



THE ELBE RIVER

A Voyage from Prague to Berlin aboard *Swiss Ruby*

April 29–May 10, 2014

CRITERION
travel



Long an important delineator of east and west,

the Elbe River links two of the most fascinating capitals of Europe—Prague and Berlin—as it traverses a land filled with captivating treasures.

This seven-night river cruise aboard the intimate *Swiss Ruby* captures both the broad sweep and the fine details of these treasures: See Wenceslas Square, ground zero of the Velvet Revolution; the fortress-crowned crags, and spectacular gorges of “Saxon Switzerland”; the Wittenberg church where Martin Luther posted his 95 Reformation Theses; historic Jewish synagogues and cemeteries; World War II memorials; Meissen’s fine porcelain workshop; the treasures of Dresden’s Green Vault; Potsdam’s whimsical Sanssouci Palace; and the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. From Bohemia to the former East Germany, the variety of visits and views in this part of the world is rich and unique.

Join us on a journey that combines the best of modern Europe with true old world charm. For those wishing to lengthen their stay, a pre-tour extension to Czech Bavaria and a post-tour extension to Berlin are available.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Bookend your trip in Prague and Berlin, two of Europe’s most fascinating capital cities.
- Visit sites that have witnessed some of Western history’s most dramatic moments.
- Glide effortlessly through cosmopolitan cities, quaint towns, terraced vineyards, fortress-crowned crags, and spectacular gorges.
- Spend seven full nights aboard the charming *Swiss Ruby*.

Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

888-328-2089

res@criteriontravel.com

ITINERARY

TUESDAY, APRIL 29- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

U.S./Prague, Czech Republic

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Prague. Arrive on Wednesday and transfer to your hotel, located on the edge of Prague's historic Old Town.

PRAGUE MARRIOTT

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Prague

Set out on a walking tour of charming Old Town Prague, largely unchanged for centuries. See Old Town Square, home of an intricately decorated astronomical clock and the iconic pointed spires of Tyn Cathedral. Stroll among the street artists and musicians across the Charles Bridge, which spans the Vltava River and offers spectacular views of Prague Castle and the domes and turrets of Old Town. In the afternoon, explore Prague at leisure, then gather for a welcome reception, dinner, and private concert at Lobkowicz Palace.

PRAGUE MARRIOTT (B,R,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Prague/Embark

Visit the expansive Prague Castle, a royal residence as far back as the 10th century and still the seat of Czech government. Within its walls find Renaissance-era St. Vitus Cathedral, the soaring hilltop structure that incorporates a unique mix of Gothic and Baroque elements. Its impressive art collection features the jewel-studded burial chapel of St. Wenceslaus, Prague's patron saint. See the

Old Royal Palace, one of the oldest parts of the castle, including its long throne room and soaring Vladislav Hall, once the site of coronation banquets and indoor jousting tournaments. Embark Swiss Ruby for the first of seven nights aboard, joining the captain for a welcome reception before dinner.

SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Prague/Cruising

Spend the morning in Prague's Jewish Quarter, visiting the haunting Old Jewish Cemetery and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in Europe. Reboard Swiss Ruby for lunch and spend the afternoon cruising toward the German border.

SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Bad Schandau/Königstein, Germany

Observe the maze of pinnacles, ravines, and bizarre rock formations as Swiss Ruby cruises through "Saxon Switzerland."

Ascend to the spectacular Bastei Rock Tower, which offers sweeping views of the river and distant mountains. Visit the charming spa town of Bad Schandau, a summer resort for more than two centuries, and the imposing Königstein Fortress, one of the largest hilltop strongholds in Europe, superbly situated above a delightfully scenic stretch of the Elbe.

SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MAY 5

Dresden/Meissen

One of the most beautiful cities in Germany, Dresden is renowned for its splendid Baroque architecture and world-class art collections. This morning, explore Dresden Castle's Green Vault and its glittering displays of precious objects from the late Renaissance and Rococo periods, said to be the largest collection of treasures in Europe. Also visit the distinctive Frauenkirche, newly rebuilt and consecrated in 2005 after being leveled by Allied bombs during World War II. Continue to Meissen, where the formula for hard-paste porcelain was discovered in



1708. Visit the workshop where the "white gold" is still made by hand, and gaze upon the exquisite collection at the Porcelain Museum.

SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Wittenburg

Call at Wittenburg and visit the Castle Church, where in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door, beginning the Protestant Reformation. Wittenberg's historic Market Square, spared by the Allies during bombing raids, is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. On a tour of the city, see Luther's home as well as St. Mary's Church, where he often preached.

SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Magdeburg

Founded by Charlemagne in 805, Magdeburg was one of the most important medieval cities in Europe. Its cathedral is the oldest Gothic example in all of Germany, and is still among the tallest in the eastern part of the country. Optionally, visit the imposing Green Citadel, the last building project worked on by controversial artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. This evening, cruise the incredible 52-mile-long Havel Canal connecting the Elbe River to Potsdam.

SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)



THURSDAY, MAY 8

Potsdam/Berlin

In Potsdam, explore the magnificent and gloriously Rococo Sanssouci Palace and Park, originally sketched by Frederick the Great and now the largest UNESCO World Heritage site in Germany. Also view the unique Dutch Quarter, built in the 1700s to make skilled Dutch artisans and craftsmen feel at home. This evening, cruise to Berlin and join the captain for a farewell reception and dinner aboard.

SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 9

Berlin/Disembark

Berlin is a vibrant city of fascinating history and culture. Disembark Swiss Ruby and enjoy a driving tour that includes the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall, the imposing Berlin Cathedral, and the Reichstag building, recently reinvigorated by renowned British architect Norman Foster.

HILTON AT GENDARMENMARKT (B,L)

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Berlin/return to u.s.

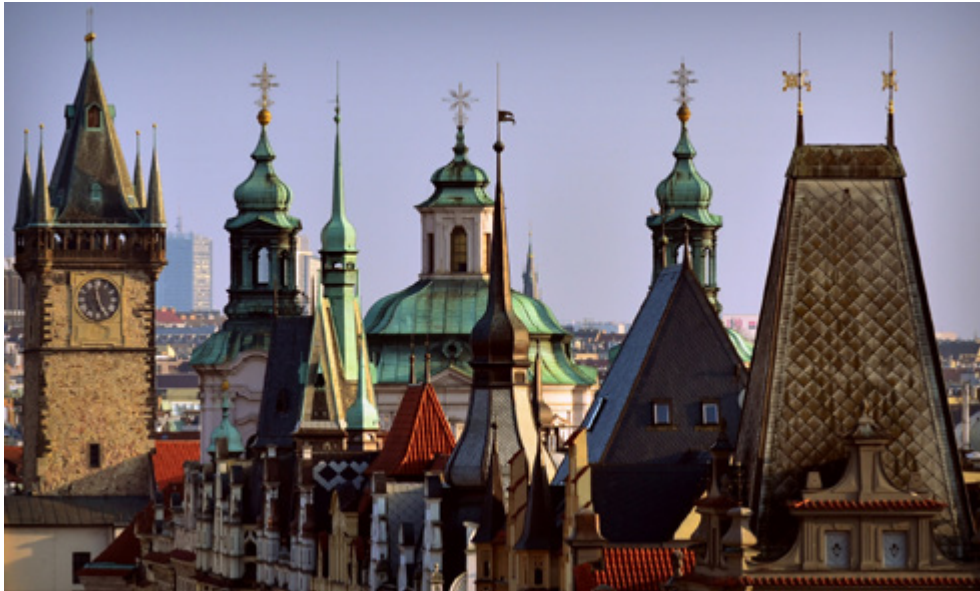
Transfer to Berlin airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)



Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

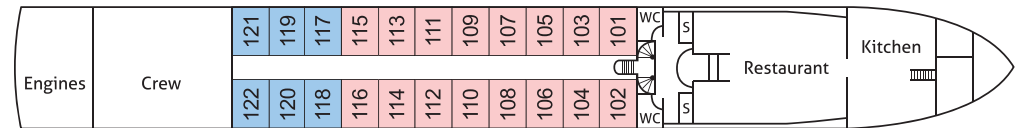
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SWISS RUBY

Launched in 2002 in Germany and refurbished in late 2012, the delightful *MS Swiss Ruby* accommodates a maximum of just 88 passengers. With its moderate draught, the vessel is ideally suited for this voyage along the Vltava and Elbe Rivers and the Havel Canal. The 44 comfortable outward-facing cabins feature an en suite bathroom with shower, air conditioning, television, telephone, hairdryer, minibar, and a safe. Cabins on the Emerald Deck have a non-opening picture window and twin beds that can be converted into a double bed. Cabins on the Ruby Deck have fixed twin beds and a French balcony. Public areas are spacious and elegantly decorated with panoramic windows so you can enjoy the view wherever you are. The lounge on the Ruby Deck is a pleasant environment for socializing, browsing the library, or enjoying a drink from the bar. The restaurant seats all passengers in one sitting and is located on the Emerald Deck. There is also a spacious sun deck with comfortable deck furniture, where you can relax and enjoy the passing scenery.



Category 1

Category 2

Category 3

E Entrance
S Souvenir Shop
R Reception Desk
T Travel Desk

RATES (per person)

	Double	Single
Category 3 (Emerald Deck Aft)	\$6,390	\$10,220
Category 2 (Emerald Deck)	\$6,690	\$10,700
Category 1 (Ruby Deck)	\$6,990	n/a

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Economy class airfare between New York or L.A. and Prague with return from Berlin is approximately \$1,100 as of June 2013 and is subject to change without notice.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Rates Include

Comprehensive educational program by study leaders, on-site experts, and local guides • All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All excursions, including entrance fees, as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling at hotels and ship • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • Wine, beer, and soft drinks at all group meals • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Professional tour manager throughout

Program Rates Do Not Include

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport and visa fees • Medical expenses and immunizations • Trip cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess-baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals • Alcohol or soft drinks except where indicated as included • Private transfers or transfers not on program arrival and departure days • Personal items such as room service; email, telephone, and fax charges; laundry; gratuities for non-group services; and other items of a personal nature

What to Expect

The pace of this tour is moderately active, with some walking each day. All participants should be in good health and capable of walking over rough terrain without assistance from tour staff. By forwarding the deposit, 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.

Group Size

This program is limited to 75 participants, including travelers from Harvard, MIT, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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 complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to the address at the top of the form. You may also fax the form to (650) 560-6400 and your reservation will be held for five working days pending receipt of your check or credit card information. If you have questions, please call (888) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is December 26, 2013, 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 the 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 December 26, 2013 (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 the 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.

Reservation Contact

(888) 328-2089 or res@criteriontravel.com

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place on **The Elbe River** please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel. Mail to: 145 Forest Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94301. For more information or to reserve by phone, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089, or email res@criteriontravel.com

NAME #1 (as on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as on passport) BIRTHDATE

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE WORK PHONE FAX

E-MAIL(s)

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), to reserve _____ place(s) on **The Elbe River**

OR ☐ Charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

VISA MC AMEX Diners Club Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

CATEGORY PREFERENCE

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with: _____

OR ☐ I'd like to know about roommates. I am a ☐ Non-smoker ☐ Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of December 26, 2013, I will pay the single rate.

☐ I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

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