

***Grand European Tour***  
14-Night Cruise  
Budapest to Amsterdam

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## Important Pre-Trip Information

### Passports & Visas

When traveling abroad, your passport must be valid for at least 6 months following your visit. If you are a U.S. citizen, no visas are required for this itinerary. **Note: It's your responsibility to obtain any passports, visas or other required travel documents prior to your departure.**

Viking River Cruises is not responsible for delays or losses including missed portions of your trip related to improper travel documentation or any costs incurred to obtain documents while traveling.

### Air Tickets

The name on your air tickets **must** match your passport. Check your tickets carefully, and call us immediately if the name is not identical to your passport. You could be refused boarding if there is a discrepancy.

### Flight & Baggage Information

**Confirming your flights: We suggest you call your airline 72 hours prior to your scheduled departure to reconfirm your flights.** Viking River Cruises is not responsible for notifying passengers of changes. You should also verify the proper check-in time as well as checked baggage and carry-on restrictions.

**Special Requests:** You or your travel agent must contact your airline directly to request seat assignments, special meals, wheelchairs or other services. Our Air Department often secures auto-generated seats; should you want to make a change, please contact the airline directly.

**Baggage Loss & Damage:** If your luggage is damaged or does not arrive with you, file a report with the airline before you leave the baggage claim area. Contact the transfer staff to advise them of your delay by sending one person out to greet them or call the number listed on page 5 of this booklet.

### General physical fitness

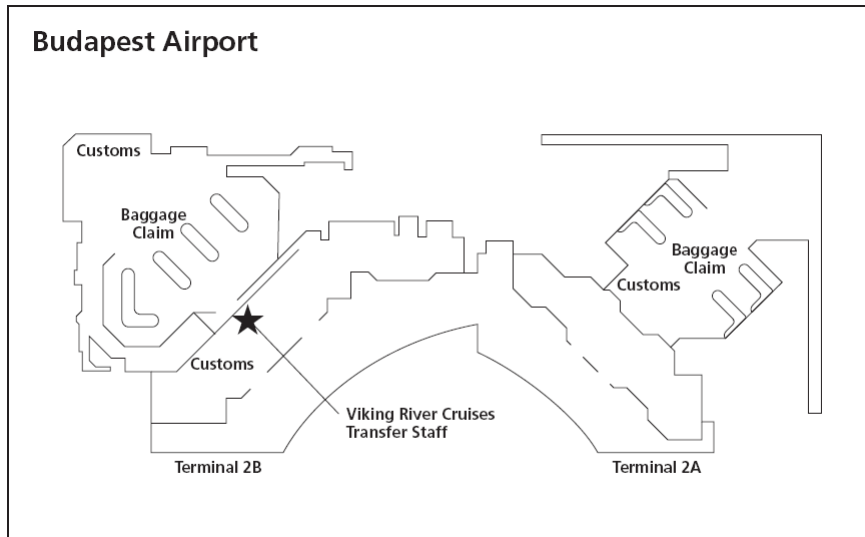
Our tours and cruises are not physically demanding, but you should be in good physical condition with good mobility to fully enjoy all excursions and tours. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs and steep inclines. You should be able to stand on your feet for an extended period of time to visit museums and other sites. Note that the ships cannot accommodate wheelchairs.

## Budapest Arrival Transfer Information

*Included Transfers:* If we've arranged your transfers, collect your baggage, exit customs and find your driver who will be waiting here with a Viking River Cruises sign.

*All non-Malev flights:* You'll be arriving through Gate 2B. Upon leaving the baggage claim area, your driver will be waiting *immediately* in front of you by the satellite booths.

*Malev Flights:* You'll be arriving through Gate 2A. Walk the short distance to the arrival area of Gate 2B. Your driver will be waiting *directly* in front of the doors from the baggage claim area to your right.



*Budapest Airport*

**The transfer company is Welcome Touristik.**

Telephone: 327 0603 or 327 0604

Emergency: 30 221 1874 or 30 952 4153

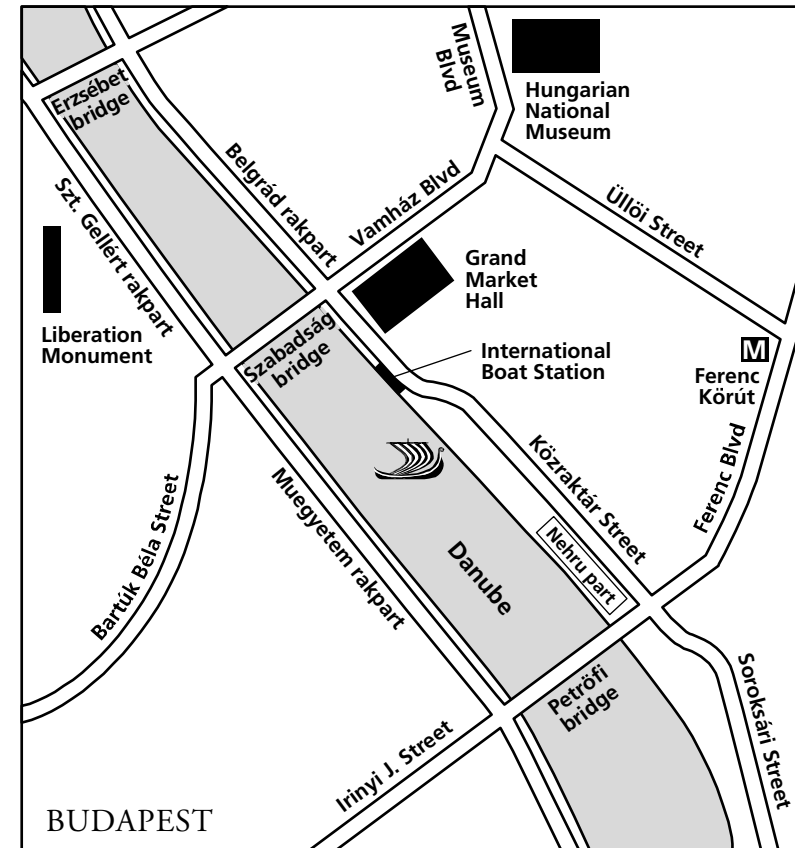
*For more info on European phone numbers, see page 22.*

Sometimes, your transfer will wait for people arriving on other flights. The wait time for these passengers is rarely more than 30 minutes, but could be as long as one hour.

If your flight to Budapest is delayed or if you miss your connecting flight, call the transfer company directly with your new flight details. They will make every effort to meet you when you arrive. If you are not met due to a delayed or missed flight, follow the instructions for *On Your Own Transfers* (below). Retain any receipts for taxis or other transportation in case you need to make a claim with the airline or your travel insurance.

## Ship Location & Taxi Information

*On Your Own Transfers:* If Viking River Cruises is not providing your transfers or if you miss your transfer, go directly to your ship (embarkation day only). Approximate taxi fare is HUF 6,400-7,700. You should determine the price before getting into the taxi as there can be price differences between drivers.



*Budapest Pier*

Go to the Mahart International Ship Station at *Belgrád rakpart* (near the Elizabeth Bridge). While our ships are usually docked at Pier 6, they can be located anywhere between Pier 1 at Elizabeth Bridge and Pier 9 at Petofi Bridge (see map on page 6).

**Do not dismiss your taxi until you have positively located the ship.** The ship's docking location is at the discretion of port authorities, and your ship's Captain can be ordered to move the ship without notice.

Just in case, please find your ship phone number below:

Ship	Phone	Fax
Viking Danube	0049 173 320 71 70	0049 173 320 71 74
Viking Pride	0049 174 303 51 06	0049 174 303 50 53
Viking Spirit	0049 174 303 51 00	0049 172 302 92 25

## Your Grand European Tour Itinerary

*If you are taking the Budapest pre-cruise extension, please see pages 16-18 for details.*

### Day 1 Depart USA

Leave the U.S. on your flight to Budapest. Refer to your individual air itinerary for exact departure and arrival times.

### Day 2 Budapest, Hungary

*Arrival in Budapest.* If Viking River Cruises arranged your transfer, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your river cruise ship. Because the crew will be preparing cabins for arriving passengers, you can relax in the ship's lounge or explore Budapest on your own. You'll be given access to your cabin as soon as it becomes available, usually by 3 p.m. If you arrive during lunchtime (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.), some light snacks will be available. Your ship remains docked overnight.

*Included Meals: Dinner*

### Day 3 Budapest

*Included Budapest Tour.* Disembark after breakfast for a tour of Hungary's lovely capital. The Danube cuts through the heart of the city, separating the Buda Hills and the Old City from the elegant boulevards of modern Pest. Start in "Pest" with a ride along the *Andrássy út* where you'll see the National Opera House and Heroes' Square. You'll see other highlights including the Parliament before crossing the river to the more traditional "Buda" side of the city. Your tour here highlights the massive hilltop castle complex with its turreted Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church. You also see the famous Chain Bridge and Elizabeth Bridge, two of many that connect the two halves of this vibrant city.

*Budapest Leisure Time & Optional Tour.* Return to your ship for lunch and then your afternoon is at leisure to explore more on your own. Perhaps you'll stroll along *Váci Utca* where you'll find excellent Herend porcelain (produced in Hungary since 1839), the country's renowned peasant embroidery, and other souvenirs of Hungary.

You may want to join us on an optional tour to discover the heritage of the legendary Hungarian "cowboys." On the outskirts of Budapest, near the edge of the *Puszta* region where the cowboys herd their sheep and cattle on horseback, you'll be greeted by these fearless horsemen and

enjoy local snacks. Then you'll be treated to an exhibition of the horsemanship of these young riders who control their horses only with bridles and the cracking of six-foot whips that never touch the animals. They use no saddles or stirrups—the horse and rider are as one in a display based on trust between the two. After the show, you can visit the stables or try a carriage ride (cost of the optional tour is 42 euros, which includes motorcoach transportation, horsemanship show and a guide).

*Included Hungarian Dinner.* Dinner onboard this evening features the varied cuisine of Hungary. Your ship departs during dinner and sails through the night.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Day 4 Bratislava, Slovakia**

*Included Bratislava Tour.* Your ship has sailed the scenic Danube through the morning, and docks in Bratislava during lunch. Upon arrival, disembark for a mini-train and walking tour of Slovakia's capital. Set picturesquely at the foot of the Little Carpathian Mountains, Bratislava is dominated by its massive square castle. On your tour you'll visit the Old Town, where you see beautiful St. Martin's Cathedral, Michael's Gate with its 15<sup>th</sup> century tower, the Old Town Hall and the neoclassical Archbishop's Palace. Return to your ship for dinner.

*Welcome Reception.* Gather this evening to get acquainted with your Cruise Manager and traveling companions at a Welcome Reception before dinner onboard. But because your ship remains docked until midnight, you can further explore Bratislava after dinner.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Day 5 Vienna**

*Included Vienna Tour.* Arrive in the early morning and after breakfast aboard, set off on your half-day tour of one of Europe's most elegant and romantic cities. Your coach and walking tour features the remarkable Ringstrasse, lined with imposing palaces and grand residences, encircling the medieval *Innere Stadt* (Inner City). See the magnificent Hofburg Palace, glorious St. Stephan's Cathedral with its gleaming spire, and the beautiful State Opera House.

You then travel to the baroque Belvedere Palace. After walking through its beautifully landscaped gardens, you'll tour inside to see its wonderful collection of art featuring works by a number of famous painters including Gustav Klimt.

*Vienna Leisure Time & Optional Tour.* Return to your ship for lunch, and enjoy an afternoon exploring on your own. Take a ride on a traditional horse-drawn *fiaker*, sample some mouthwatering Viennese pastry (try the famous Sachertorte) in a sidewalk café or visit the wonderful Art History Museum. You may choose to join us for an optional tour to Maria Theresa's wonderful baroque Schönbrunn Palace, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the palace's opulent rooms and collection of period furniture, and admire the beautiful formal gardens (cost of the optional tour is 44 euros, which includes motorcoach transportation, entry fees and a guide).

*Optional Concert.* After dinner onboard, you can attend an optional concert. Held in one of the city's palaces, the concert features compositions by Mozart and Strauss performed by a Viennese orchestra (cost of the optional tour is 54 euros, which includes motorcoach transportation and the concert). Your ship remains docked until the early morning.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Day 6 Melk**

*Scenic Cruising.* This morning, your ship sails through the Wachau Valley, heart of Austria's wine country. This area is filled with cultural and historic importance, and is of such unsurpassed beauty, that it has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

*Included Melk Abbey Tour.* Dock in Melk during lunch and disembark for an excursion to the dramatic 900-year-old baroque Melk Abbey, perched on sheer cliffs high above the Danube. Its cherub-filled library is home to a wide range of medieval manuscripts. The interior of the abbey's church is a kaleidoscope of red, orange, and gold – with a magnificent carved pulpit and shimmering ceiling frescoes.

*Scenic Cruising.* Return to your ship in the afternoon and your ship sails through a beautiful untouched stretch of the Danube called the Strudengau.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 7    Passau, Germany**

*Included Passau Tour.* Your ship docks in Passau during breakfast. Upon arrival, disembark for your tour of this elegant town, called the *Dreiflussesstadt* (City on Three Rivers), which is situated at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz and Inn Rivers. You'll see the impressive Bishop's Residenz, 14<sup>th</sup> century Town Hall, and the town's magnificent 17<sup>th</sup> century St. Stephan's Cathedral, containing Europe's largest pipe organ. After the tour, you'll be treated to an organ concert. *Please note that the organ concerts are not held on Sundays or after November 1.*

*Passau Leisure Time.* Return to your ship for lunch. You can then enjoy the balance of your afternoon at leisure before your ship departs just before dinner. Enjoy dinner aboard and cruise through the night.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 8    Regensburg**

*Scenic Cruising.* Spend a relaxing morning cruising along the Danube.

*Included Regensburg Tour.* Arrive mid-morning and meet your guide for a walking tour through one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities. See the gleaming spires of Gothic St. Peter's church with its stained glass, the Old Town Hall and the 12<sup>th</sup> century Old Stone Bridge (Germany's oldest bridge). Return to your ship for an afternoon departure. Have dinner aboard as you cruise through the night.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 9    Nuremberg**

*Included Nuremberg Tour.* Arrive in the late morning and after lunch, disembark for a tour of this medieval city surrounded by 13<sup>th</sup> century walls. Today Nuremberg evokes the notorious post-World War II war trials. But throughout its history, the city was known for its handicrafts, particularly toys and fancy metalwork. You'll see where the trials were held and the grounds where Nazi rallies were staged, as well as the imposing Imperial Castle. Admire the city's half-timbered houses and stroll through the Market Square.

*Nuremberg Leisure Time.* You have free time to do some shopping or explore on your own. You can visit the Germanic Museum, with the largest collection of Germanic art and culture. Return to your ship for dinner. The ship remains docked until the early hours of the morning.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 10    Main-Danube Canal & Bamberg**

*Main-Danube Canal Cruising.* Spend the morning cruising through the Main-Danube Canal. This engineering marvel stretches 106 miles from Bamberg on the Main River to Kelheim on the Danube. Begun as Charlemagne's dream in 793, it was completed in 1992 with 16 locks that raise the water to 1,332 feet. Connecting the Main and Danube Rivers, today it enables river travel from the North Sea to the Black Sea.

*Included Bamberg Tour.* Arrive in Bamberg at lunchtime. After lunch, disembark for a walking tour of one of Germany's most beautiful cities. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bamberg boasts 2,000 buildings listed as historical monuments, and its old city center is Europe's largest existing group of historic buildings. Admire the beautiful architecture, including the imposing 16<sup>th</sup> century Old Court, the New Residence and the city's impressive churches.

*Bamberg at Leisure.* During free time, you can visit a local tavern to taste the *Rauchbier* (smoky-tasting beer) for which Bamberg is famous. Reboard your ship in the early evening and begin cruising. Enjoy dinner aboard.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 11    Würzburg & Rothenburg**

*Included Würzburg & Rothenburg Excursion.* Arrive early this morning, and after breakfast disembark for your full-day excursion to Würzburg and a tour of its impressive baroque Bishops' Residenz. Admire the rich stuccowork and unique staircase with the world's largest ceiling fresco.

Continue your tour with a motorcoach ride through scenic Franconia to Rothenburg where you'll enjoy a traditional German lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch, set off on a walking tour admiring the medieval town's charming half-timbered houses. You'll have free time after the tour before returning to your ship. Enjoy dinner aboard and cruise through the night.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 12    Wertheim**

*Included Wertheim Tour & Leisure Time.* Dock in Wertheim this morning. After breakfast, disembark for a walking tour of this charming fairy-tale town located at the meeting of the Main and Tauber Rivers. Admire the imposing ruins of its castle set on a hill overlooking the

town. After the tour, you have free time to explore on your own. Perhaps you'll visit the Glass Museum chronicling the art of glassblowing for which the town is known. At the museum, you may enjoy a demonstration from a local glassblower.

*Scenic Cruising.* Return to your ship for lunch and begin sailing past the vineyards of Franconia. Enjoy dinner aboard and sail through the night.  
*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 13 Mainz & Rudesheim**

*Included Mainz Tour.* Your ship docks in Mainz during breakfast time. You then disembark for a guided walk to the town's great 11<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque cathedral. Then, tour the Gutenberg Museum; home to the Gutenberg printing press and Bible. The inventor Johannes Gutenberg was born in Mainz in 1397, and created uniform sized metal molds for letters that allowed him to print error-free repeatable text. In the museum, you can see a demonstration of how bibles and other books were printed in Gutenberg's day.

*Scenic Cruising.* Return to your ship for lunch. Spend a relaxing afternoon onboard enjoying the passing scenery as the ship sails to Rudesheim.

*Included Music Museum Visit & Rudesheim Leisure Time.* Dock in Rudesheim in the mid-afternoon. Disembark for a mini-train ride into town and a visit to the Music Museum (*Siegfried's Mechanisches Musikkabinett*), full of fascinating antique mechanical musical instruments. Your ship remains docked here overnight, so you may wish to disembark after dinner for a stroll along the town's pedestrian-only *Drosselgasse*, lined with welcoming restaurants and wine taverns.  
*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 14 Cologne, Germany**

*Scenic Cruising.* Spend a relaxing morning enjoying the Rhine scenery as you cruise past Koblenz towards Cologne.

*Included Cologne Tour.* The ship docks in Cologne in the mid-afternoon. Upon arrival, disembark for a guided walking tour of Cologne's magnificent Gothic cathedral and Old City. The cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, largely escaped World War II damage that ravaged the city and the rest of Germany (there's ample evidence that Allied

forces worked deliberately to avoid damaging the beautiful structure). Construction was begun on the cathedral in 1248. Work continued in several stages over seven centuries, and was not totally complete until 1880. It's truly a magnificent church, and the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe. Its two elegant soaring spires are a symbol of the city. Go inside to see its beautiful stained-glass windows, an ornate gold shrine on its elaborate altar and the intricate detail common to 14<sup>th</sup> century Gothic churches.

After a stroll in Cologne's historic center, enjoy a visit to the venerable Cologne institution, the *Brauhaus*, a café where the house brew (always a variety of the famous *Kölsch* beer) is served.

*Cologne Leisure Time.* The balance of your day is at leisure for you to explore this lovely city on your own. Cologne was once a Roman settlement called Colonia Agrippina. You can still see fragments of Roman ruins in some parts of the city, and the Roman Tower near the cathedral was once part of the medieval town walls. The city also boasts Romanesque churches, a Renaissance city hall and the remnants of an ancient Jewish *mikvah* (a ritual bathhouse). Return to your ship for lunch.

*Scenic Cruising & Captain's Farewell Dinner.* Gather this evening to toast your memories and say farewell to your newfound friends at the Captain's Farewell Dinner. Your ship departs for Amsterdam this evening.  
*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 15 Amsterdam**

*Scenic Cruising, Included Canal Cruise & Rijksmuseum Visit.* Spend a leisurely morning cruising the Rhine, arriving in Amsterdam after lunch. Then, disembark for your cruise on one of the city's famous glass-topped canal boats. See some of Amsterdam's oldest and loveliest buildings and monuments as well as a variety of boats, including many charming houseboats. You'll also see the wooden double drawbridge, "Skinny Bridge," familiar from many paintings. The cruise ends at the world-famous Rijksmuseum, and your entry fee is included. You have some time to browse the museum's unparalleled collection of magnificent works by the great Dutch and Flemish Masters. En route back to the ship, view landmarks such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century Royal Palace and Mint Tower. Return to your ship for dinner. Your ship remains docked overnight, so the rest of your evening is at leisure to explore Amsterdam on your own.  
*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 16 Depart**

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

*If you are taking the Amsterdam post-cruise extension, please see pages 19-21 for details.*

**Your Budapest Pre-Cruise Extension Hotel**

*If you are taking the Budapest pre-cruise extension, the following pages feature information on your hotel and itinerary.*

**Budapest Hilton**

Hess A. ter (Hess Andras Square) 1-3

Budapest, HU H-1014

Phone: 8896600

Fax: 8896644

The 4-star Budapest Hilton is located in a historic building and surrounded by the quaint streets of Old Buda. It's in the historic Castle District and next to beautiful Matthias Church. The hotel offers laundry, concierge and room service; a barbershop and beauty salon; two restaurants, a lounge and wine cellar bar; gift shop and safety deposit box. Air-conditioned rooms feature minibar; television with news and movie channels; telephone with voicemail; in-room safe and a hairdryer.



## Your Budapest Pre-Cruise Extension Itinerary

### Day 1 Depart USA

Leave the U.S. on your flight to Budapest. Refer to your individual air itinerary for exact departure and arrival times.

### Day 2 Budapest

*Arrival in Budapest.* If Viking River Cruises arranged your transfer, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your Budapest hotel. Hotel check-in times are often in the early afternoon. If you arrive earlier the hotel may allow you to check in if your room is ready, but it may be necessary for you to wait. In this case, you can relax in the hotel lobby, or ask the hotel to hold your luggage while you explore Budapest on your own. Check in and take the rest of the afternoon to become familiar with this vibrant city. You can go shopping along *Váci utca* for traditional souvenirs like porcelain or peasant embroidery. And sample some of Budapest's famous fare, including goulash.

### Day 3 Budapest

*Included Old Buda Walking Tour.* After breakfast, join your guided walking tour of Old Buda. You'll stroll through the Castle District and visit Buda Castle, the historic royal castle of Hungary. A brief stop at a local café includes a taste of *flodni*, a traditional pastry of walnuts, apples and poppyseed. Continue on to see the National Gallery and Matthias Fountain, a beautiful statue depicting King Matthias. You'll also visit Fishermen's Bastion for great views of the city and site of famed Matthias Church.

*Budapest at Leisure.* The rest of the day is yours to explore Budapest. You can cross over to the Pest side of the city and explore Heroes' Square, City Park or the lively covered market. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

### Day 4 Budapest

*Included Royal Palace of Gödöllő Tour.* This morning's tour highlights the Royal Palace of Gödöllő. One of Hungary's largest baroque palaces, it was once a summer home for Franz Josef, Emperor of Austria, and his wife Elizabeth ("Sissi"). You'll have time to visit both the beautiful interior of the palace as well as stroll some of its scenic landscaped gardens.

*Budapest at Leisure.* During afternoon free time, you may opt to visit Gellért Spa, with the most beautiful and elegant baths in Budapest. Here, you can use the outdoor swimming pool, saunas or Turkish baths. All of the mineral-rich water comes from natural springs, where it has been flowing for the past 2,000 years.

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

### Day 5 Budapest & Embark Ship

*Budapest at Leisure.* You have the morning and early afternoon to get in some shopping or more touring. Check out of your hotel by the posted check-out time, and the hotel can store your luggage while you sightsee.

In the mid-afternoon, you'll be transferred to the pier to embark your ship. You'll receive notification of the exact time of this transfer during your hotel stay.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (aboard)*

## Your Amsterdam Post-Cruise Extension Hotel

*If you are taking the Amsterdam post-cruise extension, the following pages feature information on your hotel and itinerary.*

Radisson SAS Hotel  
Rusland 17  
Amsterdam 1012 CK  
Netherlands  
Phone: 623 1231  
Fax: 520 8200

The 4-star Radisson SAS Hotel is located in the heart of Amsterdam, between Central Station and Dam Square and within walking distance of many of the city's main sites and attractions. Air-conditioned rooms are equipped with a safe, trouser press, coffee & tea making facilities, direct-dial telephone with voicemail and color television. The hotel offers a concierge, room service, workout room and sauna, gift shop, restaurant and atrium bar.

## Your Amsterdam Post-Cruise Extension Itinerary

### Day 1 Amsterdam

*Arrival in Amsterdam.* After disembarkation in Amsterdam, you'll be transferred to check in to your deluxe hotel. If you arrive earlier than the hotel's check-in time, the hotel may allow you to check in if your room is ready, but it may be necessary for you to wait. In this case, you can relax in the hotel lobby, or ask the hotel to hold your luggage while you explore the "Venice of the North" on your own. Take the afternoon to stroll along its famous canals and see the many bridges. You may even rent a bicycle to explore like a local. Lunch and dinner are on your own.  
*Included Meals: Breakfast (aboard ship)*

### Day 2 Amsterdam

*Included Aalsmeer Flower Auction Visit and Alkmaar Cheese Market Tour.* After breakfast, depart for your "Insider" tour of the renowned Aalsmeer Flower Auction. Get a bird's-eye view of the world's largest flower auction where millions of plants are sold each day. See the carts of flowers as they are displayed to bidders from around the globe. Then, visit the Alkmaar Cheese Market to see a demonstration of cheese merchants' time-honored traditions. *Note: An Edam Cheese Farm will be substituted if the Alkmaar Cheese Market is closed.*

*Amsterdam at Leisure.* Your afternoon is free to enjoy Amsterdam at your own pace. You can visit one of the city's many museums such as the Rembrandt House or the Stedelijk Museum. You can even rent a bicycle and explore like a local or enjoy a coffee in one of the many cafés.

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

### Day 3 Amsterdam

*Included Van Gogh Museum & Architectural Tour.* Meet your guide after breakfast for a tour of the famous Van Gogh Museum, featuring the world's largest collection of paintings and drawings by the Dutch artist including *The Potato Eaters*, *Bedroom in Arles* and *Sunflowers*. Then, learn more about Amsterdam's amazing architecture when you visit the Het Schip Museum.

The afternoon is free to do more exploring. Stroll the Albert Cuyp Market, Europe's busiest outdoor market. Or, you can visit the Anne Frank House or Amsterdam's Heineken Museum, showcasing the history of beer-making by one of the world's preeminent breweries.

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

#### **Day 4 Depart**

After breakfast, you check out of your hotel and are transferred to the airport for your flight home.

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

## **Helpful Travel Information**

### **Tipping**

Tips are not included in your cruise price, but are your way of showing satisfaction for good service. You may tip onboard staff in cash, or charge your tips to your credit card at the end of the cruise. For local guides, you should tip at the end of each tour in cash.

We suggest a gratuity of \$10 per passenger per day which is distributed among the ship's staff, including your Cruise Manager.

Additional tipping is at the passenger's discretion. You can use these guidelines for other service providers:

- Airport Porters – \$1 per bag
- Hotel Porters – \$1 per person on check in and check out
- Local Guides – \$1-\$2 per person, per day
- Drivers – \$.50-\$1 per person, per day
- Hotel Room Attendants – \$1 per person, per day
- Restaurant Wait Staff – Restaurants often add a service charge to bills, but an additional tip of 5%-10% is customary
- Viking River Cruises Guide/Hospitality Desk (during land or extension programs) – \$3-\$5 per person, per day of service

### **Telephone**

*Emergency Contact Information.* If there is an emergency and you must be contacted while traveling, your family/friends should attempt to reach you directly by contacting the ship or hotel. The ship's phone and fax systems operate on mobile reception and may not get good reception throughout the trip. If unsuccessful, your family/friends can call the Viking River Cruises toll free number (1-877-668-4546) during our normal business hours. (M-F 6am-5:30pm; Sat 7am-3pm; Sun 7am-1pm. All times are Pacific Time).

### **European Phone Numbers**

Within this document, we've listed phone numbers with the codes you need to dial if you are calling from within the city where the hotel, company or ship is located.

If you are calling from outside the city, the codes you must dial will be different depending on whether you are calling from within the same country, another European country or from the U.S.

We list the following codes applicable to your trip for your convenience. To call from the U.S.: dial 011 + country code + city code + number.

Hungary country code: 36  
Budapest city code: 1  
Netherlands country code: 31  
Amsterdam city code: 20

The numbers for the ships are based on satellite service and have a German country code (49) even when they are not in Germany.

And if you are phoning home from Europe, use the following codes:

U.S. country code: 1  
Canada country code: 1  
U.K. country code: 44

### **Weather**

You can review live weather reports at [cnn.com/weather](http://cnn.com/weather).

### **Packing Tips**

Bring comfortable, casual clothing. Should you forget something, you can purchase items where you travel, but selections may vary and you won't have extended time to shop. Ties and jackets are not required; there are no formal nights although some passengers choose dressier clothing for the Captain's Dinner. If you choose to dine on your own in town, upscale restaurants may require coat and tie. Laundry service (no dry cleaning) is available onboard for a fee.

### **Bring:**

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Dressier shoes (restaurants ashore may consider sneakers unacceptable for evening)
- Collapsible umbrella/lightweight rain gear
- Lightweight jacket/warm sweater/sweatshirt
- Sunglasses, sun hat or visor

- Toiletries (e.g.: remedy for colds, pain, upset stomach, anti-bacterial, Band-Aids, sun block)
- Warm coat, gloves and water-resistant footwear (as needed for cooler months)

### ***Pack in your carry-on baggage:***

- Sufficient prescriptions in original labeled containers
- Eyeglasses, contacts, contact lens solution
- Important papers & travel documents
- Camera gear, film, extra memory cards (digital cameras), extra batteries
- Valuables

Carry these separately but in original, labeled containers. We suggest you bring copies of your key travel documents (passport information page, airline tickets, credit card numbers, insurance information) and carry them separately in case you lose your originals. ***Remember to check with your airline for carry-on restrictions.***

### ***Optional Items:***

- Electric converter/adaptor for American appliances (220V) (***recommended***)
- Travel alarm clock, travel flashlight, binoculars, anti-bacterial wipes
- Small calculator for foreign exchange calculations
- Travel journal/notepad and/or reading material
- Small, basic sewing kit/extra buttons; pack scissors in checked bags
- Address list or pre-addressed labels for sending postcards

*Note: Most hotels and Reception onboard have some type of hairdryer.*

### **Customs**

The countries you visit have laws against the purchase/export of certain items, including antiquities, cultural property and certain animal products. Additionally, U.S. laws prohibit the import of certain items. You should review current duty free limits as well as restrictions at [customs.treas.gov/xp/cgov/travel](http://customs.treas.gov/xp/cgov/travel).

### **Value Added Tax (VAT)**

Many countries have a national "sales" tax (called VAT) that is levied on most goods and services. In some cases, it's possible to have a portion of this tax refunded to you on items taken out of a country in unused condition. You must obtain the proper form at the point of purchase for

each item, and the store must participate in a VAT refund program. This form must be presented to a VAT refund kiosk or Customs officials at your point of departure.

It's your responsibility to determine and follow the procedures for the country/countries you visit.

### **Money**

*Currency:* Hungary uses the forint. Slovakia uses the Slovak koruna. Austria, Germany and The Netherlands use the euro.

*Exchange Rates:* Current rates are available in the financial sections of newspapers and at: [xe.com](http://xe.com) or [money.cnn.com/markets/currencies](http://money.cnn.com/markets/currencies).

*Purchasing Items & Currency Exchange:* Many locations will accept travelers checks or credit cards. For incidentals and small vendors, you may be able to use the U.S. dollar in small denominations, but we also recommend getting some local currency.

*ATMs:* These machines dispense local currency for internationally accepted ATM cards and/or credit cards. Conveniently located in large European cities, they're limited in smaller towns. Confirm with your bank *prior to departure* that your ATM/credit card and PIN number will work abroad.

*Changing Cash or Travelers Checks:* For a fee, you can exchange cash or travelers checks at hotels, banks and exchange bureaus. You can also exchange small amounts of currency onboard your ship for most local currencies for a fee.

*Credit Cards:* Euro card, MasterCard, Visa and American Express cards are accepted in all countries in major shops, restaurants and hotels as well as to settle your shipboard account.

*Currency Onboard Ship & Your Onboard Account:* The onboard currency is the euro. All onboard purchases are billed with a guest check and added to your personal shipboard account. At the end of your trip, you may pay in cash (*U.S. dollars or euros*), or by credit card (your bill will be converted at the current exchange rate). The ship cannot accept travelers checks for payment of your shipboard account. Review your

shipboard bill upon check out to ensure you don't have questions about your charges later when you receive your statement.

*Items Not Included in Your Cruise Fare:* Bottled water, specialty coffee and/or teas, soft drinks, alcoholic and other beverages (other than regular hot tea and coffee), tips, laundry, internet service, phone calls and other items of a personal nature.

## Onboard Information

*Beverages:* Hot coffee and tea are free all day. Soft drinks, bottled water and alcoholic beverages are available for an additional charge. You may bring local wine aboard; a corkage fee will be charged in the dining room.

*Clothing Suggestions:* Dress aboard and ashore is casual; we suggest you dress comfortably and bring sturdy walking shoes for sightseeing excursions. Dinner attire is “evening casual,” and the Captain’s Dinner is dressy, but not formal.

*Cuisine & Dining Room Service:* All meals aboard are European-style food adjusted for American tastes. Meals are open seating during set meal times—no table reservations are accepted. Room service is not available.

*Electricity:* Onboard electricity is 220V.

*Hairdryers:* Most hotels and all European ships have hairdryers for passenger use.

*Laundry:* Laundry services are available for a fee; we regret that clothes cannot be dry cleaned.

*Medical Services:* While there’s no doctor onboard, close proximity to land guarantees medical services can be rapidly obtained.

*Onboard Language:* The onboard language is English. Your Cruise Manager, key staff and tour guides all speak English.

*Onboard Shop:* Each ship has an onboard shop area offering film, Viking River Cruises logo items, souvenirs and select toiletries.

*Safes:* You should keep jewelry and valuables in your cabin safe.

*Smoking:* Smoking is not permitted indoors on any ship.

*Telephone & Internet Service:* Each cabin has its own telephone, and charges will be placed on your shipboard account. The phones function via satellite and there may be times when reception is not possible. Internet services are also available for a fee.

*Televisions:* All cabins have a color television. Depending upon satellite transmission, most ships receive 6 TV channels with some U.S. or English programs.

*Viking News & Onboard Activities:* The onboard daily newsletter, *Viking News*, features information about daily activities, shore excursions and tour departure times.

*Cruise Evaluation:* We pride ourselves on providing you with a high standard of excellence in every aspect of your cruise experience. Your comments and suggestions are valuable tools for us to find ways to make your experience even more enjoyable. A questionnaire will be delivered to your cabin during your cruise. We kindly ask that you complete the form and return it to the Reception Desk prior to disembarkation.

## **Viking Service Guarantee**

## **Notes:**

Should you be dissatisfied with our service upon first check-in (hotel or onboard ship) including food, personnel or shore excursions, you must notify us within 24 hours of the start of your cruisetour. If your first check-in is aboard ship, notify your Cruise Manager; if you're in a hotel, contact our Service Desk in Basel, Switzerland at +41 61 638 60 23. We then have 24 hours to correct the situation. In the unlikely case that a solution is not possible, you can then depart as soon as you can and we will refund 100% of your cruise price. We can assist with any reservations to leave, but costs for your return trip and/or alternate travel plans are your responsibility.

## **Itinerary Notes**

Schedules and activities are subject to change depending upon river water levels, port accessibility and weather conditions. We appreciate your understanding if changes to the listed itinerary need to be made. Costs listed in this booklet for optional tours are approximate; actual costs will be quoted onboard.

**Notes:**

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