



RIVER CRUISE

NORTHERN LIGHTS AND LAPLAND WITH MAGNIFICENT EUROPE

2026

EUMCFL22



22 days / 21 nights River Cruise



Helsinki to Budapest

ITINERARY

To view the itinerary in greater depth, simply click on your preferred day from the interactive list to unveil its details. Discover daily activities, immersive experiences and insider local tips that make your travel unforgettable.



HELSINKI TO BUDAPEST

22 days / 22 nights River Cruise

DAY 1

Arrive Helsinki

Welcome to Helsinki. We'll meet you on arrival and transfer you to your hotel. This evening, come together for a welcome reception.



Stay: Helsinki, Hotel Kämp

DAY 2

Helsinki, Rovaniemi (Glass Igloos)

This morning after breakfast, take an included flight to Rovaniemi and travel to your accommodation, where you will stay in a glass igloo for two nights. Later, snuggle in and feel as if you're sleeping in the open air, while being warm and cosy inside. If you're lucky, you might even catch a glimpse of the ethereal northern lights from the comfort of your igloo.

Stay: Two Nights, Rovaniemi, Arctic Snow Hotel & Glass Igloos

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 3

Rovaniemi (Glass Igloos)

This morning, visit the Arktikum, a science museum that provides an insight into the history of the region. You will also enjoy a short presentation, 'The Land of Snow and Northern Lights'. Enjoy lunch in a traditional Sámi hut, where you can sample the local coffee, unique crowberry juice and homemade pastries.

Signature Experience – Reindeer Farm

Visit a reindeer farm and be awed by these fascinating creatures. Set out on an exhilarating sleigh ride and take in your surroundings before feeding the reindeer.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 4

Rovaniemi

The choice is yours when it comes to today's sightseeing. Later, head to Santa Claus Village for a private visit with Santa before returning to the centre of Rovaniemi. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant known for its traditional Lappish cuisine.



Freedom of Choice – Snowshoe Excursion

Embark on an active snowshoe excursion, where a local expert guide will lead you along an incredible series of snow-covered forest trails.

Freedom of Choice – Ice Fishing Excursion

Venture out to a nearby frozen lake to try the traditional Lappish activity of ice fishing. Drill through the thick ice and cast your line, searching for fish beneath the frozen surface.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

Stay: Two Nights, Rovaniemi, Arctic Light Hotel

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 5

Rovaniemi

Today, enjoy a memorable Signature Experience. Later, return to Rovaniemi, and in the evening, set out on a hunt for the northern lights away from the city. Follow the riverside road north and arrive at the perfect observation spot, where you may get the opportunity to witness the mesmerising aurora borealis. Savour the atmosphere of this spellbinding setting as you relax by the warmth of a campfire.

Signature Experience – Husky Safari

Take in the serene beauty of the Lappish wilderness on an unforgettable husky safari. Be enchanted as a team of affectionate and friendly huskies effortlessly pull your sleigh along a three-kilometre track through the glistening snow.

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch

DAY 6

Rovaniemi, Helsinki



Transfer to Rovaniemi airport for your included return flight to Helsinki. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel. In the afternoon, take a guided tour of the Alttala & Arabia Design Centre, where you'll learn about the history of Finnish ceramic art and glass design.

Stay: Two Nights, 🏠 Helsinki, Hotel 🏠 Kämp

Daily: • Breakfast

DAY 7

Helsinki

Enjoy a guided exploration of Helsinki's best sites today, starting with a visit to Temppeliaukio, the famous 'Rock Church'. In Sibelius Park, view the Sibelius Monument before moving on to the Olympic Stadium and the impressive Oodi 🏠 Library. Stroll along the city's main street, Mannerheimintie, and see its many exquisite buildings, including the Opera House, the architectural wonders of Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, and the National Museum of Finland. Tonight, savour a farewell dinner.

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 8

Helsinki, Amsterdam, Embark Ship

This morning, transfer to the airport and take an included flight to the vibrant city of Amsterdam. Board your luxurious river ship, which is docked in the heart of the city, and spend the rest of the day settling into your home for the next two weeks.

Stay: 14 Nights, APT Solara or APT Ostara

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 9

Amsterdam

Spend today on your preferred activity. Rejoin the ship in Utrecht and cruise towards Germany in the afternoon.

Freedom of Choice – Glass-Top Boat Canal Cruise



A peaceful way to see the best of Amsterdam, step aboard a glass-top boat and glide through the city's iconic maze of World Heritage-listed canals, admiring the unique architecture along the way.

Freedom of Choice – Cheese Tasting

Visit a local cheese store for a tasting of regional cheeses. The Netherlands is renowned for its cheese production, including iconic varieties such as Edam and Gouda.

Freedom of Choice – Guided Bike Ride

Join a guided bike ride through the countryside to the village of Durgerdam before visiting the Street Art Museum.

Freedom of Choice – Keukenhof Gardens in Spring

On select spring departures, you also have the option to visit Keukenhof Gardens. Explore more than 70 acres of world-renowned gardens and admire the spectacular display of more than seven million flowering bulbs in bloom, including colourful tulips.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 10

Andernach

This morning will be spent cruising through Germany. Spend time enjoying the range of facilities on board. Perhaps indulge in a spa treatment or relax on the Daystar Deck and read a book. Disembark in Andernach, where an exclusive Signature Experience awaits.

Signature Experience – Namedy Castle

Princess Heide von Hohenzollern graciously welcomes APT guests into her home, Namedy Castle, a royal escape set near the Rhine River in Germany. After wandering through the castle and its manicured gardens, you'll attend a cocktail party, where a pianist sets the mood.

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner



DAY 11

Rüdesheim

Today you'll approach what is known as the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine River. Glide past crumbling ruins that cling to rocky cliffs and rolling hillsides marked with perfectly planted vineyards. Dock in Rüdesheim, one of Germany's most revered cultural and historic cities. Here, you'll set out on your chosen activity.

Freedom of Choice – Gondola Ride

Glide over the emerald vineyards of the Rhine Valley in a gondola, enjoying stunning vistas. At the top, arrive at the Niederwald Monument, commemorating the unification of Germany in 1871.

Freedom of Choice – Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum

Take a tour of Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. This eccentric and unique museum is home to a beautiful collection of fascinating automated musical instruments from all stages of history.

Freedom of Choice – Visit a Historic Wine Cellar

Visit a historic wine cellar for a tasting of Rhine Valley wines. Discover why this location is one of Germany's most well-known wine regions.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 12

Miltenberg

This morning, delight in a relaxing cruise along the Main River before arriving in Miltenberg. Spared from the destruction of World War II, the town of Miltenberg is much like a time capsule, revealing what old-world village life was like in Germany before the war. Here, set out on your chosen sightseeing activity.

Freedom of Choice – Guided Walking Tour and Liqueur Tasting

Embark on a guided exploration of Miltenberg. Discover the town's remarkably preserved buildings and lively squares, offering a unique glimpse into Germany's rich history. Then, visit one of Franconia's oldest wine cellars for a tasting of local liqueurs.

Freedom of Choice – Local Monastery Visit



Travel to the hills overlooking Miltenberg for a visit to a local monastery. Here, you'll meet with a Franciscan friar to hear about life in the monastery. You'll also sample some homemade sausages, cheese and bread before free time to wander through the gardens and vineyard.

Freedom of Choice:

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 13

Würzburg

Your day unfolds on your terms thanks to a choice of activities today.

Freedom of Choice – Visit the Würzburg Residence

Be enchanted by the immense architectural beauty of Würzburg as you stroll through this fascinating city to the Würzburg Residence. An 18th-century palace that once belonged to the Prince-Bishops of Würzburg, this regal building is home to a number of historic wonders. Inside, you'll marvel at the intricate tapestries, gilded stucco work and ceiling frescoes by famed Tiepolo.

Freedom of Choice – Tastes of Franconia

Travel to the Volkacher

Mainschleife

, the largest wine-growing region in Franconia and home to one of the most famous Franconian whisky distilleries. Here, enjoy a guided tour and meet the whisky and winemaker to uncover the art of making whisky. Savour a tasting of their finest creations paired with freshly baked bread from a local bakery.

Freedom of Choice – Explore Rothenburg

Travel to the walled town of Rothenburg and immerse yourself in medieval life. Wander the narrow cobblestone streets and admire the colourful houses. During free time, you may wish to visit Käthe Wohlfahrt's 'Christmas Village', where you'll find the largest selection of German Christmas decorations in the world.

Freedom of Choice – Hike to Marienberg Fortress

Enjoy a hike to Würzburg's most visible landmark, Marienberg Fortress, an imposing castle overlooking the city, which boasts a fascinating history dating back many centuries.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.



Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 14

Bamberg

This morning, your ship will arrive in World Heritage-listed Bamberg, another one of the few German cities that was not destroyed during World War II. As you explore the Old Town with a guide, you will discover a range of historic churches and buildings, including the town hall on the Regnitz River. Following your tour, rejoin your ship to cruise onto the Main-Danube Canal.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 15

Nuremberg

This morning gives you the chance to choose your sightseeing activity. This afternoon, continue cruising along the Main-Danube Canal while indulging in a Bavarian beer, sausage and pretzel tasting on the Daystar Deck. Having taken 32 years to construct, the canal links the North and Black seas.

Freedom of Choice – Discover Nuremberg's World War II Sites

Journey through Nuremberg's World War II sites, including the Reich Party Rally Grounds, the site of Hitler's now infamous annual rallies that were held from 1927 to 1938.

Freedom of Choice – Medieval History of Nuremberg Tour

Join a tour focused on Nuremberg's medieval history. Discover medieval architecture, including the 900-year-old ramparts that surround the city, the Imperial Castle and the main market square, as well as its 14th century Gothic church.

Freedom of Choice:

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 16

Regensburg

Discover Regensburg on your chosen sightseeing activity today.



Freedom of Choice – Explore Regensburg's World Heritage-Listed City Centre

Set out on a guided tour to explore Regensburg's atmospheric World Heritage-listed city centre. With a history dating back to the Roman times, this incredible city was the first capital of Bavaria. Your tour will finish with a tasting at Regensburg's historic sausage kitchen, thought to be one of the oldest working restaurants in the world.

Freedom of Choice – Guided Bike Ride to the Walhalla Memorial

Get active and take a guided bike ride to the Walhalla memorial. This neo-classical building sits above the Danube River and houses a hall of fame that honours notable politicians, artists, sovereigns and scientists from Germany's past.

Freedom of Choice:

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 17

Linz, Salzburg, Passau

Take a guided tour of Salzburg before a Signature Experience.

Signature Experience – Gaisberg Mountain Lunch and 'Sound of Music' Show

Be welcomed by a Jagdhornbläser – a hunting horn blower – into a rustic, traditional restaurant on the Gaisberg mountain overlooking Salzburg. Enjoy a welcome drink as you soak in the scenery before savouring a delicious lunch, followed by a show featuring music from the classic film, 'The Sound of Music'.

Signature Experience:

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 18

Melk, Dürnstein

Visit the spectacular Melk Abbey, one of the world's most famous monastic sites. Then, it's up to you how you get to the next port of call. In Dürnstein, perhaps view the ruins of the castle where Richard the Lionheart, the King of England, was imprisoned in 1192.



Freedom of Choice – Cruise Through the Wachau Valley

Enjoy a cruise through the picturesque Wachau Valley to Dürnstein, where you'll roam its cobblestone lanes at your leisure.

Freedom of Choice – Guided Bike Ride from Melk to Dürnstein

Take a guided bike ride along the Danube River from Melk to Dürnstein and take in the beautiful scenery of Wachau Valley along the way.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 19

Vienna

Arrive in Vienna and set out on a city tour. Take in the Austrian capital's many landmarks along the Ringstrasse, as well as St. Stephen's Cathedral. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore. This evening is set aside for your magical Signature Experience.

Signature Experience – Cocktail Party and Private Performance at Vienna's City Palace

After dinner, head to the princely family of Liechtenstein's City Palace in the heart of Vienna, where we have arranged an exclusive cocktail party and private recital, just for you. A full orchestra will perform classical masterpieces by Mozart and Strauss. You will also be enchanted by an operatic recital.

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 20

Vienna

Head out on your choice of tours, then set sail for Hungary.

Freedom of Choice – Schönbrunn Palace Visit



Delve into royal history as you wander the lavishly furnished rooms and beautiful gardens of the famous Schönbrunn Palace.

Freedom of Choice – Visit Bratislava in Slovakia

Tick another country off your list and journey to Slovakia's Bratislava, where a mixture of 18th-century rococo design and communist era architecture make this a city of alluring contrasts. See some of the architectural landmarks that were built during the city's time under communist rule. These include the UFO bridge, Slovak Radio building and Hotel Kyjev.

Freedom of Choice – Vienna Culinary Tour

Immerse yourself in Viennese cuisine on a culinary tour of Vienna's narrow streets. Visit a traditional cafe, try a classic Viennese sausage, and sample a sweet treat from one of the city's famous patisseries.

Freedom of Choice:

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 21

Budapest

Choose your sightseeing option in Budapest today. The afternoon is yours at leisure to further explore. In the evening, join your fellow travellers for a farewell to remember. Enjoy a performance of Hungarian folk music while you indulge in local brandy, as well as artisan meats and cheeses.

Freedom of Choice – City Tour

Set out on a city tour of Budapest and take in its historic monuments, including Heroes' Square and St. Stephen's Basilica.

Freedom of Choice – Culinary Tour

Eat your way through Budapest as you embark on a tour of the Great Market Hall. Wander through this large indoor market and discover a variety of sausages, meats, cheeses, fruits and vegetables.

Freedom of Choice – Fisherman's Bastion

Enjoy a funicular ride up to Castle Hill and take in the sweeping views over the river, then walk to Fisherman's Bastion, a beautiful historical monument.



Freedom of Choice:

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Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

DAY 22

Disembark Ship, Depart Budapest

Your extraordinary European adventure concludes today. Following breakfast, say goodbye and be transferred to the airport.

Daily: • Breakfast
