

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

July 10 to 21, 2024

Great European Journey

BY RIVER AND RAIL



GREAT EUROPEAN JOURNEY

Set off on an exhilarating European adventure steeped in storied history, grand architecture, and breathtaking scenery on this fabulous, 12-day, 10-night itinerary featuring a deluxe river cruise and unforgettable mountain journeys by rail.

Discover the timeless beauty of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers as you wind through peaceful countryside past storybook towns, steeply terraced vineyards, and forested hills crowned by castles. Engaging excursions and walking tours in your ports of call reveal the Old-World splendor of renowned cities and towns. Step inside hilltop castles in Heidelberg and Cochem, and wonder at the epic scale and awe-inspiring facades of the cathedrals that tower over Cologne and Strasbourg.

Switzerland's idyllic, pristine beauty is a special highlight during stays in Lucerne, one of the country's most beautiful medieval cities, and Zermatt, a world-class resort town tucked high amid the Swiss Alps with the mighty Matterhorn as a backdrop. On three panoramic train rides that traverse steep mountain terrain, feel immersed in the sweeping grandeur amid the crisp, alpine air. Once atop Mount Pilatus and the Gornergrat, you'll be rewarded with dazzling, soul-stirring landscapes that stretch across the horizon!

Front cover: Zermatt, Switzerland



Strasbourg, France



Dear Alumni and Friends:

Join us for an exceptional, 10-night, European journey carefully crafted with the carefree comforts of river cruising, the ease of luxury hotel stays, and the picturesque scenery of mountain railways! You'll wend your way along the Rhine and Moselle Rivers for six nights through Germany and France, and then bask in Switzerland's sensational scenery over four nights in the Swiss Alps.

Aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe AMADEUS QUEEN, savor the unfolding riverside scenery of vineyards, castles, and fairytale towns as you relax on deck. Daily shore excursions introduce you to Cologne, Cochem, Koblenz, Rudesheim, and Heidelberg in Germany and Strasbourg, the Alsatian capital, in France. Your fascinating explorations continue on land in Switzerland with two nights at the deluxe HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF in Lucerne on the shores of Lake Lucerne, and two nights at the first-class HOTEL ALEX in Zermatt, the famed mountain resort. While touring, have your camera ready on three memorable train rides through the resplendent Alps!

This well-rounded itinerary, featuring guided excursions, luxurious accommodations, and delectable cuisine on both water and land, has been an enticing favorite among travelers. Make plans today to secure your place on this Great European Journey for the best value!

Very truly yours,

Kathy Hart
NC State WolfTreks Travel Director
www.alumni.ncsu.edu/travel

To book this trip, contact Kathy Hart at 919-515-0508 or use the NC State WolfTreks online reservation form: go.ncsu.edu/wolftreksreservation



Conquering the Matterhorn

Jutting into the sky, this magnificent, jagged mountain has long been a magnet for mountaineers and alpine enthusiasts who gravitate to the challenge of ascending it. An iconic jewel of Switzerland, the Matterhorn rises to 14,692 feet, part of the Pennine Alps, or Valais Alps, along the Italian and Swiss border.

After numerous climbers attempted and failed the difficult ascent to the top from the Italian side and from Zermatt, British climber Edward Whymper, part of a seven-man group, became the first person to summit the peak in 1865. Tragically, four of his fellow climbers died during the descent. In 1871, Lucy Walker, a British mountaineer, became the first woman to ascend the Matterhorn; and American Meta Brevoort became the first woman to traverse the Matterhorn from Zermatt to Breuil in Italy.

Their accomplishments led to a surge in travel to Zermatt during the 19th century, as other climbers and nature lovers came to witness the Matterhorn's incredible beauty. Today, visitors to Zermatt can view bronze markers throughout town that commemorate the achievements of these early, pioneering alpinists.



LEGENDARY RAILWAYS OF THE SWISS ALPS



Remarkable feats of railway engineering have made it possible to travel through Switzerland's lofty mountains. PILATUS RAILWAY, the world's steepest cog railway, climbs and descends the craggy face of Mount Pilatus at a maximum gradient of 48 percent. First opened in 1889 under steam power, then electrified in 1937, it now features state-of-the-art electric cars. The GLACIER EXPRESS line, which debuted in 1930, penetrates the mountain barrier separating the Swiss cantons of Valais and Uri, gliding along a jaw-dropping route of towering bridges and mountain tunnels. The GORNERGRAT BAHN, built in 1898, was the country's first electric cog railway and is the second highest railway in Europe at 10,135 feet. Appreciate these impressive railways as they transport you right into the heart of Switzerland's wondrous landscapes of mountains, streams, glaciers, and gorges!



INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



12-DAY/10-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1

Depart your home city for an overnight flight.

Amsterdam, Netherlands/ Embark river boat

Day 2

Arrive in Amsterdam and board the AMADEUS QUEEN. Gather later for the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. (R,D)

Cologne, Germany

Day 3

One of Germany's oldest cities, a is renowned for its magnificent Gothic cathedral, *Kölner Dom*, built over a period of more than 630 years. Admire the old town's top sites and the cathedral's impressive exterior on a walking tour. Enjoy free time afterward and, if you'd like, go inside the cathedral to see the Shrine of the Three Kings, a gilded reliquary. (B,L,D)

Cochem

Day 4

Sail through a splendid, narrow

section of the Moselle River lined with colorful towns and tiered vineyards, then dock in charming Cochem. Delight in its half-timbered houses on a walking tour, and visit hilltop Reichsburg Castle, which offers stunning river views. (B,L,D)

Koblenz/Rüdesheim

Day 5

On a walking tour, see the highlights of lovely Koblenz, founded by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago where the Rhine and Moselle Rivers meet. Later, cruise through the enchanting Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dotted with some 40 castles, and see the fabled Lorelei Rock. Arrive in the heart of Riesling wine country. Take in the vineyards near Rüdesheim on a mini-train before sampling fine wines in town. (B,L,D)

Mannheim for Heidelberg

Day 6

Dock in Mannheim and journey

to romantic Heidelberg to visit the Renaissance-era ruins of its grand castle overlooking the picturesque Neckar Valley. Take a walking tour in the lively old town filled with Renaissance and baroque gems, such as the old bridge, *Alte Brücke*, with its twin-towered gate. (B,L,D)

Strasbourg, France

Day 7

Discover the medieval grandeur of Grand-Île, the historic center of Strasbourg and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, during a walking tour. See the bridges and towers of the 13th-century *Ponts Couverts*, and meander past the many half-timbered houses in the canal-lined *Petite France* district, where fishermen, tanners, and millers once lived during the Middle Ages. Visit *Notre Dame Cathedral*, an exquisitely ornamented Gothic beauty. This evening, attend the Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)



Rüdesheim vineyards



Bakery treats, Strasbourg



Alte Brücke, Heidelberg



Kölner Dom, Cologne

Basel, Switzerland/ Disembark/Lucerne

Day 8

Disembark the river boat in Basel and savor the scenery on a drive to Lucerne. This compact, walkable city on the Reuss River and Lake Lucerne boasts wonderfully painted buildings, stately churches, and two medieval, covered wooden footbridges. On a walking tour, see the imposing Water Tower and the famous Chapel Bridge with an inner roof adorned with 17th-century paintings. After lunch, check into the deluxe HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF. The rest of your day is at leisure. (B,L)

Mount Pilatus/ Lucerne

Day 9

This morning, take a short drive to the base of majestic Mount Pilatus, a massif with numerous summits. Ride by cable car to one summit and then board a gondola for the ascent to Pilatus Kulm at 6,795 feet. From this vantage point, gaze in all directions at spectacular vistas of Lake Lucerne, forested countryside, and if the weather is clear, dozens of alpine peaks. Relish free time and lunch at the mountaintop complex. On your descent, appreciate the scenery on the other side of

the mountain aboard the PILATUS RAILWAY, the world's steepest cogwheel train. Wrap up your thrilling day with a pleasant cruise across Lake Lucerne and the evening at leisure. (B,L)

Lucerne/ Andermatt/Zermatt

Day 10

Check out and relax on a drive to Andermatt, where you will enjoy lunch. Next, settle in for a marvelous journey on the celebrated GLACIER EXPRESS, and glide amid ever-changing panoramas of lush mountains, tranquil valleys, and sparkling lakes. Arrive in Zermatt, a cozy, car-free, mountain resort town nestled near the Matterhorn at 5,276 feet. Check into the first class HOTEL ALEX. Meet for a Welcome Reception and make your own dinner plans. (B,L)

Zermatt/Gornergrat

Day 11

Today, revel in a ride aboard the GÖRNERGRAT BAHN, the highest open-air cog railway in the world. Ascend through pine and larch forests, take in picture-perfect views of the Matterhorn, and then alight at the Gornergrat, an alpine ridge at roughly 10,000 feet. Glorious, expansive vistas of snowcapped peaks await you! Enjoy free time there and return to Zermatt at your own pace. This evening, attend a Farewell Reception in the hotel. (B,R)

Zermatt/Täsch/Geneva/ Return to Home City

Day 12

Check out and ride a shuttle train from Zermatt down to Täsch. Transfer by motor coach to the Geneva airport for your return flight home. (B)



Chapel Bridge, Lucerne



AMADEUS QUEEN This meticulously crafted river boat, launched in 2018, features all the comforts of a refined hotel. Throughout your voyage, feel pampered by the professional crew who provide attentive service, and dine on expertly prepared, delectable cuisine. Relax in the bright, comfy lounges with large windows for admiring the scenery, and take a refreshing dip in the indoor pool fitted with a retractable roof. The 81 stylish staterooms and suites are among the most spacious of any European river boat (172 to 284 square feet). The suites include a private balcony, and select staterooms feature a floor-to-ceiling window that lowers automatically to French-balcony height. Accommodations have 2 twin beds or 1 queen bed, individual climate control, a sitting area, and a private bathroom with shower.



2024 DEPARTURE DATE: July 10 to 21 (Embarkation: July 11 at 12:00 p.m.)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking	Rates after
		Rate through Dec. 27, 2023	Dec. 27, 2023
C4	Stateroom with small panoramic window. <i>Haydn Deck, midship.</i>	\$4,315	\$4,795
C1	Stateroom with small panoramic window. <i>Haydn Deck, midship.</i>	\$4,765	\$5,295
B4	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to French-balcony height. <i>Strauss Deck, aft.</i> (limited availability)	\$5,215	\$5,795
B1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to French-balcony height. <i>Strauss Deck, aft and midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$5,935	\$6,595
A1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to French-balcony height. <i>Mozart Deck, aft and midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$6,385	\$7,095
Suite	Suite with private balcony (sliding glass doors with railing), sofa and bathrobes. <i>Mozart Deck, midship.</i>	\$7,105	\$7,895

Single supplements apply to the following categories, C1 and C4, at 160% of the per person double price and are subject to availability. Single price for all other cabin categories is at 200%.

Port taxes are an additional \$55 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve

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PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Amsterdam

July 8 to 11, 2024 (Tour Begins: July 9)

Get acquainted with this captivating city graced with leafy canals and gabled houses on a 2-night, pre-cruise extension at the deluxe **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON AMSTERDAM CENTRAAL STATION**. Enjoy a cruise along its delightful, 17th-century waterways, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and view acclaimed art by the great Dutch Golden Age masters at the Rijksmuseum. Venture to Hoorn, a picturesque, 17th-century harbor town and key Dutch East India Company port, and soak up the inviting ambience and historic architecture of Edam, legendary for its tasty cheese.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,095

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,425

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.



EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS UP TO \$1,580 PER COUPLE

Moselle River Valley



NC State Alumni Association
Box 7503
Raleigh, NC 27695-7503
052-194

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