



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE
A Symposium from Berlin to Budapest
With Keynote Addresses by NATO Experts
Featuring a 7-night Cruise aboard *Transcend Evolve*
October 13–23, 2027
(11 days)

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 put to the test not just the future of Ukraine but also the defensive stability of Western Europe and NATO's member nations, now numbering 32 countries. This program celebrates Europe's and the United States' shared history and their continuing defense against what was the Soviet Union and is now the Russia of Vladimir Putin and his dreams of reinstating the Russian Empire. As the relationship between the United States and the other NATO nations evolves in a rapidly changing world, this Symposium looks at not just the past but also the future of this vital relationship.

Join eminent thinkers, change-makers, and historians from both continents for an in-depth examination of the relationship between Western Europe and the United States at this pivotal moment in history. Amidst gala receptions and dinners in landmark venues, leaders and guest speakers will explore key moments of the past that serve as incisive lenses for evaluating future global prospects and challenges. The speaker series—combined with the unparalleled service, exceptional cuisine, emphasis upon sustainability, health, and wellness, and customized touring offered aboard the privately chartered, 100-guest *Transcend Evolve* riverboat—makes this gathering a world-class Danube cruise unlike any other.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Keynote lectures by retired General Wesley Clark, Supreme Allied Commander of NATO from 1997 to 2001, and Julianne Smith, Ambassador and former U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO from 2021 to 2024. Their keynotes are supplemented by an enriching Symposium educational program delivered by an impressive team of thought leaders from top affinity institutions.
- Two hotel nights in Berlin and a seven-night cruise aboard the privately chartered, state-of-the-art riverboat *Transcend Evolve*.
- Private gala receptions and events in Berlin, Vienna and Budapest, including a private performance by members of the Vienna Philharmonic.
- A varied and balanced complement of optional excursions, comprised of both traditional sightseeing and in-depth educational programs. Travelers may experience the culture, art, architecture, history, cuisine or modern life of the region, based on their personal interests.
- Top guides in each location. Local special guest speakers appropriate to specific cities or excursions: art or architecture experts, historians, local business leaders, and curators.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

They will each give one talk to supplement lectures from sponsors.



Retired General Wesley Clark

General Clark graduated first in his class at West Point and completed degrees in philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. Clark finished his military career as NATO commander and Supreme Allied Commander Europe where he led NATO forces to victory in Operation Allied Force, saving 1.5 million Albanians from ethnic cleansing. His awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Defense Distinguished Service Medal (five awards), silver star, bronze star, purple heart, honorary knighthoods from the British and Dutch governments, and numerous other

awards from other governments, including award of Commander of the Legion of Honor (France).



Retired Ambassador Julianne Smith

Ambassador Smith is a distinguished national security expert with over two decades of experience in U.S. and European defense policy, transatlantic relations and geostrategic risk. Most recently, Smith served as the U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO (2021–2024), where she played a pivotal role in securing Allied support for Ukraine, coordinating intelligence sharing with Allies and finalizing Finland and Sweden's accession to the Alliance.

Smith has been honored with multiple awards, including the Order of the Polar Star of Sweden, the U.S. Department of Defense Distinguished Service Award, the Sue M. Cobb Award for Diplomatic Excellence and the Cross of the Order of Merit of Germany.

Program sponsors are encouraged to invite high-level speakers knowledgeable about the subject who can lecture to the group, handle Q&A sessions with participants, and participate in or moderate panel discussions. In order to assist with this process, we are offering **complimentary Business Class airfare for lecturers** in addition to complimentary trip arrangements, and an extremely attractive companion rate.

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ABOUT TRANSCEND EVOLVE

The *Transcend Evolve* will enter service in fall 2026.



Transcend Evolve is a next-generation luxury river vessel scheduled for completion and launch in **2026**. Constructed by Den Breejen Shipyard in the Netherlands and designed with a focus on sustainability, modern Scandinavian-inspired interiors, and highly adaptable onboard spaces, Transcend Evolve carries a crew of approximately **54** staff.

The ship features **60 identical oversized staterooms**, each about 210 sq ft, many with floor-to-ceiling “infinity” windows and walk-in closets. A signature design element is that all staterooms are built in **interconnecting pairs**, enabling any two adjacent cabins to transform into a spacious two-room suite with a living area, bedroom, and two full bathrooms. This configuration allows Evolve to operate with **60 staterooms or 30 suites**, or any hybrid setup, offering exceptional flexibility.

Evolve stands out with its expansive multi-deck wellness complex, which includes a fitness center, yoga studio, river-view sauna, and outdoor walking track—amenities rarely found on river vessels. **Its public areas are equally flexible**, featuring a two-level Forum theater, a versatile Studio space, and a restaurant that can accommodate all passengers at one seating.

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PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Day 1 Wed, Oct 13	Depart U.S.		Overnight flight to Berlin, Germany
Day 2 Thu, Oct 14	Berlin, Germany	Adlon Kempinski	Arrive Berlin; Reception and Dinner RD
Day 3 Fri, Oct 15	Berlin	Adlon Kempinski	Welcome lecture followed by menu of excursion options in Berlin, including an expert-led art tour including private collection viewings, history of East Berlin including chance to drive a vintage Trabant, guided tour and lunch in the iconic Reichstag with visit to dome. Keynote address and Gala Dinner with privileged access to a landmark venue. BLD
Day 4 Sat, Oct 16	Vilshofen, Germany	<i>Transcend Evolve</i>	Private charter flight from Berlin to Munich; Drive to Vilshofen with lunch in Regensburg; embarkation. BLD
Day 5 Sun, Oct 17	Passau	<i>Transcend Evolve</i>	Morning walking tour Passau to view Roman artifacts and Europe's largest organ in St. Stephans Cathedral. Afternoon scenic cruising and onboard lecture program. BLD
Day 6 Mon, Oct 18	Linz	<i>Transcend Evolve</i>	Morning lecture; full day at port in Linz with excursion options include full-day excursion to enchanting medieval Czech town of Český Krumlov or bucolic old Salzburg. BLD
Day 7 Tue, Oct 19	Grein, Austria Wachau Valley	<i>Transcend Evolve</i>	Morning lecture followed by walking tour of Grein, including tour of Schloss Greinburg and the oldest theater in Austria. Afternoon Melk options include Arstetten Castle with Hohenberg family member, Melk Abbey and Old Town, and active options by eBike. Evening cruise through Wachau Valley. BLD
Day 8 Wed, Oct 20	Vienna	<i>Transcend Evolve</i>	Vienna touring options to include Imperial Schonbrunn Palace & Royal Carriage Museum, eBike adventure among lakes and waterways of "Old Danube Island", Jewish heritage of Vienna; afternoon at leisure; private evening gala reception and concert by a Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra string quartet in the impressive Liechtenstein Palace. BLD
Day 9 Thu, Oct 21	Bratislava, Slovakia	<i>Transcend Evolve</i>	Morning cruising with lecture program; mid-afternoon excursion options in Bratislava include culinary walking tour with bakery visit and demonstration and visit to Mayor's Residence. BLD
Day 10 Fri, Oct 22	Budapest, Hungary	<i>Transcend Evolve</i>	Full day of excursion options in Budapest, likely to include exterior and interior visits to the Hungarian Parliament Building; culinary tasting tour; an exquisite display of horsemanship at a farm and stable located in the hills outside the city; farewell evening including special musical performance at a landmark venue (such as virtuoso violin trio at the Baroque one-of-a-kind Budapest History Museum within Buda Castle). BLRD
Day 11 Sat, Oct 23	Return to U.S.		Board return flights to the U.S. B

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GENERAL INFORMATION

2027 Retail Program Fees:

Main Deck Double Cabin	\$15,990
Upper Deck Double Cabin	\$16,990
Main Deck 2-room Suite	\$25,990
Upper Deck 2-room Suite	\$26,990
Main Deck Single	\$25,590
Upper Deck Single	\$26,390

Program Length, Capacity:

11 days roundtrip from the U.S.

Minimum capacity: 60 passengers; Maximum capacity: 90 passengers (all sponsors).

Fees Include:

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • On-tour charter flight Berlin/Munich • Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Transfers for all participants 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 receptions • Unlimited fine wines, champagnes, premium spirits, and beers • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all off-ship lunches and dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Criterion Tour Manager team

Fees Do Not Include:

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess 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, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature