




Austria & Switzerland

Including Rhine River Cruise with Viking

 **Tour Length:** 26 Days or 18 excl cruise

 **Tour Departs:** 28 May 2027

We start our comprehensive tour across the border in the Austrian capital and city of music, Vienna, before we journey to magical Salzburg and on into Switzerland. It might be a relatively small country surrounded by its larger neighbours, but Switzerland certainly offers a feast of sublime sights and experiences for the visitor - spectacular scenery, magnificent alpine lakes, snow-capped mountain peaks, lush rolling green meadows and a mixture of medieval old towns, country villages, and modern sophisticated cities. Highlights are many and include the Matterhorn, Jungfrau and a journey on one of the most famous trains in the world, the Glacier Express. To finish the tour, we join our river ship for 7 nights cruising on the Rhine enjoying the fairy-tale sights and romantic twists and turns en route to Amsterdam.

Highlights

- Imperial Vienna for a 3-night stay
- Salzburg, Zermatt, Geneva, Interlaken, – all 2-night stays
- Journey up both the Matterhorn and Jungfrau peaks
- Glacier Express Railway
- Cruise the Rhine for 7 nights from Basel to Amsterdam on board Viking Eir in French Balcony Staterooms

Tour Costs Per Person

Per Person Share Twin/Double Room

\$TBA or \$TBA excl cruise

Supplement for Single Room

\$TBA or \$TBA excl cruise

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Rhine River Cruise with Viking

7 Nights

We board our luxury river cruise ship "VIKING EIR" in Basel and enjoy 7 nights exploring one of Europe's best-loved rivers. Discover the turreted fortresses, grand cathedrals, historic cities, medieval towns and stunning scenery of the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taste the region's renowned white wines, the roots of its terraced vineyards reaching back to Roman times. Savour the various culinary traditions of Alsace. With calls in Strasbourg, Speyer, Cologne, and concluding in Amsterdam, this journey reveals a rich landscape of beauty and culture.

Cruise Inclusions

- Accommodation in Cat D, River-view staterooms with French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door)
- Sumptuous cuisine including complimentary beer, soft drinks and regional wines with lunch and dinner
- On-board entertainment, special tastings, educational lectures
- One complimentary shore excursion in every port of call, and other optional excursions available for purchase



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Tour Costs

Inclusions

- Economy Class fares – cost to upgrade to Premium Economy or Business Class available on request
- Prepaid government and airport taxes, security and fuel surcharges
- Superior hotel accommodation
- Accommodation in river-view staterooms with French Balcony (Cat D) on Rhine Cruise
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary
- Services of touring and local guides as appropriate
- All tips and gratuities to coach drivers, guides and cruise staff
- Baggage handling of one piece per person – where possible
- Escorted by Maher Tours Leader

Exclusions

- Any meals, sightseeing tours and fees not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance – advice and assistance provided
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls etc
- Some ship excursions

Booking Conditions

- Initial Deposit due at time of booking:
NZD\$3,000 per person
- Second Deposit due Friday 27 November 2026
NZD\$3,000 per person
- Final Payment Balance
Due Tuesday 09 February 2027
- This tour is not suitable for those that require wheelchair assistance or mobility assistance. A good level of health and fitness required.

To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz

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Tour Itinerary

26 Days

Day 1 | Home – Dubai

FRIDAY 28 MAY

Late this afternoon, we report to the airport and join the flight to Dubai.

Day 2 | Dubai

SATURDAY 29 MAY (D)

We arrive in Dubai early this morning and after clearing Customs and Immigration formalities, we are met and transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay. There is time to rest up after the flight until mid-afternoon when we visit the Museum of the Future. One of Dubai's most famous landmarks, the museum takes pride of place along the city's superhighway, Sheikh Zayed Road. Founded by the Dubai Future Foundation and launched on 22 February 2022, the museum explores how society could evolve in the coming decades using science and technology. Termed a 'living museum', it incorporates elements of traditional exhibitions, immersive theatre and themed attractions, so visitors can look beyond the present and towards the future's limitless possibilities. Visitors have the chance to engage with this game-changing technology. Each floor of the museum is designed like an expansive, interactive movie set, brought to life by expert storytellers, technologists and visionary artists. There is time for exploration before we return to the hotel for dinner this evening.

Day 3 | Dubai - Vienna

SUNDAY 30 MAY (B,D)

An early morning transfer to the airport where we join the 6-hour flight to Vienna. On arrival early afternoon, we are met and transferred to our hotel for a 3-night stay. There is time to relax until we meet this evening for dinner.

Day 4 | Vienna

MONDAY 31 MAY (B,D)

On this morning's tour, we drive along the Ringstrasse, pass the State Opera House, the Jewish Quarter and stop at Heldenplatz (Heroes Square) in front of the Hofburg Palace, once the winter residence of the Austrian royal family and now the residence of the Austrian President. We leave the coach for a walk through to St Stephens Cathedral, the iconic heart of the city. There is time for lunch – you must visit a traditional Viennese coffee house - before this afternoon's visit to the Schonbrunn Palace, perhaps Europe's most impressive palace complex. 640 years of Hapsburg monarchy ended here in 1918 with the abdication of the last monarch and the start of the Austrian Republic.

Day 5 | Vienna

TUESDAY 01 JUNE (B,D)

Today has been left entirely free for you to enjoy Vienna at your leisure. Maybe visit one of the many galleries and museums, perhaps a tour of the Spanish Riding School, enjoy the elegant shopping "strasses" of the Old City, or just sit at an outdoor café and watch the world go by. This evening, we enjoy all things Viennese with a superb dinner at the Orangerie at Schonbrunn Palace including a concert of Viennese classical music with works by Johann Strauss and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. A wonderful finale to our stay in Vienna.

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Day 6 | Vienna - Salzburg

WEDNESDAY 02 JUNE (B,D)

Leaving Vienna, we enjoy a leisurely cruise along one of the most scenic parts of the Danube. At Melk, we visit the abbey, one of Europe's most beautiful sights, which has been home to Benedictine Monks for over 900 years, notwithstanding the Reformation, and the occupations by Napoleon and the Nazis. The abbey of today is 18th century baroque with the major restoration completed in 1996. We continue our journey through the beautiful Salzkammergut lakeland to the pretty lakeside town of Mondsee where we visit the Basilica of St Michaels which featured in the wedding scene of the Sound of Music. From there it's a short drive into Salzburg where we stay for 2 nights.

Day 7 | Salzburg

THURSDAY 03 JUNE (B)

Salzburg is picturebook Austria, the city of music, whether it be Mozart or Julie Andrews. This morning, we take a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage town starting at Mirbell Gardens then across the river to the Old Town, past Mozart's birthplace and down the Getreidegasse with its popular shops and into Residenz Square with its magnificent forecourt and fountain. This afternoon, we leave the city for a spectacular mountain drive to the so-called "Eagle's Nest" (Kehlsteinhaus), built as a teahouse for Adolf Hitler on Kehlstein Mountain at an elevation of 6,017 ft / 1,834 m. The site can only be reached by taking the special bus to the elevator shaft set deep in the mountain. Once at the top, the views are magnificent and there is time to explore the rooms which resonate with history.

Day 8 | Salzburg – Innsbruck – St Moritz

FRIDAY 04 JUNE (B,D)

Leaving Salzburg, we enter the Austrian Tyrol, a majestic and enchanting landscape that is sure to excite the senses. At its heart is the regions capital, Innsbruck, presided over by the magnificent Hapsburg palace and baroque cathedral. We take a stroll through the ancient and narrow lanes to see Emperor Maximillian's Golden Roof, the symbol of the city which covers the gothic bay built to celebrate his wedding circa 1500AD. We then continue across the border into Switzerland along the alpine valley past deep blue lakes and forests overlooked by high mountain peaks. Our destination for the overnight stay is the chic resort of St Moritz, the leisure playground for the rich and famous in both winter and summer.

Day 9 | St Moritz – Andermatt (Glacier Express) – Zermatt

SATURDAY 05 JUNE (B,D)

We continue our journey by coach enjoying the spectacular alpine scenery before we reach Andermatt and join the Glacier Express, one of the world's most famous trains. Sit back in first class comfort in the panoramic cars for an afternoon journey offering unrestricted views of rugged cliffs, pristine forests, deep gorges, rolling meadows, clear lakes and typical mountain villages.. Our destination is the vehicle-free mountain resort town of Zermatt where we stay for 2 nights.

Day 10 | Zermatt - Matterhorn Excursion

SUNDAY 06 JUNE (B)

Zermatt lies at the foot of the Matterhorn, perhaps the world's most famous mountain, and is surrounded by majestic peaks. This morning, we join the cable car for the trip up the Matterhorn. From the summit, enjoy the incredible views of the ice-bound Swiss Alps and the magnificent panorama of the highest peaks in Switzerland / Italy / France. On our return, there is time to enjoy the traffic-free village shops. This evening, maybe dine at one of the many Swiss restaurants around the town.

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Day 11 | Zermatt - Geneva

MONDAY 07 JUNE (B,D)

This morning we take the train to Taesch back to our coach and then continue our journey westwards. On reaching the northern arm of Lake Geneva, we stop at Chillon Castle, an architectural jewel which for over 1,000 years of history has inspired artists and writers, from Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Victor Hugo and Lord Byron. We then continue on to Montreux which, as well as its beautiful lakeside setting and vineyard backdrops, is well known for its annual international jazz festival. There is time for a stroll along the promenade before we continue our journey through to Geneva for a 2 night stay.

Day 12 | Geneva

TUESDAY 08 JUNE (B)

Geneva is certainly an international city being home to many international organisations including Red Cross and United Nations agencies. In the course of our morning tour, we see their headquarters as well as the old town and the parks and gardens including the lakeside English Garden where the famous floral clock is located. We finish the tour with a cruise on Lake Geneva offering great views of the Jet d'Eau fountain which is symbolic of the city. The afternoon is at leisure.

Day 13 | Geneva – Bern – Interlaken

WEDNESDAY 09 JUNE (B,D)

From Geneva, we travel north to the lakeside city of Lausanne, home to the International Olympic Committee and many other sporting organisations. The city's skyline is dominated by the grand gothic Cathedral. Leaving Lake Geneva, we turn north to the city of Berne, the Swiss capital and once voted Europe's most floral city. We enjoy a walking tour through the well-preserved old town as well as magnificent views from the Rose Garden. The last leg of our journey takes us to Interlaken, our "between the lakes" home where we stay for 2 nights.

Day 14 | Interlaken - Jungfrau

THURSDAY 10 JUNE (B)

On today's excursion, we travel along Grindelwald Valley following the Lutschine River to Lauterbrunnen at the head of the valley of waterfalls where we see the Staubbach Falls plunge 300m. Then we take the cogwheel train ride to the summit of the Jungfrau, the "Top of Europe" at 3,470m, for magnificent views of the world of eternal ice and snow. An absolutely spectacular day.

Day 15 | Interlaken – Lucerne - Basel

FRIDAY 11 JUNE (B,D)

From Interlaken, it is a short run through to Lucerne, skirting the shores of Lake Brienz and over the Brunig Pass. At Lucerne, our local guide joins us for a sightseeing tour of the city. We see the impressive Lion Monument dedicated to the Swiss Guards who protected the French Royalty during the French Revolution. Another feature is the city's symbol, the covered wooden Chapel Bridge spanning the Reuss River, unique because of its interior paintings dating back to the 17th century, many of which have been restored following the 1993 fire. We continue to Basel and join our river ship, which will be our home for the next 7 nights.

Note: For those returning home today, you will leave the group in Lucerne and be transferred to Zurich Airport separately.

Day 16 | Breisach, Germany – Black Forest

SATURDAY 12 JUNE (B,L,D)

Admire the dense, lofty fir forests of Germany's Schwarzwald, the fabled Black Forest. Embark with your guide on a scenic drive through a mythical land of cuckoo clocks, glassblowing and timeless fairy tales. Our panoramic route will take us through wine-producing villages, each of them cradled among the soft, undulating hills, bucolic woodlands and prolific vineyards of southwestern Germany. Our journey culminates in a winding ascent up to the beautiful Hofgut Sternen hotel, a loyal keeper of Black Forest traditions. During the visit, you may choose your immersion into Black Forest culture: take an invigorating forest stroll, attend a cuckoo clock demonstration, watch a glassblower at work, or learn to make the decadent Black Forest Cake for which this region is known. After, return to your ship via Freiburg, a major university and ecclesiastical centre.

Day 17 | Strasbourg, France

SUNDAY 13 JUNE (B,L,D)

Get to know this delightful city steeped in equal parts French and German culture. We join our guide for a drive through the German Imperial District and the European Quarter, home to institutions such as the European Union and the Council of Europe. Pass remarkable Renaissance architecture en route to the city centre for a walk through picturesque Petite France, the former Tanners' District surrounded by the Ill River and crisscrossed by charming canals. Here, you will see the Old Customs House and the bridges with their defensive towers. In Cathedral Square, view the magnificently restored Strasbourg Cathedral. One of Europe's finest Gothic cathedrals, it was the world's tallest building from 1647 to 1874. Enjoy free time to admire the great Gothic rosette window, beautiful red sandstone portal and remarkable astronomical clock.

Day 18 | Speyer & Rudesheim, Germany

MONDAY 14 JUNE (B,L,D)

On today's included excursion, we enjoy a fascinating stroll through Speyer, home to the largest of the three Romanesque imperial cathedrals. It is believed that the Protestants earned their name here in 1529 after citizens and royalty drafted the "Protestation at Speyer," proclaiming their right to practice Christianity as they please. In 1689, Louis XIV's troops plundered Speyer and left it in ruins; over many decades, it was artfully rebuilt. During your walk, you will marvel at the exterior of the red sandstone cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Eight emperors are entombed here, including some of the most notable Holy Roman Emperors. Reconstructed after Louis XIV's invasion, its six towers dominate the skyline. Pass the Jewish courtyard, once home to one of the most important medieval synagogues, and Speyer's Altpörtel, or Old Gate, the last remains of the town's fortifications. There will also be time to stroll the city's charming, shop-lined main thoroughfare. Continuing on to Rudesheim in the afternoon, there are a range of optional excursions you can choose to partake in.

Day 19 | Koblenz, Germany

TUESDAY 15 JUNE (B,L,D)

Take a leisurely stroll around Koblenz and explore its historic past. We will meet our guide and begin our tour at Deutsches Eck, the city's famed German Corner. Jutting into the waters like the prow of a ship where the Rhine and Moselle Rivers meet, this public park is home to a popular equestrian statue of Emperor Wilhelm I. After time to admire the sculpture, we continue our walk among the narrow streets. Visit Jesuitenplatz, or Jesuit Square, in the heart of the Old Town and named after the religious order of the same name. Admire the beautiful old school that sits on the eastern side of the square and has been used as Koblenz City Hall since 1895. As we explore, our guide will point out influences from ancient Rome, the Middle Ages and the Napoleonic era.

Day 20 | Cologne, Germany

WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE (B,L,D)

Learn about Cologne's heritage and view its iconic cathedral, towering over the city in all its Gothic splendour. Step into a rich past, following the city's preserved historic street patterns and hearing about its Roman and medieval history along the way. As we stroll, our guide will regale us with tales of local folklore figures, Tünnes and Schää, and the city's flourishing Jewish community. In Old Cologne, pass the elegant silhouette of St. Martin's church and stop to view Cologne's magnificent Gothic cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Construction of this towering structure began in 1248 and continued in stages over the next seven centuries. The largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, this magnificent church boasts two soaring spires and beautiful stained-glass windows, and survived the Allied bombings that ravaged the city and the rest of Germany during World War II.

Day 21 | Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

THURSDAY 17 JUNE (B,L,D)

See the picturesque Dutch countryside and the original technological marvels of historic Kinderdijk on our included excursion today. We will walk with our guide into the serene polder lands of South Holland. As we cross the dike to the windmills, you will notice that they in fact are at a lower elevation than our ship, as much of this part of The Netherlands is below sea level. Built in the mid-18th century, these 19 windmills, the largest concentration in The Netherlands, stand like sentinels on a hushed landscape. We will learn why they were built and see firsthand how they work, even stepping into a working windmill to observe its mechanics and living quarters. Families who live in these mills are required to keep them in working order. This excursion provides a revealing look at these marvellous buildings that helped shape the legendary Dutch landscape.

Day 22 | Amsterdam

FRIDAY 18 JUNE (B,D)

It's time to disembark this morning and farewell captain and crew. We have a coach and guide waiting to meet us and take us on a special visit to the 200-year-old Rijksmuseum, one of the most famous museums in the world and home to many masterpieces by such people as Rembrandt, van Dyck, Vermeer and many others. The museum has undergone a major reconstruction over the past decade and only reopened in 2013. After our guided tour, we check into our hotel for a two-night stay.

Day 23 | Amsterdam

SATURDAY 19 JUNE (B,D)

Enjoy a free day in this exciting and diverse city. There are plenty of different options from Anne Franks house, to watching the world pass by from a lovely café or just meandering the streets. This evening, we enjoy our final dinner in Europe together.

Day 24 | Amsterdam – Dubai

SUNDAY 20 JUNE (B)

Time to farewell Amsterdam and Europe this morning as we are transferred to the airport in time to join our lunchtime flight to Dubai. Arrival time is late evening and overnight accommodation is reserved at the airport.

Day 25 | Dubai – Home

MONDAY 21 JUNE

Time for the last leg of our journey on our flight home.

Day 26 | Home

TUESDAY 22 JUNE

Arrival time is mid-morning.



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