

# The Great Rivers of Europe

*May 7-22, 2026*

**The Netherlands:** *Amsterdam* | **Germany:** *Cologne, Koblenz, Rudesheim, Heidelberg, Wertheim, Wurzburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau* | **Austria:** *Melk, Vienna*

*Travel with OLLI - a lifetime of learning and exploring!*

## Travel Preview

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: Curtiss Hall, Seminar Room D**

*OLLI members & friends are invited to learn about this trip during presentation with our travel provider - Grand Circle Travel. Call the OLLI office to register for this preview (989) 964-4475 or register online.*

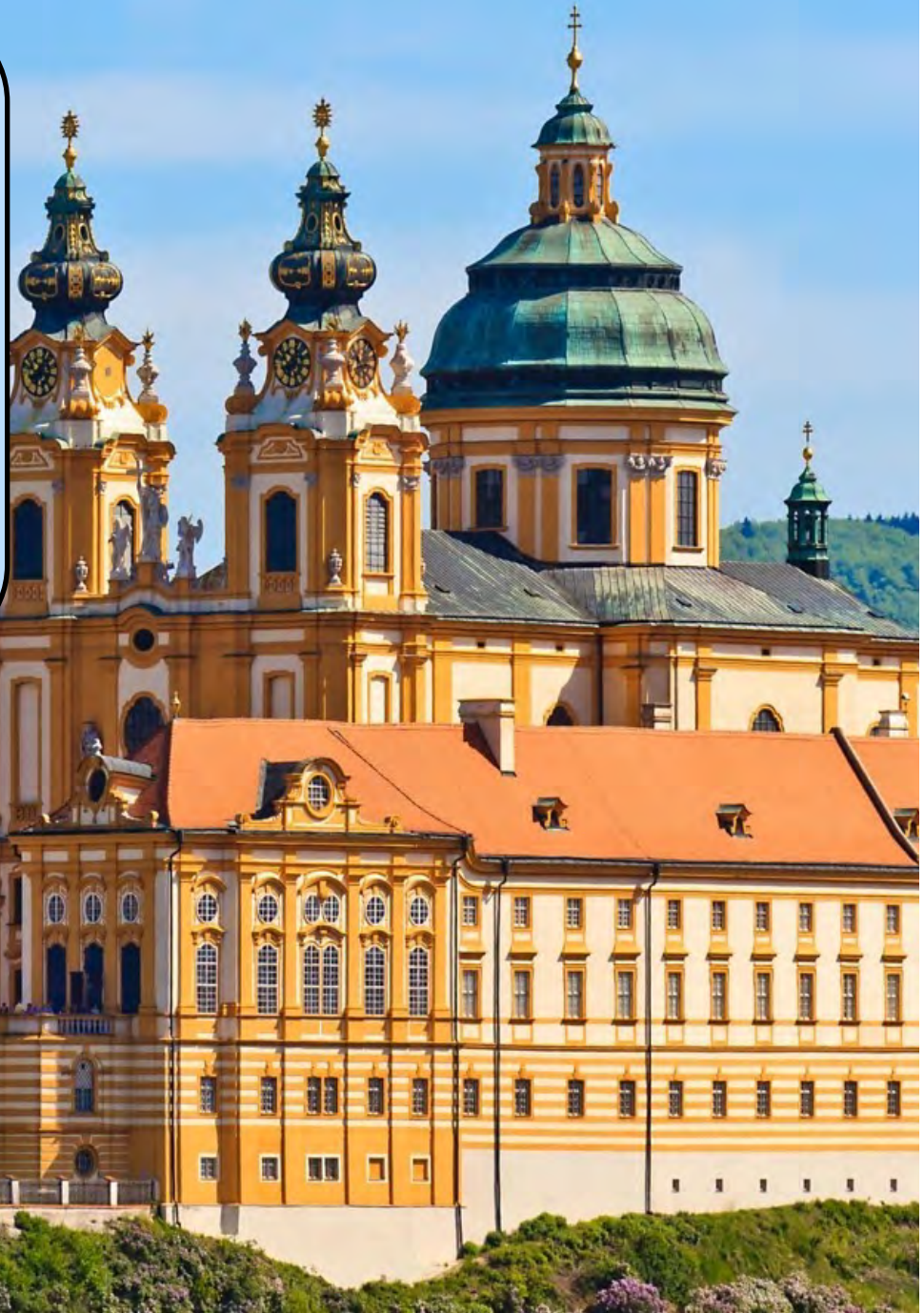
## Travel Registration

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.**

**Location: Curtiss Hall, C129**

*\*Registration for this trip will begin at 12:00 p.m. Meet in the OLLI Classroom C-129, Registration will be on a first-come-first served basis. Please note registrations can be taken over the phone after onsite registration is finished.*

*See page 3 for details.*



## SVSU - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY



**Embark on an unforgettable journey with OLLI as we explore Europe's majestic waterways!**

**This exceptional adventure takes you through the heart of the continent, where centuries of history and vibrant cultures blend seamlessly with picturesque landscapes. Immerse yourself in the charm of iconic cities and quaint villages, experiencing the very essence of Europe along its legendary rivers.**

## General Information:

### Travel Providers

This educational travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Grand Circle Travel, our travel partner we traveled with to Holland & Belgium, England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Paris, and the Nordic Coastal Journey.

### Registrations

Please fill out the registration form and bring it on the day of registration. Trip reservations are on first come, first served basis. A passport is required at time of registration and must be valid through six months following the end date of the tour. (Nov. 23, 2026)

### Tour Activity Level

This tour requires more than average physical activity. You should be in good health, able to climb stairs and walk reasonable distances, 3-4 hours of physical activity per day, 1-3 continuous miles unassisted within 1-2 hours, possibly over stairs and cobblestones, getting in/out of small canal boats. Adding optional excursions may increase the amount of walking on your tour. You should feel comfortable managing your own baggage at all times. If you have any mobility or physical restrictions, please contact our OLLI office for additional information. This trip is not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, or crutches.

### About Our Lodging

Our accommodations will be on the M/S River Aria.

### Travel Protection

Travel protection will be included in the price of this trip and must be paid at the time of deposit upon registration and will be provided by Trip Mate. Details about the travel protection package terms & conditions may be found at: <https://www.gct.com/ways-to-save/travel-protection-plan/benefits-and-coverage>. Please note insurance fees are not refundable. It is the traveler's responsibility to review insurance coverage to make sure it meets your needs prior to purchase. *\*If you choose not to take travel protection for your trip - your registration/situation will be reviewed.*

### Air Details

Our package includes round-trip air from Detroit airport, air taxes & fees/surcharges. Specific flight information will be provided at a later date. If our flight is scheduled early, we may stay the night prior to departure. If this is the case, there will be an added cost per person and these details will be forwarded to you closer to departure.

If you are looking for a roommate please contact our office and we can share names of others looking for a roommate. Our office will also maintain a wait-list if this trip fills to capacity of approximately 40 travelers.

### Included in Your 16-Days

- 14 nights aboard a private river ship with wireless internet access in all common areas and cabins
- 43 Meals: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, & 14 dinners *(including 2 meals in local restaurants - plus all onboard house beer, wine, and soft drinks)*
- Grand Circle Professional Program Director
- **12 included tours** with personal headsets and **5 Exclusive Discovery Series events**— Glassblowing demonstration • Home-Hosted *Kaffeeklatsch* • Rhine-Main-Danube Canal Transit & Conversation • Germany & Ukraine Conversation • German education system conversation
- Gratuities on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- Baggage handling for 1-piece of luggage per person
- Round-trip international air transportation, group ground transportation to/from SVSU to airport.
- Private motorcoach land travel
- 5% Frequent Traveler credit with GCT
- Pre-trip dinner April 21, 2026
- Post-trip reunion at SVSU

### Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and must be paid in cash. If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with required currency along with your final documents.

### Cancellations

All cancellations must be in writing to the OLLI office and are subject to a cancellation fee of \$50. Grand Circle Travel's cancellation policies will prevail.

**\*\* All information included in this brochure is deemed reliable at time of print. All trip updates and announcements will take precedence over information included in brochure.\*\***





## Registration Information

Please Complete the registration form and bring it to the OLLI office on the day of registration. Trip reservations are on first-come-first-served basis. A passport is required at time of registration and the passport must be valid through six months following the end date of the tour (11/23/26).

1. Trip reservations are taken in person on a first-come first-served basis.
2. If you are unable to register in person on registration day, you may have someone register for you, with your payment, passport, and completed registration form. One person may register for one room. Or, call the OLLI office after 3 p.m. on registration day after 3 p.m. to register by phone.
3. Roommate: If you plan to register as a “double” you must have a confirmed roommate at time of registration. (*You both must register to be confirmed roommates*). If you are unable to find a roommate please call the OLLI office and we may be able to provide you with names of other travelers also looking for a roommate.
4. Plan to attend the OLLI “Travel Social” planned for Feb. 19 at 5 p.m. in C-129 to meet other travelers, and look for a roommate.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Thursday, May 7

**Depart SVSU** via motorcoach and travel from SVSU to Detroit airport for overnight flight to Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

### Day 2: Friday, May 8

#### **Arrive Amsterdam, The Netherlands (D)**

Today we transfer to our private river ship. Later, you'll meet your Program Director. Lunch will be on your own today, ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations. This afternoon you'll have time to relax after your flight or set off to explore on your own a city that has successfully blended its Old World traditions with a thoroughly modern vibe. Marvel at Amsterdam's famous tall and skinny rowhouses during your walk, noting tidy window boxes and hand-scrubbed stoops along the way. Before the included dinner, gather onboard for your first Port Talk—a nightly feature of your River Cruise, designed as an opportunity for your Program Directors to prepare you for the following day's discoveries. This evening relax onboard and enjoy the ship's amenities. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap in the lounge, or retire to your cabin.

### Day 3: Saturday, May 9

#### **Amsterdam • Captain's Welcome Dinner (B/L/D)**

After breakfast this morning, gather for a welcome briefing. Today's discoveries will begin, fittingly, with a morning canal boat tour—providing you an unmatched vantage point from which you can marvel at the city's remarkable architectural achievements. We'll return to ship for lunch onboard, and set sail for Cologne. This evening you'll formally meet your ship crew during a welcome drink and introduction, followed by the Captain's welcome dinner onboard in the ship's dining room. You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

***\*Special Note:** B/L/D/T each day denotes if Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner or a Tasting will be included for that day.*

### Day 4: Sunday, May 10

#### **Cologne, Germany (B/L/D)**

Enjoy a relaxing morning cruising to your first German port. After lunch onboard, disembark and transfer to Cologne for an included tour, featuring the Roman Gate and the Gothic Cologne Cathedral. Your tour concludes outside the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral, just outside the Dom. The largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe. Before returning to the ship, you'll have some time this afternoon to explore.

### Day 5: Monday, May 11

#### **Koblenz • Afternoon sailing (B/L/D)**

After breakfast this morning we'll leave for a tour of Koblenz. Located where the Rhine and Mosel rivers meet. Koblenz was originally established as an outpost of the Roman Empire in 9 BC, and named Castle at the Confluence of the Rivers. Explore the narrow winding streets lined by medieval churches, and the *Weinstuben* (wine taverns). Then, set off for the Winningen wine region to visit a family-owned winery, where you'll sample a selection of local vintages. Before going to lunch on the ship you'll have time here for your own discoveries. If you chose not to partake in this morning's wine adventures, then you can traverse the city via cable car using the pre-paid voucher provided by your Program Director. After lunch you'll enjoy an unforgettable stretch of scenic sailing including a view of the Rhine River's castle corridor, a stretch of valley liberally sprinkled with turreted hilltop fortresses on both shores. Join your fellow travelers tonight in the ship's dining room.

### Day 6: Tuesday, May 12

#### **Frankfurt • Heidelberg (B/L/D)**

This morning, you arrive in Frankfurt. Join today's included tour of Heidelberg, set on the edge of the Odenwald Forest, where you'll visit the 15th-century Heidelberg Castle. After breakfast you will transfer to Heidelberg for a walking tour and learn more about the enchanting architecture and rich literary heritage. You will enjoy an included traditional lunch in town, then the afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the ship's dining room.

### Day 7: Wednesday, May 13

#### **Wertheim • Glassblowing demonstration • Home-Hosted Event (B/L/D)**

Enjoy an Exclusive Discovery Series glassblowing demonstration onboard this morning. Later this morning we head ashore in Wertheim for a walking tour, followed by some free time to explore Wertheim on your own before having lunch onboard the ship. In the afternoon we'll go to the home of a local family for a traditional *Kaffeeklatsch* to share coffee and cake during another **Exclusive Discovery Series** Home-Hosted Visit. Dinner will be served onboard in the ship's dining room this evening.

### Day 8: Thursday, May 14

#### **Wurzburg (B/L/D)**

Early this morning, your ship will start cruising to Wurzburg. Upon arrival, we'll disembark for a walking tour of this charming Bavarian port along the Main River with its Baroque and Rococo architecture, and a hot spot for wine enthusiasts. After the tour you will have some free time before heading back to the ship for lunch. Following lunch you will have free time for your own discoveries.



### **Day 9: Friday, May 15**

#### **Gerlachshausen • Opt. Rothenburg Tour • Schweinfurt (B/L/D)**

Your ship will stop briefly in Gerlachshausen this morning. If you choose, you can spend the morning onboard enjoying a scenic cruise to Schweinfurt. **OR** you can disembark and join our optional full-day excursion to Rothenburg, where you'll step back into medieval times. This lovely town, nestled on the Tauber River, is home to undamaged 14th-century city walls and beautifully preserved fortifications. As you explore, you'll see stately towers, imposing burghers houses, and a whimsical mechanical clock tower. Enjoy free time to explore on your own before you travel to meet up with the ship in Schweinfurt. Lunch onboard in the ship's dining room for those travelers who do not choose the optional tour. If you did choose the optional tour, lunch is included at a local restaurant. Dinner will be served onboard in the evening.

### **Day 10: Saturday, May 16**

#### **Bamberg • Rhine-Main- Danube Canal transit (B/L/D)**

Set out on a morning walking tour of Bamberg, which was founded in AD 902, began to prosper in the twelfth century, and was the center of southern Germany's Enlightenment in the late 18th century. Bamberg was the second city (after Mainz) to introduce book-printing. The city has grown famous in beer-enthusiast circles as the home to *Rauchbier*, a beer known for its smoky notes and malty finish. Before heading back to the ship for lunch, you'll take part in one of Germany's most popular traditions—visiting a local *Biergarten* (beer garden) to sample local brews. We'll begin cruising to Nuremberg this afternoon—a journey that will take you through the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal. After dinner tonight onboard, you'll enjoy an **Exclusive Discovery Series** discussion on the history and construction of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal.

### **Day 11: Sunday, May 17**

#### **Nuremberg • Conversation about Germany & Ukraine (B/L/D)**

This morning's included tour introduces you to Nuremberg—a city with a long and storied history, but also forever linked to Hitler's rise to power. Bavaria's second-largest city, Nuremberg was once the unofficial capital of the Holy Roman Empire. Today it is a lively and vibrant city, and you'll get a sense of daily life here during lunch in a local restaurant, where you'll sample regional specialties among those who call this city home. The rest of the afternoon is yours to relax onboard or to take advantage of a shuttle bus into town, **or** if you'd like to, you can explore Nuremberg's Old Town. Later, we'll return to the ship for an **Exclusive Discovery Series** discussion about Germany's role in the war between Ukraine and Russia. You'll hear about the controversy surrounding Germany's intervention policy, delving into the arguments for and against increasing its role in the war, with an opportunity to ask questions of your own. Dinner will be served onboard in the ship's dining room.

### **Day 12: Monday, May 18**

#### **Regensburg (B/L/D)**

As we sail toward Regensburg, head to the lounge to engage in an **Exclusive Discovery Series** conversation about the education system in Germany with a local expert. Upon arrival at our destination, you'll step ashore for a walking tour of Regensburg, one of Germany's largest and best preserved medieval cities. Experience its Old Town Hall and the famous Stone Bridge (Germany's oldest bridge), constructed during the twelfth century. You'll also see soaring St. Peter's Cathedral, Bavaria's most impressive Gothic wonder and home to a famous boys' choir. After your afternoon in Regensburg you'll enjoy dinner onboard in the ship's dining room.

### **Day 13: Tuesday, May 19**

#### **Explore Passau (B/L/D)**

After breakfast we'll explore Passau, situated at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz, and Inn rivers, during this morning's walking tour. Called the Dreiflussesstadt (City on Three Rivers), this elegant town has served as a German cultural and intellectual hub for centuries. Explore this kaleidoscopic assortment of pastel-colored buildings, cobblestone streets, and ornate sculptures during your tour. Enjoy the afternoon to pursue your own interests in Passau, such as the town's lavish, 17th-century St. Stephen's Cathedral, known as the Dom. This structure is home to 17,774 pipes and 234 resounding stops, making it one of the world's largest pipe organs. Later this afternoon, return to your ship and say auf Wiedersehen to Germany as we begin cruising to Austria—the last of three countries on your itinerary.

### **Day 14: Wednesday, May 20**

#### **Explore Melk, Austria • Vienna • Optional Musical Vienna Tour (B/L/D)**

Awake to find yourself in Melk, where you can glimpse the formidable Melk Abbey from the ship. Disembark after breakfast for a guided tour of the magnificently ornate Baroque Abbey. The abbey became a Benedictine monastery in 1089 and earned a distinguished reputation for medieval scholarship. After lunch onboard the ship we'll continue on to Vienna, cruising through the captivating landscape of the Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site—past terraced vineyards and lush flowering fields. When we arrive in Austria's capital this evening after dinner onboard, you'll have the night to relax or start exploring on your own. You may also choose to join our optional Musical Vienna excursion to one of the city's famed concert halls. Celebrate this city's incredible classical music heritage, and hear an enchanting performance by Austrian masters such as Mozart and Strauss.

### **Day 15: Thursday, May 21**

#### **Explore Vienna • Captains Farewell Dinner (B/L/D)**

Today, your exploration begins with a tour along the *Ringstrasse*, one of Emperor Franz Joseph's many achievements. Your tour will also give you an opportunity to witness the well-known Imperial Palace, home to many generations of the Habsburg family, and the renowned Spanish Riding School. After lunch aboard the ship the remainder of the day is yours in Vienna to spend as you please—ask your Program Director for recommendations. You may want to experience Vienna's coffeehouse culture at one of the city's many cafés. This evening take the time to reminisce with your fellow travelers during the Captain's Farewell Reception and dinner in the ship's dining room.

### **Day 16: Friday, May 22**

**Return to U.S. (B)** After breakfast, disembark, and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

## **Optional Excursions**

#### **Day 9: Rothenburg Tour with Lunch \$125**

On this tour of Rothenburg, you'll visit this lovely old town that sits on the Tauber River and boasts undamaged 14th-century city walls and beautifully preserved fortifications. Set off on a walking tour to see stately towers and imposing burghers' houses. After an included lunch, the afternoon is yours to make your own discoveries before transferring to meet your ship.

#### **Day 14: Musical Vienna \$100**

Vienna without music wouldn't be Vienna. So, subject to availability of tickets, you may want to enjoy an unforgettable optional evening in one of Vienna's famed concert halls. You'll hear enchanting performances of some of the most wonderful melodies of classical Austrian music.

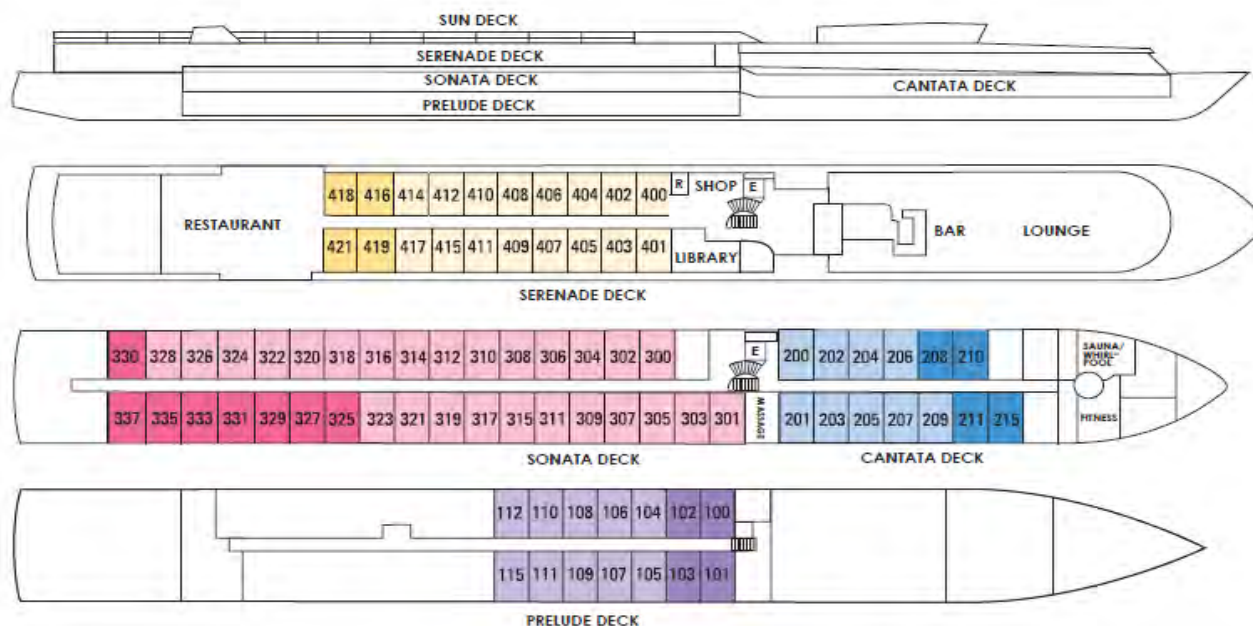


# Great Rivers of Europe - Cabin Preference & Estimated Costs

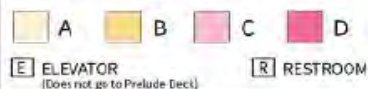


## Our Ship: M/S River Aria

Cruise Europe's legendary rivers in comfort aboard your private river ship -owned, operated by Grand Circle Cruise Line. These vessels were designed exclusively for four groups of 38-45 travelers. These river ships feature spacious common areas, including a lounge/bar with inviting couches and soft chairs. Topsides, a Sun Deck has classic deck chairs for admiring the passing scenery. Complimentary wireless Internet access is available throughout your ship; connectivity may be limited in certain locations on your itinerary.



### CABIN CATEGORIES



Registry: Malta

Width: 38 ft.

Length: 418 ft.

Passenger capacity: 162

International crew: 38

Decks: 4

Number of cabins: 82—all outside

Elevator: Yes (no elevator access to Prelude Deck)

## Estimated Trip Cost

An estimated cost will be given at time of registration.

An invoice from Grand Circle Travel Line will be sent in approximately two weeks.

Cabin Categories	Base w/Air	Single Supplement	Travel Protection Est.10-12% of cost	Total Cost
Serenade A: <i>Outside cabins with a river view with sliding glass doors while cruising</i>	\$ 8,845		\$ 1,062	
Serenade B: <i>Outside cabins with a river view with sliding glass doors while cruising</i>	\$ 8,645		\$ 1,038	
Sonata C: <i>Outside cabins with a split window river view while cruising</i>	\$ 8,245		\$ 990	
Sonata D: <i>Outside cabins with a split window river view while cruising</i>	\$ 8,145		\$ 978	
Cantata E: <i>Outside cabins with a split window river view while cruising</i>	\$ 8,045		\$ 966	
Cantata F: <i>Outside cabins with a split window river view while cruising</i>	\$ 7,945		\$ 954	
Prelude G: <i>Outside cabins with two porthole windows river view while cruising</i>	\$7,745		\$ 930	
Prelude H: <i>Outside cabins with two porthole windows river view while cruising</i>	\$7,345		\$ 882	

## Cabin Preference

Please list your top three cabin choices below. All cabins are outside facing with a window.

**Double Cabins** - 160sq. ft.  
**Single Cabins** - 160 sq. ft.

1st:

2nd:

3rd:

☐ Single Room - Limited (\$1,295)

\* Please note that the single supplement request may increase your travel protection cost.

# Tour Name: Great Rivers of Europe

May 7-22, 2026

## Traveler 1

Please ensure that your information matches what appears on your passport:

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname (optional for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ No Nickname

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Country of Issue \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MM / DD / Year)

Passport Issue Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MM / DD / Year)

Passport Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MM / DD / Year)

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (country)

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: if you are retired please state retired and from what

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you requesting a seat upgrade/preference? If yes, what is your budget? ☐ No ☐ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

### Roommate Information (if not at the same address):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Traveler 2 (only if at same address)

Please ensure that your information matches what appears on your passport:

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname (optional for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ No Nickname

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Country of Issue \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MM / DD / Year)

Passport Issue Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (DD / Month / Year)

Passport Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MM / DD / Year)

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (country)

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: if you are retired please state retired and from what

### Address same as Traveler 1

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you requesting a seat upgrade/preference? If yes, what is your budget? ☐ No ☐ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

### Trip Optionals:

☐ Day 9: Rothenburg Tour with Lunch \$125

☐ Day 14: Musical Vienna \$100

Optional Tour: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Past Grand Circle Traveler: Y\_\_ N\_\_ If yes, full name (on account): \_\_\_\_\_

### Travel Protection:

☐ Yes, I understand trip protection is included in my trip cost

☐ No, I decline the trip protection offered for this trip

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information:** ☐ Non-members will need to pay a separate \$60 membership fee to SVSU- OLLI which will be active through August 31, 2026.

I authorize payment to Grand Circle Travel:

☐ Full payment (including travel protection)

Estimated Total: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Double: Deposit of \$750 and Travel Protection payment (see pricing table)

Estimated Total: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Single: Deposit of \$750, Single Supplement \$1,295 and Travel Protection

Estimated Total: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Optional Excursion(s)

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**GCT Estimated Total**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Method** Pay \$750 deposit + travel protection & single supplement (if applicable) Final balance is due by February 6, 2026

☐ Electronic Transfer (automatic payment): Name on Checking Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Number \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit Card: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Discover Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

By signing above I have read and understand all the terms and conditions and accept them on behalf of myself and my party.

**In Office Checklist: Registration Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials** \_\_\_\_\_

### Checklist:

☐ Passport Copy — Good Through November 23, 2026

☐ Emergency Form

☐ Travel Protection

☐ Copy of Registration Form Returned to Traveler

**Notes:**