; or 3) a guided tour of Arnhem including the impressive Eusebius Church with its soaring tower and panoramic views of the city.

MS RIVER CROWN (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

DORDRECHT & KINDERDIJK, NETHERLANDS

Arrive in Dordrecht, Holland's oldest city, for a morning trip to the UNESCO-protected windmills of Kinderdijk, a remarkable group of 19 historic mills dating back to 1740 that highlight the Netherlands' innovative approach to water management. Return

to Dordrecht to explore this picturesque town with an old-world atmosphere, scenic canals, unique shops, and historic cottages. In the afternoon, relax as you cruise toward Rotterdam, where a farewell reception and dinner on board celebrate the conclusion of your journey.

MS RIVER CROWN (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

AMSTERDAM, HOME

Disembark this morning and transfer to Amsterdam Airport for your return flights home, or extend your journey with an optional three-night post-trip extension in the Netherlands. (B)



The Dancing Houses of Amsterdam

POST-TRIP EXTENSION IN AMSTERDAM

Extend your journey with an enriching three-night post-trip extension in the Netherlands, pairing Rotterdam's bold contemporary spirit with the timeless beauty of Amsterdam. After disembarking the *MS River Crown*, explore Rotterdam, a dynamic city known for innovative architecture and a vibrant cultural scene, including a guided visit to FENIX, a major new international museum dedicated to migration and human stories.

Continue to Amsterdam for a three-night stay in the Dutch capital, where canal-lined streets, gabled houses, lively squares, and centuries of maritime and artistic history create one of Europe's most atmospheric settings. Discover the 17th-century historic center on foot, enjoy time at Museumplein, home to the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum, and experience the city from the water on a scenic canal cruise. Ample free time is built in for independent exploration, while included meals at carefully selected restaurants highlight Amsterdam's rich culinary scene.

Additional details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

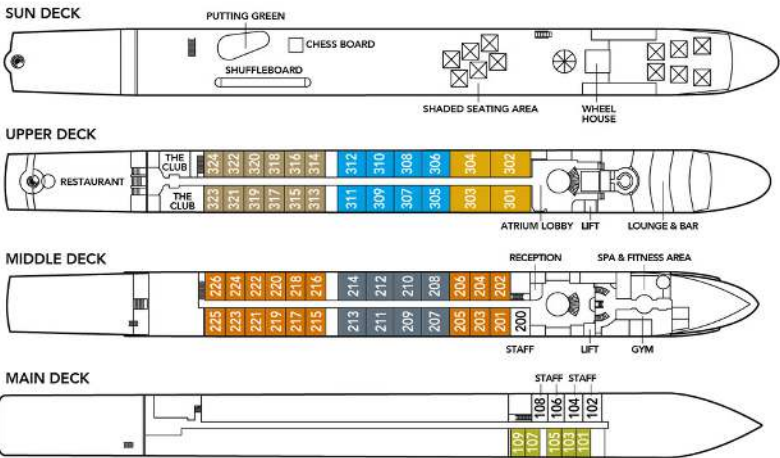


MS RIVER CROWN

We are delighted to charter the elegant *MS River Crown*, a beautifully appointed 100-passenger river vessel that was built in 2008 and fully refurbished in the spring of 2026. With a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, the *MS River Crown* offers a perfect blend of comfort, scenic cruising, and enriching experiences aboard. Public spaces are designed to make the most of the passing landscape, with a lounge, bar, and restaurant on the Upper Deck featuring large panoramic windows—ideal for enjoying the views as you dine, relax, or listen to onboard lectures. The ship also offers a spacious sun deck with plenty of seating, a putting green, and a giant chess board, as well as a wellness area with a sauna and fitness room equipped with a variety of exercise equipment. Complimentary WiFi is available in the cabins and public areas. Accommodations are well planned and comfortable across three decks. Premium cabins feature French balconies with expansive views, while deluxe cabins include a dedicated seating area for added comfort. A limited number of suites on the Upper Deck offer enhanced space and both French balconies and private balconies. There are also single cabins with portholes on the Main Deck. All cabins include thoughtful amenities such as ample storage, a writing/dressing table, TV, safe, hairdryer, small refrigerator, and individually controlled air conditioning.

PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE	SINGLE
1	PREMIUM MIDDLE DECK 167 sq ft; French balcony, queen or 2 twin beds	\$5,990	\$9,990
2	PREMIUM UPPER DECK 167 sq ft; French balcony, queen or 2 twin beds	\$6,990	—
3	DELUXE MIDDLE DECK 237 sq ft; French balcony, queen bed, seating area	\$7,990	—
4	DELUXE UPPER DECK 237 sq ft; French balcony, queen bed, seating area	\$8,990	—
5	QUEEN SUITE 323 sq ft; private balcony & French balcony, queen bed, living room, separate tub and shower, double wash basin	\$9,990	—
S	STANDARD SINGLE MAIN DECK 130 sq ft; portholes, single bed	—	\$5,990



GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE
Eight nights aboard the *MS River Crown* • Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary including eight breakfasts, seven lunches, and eight dinners • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all lunches and dinners on board *MS River Crown* • Professional tour managers throughout the program

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE
U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

WHAT TO EXPECT
This is a moderately active but not strenuous program, suitable for travelers with average fitness. Participants must be in good health, comfortable being on their feet and walking for a couple of hours, sometimes with limited shade and no available seating. Daily programs involve walking up to one mile through city centers, historic sites, and in museums, where there may also be extended periods of standing. Participants will encounter uneven terrain, including dirt and cobblestoned paths, and must be able to walk at least 20 minutes up and down hills without stopping. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by National Trust Tours, Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your

choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

GROUP SIZE

This program welcomes up to 92 participants, including travelers from National Trust Tours, and co-sponsoring organizations such as Cornell's Adult University, MIT Alumni Travel, Harvard Alumni Travels, and Princeton Seminary Expeditions.

RESERVATION & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. If you have questions, or to register using a credit card (preferred method), please call (888) 484-8785 or email info@nationaltrusttours.com. Final payment deadline is February 17, 2027. For those who register on or after February 17, 2027, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, bank transfer, or credit card (credit card payments will incur a 2% fee).

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

PASSENGER CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. For cancellations after the February 17, 2027 final payment deadline, all payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. NOTE: Neither the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

National Trust Tours strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to covered illness or accident. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. USI Travel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers, providing coverage for Trip Cancellation,

Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical, and more. Plus, you can upgrade your plan with Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage for the utmost flexibility. CFAR allows you to cancel your trip for any reason at all and be reimbursed up to 75% of your pre-paid, nonrefundable trip costs (conditions apply, see plan for details). To purchase travel insurance today, call: (800) 937-1387. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

ELIGIBILITY

National Trust for Historic Preservation tours are open to members only. Membership dues for 2026/2027 are \$30 for family and \$20 for individual membership. The minimum age limit for the program is 14. Children must pay the full price, and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no maximum age limit.

PLEASE NOTE

Participants must be in excellent health and able to participate in tour activities. Any physical condition that may require special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to health conditions or disabilities, contact the National Trust at (888) 484-8785 or (202) 588-6300. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour at any time. In such case, the refund will be limited to the recoverable cost of unused tour services.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

PHOTO CREDITS

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CRUISING THE
RHINE

JUNE 17-26, 2027

RESERVATION FORM

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of registration), please call National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785.

NAME #1 ((AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (AS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / POSTAL CODE

MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), payable to Criterion Travel, to reserve _____ place(s) on *Cruising the Rhine*.

☐ Please charge \$1,000 per person to my credit card (circle one)

VISA MC AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference:

1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations. (*limited availability*)
or ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

or ☐ I'd like to know about roommates

*I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of **February 17, 2027** I will pay the single rate.*

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE

CRUISING THE **RHINE**

Legendary Landscapes, History & Art
aboard the 100-passenger *MS River Crown*

JUNE 17-26, 2027



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

105 Loudoun Street, SW Unit 1
Leesburg, Virginia 20175

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info@nationaltrusttours.com

Find us on  National Trust Tours