

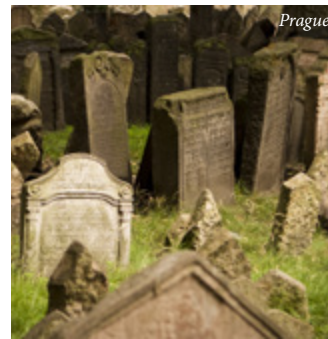


Prague to the Swiss Alps

A Danube, Main, &
Rhine River Cruise

aboard *Royal Crown*

October 12–26, 2017



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Dear Traveler,

Romantic Old World villages, medieval city centers, picturesque winding rivers, forests and vineyards ablaze with autumn colors, and vibrant cities emblematic of a rapidly transforming Europe comprise the cultural and historical threads of a memorable journey from the Czech Republic, through Germany and France, and ending in Switzerland.

This unique itinerary is bookended by two fascinating destinations—Prague, the historic capital of Bohemia, and the spectacularly beautiful Swiss Alps. Connecting them is a scenic journey from Regensburg to Basel aboard the intimate *Royal Crown* riverboat along three rivers—the Danube, Main, and Rhine—as well as a transit through the Main-Danube Canal. Marvel at the rebirth of Prague since the fall of the Iron Curtain; enjoy the charm of historic castles; visit six UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the Upper Middle Rhine Valley; sample world-class regional wines; and ponder the future ramifications of decisions made by the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Our privately chartered home for eight nights is the 90-passenger *Royal Crown* riverboat, just over half the size of most riverboats in the region and outfitted with elegant public areas and staterooms, perfect complements to the refined cuisine and friendly, attentive service designed to enhance your river cruise experience. Since this adventure will be shared with travelers from Harvard, Stanford, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I encourage you to reserve your space now!

Sincerely,

Steve Ridgway
President, Criterion Travel



Program Highlights

- ❖ **TRAVEL** for eight nights aboard the elegant *Royal Crown* along the Danube, Main, and Rhine rivers and the Main-Danube Canal, which winds 106 miles through rural Bavaria, the Franconian Alps, and the scenic Altmühl Valley.
- ❖ **VISIT** six UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the historic centers of Prague, Bamberg, and Strasbourg; the Würzburg Residenz; the Upper Middle Rhine Valley; and Speyer Cathedral.
- ❖ **ENJOY** a private welcome evening at a beautiful ancestral palace near Prague, and a grand finale dinner at the Victoria-Jungfrau Hotel, set against the dramatically beautiful Swiss Alps.
- ❖ **ATTEND** musical performances in memorable settings—the Bamberg String Quartet in the city's historic residence, a recital on Amorbach Abbey's famous Baroque organ, and a shipboard concert by a top local pianist.
- ❖ **TAKE** a guided tour of the courthouse in Nuremberg, site of the war crimes trials, and hear a lecture on European affairs in Strasbourg, home of the European Parliament.



ROYAL CROWN

The elegant *Royal Crown* combines the nostalgic charm of the 1930s with the comfort and service of a four-star vessel. Built in 1996 and refurbished in 2010, this 45-stateroom riverboat was crafted to ply the rivers flowing through the heart of Europe. Spacious teak decks blend with elegant public rooms and staterooms with mahogany, rosewood, and marble appointments, rich fabrics, and specially designed furniture to create a unique river vessel. All suites are fitted with spacious cupboards, a dressing table, satellite TV and radio, a safe deposit box, individually controlled air-conditioning, and en suite facilities with shower and hair dryer. Public amenities include a library, boutique, fitness area, elegant Art Deco-inspired lounge with panoramic views, and a dining room with open seating.





Prague



Riesling Grapes



Würzburg

TRIP ITINERARY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

HOME > PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Depart home on an overnight flight to Prague. Upon arrival, check in to the hotel. This evening gather for a festive welcome reception and dinner at Lobkowicz Palace, an impressive Renaissance chateau perched high above the river.

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL PRAGUE (R,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

PRAGUE

Discover the fairy tale-like setting of Prague's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, during a guided walking tour that showcases six centuries of architectural styles lining cobbled streets, an intricately decorated astronomical clock, and the iconic pointed spires of Tyn Cathedral. Also visit the haunting Old Jewish Cemetery and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue within Prague's Jewish Quarter, part of Old Town.

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL PRAGUE (B)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

PRAGUE

Visit the magnificent Strahov Library for a private tour of the collection of original prints and manuscripts. Continue to Prague Castle, a royal residence as far back as the 10th century and still the seat of the Czech government. Its walls encompass Renaissance-era St. Vitus Cathedral, an imposing structure that incorporates a unique mix of Gothic and Baroque elements, and the Old Royal Palace, one of the oldest parts of the castle, with its elongated throne room and soaring Vladislav Hall, once the site of coronation banquets and indoor jousting tournaments. Still within the walls, stroll along Golden Lane a charmingly quaint street that dates back to the 15th

century. Inside the 11 historic houses that line the lane are period scenes depicting the life of the goldsmiths and other artisans who once lived and worked here; the upper levels contain a medieval armory and textile displays.

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL PRAGUE (B,L)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

PRAGUE > REGENSBURG, GERMANY

Originally a Celtic colony, Regensburg later became a fortress guarding the northern frontier of the Danube. The city is home to Dom St. Peter, one of the most impressive cathedrals in Bavaria and a fine example of Gothic style, with medieval stained-glass windows. Enjoy a tour through the old medieval quarter with its narrow streets and intimate squares lined with medieval buildings, followed by a performance by the Domspatzen Quartet. Embark the *Royal Crown* and begin your river cruise by transiting the Main-Danube Canal.

ROYAL CROWN (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

NUREMBERG

The second-largest city in Bavaria, Nuremberg is a treasure of medieval culture, as evidenced by its historic monuments, Gothic churches, and elegant patrician houses. A city tour includes the courthouse where the Nazi war crimes trials were held, and the parade grounds where many of the Nazi Party rallies took place during World War II.

ROYAL CROWN (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

BAMBERG

Enjoy a morning tour of Bamberg, a UNESCO World Heritage site and perhaps the most perfect of all ancient German cities, with hills, canals, and splendid examples of Baroque and Gothic architecture. Visit the Altes Rathaus (old town hall), a picturesque

mixture of rustic half-timbering and rococo elegance perched on a tiny island in the Pegnitz River; and the city's great cathedral, featuring some of the most remarkable sculptures in Germany. Enjoy a private concert before rejoining the ship and cruising to Würzburg.

ROYAL CROWN (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

WÜRZBURG

Rising high above the Main River, the Würzburg Residenz Palace is one of the most stunning baroque buildings in southern Germany. In the 16th century, this medieval castle was converted into a magnificent palace with five grand halls, 300 bedrooms, a mirrored gallery, and a glorious, recently restored ceiling fresco by Giovanni Tiepolo. Enjoy a guided tour of the palace, followed by a private tasting of Franconian wines in the atmospheric, candlelit wine cellar.

ROYAL CROWN (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

MILTENBERG

Miltenberg's strategic location on the Main River allowed it to develop into an important trading center in medieval times. This morning enjoy a walking tour of Miltenberg's picturesque half-timbered houses, followed by an organ concert in nearby Amorbach's Benedictine Abbey church. Return to the *Royal Crown* for an afternoon of cruising.

ROYAL CROWN (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

RÜDESHEIM

After a morning of scenic cruising, arrive in Rüdesheim on the Rhine, a winemaking town in the Rhine Gorge (Upper Middle Rhine Valley) UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy a visit to Schloss Vollrads, a castle and wine estate that has been making wine for more than 800 years. Ten to 15 different wines are

made from the single grape variety, Reisling, grown in this unique Rheingau *terroir*, a blend of climate, soil type, geomorphology, and other plants in the area.

ROYAL CROWN (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

HEIDELBERG & SPEYER

This morning take a guided walking tour along the winding baroque-style lanes of Heidelberg's Old Town, home to a number of great poets and academics, world-famous castle ruins, and Germany's oldest university, which dates back to 1386. Continue to Speyer to visit its acclaimed Romanesque cathedral, whose monumental crypt was the chosen burial place for German emperors and kings for more than 300 years. Enjoy a piano concert while cruising to Strasbourg.

ROYAL CROWN (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

Like many of the Alsace region's border cities, Strasbourg has changed hands several times between France and Germany. Today, the city, which is the capital of Alsace and seat of the European Parliament, reflects both cultures linguistically, architecturally, and gastronomically. Strasbourg features a historic, UNESCO World Heritage-designated city center with 16th-century half-timbered houses and a Gothic cathedral built of red sandstone. Visit the European Parliament for a specially arranged tour and a guest lecture on European affairs. Then board small boats

and meander along the canals of Strasbourg's "Petite France," as the former tanners' and fishmongers' districts are known.

ROYAL CROWN (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

BASEL, SWITZERLAND

Disembark in Basel for a walking tour of its medieval Old Town. Steeped in Celtic-Roman history and situated at the crossroads of France, Germany, and Switzerland, much of the ancient city of Basel still stands well preserved. An important cultural center, Basel is home to Switzerland's oldest university, where the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche taught. After lunch, transfer by motor coach to Interlaken, the main gateway to the mountains and lakes of the Bernese Oberland region of the Swiss Alps.

VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU GRAND HOTEL & SPA (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

INTERLAKEN

Board a cog railway for the spectacular ascent to the Kleine Scheidegg Station with views of the famous Eiger North Wall, as well as the

Prague's Astronomical Clock



Mönch and Jungfrau peaks. This evening enjoy a special farewell dinner.

VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU GRAND HOTEL & SPA (B,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

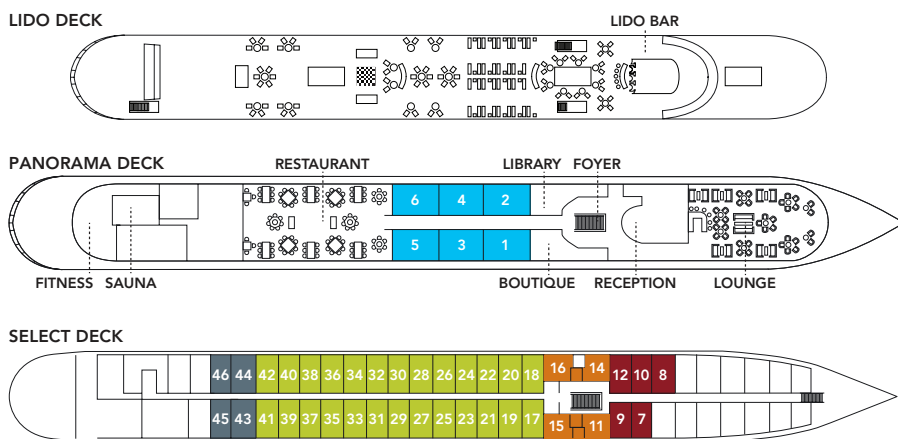
INTERLAKEN > ZURICH > HOME

After breakfast, transfer to the Zurich airport for flights home. (B)



Speyer





PROGRAM RATES (per person)

CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
A - Junior	\$7,995	\$12,795
SELECT DECK		
145 sq. ft., two portholes, twin beds, shower		
B - Superior	\$8,495	\$13,595
SELECT DECK		
145 sq. ft., two portholes, twin beds, shower		
C - Deluxe	\$8,995	\$15,295
SELECT DECK		
145 sq. ft., two portholes, twin beds, shower		
D - Premium	\$9,995	—
SELECT DECK		
150 sq. ft., two portholes, queen bed, shower		
E - Royal	\$12,995	—
PANORAMA DECK		
200 sq. ft., four large fixed windows, queen bed, shower		

Program Rates Include

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Airport transfers on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with welcome and farewell dinners and with lunches and dinners on board *Royal Crown* • Bottled water on motor coaches • Professional tour manager throughout

To reserve a place on **Prague to the Swiss Alps**, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089, or email res@criteriontravel.com

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE
U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport and visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Airport transfers except as noted as included • Travel insurance • 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 • Room service Telephone, fax, Internet, and email charges • Other items of a personal nature

AIRFARE

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Information about making flight arrangements will be sent to all participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The pace of this program is moderately active, with at least one mile of walking each day on excursions. Most of the historic city centers have large segments that are closed to motor coaches, and city tours involve walking on cobbled

streets or uneven terrain, and may involve extended periods of standing in museums and churches. Elevators and handrails on stairs often are unavailable. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 74 participants, including travelers from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Harvard, and Stanford.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended, and we hope that you will obtain it for this expedition. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Please be sure to carry the details of your travel insurance coverage with you on the program. Travelers are free to purchase the travel insurance of their choice. It is recommended that travelers clearly understand the difference between

"primary" and "secondary" travel insurance.

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS

To reserve space, please call (888) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is June 14, 2017, 120 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Upon payment of a \$1,000 deposit per person, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Final payment is due June 14, 2017 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% nonrefundable. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the

program is cancelled by Criterion Travel, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Criterion Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by 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, Criterion Travel reserves 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.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

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CRITERION
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