CRUSING THE RHINE

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

JUNE 17–26, 2027

CAU Select

Basel

Dear CAU Friends,

CAU RECOMMENDS Cruising the Rhine River, produced by one of CAU's trusted partners and featuring esteemed faculty from Cornell's peer institutions along with expert local guides. Together, they offer an enriching exploration of Europe's history, culture, and landscapes. In short, it is an opportunity we did not want you to miss.

Cruise the Rhine River, one of Europe's most iconic waterways, on an eight-night private charter aboard the elegant *MS River Crown*. Beautifully designed and fully refurbished in early 2026, this intimate vessel accommodates just 100 guests, creating a more personal, social, and relaxed experience than larger modern ships. Enjoy expansive public spaces, including a panoramic lounge, as you journey through some of Europe's most storied landscapes. The program also features an outstanding lineup of speakers, further enhancing the educational experience. This departure brings together travelers from peer organizations, including MIT Alumni Travel, Harvard Alumni Travels, Princeton Seminary Expeditions, and National Trust Tours.

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.

Enhance your travels with a three-night post-trip extension in Amsterdam. With long summer days and a seamless mix of guided experiences and leisure, this voyage offers the perfect balance of discovery, culture, and relaxation.

Warmly,
CAU (Cornell's Adult University)
Alumni Affairs

SCAN TO REGISTER ON MOBILE

COVER Rhine River Valley | **BACK COVER** Windmills in Kinderdijk

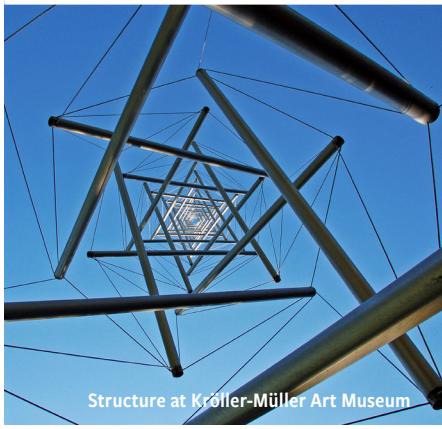
Dordrecht

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.

Unterlinden Museum

Heidelberg


Structure at Kröller-Müller Art Museum

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

Petit France, Strasbourg

French Maginot Line

Itinerary

THURDAY-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)

Heidelberg, Germany

Cologne Cathedral

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 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

Scenic canal in Dordrecht

Eusebius Church

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

Rijksmuseum

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.

Steamship Salon

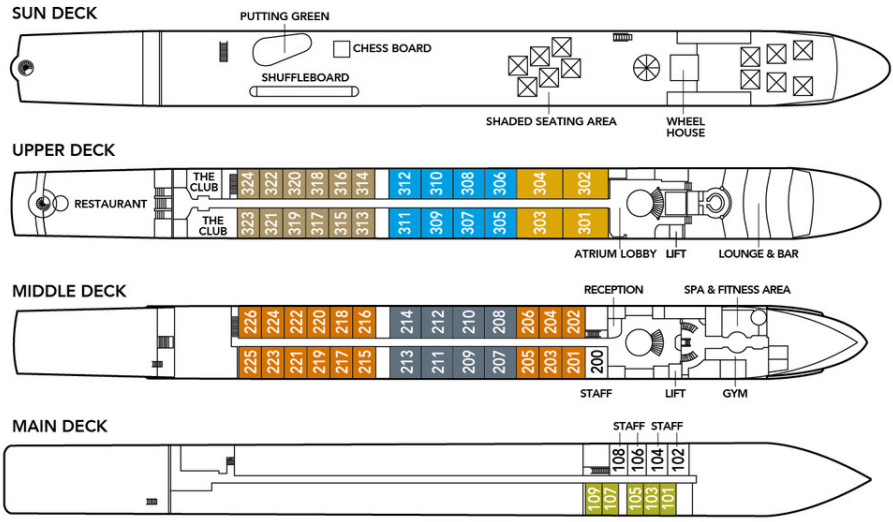
Deluxe Upper Deck Cabin

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 Cornell's Adult University, 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 and is co-sponsored by other organizations.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

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

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.

RESERVATION & PAYMENTS

An initial deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. Reserve your space online at https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/CAU/270617_RRC/tour or complete the reservation form included in this brochure and mail it with your check or credit card information to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax to (650) 560-6400. Balance of payment is due February 17, 2027. 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).

CANELLATIONS & 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 Criterion Travel. 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 Cornell University nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

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, the tour operator 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.

TRAVEL SAFETY POLICY

While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage, or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this travel, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell's role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operator and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance prior to making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

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TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE, PLEASE VISIT
https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/CAUS/270617_RRC/tour

SCAN TO REGISTER ON MOBILE

RESERVATION FORM

For more information, call Criterion Travel: (888) 328-2089. To reserve, complete and return this form by email to res@criteriontravel.com. If paying by check, please return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

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

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMIAL #2

PAYMENT

○ Charge my deposit to my credit card

○ VISA ○ MC ○ AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARHOLDER SIGNATURE

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

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed Preference: ○ One bed ○ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

○ I prefer to have single accommodations (limited availability)

○ I plan to share accommodations with:

○ I am willing to share with another participant.

I am a ○ non-smoker ○ smoker

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

CRUSING THE

RHINE

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130 E. Seneca St., Suite 400
Ithaca, NY 14850

alumni.cornell.edu/LEARN-AND-TRAVEL/