

4 GREAT RIVERS OF EUROPE

6th President's Cruise from Luxembourg to Budapest
June 16, 2019 - 20 days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$12,740 Category E (window)

\$15,240 Category B (French balcony)

\$15,740 Category P (French balcony)



- > Please add 0.2% GST.
- > Other categories available along with single fares.
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 200 points from this tour.
Redeem **200 points** if you book by February 13, 2019.

Includes

- Transportation to/from Vancouver Airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Frankfurt, Germany
- Current air transport taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- 4 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Transfer from Frankfurt to Luxembourg hotel
- 2 days of coach transportation in Luxembourg
- Half-day tour of Luxembourg City
- Afternoon upstream cruise on Moselle with a lock
- Full-day tour of Petite Suisse
- 14 days & nights on board *Imagery II*
- Cruise gratuities, port charges & cruise taxes
- Entertainment & expert lecturers on ship
- Half-day tour of Trier
- Half-day tour of Bernkastel
- Mechanical Music Museum OR cablecar to Niederwald Monument in Rudesheim
- Walking tour of a Main village
- Walking tour of Bamberg with Cathedral
- Fees for passage of the Main-Danube Canal
- Full-day tour to Munich with Nymphenburg Palace and Glockenspiel
- Half-day tour of Roth with Kaiserburg Castle OR Nuremberg Rally Grounds
- Half-day walking tour of Regensburg with Altes Rathaus and Porta Pretoria
- Walking tour of Passau
- Benedictine Abbey in Melk
- Full-day tour of Vienna with Hofburg Imperial Palace, Vienna Opera House, and St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Tour of Budapest with Matthias Church and Fisherman's Bastion
- 2nd day of Budapest touring with St. Stephen's Basilica, Opera House, and Margaret Island
- Ride on the Budapest Eye Ferris Wheel
- Hungarian Folkloric show
- Transfer from hotel to airport in Budapest
- Flight from Budapest to Vancouver
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director throughout tour and cruise
- Gratuities for all local guides and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **52 meals:** 18 breakfasts, 16 lunches, 18 dinners

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Cruising 4 European rivers with Avalon Waterways

With 14 days on 4 different rivers of Europe, this amazing cruise on Avalon's *Imagery II* takes in a wonderful variety of sights. We start in Remich, Luxembourg, and cruise down the Moselle River for 2 days to the Rhine, then upstream on the Rhine and the Main Rivers for 4 days. The Main-Danube Canal is 171 km long and our ship is raised or lowered through 16 locks during the 3-day passage. The Danube is Europe's second-longest river and a vital means of transportation for 2,000 years. It rises in Germany's Black Forest and flows through or along the borders of 10 countries to reach the Black Sea. Our cruise takes in a very scenic portion from Kelheim, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary, with 5 relaxed days to enjoy the vistas from the river and local excursions in the cities.

The ship stops in many towns along these rivers and sometimes stays overnight. At each stop, there is a choice of shore excursions with some being included and some with an extra charge. These tours may be walking through a town with commentary provided on personal head-sets, or may be on a motorcoach with an extended visit to a city that is not on the river. You can sign up on the ship for paid tours and these usually have unique themes and experiences that are worth the extra cost.

Our cruise is with Avalon Waterways, part of the Globus Family, and is backed by 80 years of travel experience. They boast a 98% satisfaction rate among their clientele in post-cruise surveys, an impressive track record. The passion for detail is evident in the design of the ships, from the placement of windows to the comfort of the lounges. Off the ships, the award-winning land programs help you experience each destination, with guided sightseeing in every port, engaging port lectures, VIP access into key destinations, no waiting in lines, and great cultural immersion and storytelling thanks to skilled cruise directors and guides. This is the 5th river cruise that Wells Gray has offered with Avalon.

Tour & Cruise Notes

Please book early. Avalon has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour. Our sales will be reviewed on September 30, 2018, and some or all unsold staterooms may be recalled if the ship is getting full. River cruises are extremely popular and most are sold out long before departure, so it is not a good idea to delay booking this tour. Our President's cruises are also popular and all but the first one in 2013 were sold out months in advance (the 2018 cruise was full over 6 months before departure). Please book as early as possible. **It is unlikely that we will be able to secure more space after Avalon recalls our unsold rooms.** As additional incentives, Avalon is offering an early booker discount of \$1,200 each which is already deducted from your fare, but this will end on September 30 and fares will increase \$1,200 for bookings after that. Avalon is also offering a reduced single supplement on the first 8 staterooms booked.

Changes to tour: As this tour has been planned 13 months in advance, changes to foreign currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from airline, ship, and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours. The airline will not confirm 2019 fares until August 2018, so the air fare included in this tour has been estimated, based on 2018 fares and could be higher or lower. For all these reasons, Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure. Hotels named could change, but substitutes will be of similar or better quality.

Documentation: A valid passport is required with sufficient blank pages and must not expire until three months after return date. Visas are not currently required for any country we are visiting.

Gratuities for cruise staff, local guides and transfer drivers are included. As well as hosting this cruise as Wells Gray's President, Roland Neave is your tour director and gratuities to him are respectfully declined.

Currency: The Euro is the accepted currency in all countries we visit. You should have Euros for smaller purchases and gratuities. You can order from your bank a few weeks prior. On board currency is the Euro. Purchases can be charged to your ship account and paid at the end of the cruise by credit card.



Activity Level: Light activity on the ship and moderate activity during most shore excursions and pre- and post-cruise tours. Due to the historic nature of some attractions, it may be necessary to climb stairs, walk on uneven surfaces such as cobblestone streets, and walk up to a kilometre at an easy pace. Sometimes the coach cannot drive all the way to an attraction. There is an elevator on the ship. There can be longer walks in the airports so you should request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. The coaches cannot carry a scooter. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, local guides, and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. Please consider these mobility issues prior to booking this tour. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

6th President's Cruise

Roland and Anne Neave invite you to join them for this exciting cruise from Luxembourg to Budapest on the Moselle, Rhine, Main, and Danube Rivers. About once a year, the Neaves choose a cruise route somewhere in the world and host their President's Cruise. Roland founded Wells Gray Tours in 1972 and is the company's President. Previous President's cruises have featured the Eastern Mediterranean, Panama Canal, Norway Fjords, Dubai to Singapore, and Sydney to Auckland. Those cruises have all been on ocean ships and the 2019 cruise will be the first on rivers. During this 6th President's Cruise, Roland and Anne will host several receptions and social gatherings. Since the *Imagery II* carries only 128 passengers, this will be a more intimate experience than on board a large ship. Roland and Anne look forward to renewing old acquaintances or meeting you for the first time.

On Board the *MV Imagery II*

Our ship, the *Imagery II*, was launched in 2016 and is one of Avalon's newest vessels. It is 110 metres long and carries 128 passengers with 37 crew. The floor to ceiling windows and French balconies on Royal and Sapphire decks make for bright staterooms with a contemporary design. With just 64 staterooms and only 4 decks, including the huge open Sky Deck, the experience is intimate yet diverse enough that you can meet people from around the globe. Comfort is essential — dress code is relaxed and casual with just one dressy yet not formal night on the gala final evening. There are three places to eat — Panorama Dining Room, the Bistro, and the Sky Grill. Three spacious lounges with beverage service are available. Dining is also relaxed with breakfast and lunch buffets, and nightly four-course dinner with open seating. Complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks are offered with lunch and dinner. All-day coffee and tea service is provided, plus there is afternoon tea, social hour in the lounge, open air bistro on the Sky Deck, and Night Fare at 10:30 each evening. There is a fitness centre and hair salon on board, and free internet access. Your cruise director keeps you informed about the daily entertainment, the upcoming lectures on ports of call, and various on board activities to enrich your European river experience. There are five categories of staterooms. Category D and E are on the Indigo or lowest deck with small windows and measure 172 square feet. Categories A and B on Sapphire deck and Category P on Royal deck measure 200 square feet and have floor to ceiling windows and a sliding door to the French balcony. All staterooms have private bathroom with shower, flat-screen TV, hair dryer, phone, and safe.

Itinerary

Sunday, June 16: *Meals: D*
Transportation is provided to New Westminster and we stay overnight at the Inn at Westminster Quay. A get-acquainted dinner is planned.

Monday, June 17: *Meals: B*
Most of the day is at leisure. While it may seem unnecessary to travel to Vancouver the day before your flight, extended delays can occur with ferries or flights can be cancelled. Our flight to Frankfurt leaves about 6 pm.

Tuesday, June 18: *Meals: L,D*
We arrive at **Frankfurt** in the morning and local time is 9 hours ahead. Our European guide and coach meet us at the airport. This afternoon, we drive about three hours west to **Luxembourg**, crossing three of the four rivers on our cruise — Main, Rhine, and Moselle. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is one of the smallest countries in Europe at only 2,586 sq km and a population of 600,000 people. We stay two nights at Grand

Hotel Cravat, a 4-star hotel located in the heart of Luxembourg City.

Wednesday, June 19: *Meals: B,L,D*
This morning, we have a guided **Luxembourg City** tour seeing the Grand Ducal Palace, the Cathedral of Our Lady, the "Place d'Armes" with its Municipal Palace, and the Casemates Bock which defended the city from attacks centuries ago. This afternoon, we admire the beauty of the Moselle River with an upstream cruise for three hours to Schengen where the borders of Germany, France, and Luxembourg meet in the middle of the river. We also experience the **Apach Lock**, the first of many locks during this tour.

Thursday, June 20: *Meals: B,L,D*
We explore the delightful region known as Luxembourg's "**Petite Suisse**", noted for its natural beauty, rock formations, and forests. We drive through quaint villages like Consdorf and Scheidgen to the regional capital, Echternach, where we enjoy the

Market Square and the Abbey. A stop is made at "Perekop", a well-worn rock which overhangs the road. We also visit the hilltop town of Berdorf overlooking the Sûre Valley and the Mullerthal, the gushing **Hallerbach waterfall**, and the village of Beaufort known for its blackcurrant liqueur called Cassero. In mid-afternoon, we go to Remich on the Moselle River and board the **Imagery II**. Explore the ship, unpack, then dinner is served while we cruise down the **Moselle River** to Grevenmacher, about 25 km. The Moselle is 500 km long, rising in the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France and entering Germany at Schengen. During the next two days, the ship descends through 12 locks.

Friday, June 21:

Meals: B,L,D

Trier is Germany's oldest city, dating to the 4th century BC. Some historians believe Trier is even older than Rome and was settled over 1000 years before Romans arrived. There is plenty of evidence of this once-grand Roman city, including a 20,000-seat amphitheater; the **Porta Nigra**, the only surviving fortified gate from the original Roman settlement; imperial baths; and the **Roman Bridge**, Germany's oldest bridge, with stone pilings dating from 144 AD. Several tours are offered such as a morning run along the banks of the Moselle River; a walking tour of Trier; and a tour focussed on the history of Roman civilization here. This afternoon, we cruise the wide, peaceful curves of the Moselle and it becomes obvious why this valley is famous for its picturesque scenery and wine. This evening, we cruise to Bernkastel and dock for the night.

Saturday, June 22:

Meals: B,L,D

The charming village of **Bernkastel** has fascinating narrow streets and half-timbered houses that have stood since the Middle Ages. Wine-makers look after Germany's largest expanse of vineyards and the most celebrated vintage is Bernkasteler Doktor. Tours offered this morning are a walking tour of Bernkastel; a more active hike to nearby castle ruins; a hike to view the vast vineyard landscapes; a bike ride through Bernkastel; or a wine tasting to learn about the legendary tradition of German wine making. Leaving Bernkastel, we continue cruising the meandering Moselle to Koblenz where it joins the **Rhine River**.

Sunday, June 23:

Meals: B,L,D

During the morning, the *Imagery II* sails upstream through the dramatic **Rhine Gorge**. Ancient castles stand sentry on lofty cliffs rising 150 metres above the river. Don't miss the legendary **Rock of**

the Lorelei, where sweet songs of local beauties lured enchanted sailors to their doom. On arrival in **Rüdesheim am Rhein**, some afternoon tours are offered: the incredible Mechanical Music Museum where you see and hear a large collection of self-playing calliopes, mechanical violins, and music boxes from the 18th century; or ride the open-air cable car to the **Niederwald Monument** which commemorates the unification of Germany in the 1870s. There is also free time to stroll the narrow, cobblestone Drosselgasse. Later, local musicians come on board to present a traditional concert. Tonight, we leave the Rhine River and turn up the Main River (pronounced 'mine').

Monday, June 24:

Meals: B,L,D

With a length of 525 km, the **Main River** is the longest right-side tributary of the Rhine and the longest river entirely in Germany. On the banks of the Main, there are cultural gems of small towns, many of them tucked away behind defensive walls and towered gates. With half-timbered houses, narrow streets, and medieval town centres, these picturesque Bavarian villages are a photographer's delight. We dock at one of the villages and take a guided walking tour. During the evening and overnight, we cruise up the Main.

Tuesday, June 25:

Meals: B,L,D

Relax on board this morning while cruising the broad meanders of the Main River. This afternoon, we arrive in **Würzburg**. Surrounded by verdant hillside vineyards, Würzburg makes an immediate impression with the imposing **Fortress Marienberg** perched above town and the 15th-century Alte Mainbrücke (Old Main Bridge). A guided tour of the "Pearl of the Romantic Road" includes these sights and the baroque Bishop's Residenz with the largest known ceiling fresco. Local entertainment is on board this evening.

Wednesday, June 26:

Meals: B,L,D

Enjoy another pleasant morning of sailing before arriving in medieval **Bamberg**. The town is the former centre of one of Germany's most powerful imperial dynasties and today a UNESCO World Heritage Site, founded 1045 years ago. Bamberg extends over seven hills, each crowned by a beautiful church. A guided walking tour features the Romanesque cathedral and the Old Town Hall which was built on an island in the Regnitz River in 1386 when the bishop refused to give the residents land for a town hall. Leaving Bamberg, the *Imagery II* enters the **Main-Danube Canal** which extends 171 km to Kelheim on the Danube.

Thursday, June 27:*Meals: B,L,D*

We dock in Nuremberg and, after breakfast, drive to **Munich**, the fascinating capital of Bavaria. With its historical museums, splendid English Garden, traditional cafés, and delightful shops, Munich has plenty to see and do. We see Nymphenburg Palace, a former residence of German monarchs, along with the old and new town halls of Marienplatz. After the tour, enjoy free time and lunch on your own in this vibrant city. Watch the famous **Glockenspiel** which recreates a royal wedding from the 16th century; linger at an outdoor café; visit St. Peter's, the oldest church in town; or maybe relax alongside the locals at a Biergärten or brewery to sample one of the Bavarian beer specialties. We return to the ship in the afternoon and stay overnight docked in **Nuremberg**.

Friday, June 28:*Meals: B,L,D*

Although 90% of Nuremberg's Old Town suffered extensive damage during World War II, much of it has been restored to the glory it once knew as the unofficial capital of the Holy Roman Empire. After a short cruise, we dock in **Roth** for the day. Two excursions are offered — a guided tour of the city's 1000-year-old medieval fortifications, extraordinary Gothic churches, and the Kaiserburg Castle OR a tour of the Nuremberg Rally Grounds used by the Third Reich. Back on board, all your questions about the workings of the Main-Danube Canal are answered by an expert speaker. The ship is lifted or lowered by 16 locks during the three days we are in the canal. This remarkable project is a vital connection that enables navigation all the way from the North Sea to the Black Sea. We spend the afternoon and overnight cruising in the canal.

Saturday, June 29:*Meals: B,L,D*

We leave the canal at Kelheim, join the storied **Danube River**, and cruise downstream to Regensburg. Dating back to the time of the Celts around 500 BC, **Regensburg** is one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities. Established during the Holy Roman Empire and the only German city not bombed during World War II, Regensburg has at least 1,300 listed buildings of "historic interest." During our guided walk, architectural highlights include the **Altes Rathaus** (Old Town Hall), built in the 13th century, and Porta Pretoria, the gates to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. Wander through the city's lanes and alleys to discover the many mansions with high towers, built by wealthy families to emphasize their status during the Middle Ages. Walk across the 12th-century Steinere Brücke (Stone Bridge), the oldest of its kind in Germany. Grab a beer and enjoy a snack at the

Historische Wurstküche (Old Sausage Kitchen), one of Germany's oldest restaurants. An optional excursion (extra cost) visits the Benedictine Monastery in Weltenburg. Back on board, indulge in a beer tasting and there is live entertainment after dinner as we sail down the Danube.

Sunday, June 30:*Meals: B,L,D*

Passau is uniquely located where the Inn and Ilz Rivers join the Danube. Old Town is a maze of narrow cobblestone streets lined with beautiful patrician houses and dominated by St. Stephen's Cathedral, a masterpiece of Italian baroque architecture. Today's included tour is a guided walk through Passau to learn more about this beautiful "City of Three Rivers." Optional full-day guided excursions go to Salzburg, the city of Mozart, or the picturesque Bohemian town of Cesky Krumlov. This afternoon, we cruise to **Linz**, entering **Austria** along the way. The afternoon is leisure time to take a bicycle from the ship and cycle along the Danube, or walk one of Linz's many nature trails for a bird's-eye view of the city and river below. If you choose one of these optional tours, the coach drives you to Linz to join the ship. Overnight, the ship sails to Melk.

Monday, July 1:*Meals: B,L,D*

Happy Canada Day in Austria! Take a guided tour of **Melk's** magnificent 11th-century Benedictine Abbey, one of Europe's largest monasteries. The abbey houses an ornate library with over 80,000 printed books and 2,000 manuscripts. Admire the splendour of the church with its frescoed ceilings, stunning high altar, marble statues, and 60-metre high cupola. For active people, a guided hike is arranged through Melk's beautiful countryside. Enjoy a coffee or a cocktail on the Sky Deck as we sail through the picturesque Wachau Valley. We pass the magnificent baroque Stiftskirche with its blue façade, the landmark of Dürnstein, and arrive in **Vienna** this evening. Known as the "City of Music," it inspired the creative genius of Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss. An optional excursion is offered to a Royal Waltz Concert for an unforgettable evening of music in an elegant hall. We dock overnight in Vienna.

Tuesday, July 2:*Meals: B,L,D*

Once the centre of the mighty Habsburg Empire, Austria's magical capital on the blue Danube is a showcase of gilded architecture. Our included tour visits the lavish **Hofburg Imperial Palace** known for its Vienna Boys' Choir and dazzling Lipizzaner stallions; the neo-renaissance Vienna Opera House; and awe-inspiring St. Stephen's Cathedral. Shop in the delightful pedestrian

Kärntnerstrasse, and be sure to take a break and enjoy a piece of decadent Sachertorte or Apfelstrudel in one of the classic coffee houses that helped shape Viennese culture! In late afternoon, relax on board with live entertainment while we sail to Budapest.

Wednesday, July 3: Meals: B,L,D

This morning, we dock in **Budapest, Hungary**. The country's capital spans the banks of the Danube and is one of Eastern Europe's liveliest cities. Whether you are seeing the sights, shopping for handcrafted embroidery or Herend porcelain, or basking in the Gerbeaud Café with a rich cream cake, Budapest's unique energy is positively palatable. A guided tour includes the iconic Hero's Square and the massive hilltop castle complex with its remarkable Fishermen's Bastion and 11th-century **Matthias Church**, the coronation spot of several Hungarian monarchs. Be sure to take note of the city's eight bridges which connect ancient Buda on the right bank with Pest on the left. You may want to walk across Chain Bridge, built in 1849 and a symbol of Budapest. We stay overnight on the ship while docked in Budapest.

Thursday, July 4: Meals: B,L,D
After breakfast, we bid farewell to the *Imagery II* and disembark. We meet our Hungarian guide who continues yesterday's tour with visits to the Parliament Building, the Opera House, and St. Stephen's Basilica. This afternoon, we go to Erzsébet Square and enjoy a ride on the **Budapest Eye**, a giant Ferris wheel. There is also time for shopping at Great Market Hall with its 180 vendor stalls. Later, we visit **Margaret Island** which provides a peaceful hideaway from downtown Budapest with large green areas, flowery gardens, and lots of entertainment. Overnight accommodation is at the 5-star Corinthia Hotel. In the evening, savour a farewell dinner with a typical **Hungarian Folkloric show**.

Friday, July 5: Meals: B
Our flight leaves Budapest in mid-morning to Frankfurt, where we change planes and arrive in Vancouver in mid-afternoon. Transportation is provided to Victoria and your pickup point.



Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 13, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to January 11, 2019, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$300 per person. From January 12 to February 13, the cancellation charge is \$600 per person. From February 14 to March 13, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From March 14 to April 12, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After April 12, there is no refund.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credit: Avalon Waterways (*Imagery II* at Budapest)

e-points: This tour earns 200 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until February 13.

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