



2012 Cruise Companion and Shore Excursions

Gems of Germany, Belgium &
the Netherlands with Floriade



Dear Valued Traveler,

Welcome to Uniworld Boutique River Cruises. We want to do everything we can to ensure you have the most enjoyable and worry-free vacation possible.

With that in mind, we have prepared this booklet for you, so you can plan your trip with the greatest of ease. Consider it a guideline to help you get ready for your upcoming trip. It contains valuable tips and advice on what to pack, your flight and transfer experience, onboard information, day-to-day details, and much more.











Thank you for selecting Uniworld Boutique River Cruises. We look forward to hosting you onboard our beautifully appointed ships and making your vacation the most memorable and enjoyable experience possible.

Sincerely,
The Uniworld Team

Symbols and Icons

In the following pages, you will find these symbols to help guide you with the daily excursions. You will get an idea of the pace of the excursions; you will find out if meals are provided, and you will learn about any special excursions, such as wine tastings, museum visits, or music concerts.

Uniworld Signature Icons

	Embark/Disembark		Wine Tasting
	Motorcoach		Museum Visit
	Flight		Music Concert
	Choice is Yours	CB/BB	Continental/Buffer Breakfast
	Uniworld Exclusive	L	Lunch
	Dining Out	D	Dinner
	Welcome/Farewell Dinner		

Shore Excursion Symbols

All tours involve walking unless strictly noted as a panoramic tour. In many cases, the walking takes place over uneven ground, cobblestone, or flagstone walkways, and more than a few tours involve stairs or short uphill climbs. We strongly recommend that our guests wear comfortable, non-skid walking shoes while on all of our tours. The symbols below are provided alongside each tour to give you an idea of what to expect on each program.



Easy walking throughout tour, including walking 15 minutes or less from multiple motorcoach stops to, and while in, historical sights. Possibly some steps, or gentle uphill and downhill walks.



Intermediate activity, including walks of up to two hours on uneven terrain. Limited seating at sites. Multiple stairs and/or uphill/downhill walking.



Most strenuous activity with a combined walking duration at all sites of up to two and a half hours. Many stairs and uphill/downhill passages. Those with physical limitations and those who may need assistance with private arrangements need to contact the Cruise Manager when onboard.

Tour Duration Symbols

Each tour varies in length. The darkened areas of the symbols indicate approximate tour duration.



¼ Day AM



¼ Day PM



¾ Day



½ Day AM



½ Day PM



Full Day

Cruise Companion

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Cruise Companion

Helpful Hints Before You Go

Travel Documents

Passports: All Uniworld river cruise/tours require a passport. In most cases, passports must be valid for six months after the scheduled return date from the trip. Some itineraries will require visas. Each guest is fully responsible for obtaining and carrying the travel documents necessary for his or her travel itinerary. Uniworld will not be responsible for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip, related to improper travel documents.

Visa requirements on this itinerary for US and Canadian citizens can be found at the end of this booklet, in the section marked "About Your Uniworld Cruise Package," or on the Uniworld website, uniworld.com, in the "Before You Go" section. Non-US or Canadian citizens must contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their particular trip. Uniworld's website provides information on obtaining the required visa through Zierer Visa Service as a courtesy only.

Passenger Information Form: By now, you should have completed the Uniworld Passenger Information Form. The information on this form is used to comply with certain foreign government and airline security restrictions in advance of your arrival onboard our ships. If you have completed this form, we thank you for your prompt attention. If you have not completed this form, please visit our website at uniworld.com and complete the online Passenger Information Form in the "Before You Go" section. Each guest must complete the form.

Travel Protection: Uniworld strongly recommends that each guest purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please carry all policy information with you during the course of your trip.

Cruise Documentation

Uniworld sends all final cruise and air documents between 21 to 30 days prior to your trip departure, provided that Uniworld has received a completed and signed Passenger Information Form and your booking is paid-in-full. All documents are sent via a priority mail delivery service, such as UPS or Federal Express.

Final Documentation Includes:

- Cruise Ticket
- Passenger Ticket Contract (this is binding on each guest)
- Airline Tickets or E-Ticket Confirmation (if international air ticket was purchased from Uniworld)
- Cruise Companion
- Baggage Tags
- Leave-Behind Communication Card
- Travel Protection Plan Pamphlet (if Uniworld travel protection was purchased)
- Pre-/Post-Optional Cruise Extension Information (if trip extension was purchased)

Baggage Limitations

Airline baggage restrictions change frequently and each guest needs to check with their specific air carrier for limitations concerning baggage weight, baggage size, carry-on regulations, and excess baggage or overweight charges. This information can be found on the carrier's website. Remember to check for both international (over the water) and domestic (intra-continental) regulations, as limitations differ depending on flight routings. Overweight or excess baggage charges vary, and guests who exceed an airline's recommended limit may be asked by the airline to pay fees ranging from \$25 to \$80 US Dollars (USD), or possibly more, per infraction.

If your cruise/tour program includes a flight between Bucharest and Istanbul, please note that the domestic airline allows one suitcase per person, not to exceed 23kg (50 pounds). Suitcases weighing more than 23kg will be assessed an overweight fee by the airline ranging from €50 to €100. A second suitcase weighing up to 23kg will be assessed a flat fee of €50.

Please note: € = Euro

Onboard the ships and motorcoaches, storage space is very limited. Therefore, for your comfort and convenience on the cruise as well as on pre- or post-cruise land stays, we ask that you bring one (1) suitcase per person and one (1) carry-on bag per person (excluding purses). Please note there may be a fee assessed on-site for excess baggage.

Keep an eye on your baggage and all personal belongings—they are your responsibility throughout the trip. Uniworld is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to baggage and personal belongings. A Travel Protection Plan covering lost, stolen, or damaged baggage is highly recommended.

Travel Essentials

The following items are essential to any destination: comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, a hat, an umbrella, and a lightweight raincoat or outerwear garment appropriate to the seasonal weather conditions. It is recommended that you bring duplicates of prescription eyewear, copies of prescriptions for any medicine, copies of credit card information, and copies of passport information pages. Make sure that your baggage has identification tags both inside and outside with your contact information and address clearly marked. Do not pack valuables or important medication in your checked baggage. You should carry any valuables and important medication with you in your carry-on baggage. Please contact your air carrier for any additional regulations.

Health and Mobility

Physical Limitations: Uniworld trips are exciting, relatively active vacations. While there will be plenty of time to relax, there will also be much to see and do. Your included excursions generally require an extensive amount of walking, as well as navigation of numerous steps and cobblestone streets. On shore excursions, guests with physical limitations will find access to sites generally restrictive. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend that all guests be in good physical condition. In addition, river ships, while spacious and elegant, are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and most do not have elevators. Uniworld, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse passage or to require

a current passenger to end their trip if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect their own health, safety, and enjoyment, or that of other passengers.

Medical: Uniworld does not employ staff nurses or doctors onboard its ships. Nor can the onboard Gift Shop carry medications that are sold over the counter in the US because most European nations allow the sale of medications by licensed pharmacies only. Should you need medical attention, it will be at local facilities, at your own expense. Uniworld is not responsible for any costs incurred as a result of medical service, or for the quality of medical care received. A Travel Protection Plan covering medical expenses is highly recommended.

Special Diets: Please advise us in advance of your departure of any special dietary restrictions. This information will be provided to the proper personnel. To the extent possible, and in consideration of local conditions, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. It is the guest's responsibility to provide us with as much detail as necessary concerning any medically related diet concerns. Not all dietary requests can be accommodated, and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

General Money Matters

ATMs: ATMs connected to bank networks such as PLUS or Cirrus are widely available in most major metropolitan areas, in airports, city centers, and in some instances, hotels. Fees for transactions vary. ATMs are not available onboard the ships. Your bank can tell you which network your ATM card can access, and whether a debit or credit card must be used. Make sure you have the correct PIN for the card you plan to use before leaving home, as the PIN is required for all money withdrawals. It is also recommended that you bring an overseas contact number for your bank or credit card company in case you require assistance while traveling.

Credit Cards and Traveler's Checks: Most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express) are accepted worldwide. Credit cards are also accepted onboard.

There may be some stores or locations where cash is preferred (especially for small purchases) or a particular credit card cannot be used for purchases. We recommend bringing at least one major credit card, as well as an ATM card that is both a debit and credit card. We do not recommend bringing Traveler's Checks, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to cash them at local banks. Also, we recommend that you do not carry Euro bills in denominations greater than €100, as many merchants are hesitant to accept them due to counterfeiting. Local banks can break larger bills into smaller denominations for you.

Please contact your bank and/or credit card companies to let them know that you will be leaving the country to avoid any problems using your credit card(s) overseas.

Getting There

Airport Security and Check-In

It is advisable to contact the airline in advance of your departure to verify that there have been no changes to the flight number or schedule found on your travel documents. After your travel documents are issued and sent to you, Uniworld is not responsible for notifying guests of any changes in flight schedules.

Please make sure you arrive at the airport at least two and a half (2.5) hours prior to your scheduled departure to complete check-in and security procedures. For peak travel times, you may even want to arrive three (3) hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

Transfers

Airport Arrival Transfers: If your cruise/tour package includes a group arrival transfer (and your flights coincide with our transfer guidelines) or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship or hotel. Transfers are only provided on the actual start day of the cruise or cruise/tour. Those guests with a Pre-Cruise Extension will also be met by a Uniworld representative at the airport of the city in which the extension is to take place (for the Lucerne Extension, the airport used is Basel, Switzerland). You will be met as you exit the secure customs area. Please claim all of your baggage before exiting the baggage claim area. Porterage services are not included at the airport. From the airport, you'll be transferred to the ship or your hotel.

Please note that transfers are non-refundable. There may be a waiting period for scheduled airport transfers, depending on groupings of flight arrivals. This wait can be up to two (2) hours. Uniworld will not be responsible for late arrivals or missed transfers due to delayed, changed, canceled, missed flights, for missed cruise/trip days, or for extra costs resulting from delayed, changed, canceled, or missed flights.

In accordance with Uniworld's transfer guidelines, all guests making their own flight arrangements are required to provide Uniworld with their flight information and pre-trip arrangements no later than 45 days prior to departure in order to receive transfers. For complete details, please see the Terms and Conditions section of our current brochure or our website, uniworld.com.

Guests who have purchased extra nights with hotel stays will be provided private transfers as part of the extra night purchase as long as Uniworld has received their flight information no later than 45 days prior to departure.

If your cruise/tour package does not contain transfers (i.e., for flights outside Uniworld's transfer guidelines or if flight details have not been communicated to Uniworld in time), then please make your own way from the ship or hotel as per your trip itinerary at your own expense.

Airport Departure Transfers: If your cruise/tour package includes a group departure transfer (and your flights coincide with our transfer guidelines) or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Transfers are only provided on the actual end day of the cruise or cruise/tour. For those guests with a Post-Cruise Extension, you will be transferred from the ship to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport accordingly. Porterage services are not included at the airport.

In accordance with Uniworld's transfer guidelines, all guests making their own flight arrangements are required to provide Uniworld with their flight information and pre-trip arrangements no later than 45 days prior to departure in order to receive transfers. For complete details, please see the Terms and Conditions section of our current brochure or our website, uniworld.com.

Depending on arrival or departure transfer times, transfers may include sightseeing en route.

Guests who have purchased extra nights with hotel stays will be provided private transfers as part of the extra night purchase as long as Uniworld has received their flight information no later than 45 days prior to departure.

If your cruise/tour package does not contain transfers (i.e., for flights outside Uniworld's transfer guidelines or if flight details have not been communicated to Uniworld in time), then please make your own way from the ship or hotel as per your trip itinerary at your own expense.

Private Car Transfers: Guests who make independent flight arrangements and arrive outside Uniworld's transfer guidelines can purchase private car transfers from Uniworld at an additional cost. Private car transfers are only available on the cruise/tour start and end dates.

Please ask your travel agent or Uniworld for details. In some locations, private transfers are not available due to the distance between the airport arrival city and the port of embarkation and disembarkation.

Cruise-Only Guests and Guests with Independent

Arrangements: For guests who are making their own way to the ship and who are not using Uniworld's transfer options, we strongly suggest that you call the ship to determine its exact location before proceeding to the dock. The ship's telephone number will be shown on your Cruise Ticket. Docking assignments for river cruise vessels can change at the last minute, and the information provided on your Cruise Ticket about the expected docking location could be incorrect on your day of arrival. It is not possible for Uniworld to notify guests making their own way to the ship of any last minute changes.

Cruise-only guests may join Uniworld's group transfers or may purchase private transfers for the cruise/tour start and end dates. However, independent flight arrangements must be made in accordance with Uniworld's transfer guidelines, which are coordinated with the ship's required time of embarkation and disembarkation for all guests and must be provided to Uniworld no later than 45 days prior to departure.

Late Flight Arrivals/Missed Flights: If your package includes a Uniworld arrival transfer and you experience a travel delay of any kind, please adhere to the following instructions:

Advise an airline representative at the airport that you are a cruise passenger set to sail that day or the following day. Typically, airlines are able to arrange alternative flights for passengers to continue with their travel to the point of embarkation.

Upon arrival in the cruise or tour-start city, after you have cleared customs look for the Uniworld representative outside the customs area. If your flight arrangements were drastically altered, it is unlikely that the ground staff will be notified in time of your specific flight changes. And, due to security protocols enacted post September 11, 2001, airlines very rarely provide updated flight information to third parties.

If you cannot find the Uniworld representative, please contact the Transfer Provider in your arrival city. Their contact information is shown in the transfer section of your Cruise Ticket. If unable to match you up with a scheduled group transfer, the Transfer Provider will ask you to make your own way to the ship or hotel at your own expense. Costs incurred due to missed transfers are the responsibility of the guest, and, in most cases, compensation can be obtained from your travel protection plan provider or airline carrier.

If your delay is serious enough that you miss the starting point of your cruise, you will need to get to the next stop

on the ship's itinerary at your own expense. Using the ship's phone number shown on your Cruise Ticket, please contact the ship for its exact location on your revised date of arrival. The ship's personnel will advise you of the best course of action. Uniworld is not responsible for missed transfers or additional costs incurred in getting to the next destination due to missed or delayed flight arrangements.

Baggage Delays: Baggage delays do unfortunately occur from time to time, especially during peak travel periods. First and foremost, do not leave the baggage area without completing a Lost Baggage Report with your air carrier. This report is essential to the tracking of your claim. If traveling with a companion, we recommend that one (1) person exit the baggage claim area and locate the transfer representative to inform them of the situation. This will allow the representative to ensure that transfers are properly provided. Give the air carrier a copy of your travel itinerary and the ship's contact information. Report your lost baggage to the Uniworld representative and provide your Uniworld Cruise Manager with a copy of your Lost Baggage Report. This will assist our staff in helping to locate your baggage as quickly as possible. Uniworld is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to baggage and/or personal belongings. A protection plan covering lost, stolen, or damaged baggage is available through the Uniworld Travel Protection Plan.

Pre-/Post-Cruise Included or Optional Hotel/Land Extensions

All Uniworld land programs are fully hosted and include daily breakfast, transfers, and portage (at hotels only). Most feature at least one (1) special sightseeing program. Guests on a pre-cruise/tour land extension will receive a welcome briefing from the on-site Uniworld representative the evening of the first day of the extension. This briefing will familiarize you with the scheduled program and provide additional information about optional excursion programs, dining recommendations, and shopping tips. Guests on a post-cruise/tour land extension will receive their briefing onboard, and a local Uniworld host will be on hand during your stay to provide information and assistance. Details of your pre- or post-cruise/tour land stay or optional extension are included with your final documents.

Please note that every effort is made to ensure that your hotel room is available and ready for occupancy upon your arrival at the hotel. This is not always possible due to differences in hotel check-in/check-out times and scheduled airport-to-hotel or ship-to-hotel transfers. A short wait for your room to become available may be necessary.

Embarkation/Disembarkation

Embarkation: If sailing time is 8:00 pm or later, guests are to embark no later than 6:00 pm. If sailing time is scheduled between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm, guests are to embark no later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled sailing time.

On embarkation day, the ship is being cleaned and prepared for your arrival. Most of the ship's facilities, including your stateroom, will not be available before 3:00 pm. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Should you arrive at the ship earlier than 3:00 pm, you may leave your baggage at the Front Desk and take a walk in the area or relax in the lounge. Please keep your hand baggage with you at all times. Complimentary coffee, water, and light snacks will be available in the lounge for your enjoyment.

Disembarkation: About two (2) evenings before your departure from the ship, your Cruise Manager will brief all guests about what to expect on the morning of disembarkation and what time to have baggage available for pick-up, and to distribute any documentation necessary to make your departure as smooth as possible.

All guests must vacate their staterooms no later than 8:00 am the day of disembarkation so the staff and crew can prepare for the next group of guests. Breakfast hours are coordinated around airport transfer times, which, in some cases, can be very early in the morning. It is not unusual in some destinations to have airport transfers as early as 4:00 am. In such cases, we will provide guests with coffee, tea, juices, and pastries from our 24-hour coffee station.

Guests staying onboard for an additional cruise might have sightseeing included on this day, or will have time at leisure for their continued enjoyment of the destination. In some destinations, optional excursions will be available on this day.

About Your Uniworld Cruise Package and Onboard Services

Bicycles and Nordic Walking Sticks

Complimentary bicycles and Nordic walking sticks are available for your onshore enjoyment. Bicycle and walking paths are easily accessible from some of the ports of call. Your Cruise Manager can offer recommendations. The bicycles and walking sticks can only be reserved through the Front Desk one (1) day in advance of the time you wish to use them (or on the day-of if available). The number of bicycles and Nordic walking sticks available is limited and their use is solely at your own risk. You must sign a release form prior to using bicycles or Nordic walking sticks.

Dining

The onboard Restaurant provides a relaxed environment and accommodates all guests with open seating. It offers both local and international cuisine. Breakfast and lunch are sumptuous buffets, while evenings feature specialties of the chef and regional dishes. During lunches and dinners onboard, complimentary soft drinks, beer, and red and white wine will be served. Complimentary water, hot coffee, and tea will be served at all meals onboard. Complimentary beverages may only be consumed in the Restaurant.

In addition, *al fresco* dining may be available on the Sun Deck on scheduled nights, weather permitting. Reservations are necessary as space is limited. Reservations can only be made onboard the ship.

All meal times are scheduled around tour departures, and breakfast can take place very early in the morning.

Please notify Uniworld immediately if you have any special dietary concerns or considerations that need to be taken into account while traveling with us. We will do our best to ensure that your request is accommodated but we cannot guarantee that this will happen in all cases.

Elevators

Most of our ships sailing the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers are equipped with an elevator that services all decks except the Sun Deck. On select vessels, a chair lift is available to aid in accessing the Sun Deck. On the *River Queen*, the elevator does not service the Moselle Deck. The *River Ambassador* does not have an elevator. It only has a chair lift from the Restaurant to the Reception area and from the entrance to the ship up to the Sun Deck.

Fitness Center

The Fitness Center hours of operation are generally from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, but may be adjusted based on each day's program. Use of the fitness equipment is at your own risk.

Front Desk

The Front Desk operates 24 hours a day. The Night Receptionist will make hourly safety checks of the ship.

Gift Shop

There is a gift shop onboard with a limited selection of toiletries, souvenirs, and other sundries. All purchases are charged to your shipboard account. The hours of operation are adjusted to each day's program.

Please note: No over-the-counter medications are available, in accordance with European laws.

Gratuities

Onboard: It is our goal to ensure that the service you receive is as wonderful as the sites you visit. Gratuities are customary expressions of appreciation for a job well done. The amount of the gratuity you choose to give is entirely subject to your satisfaction with your travel experience. To assist you in determining the amount of your gratuities, we recommend the following as a guideline:

- Ship staff and crew: €10 per guest, per day, to be shared among all staff and crew
- Cruise Manager: €3 per guest, per day
- Local host or hostess for included or optional extensions: €3 per guest, per day
- Local guides: from €1 per guest for a half-day tour to €1 to €2 per guest for a full-day tour
- Drivers: €1 per guest, per day

Please note: € = Euro

The above is solely a guideline. The amount you give should depend upon your personal experience and level of satisfaction. Gratuities can be billed to onboard accounts and paid with a credit card or cash (cash is accepted in Euro or USD only), so please ensure that you have enough cash on hand for this expense if paying by cash. Please note that personal checks cannot be accepted.

Health and Hygiene

As part of our commitment to a clean, safe, and healthy onboard environment, Uniworld practices a strict sanitization protocol on our ships. To assist us in this important matter, we kindly ask all guests to frequently wash their hands and to consistently use the hand sanitizer machines when entering the ship and when entering the Restaurant. The machines are located just inside the main entrance to the ship and at the entrance to the Restaurant. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this very important matter.

Ice Machine

For your convenience, a self-service ice machine is located on each ship, and an ice bucket is provided in your stateroom.

Internet Facilities

Our Internet Corner allows you to send and receive emails and to access the Internet using our computer stations. In addition, you may use your own laptop computer to access our Wireless Internet Service (Wi-Fi). Wi-Fi access is only available in the Main Lounge and Captain's Lounge. Use of the Internet Corner and Wi-Fi service is complimentary.

Please note the Internet connection might not be available in remote areas or when transiting locks. Expect the connectivity speed to be slower than your home connection.

Key Cards

A magnetic key card will be issued to each guest at the time of check-in. The key card can be used to open your stateroom as well as the main entrance to the ship. On the *River Beatrice* and *River Ambassador*, magnetic key cards are not used; standard keys will be issued instead.

Laundry

A launderette containing a self-service washing machine, dryer, and iron is available for your use (detergent is available for a minimal fee at the Front Desk). There are no dry cleaning facilities. The ship also provides washing, drying, and ironing services for a fee.

Please note: there is no self-service launderette on the River Ambassador.

Local and Onboard Money Matters

Currency in the following countries is the Euro: Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Slovakia, and the Netherlands.

The Euro comes in banknote denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500. One Euro is divided into 100 cents, and coin denominations are 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 cent or 1 Euro and 2 Euro.

Currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc. The Swiss Franc is available in banknotes, which bear the value of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, or 1,000 Francs. International currencies can be exchanged at banks and foreign exchange dealers while on tour in Switzerland. You will need to show your passport as proof of identity for foreign exchange transactions. All popular

credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted widely in shops, airports, railway stations, and other payment centers across Switzerland.

Currency in Hungary is the Forint, which comes in banknote denominations of 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000 and 20,000 Forints. Hotels, banks, and bureau de changes can all be used for currency exchanges, along with some restaurants, airports, railway stations, and travel agencies. All currency exchange receipts should be retained in case they need to be presented to officials. ATMs are available in most towns, and the vast majority of international credit cards are accepted in larger establishments.

Currency in the Czech Republic is the Koruna. Notes come in denominations of 5,000, 2,000, 1,000, 500, 200, 100, 50 and 20. Bureau de changes are available nationwide, and money can be exchanged in banks, at road border crossing points, and by authorized dealers. ATMs are widespread throughout the Czech Republic and most major international credit and debit cards are accepted.

Currency in Serbia is the New Yugoslav Dinar. Notes come in denominations of 5,000, 1,000, 200, 100, 50, 20, and 10. Currency can be exchanged at bureau de changes and in exchange machines in Belgrade. Traveler's Checks are not widely accepted and cash is recommended instead. ATMs are available, though the number accepting international credit and debit cards is low. Credit and debit cards may be accepted in larger hotels and restaurants, though acceptance is not widespread.

Currency in Romania is the Leu. Notes come in denominations of 500, 100, 50, 10, 5, and 1. Currency can be exchanged at banks and at authorized dealers, as well as in a lot of shops, hotels, and restaurants. All receipts should be kept in case they are required by customs or other officials. Traveler's Checks are accepted in larger hotels and banks, but not many other places. To avoid additional charges, Traveler's Checks should be made out in US Dollars or Euro. ATMs are becoming more popular, though they are not widespread. Credit and debit cards may be accepted in larger hotels and restaurants, though their use is not widespread.

Currency in Bulgaria is the Lev. The Lev is tied to the Euro at a fixed rate of 1 = Lev 1.955. Notes are in denominations of 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1. With the exception of some larger establishments in Sofia, credit and debit cards are not universally accepted and cash remains the preferred currency. However, ATMs are becoming increasingly popular where Visa and MasterCard can be used to withdraw cash. Money can

also be exchanged in bureau de changes and banks. Lev notes dated 1997 and earlier are now out of circulation, but unscrupulous money changers may offer these, as well as advertise misleading exchange rates, so it is advisable to only use official outlets.

Currency in Croatia is the Kuna. Notes come in denominations of 1,000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5. Bureau de changes are available across the country and money can be exchanged in banks, at post offices and by authorized dealers. Traveler's Checks are accepted, though to avoid additional conversion charges these should be in US Dollars, Pounds Sterling, or Euro. ATMs are widespread throughout Croatia. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

Uniworld features a "cashless" environment onboard, and all charges are billed directly to each guest's shipboard account. The onboard currency of our ships is the Euro. While onboard, guests can sign for all purchases, and pay their balance at the end of the cruise with a credit card, including American Express, MasterCard, and Visa. Credit cards will be charged in Euro. Please check with your bank before departing home.

Alternatively, if paying by cash, the currency accepted onboard for settlement of final bills is the Euro or US Dollar (total amount will be converted into US Dollars based on the onboard exchange rate).

The ships do not have ATMs, but ATMs linked to major bank networks can be found throughout Europe. Most debit or major credit cards can be used for cash withdrawals ashore. Limited currency exchange is available onboard for the exchange of cash only. Credit cards cannot be accepted for money exchange. All hotels and major tourist sites have exchange facilities.

Please note that currency-exchange transactions and ATM cash withdrawals always involve transaction fees. It is always best to inquire about the fee before exchanging any money. ATMs will typically ask you if you accept the fee before enabling the transaction.

Lounges

The Lounge provides spectacular, expansive views at every turn. Relax in the comfort of soft chairs and sofas upholstered in fine fabrics and leathers. Enjoy our full-service bar and dance the night away to the piano tunes of our onboard musician.

The intimate Captain's Lounge provides a delightful atmosphere in which to read a book from our Library or to play cards or games. The *River Ambassador* does not feature a Captain's Lounge, and the Library is integrated into the Main Lounge.

The Patio Lounge offers a casual atmosphere with comfortable chairs and tables. Complimentary coffee and tea are available here 24 hours a day.

You'll find a pleasant, glass-enclosed Sky Lounge complete with tables and chairs on the Sun Deck of many Uniworld ships. Here, you can enjoy panoramic views of the river while being completely sheltered from the elements. The *River Ambassador* and *River Beatrice* do not have Sky Lounges but feature partially covered Sun Decks, while the *River Queen* has a fully open Sun Deck.

Corkage Fee: You are welcome to bring onboard the ship alcoholic beverages that you bought onshore. These beverages may be enjoyed in the staterooms and in the Restaurant free of charge. However, if you would like to consume these beverages in the Lounge or Bar areas, we will charge a €5.00 corkage fee. If you received a bottle of wine or champagne that was purchased through Uniworld as a bon voyage gift, you may bring this beverage to the Lounge or Bar area to enjoy without a corkage fee.

Mail

Stamps are available for purchase at the Front Desk. Mail is posted daily unless local mail facilities are not available.

Mooring and Docking Facilities

Local river authorities allocate docking space around ship arrivals and departures in port. Typically, river ships always dock facing upstream. Occasionally port conditions require ships to tie up alongside each other, in which case guests may be required to walk through another ship to get to their own ship. This is part of the river cruise experience and is perfectly normal and beyond the control of Uniworld. Guests may experience obstructed views from staterooms when the ship is docked.

Safety Deposit Box

Each stateroom onboard and hotel room onshore comes equipped with a safe. We urge you to leave valuable jewelry at home. We are not responsible for any valuables left in your stateroom. Any charge to return "lost and found" property onboard will be at the owner's expense. Please beware of pickpockets when ashore.

Shopping

Time for shopping is usually but not always allowed for within the framework of most of the sightseeing programs. Actual time available for shopping may be limited due to tour constraints.

Keep in mind that many shops in Europe may be closed on Sundays and holidays. Shopping recommendations can be made by your Cruise Manager and shipboard staff. Larger stores accept most major credit cards. Market vendors and small stores will usually only accept local currency. It is a good idea to take a small amount of cash for on-the-spot gratuities or for purchasing souvenirs or sundries.

Shore Excursions

Each cruise/tour program includes comprehensive shore excursions led by a local English-speaking guide; these excursions have been designed to provide you with the best possible experience ashore. From time to time, we also offer optional excursions designed to enhance the range of sightseeing already included in your cruise program. These optional excursions are available for purchase when you are onboard the ship. Your Cruise Manager will provide details about the reservation process at your Welcome Briefing. All tours purchased onboard are billed to your shipboard account and can be paid when settling your final bill. Optional excursions are subject to cancellation if a minimum number of participants is not met.

A complete day-by-day shore excursion itinerary is provided in this booklet. Details for your particular itinerary can also be found at uniworld.com.

Smoking

The ship enjoys a non-smoking environment in all public areas and in the staterooms. Smoking is only allowed on designated parts of the Sun Deck, which are marked on the deck plan in your room directory.

Stateroom Amenities

Every riverview stateroom includes an individual thermostat for air-conditioning and/or heat, a flat-screen TV, an internal telephone, a safety deposit box, and a bathroom stocked with L'Occitane bath and body products, a luxurious bathrobe for each guest, complimentary bottled water, a hair dryer, and an umbrella. Electrical current is 220V, the European standard; however, each stateroom has one 110V outlet. The majority of staterooms have hotel beds that can be positioned separately or together. Your stateroom will be serviced by your Stateroom Attendant on a daily basis. Security and maintenance checks may also be performed. Butler service is available in the Suites and Owner's Suite onboard the *River Beatrice* and *S.S. Antoinette*.

Sun Deck Access

For safety reasons, access to the Sun Deck or Sky Lounge may be limited during the Main-Danube-Canal transit, while passing through areas with low bridges, and during inclement weather.

Visa Requirements

No visas are required for US or Canadian citizens on most of the itineraries shown in this book. Non-US or non-Canadian citizens must contact each consulate of the country or countries to be visited for specific requirements. However, US and Canadian citizens will need a Turkish visa if traveling to Istanbul. Canadian citizens may also need a Czech visa for travel to the Czech Republic. More information for US citizens and Canadian citizens can also be found at uniworld.com in the “Before You Go” section.

Obtaining and carrying the proper documents, including passports, is the sole responsibility of the guest. Uniworld will not be responsible for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your cruise/tour, that are related to improper travel documentation. All guests are strongly advised to obtain necessary visas well in advance to avoid unnecessary expedited-processing charges.

Whenever using a visa service, it is highly recommended that you provide the service with a copy of your entire travel itinerary. There are times when multiple-entry visas may be required or there are restrictions to entering one country from another depending on your nationality. If the service does not have your full itinerary, this may result in improperly issued documentation.

Visitors

Visitors are generally not permitted onboard the ship and are not allowed to join any shore excursions. Please make arrangements to meet your friends and relatives onshore.

Water

The tap water in each stateroom is safe for drinking. The ship has been outfitted with a sophisticated filtration system. In addition, bottled water is provided in your stateroom for your comfort.

Weather

Today, weather forecasts are widely available at the click of a button on the Internet. Uniworld’s favorite resource for up-to-the-minute international weather is weather.com. Weather.com features a very informative vacation-planner tool that you may find useful.

What to Wear

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions depending on your travel season and the regions you will be cruising through. Layering clothing items is always your best bet, as this allows you to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperatures, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

Comfortable, sporty, smart-casual daywear is appropriate both onshore and onboard. Everyday slacks, khakis, walking shorts, and everyday skirts/dresses are recommended. For warmer temperatures, we suggest lightweight clothing that can be layered, such as a mix of sweaters, lightweight knit shirts, slacks, and walking shorts. For early spring and late fall departures, you’ll find sweatshirts, heavier cotton or wool tops and long-sleeved shirts, and corduroy or heavy khaki pants perfectly suitable. Mix-and-match color schemes work best to help keep baggage light. You will participate in a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Sturdy sandals are another good option.

For evenings, any resort-type wear is perfectly suitable; however, we do ask that you not wear shorts to dinner. Men may want to bring one sport jacket for dressier restaurant venues in places such as Paris and for special events onboard such as the Captain’s Welcome and Farewell festivities. Women find that a cocktail dress or two always come, in handy no matter the destination.

Don’t forget to pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket (preferably hooded), or even a heavier-weight windbreaker for colder temperatures.

Omissions

Uniworld is not responsible for omissions, printing, and/or presentation errors in brochures, on Internet sites, or in any other media where such information may be presented; we reserve the right to make corrections as required.



Gems of Germany, Belgium & the Netherlands with Floriade

Brussels to Cologne | 8 Days

Discover a multitude of architectural gems, breathtaking landscapes, and culinary delights

Sail through three countries, visiting some of the most exciting cities in Western Europe and discovering the sights and sounds of this dynamic region. Experience cosmopolitan Brussels, the “Capital of Europe”; sparkling Antwerp, heart of the world’s diamond trade; hip and sophisticated Maastricht, famous for its antiques and its food; Venlo, site of Floriade 2012, a decennial expo of all things botanical; and Cologne, home to the Cologne Cathedral, the tallest Gothic structure in Europe. Along the way, you’ll find a fairytale countryside rich in UNESCO World Heritage Sites, imposing castles, and the romantic Rhine at its most scenic.

Discover the best of the old and the new. Visit museums that house the treasures of the old masters and galleries that display cutting-edge contemporary work. See historic battlefields and peaceful gardens, quaint villages and bustling urban centers.

Epicurean Adventurer Program

Program includes: Chocolate demonstration and tasting at the artisanal Planet Chocolate factory | Family brewery visit with beer tasting | Special wine and food pairing dinner




Day 1 | Brussels D

Arrive at Brussels Airport. If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

Day 2 | Brussels BB, L

Featured Excursions: Brussels city tour and exclusive chocolate demonstration and tasting at Planet Chocolate



Irresistible Optional Excursion: Belgium Old and New—Waterloo and Ronquières Boatlift   

Brussels, the capital of Belgium, is also headquarters for most of the European Union’s institutions and is the political seat of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Featured Excursions: Brussels city tour and exclusive chocolate demonstration and tasting at Planet Chocolate

Your panoramic morning tour of the city will take you from the contemporary to the historic. Starting at the Atomium Monument, built for the 1958 World’s Fair and a symbol of a modern Belgium, you’ll travel up grand boulevards, where elegant palaces rub shoulders with gleaming modern structures, and down narrow lanes, where citizens have lived and worked for hundreds of years.

You’ll pass Fort Breendonk, used as a concentration camp by the Nazis and now a memorial; the Royal Residence; the Chinese Pavilion and Japanese Tower; the Royal Botanical Gardens; Heysel Park; and the Royal Church of Laken. You’ll continue through the center of Brussels, seeing the Brussels Willebroek complex, the Basilica of Koekelberg, the former Botanical Gardens, and the Botanical Palace. You’ll stop for a photo op at the Column of Congress and memorials to the unknown soldiers from both WWI and WWII.

The drive will then move along Rue de la Loi, where you’ll see the Federal Parliament, the US Embassy, and Royal Park. You will proceed to Quartier Leopold (named for the first Belgian king), which is the European Parliament district today. Other points of interest along the way include Royal Park, Place Royal and the Belgian Supreme Court.

Arriving at Rue Lombard, you’ll leave the motorcoach and walk to the famed Manneken Pis fountain and Grand Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to further explore the area on foot.

No visit to Brussels would be complete without experiencing Belgian chocolate. Your guide will take you to Planète Chocolat (Planet Chocolate), one of the city's premier artisanal chocolate makers, where the *maitre chocolatier* will share his secrets and offer a sampling of his specialties.

In the afternoon, following lunch onboard, you can take a shuttle back into town to explore the city on your own. Brussels has been famous for centuries for its lace and its tapestries, as well as its chocolate and beer. Your Cruise Manager and other crew members can recommend the best places to find these and other items. Look for antiques on the Place du Grand Sablon, or browse along the Avenue Louise for designer fashions. Galerie St. Hubert, a gorgeous glass-roofed arcade dating back to 1847, houses cafés and luxury shops.

Brussels was a center of Art Nouveau art and architecture, and the city brims with beautiful examples of the movement: the Horta Museum, designed by Brussels' most famous architect, Victor Horta, for his own use; the Paul Cauchie house, Square Ambiorix—it's almost impossible to narrow down your choices.

Perhaps, however, you would like to join us on an optional excursion that combines the historic, the battlefield of Waterloo, and the modern, a marvel of civil engineering, the Ronquières boatlift.

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Belgium Old and New—Waterloo and the Ronquières Boatlift





A motorcoach will carry you to the area where the Duke of Wellington, commanding the British army, and his allies, including the youthful Prince of Orange, dealt Napoleon his final defeat and put an end to more than 20 years of warfare that ranged from Lisbon to Moscow. The Battle of Waterloo took place over three rainy days in June 1815, with both sides suffering astronomical casualties. These days the site is dominated by the Lion Monument, a man-made tor topped with a statue of a lion, a symbol of bravery. You can climb the 225 steps to the apex for a fantastic view or stay below in the museum and watch the movie or study the panoramic painting of the battle.

Leaving the battlefield, you'll go to Ronquières. A modern marvel of civil engineering completed in 1968, the boatlift at Ronquières replaced fourteen locks and substantially reduced the time it took for boats to travel the Brussels-Charleroi canal. Boats are loaded onto two enormous caissons containing huge tanks of water and are lifted via rail about 200 feet (68 m) along an inclined plane that compensates for changes in

topography in the area. You'll visit the elevator tower for a view of the caissons and see the lift in operation. It takes about an hour for a boat to reach the top (or bottom) of the lift and continue on its voyage, and it's a fascinating sight.

A special Captain's Welcome Gala will be prepared for you this evening.

Day 3 | Antwerp BB, L, D

Featured Excursions: Antwerp walking tour and exclusive Belgian brewery with beer tasting    

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Visit the House of Rubens



Your ship will dock in Antwerp very early in the morning. Now the heart of the international diamond trade, Antwerp has a long history as a flourishing mercantile center that is reflected in its architecture and in its glorious artistic heritage.

Featured Excursions: Antwerp walking tour and exclusive Belgian brewery with beer tasting

The motorcoach carrying you into the heart of town will pass some notable sights, including the central railroad station, so stately a building it's known as the Railway Cathedral, and the zoo, one of the oldest in Europe and internationally noted for its breeding programs to save endangered species, before reaching the Zurenborg district.

Zurenborg is a neighborhood developed by affluent individualists during the Belle Epoque. Nowhere else in the city will you find such a mixture of residential architectural styles—Moorish palaces, Art Nouveau houses, Renaissance Revival castles—cheek by jowl. Slated for demolition in the mid-1960s, it was saved by an outpouring of opposition from both residents and nationally known architects. Now 170 buildings in the district enjoy protected status.

But Antwerp does not live in the past, and you'll drive through a district of contemporary architecture as well, including the New Palace of Justice, designed by Richard Rogers, who designed the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Millennium Dome in London. Sometimes called the Butterfly Palace for its winged roofs, it's also known as "*omgekeerde frietzakken*," meaning "twisted bag of french fries."

Reaching the Steen Castle, the remnants of the oldest building in Antwerp, you'll begin your walking tour of the city's historic core, including the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekathedraal (Cathedral of Our Lady), an amazing Gothic church built between 1352 and 1521 that is considered one of the most beautiful

structures in Belgium. It houses four masterworks by the legendary painter Peter Paul Rubens.

You'll then visit Grote Markt (Market Square) in the middle of the city, which is surrounded by stunning guild houses that boast 16th-century façades topped by gilded figures. You'll see the House of the Crossbowmen, the tallest guild house, which is surmounted by figures of St. George and the Dragon. Next is the Coopers' House, with a statue of St. Matthew. The splendid city hall also faces this square, with the Brabo Fountain in front of it. The fountain, a popular meeting point for locals, pays tribute to one of Antwerp's favorite legends.

Along with chocolate, the most beloved Belgian comestible export has to be beer, and this country takes its beer very seriously. We will take you on an exclusive visit to a family-owned brewery for a tasting, where you will learn how Belgium's brewing history traces its roots to the 17th-century Trappist monks who produced beer that they sold or traded for food for their community.

The afternoon is yours to spend as you will. You might check out the unusual boutiques in the pedestrians-only zone; Antwerp is a hub of avant-garde fashion, so these shops are full of unique clothing. Your local guides can tell you where to find whatever you are looking for—including the best Belgian ales or *frites* (french fries) when you want a break.

Remember that the city was home to an astounding concentration of artistic genius in the 16th and 17th centuries, among them Brueghel, van Dyck, and Rubens. You can explore exquisite museums on your own, or, for an intimate view of Antwerp's most famous painter, you might choose to join us on an optional excursion to the home and studio of Peter Paul Rubens.



Note: Cathedral may close without prior notice.




Irresistible Optional Excursion: Visit the House of Rubens

Rubens, a native of Westphalia, settled in Antwerp in 1609 and worked there for the rest of his life, until 1640. The palatial house he bought in 1616 is in a pedestrians-only zone in the heart of the city. A motorcoach will take you from the ship after lunch to a drop-off point, from which your guide will lead you past one of Horta's best-known buildings to the Rubens house. You'll see the studio where he and his assistants worked—the master generally painted the figures himself but left the backgrounds to others. While most of the masterworks he painted here have been dispersed to museums

around the world, many fine pieces remain. The house is furnished in 17th-century style, as it would have been in the artist's time, and the garden has been re-created in its Baroque splendor; you'll have time to wander through both after an art expert has guided you through the exhibits.

Day 4 | **Maastricht BB, L, D**

Featured Excursion: Maastricht walking tour  

Irresistible Optional Excursion: WWII Netherlands and American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten   

Your ship arrives in Maastricht this morning. The oldest city in the Netherlands, Maastricht is also the culinary capital of the nation.

Featured Excursion: Maastricht walking tour

Your guided stroll will introduce you to the culture and history of this Dutch provincial capital that straddles the river Meuse (Maas). Maastricht has played a strategic role in European politics—most recently hosting the 1992 signing of the treaty that gave the European Union the Euro. The city has a beautiful, historic center and enjoys the cultural influences of an international population of students intermixed with antique dealers, outstanding restaurants, world-class art, fabulous shopping, and a green market every day but Sunday.

In the afternoon you'll have time to explore on your own—you could check out the famous antique shops, the labyrinth of tunnels under the city known as the caves of St. Pieter, or the trendy boutiques and art galleries of the Wyck Quarter. The ship's dock is within easy walking distance of the city center, so you can drop your finds off and go back for more if you like.




Or you could join us for a special optional excursion to the WWII Netherlands and American cemetery in Margraten.

Irresistible Optional Excursion: WWII Netherlands and American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten


A motorcoach will carry you from the ship to the rolling hills of Limburg, where 8,301 American soldiers lie under white crosses and Stars of David. The only American battlefield cemetery in the Netherlands, it was used for the interment of soldiers who died fighting in the area following the Normandy invasion. A memorial is inscribed with the names of another 1,723 whose remains were never found or identified. Not only Americans visit this memorial—thousands of families from the Netherlands and surrounding nations come to honor those who fell liberating their countries from the Nazi occupation.

Day 5 | Venlo (Floriade or Venlo) BB, D

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:

Full-day at Floriade   

OR

Venlo walking tour  

An international horticultural expo, Floriade takes place just once every 10 years, and this year it is outside Venlo.

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion: Full-day at Floriade

Spend the entire day taking in art and cultural events that celebrate the botanical world. Shuttles will run throughout the day from the ship to Floriade Park. At the beginning of the day local guides will provide an introduction to Floriade's many offerings, and then you'll have free time to immerse yourself in the myriad horticultural, artistic, and architectural exhibits on display. The park is composed of five uniquely themed worlds connected by wooded areas. Dozens of countries from around the globe offer exhibitions; in addition to the stunning array of flowers, trees, fruits, and vegetables on display, each day features a cultural program of music, dance, literature, theater, and visual arts from around the world. The bustling entrance boulevard is lined with booths that reflect the international nature of the event; it's a great place to shop for souvenirs and sample cuisine from around the world as you enjoy lunch on your own.



Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion: Venlo walking tour

Venlo has been an important trade center since Roman times, a position it retains to this day as a European transportation hub. Because of its strategic importance on the River Meuse, it's been besieged many times, and during WWII it suffered considerable bomb damage. Your guided walking tour will show you some of its surviving Medieval buildings, including the city hall and Romer house. But Venlo is a lively regional capital, with cafés and shops galore, as well as museums. You'll have time to explore on your own after the tour. Take advantage of your guide's specialist knowledge and ask for advice to find the things that interest you the most.

Day 6 | Cruising the romantic Rhine River, Cologne




 BB, L, D

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:

Cologne walking tour with cathedral  

OR

Roman-Germanic Museum   

Featured Excursion: Exclusive Kölsch beer tasting   

This morning, relax as you sail along the Rhine to Cologne, enjoying the ravishing scenery from your ship's panoramic deck or perhaps taking advantage of the services of the masseur or one of the other attractions on your floating boutique hotel. In the afternoon you arrive in Cologne, which was founded by the Romans in 38 BC.

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion: Cologne walking tour with cathedral

You'll stroll through the narrow streets of Cologne's Altstadt (Old Town) with your guide, passing tiny squares and little churches, until you reach the awe-inspiring Kölner Dom (Cologne Cathedral)—the city's most famous landmark and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of the most important Gothic churches in Europe and the largest cathedral in Germany, Cologne Cathedral took 632 years to complete; its foundations were laid in 1248, but after initial rapid progress, construction ceased until 1842. The cathedral's completion in 1880 was celebrated by the entire country as a symbol of German unification.

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion: Roman-Germanic Museum




The Römisch-Germanisches Museum (Roman-Germanic Museum) details the history of the Romans along the Rhine. The museum was built on the walls of a Roman villa that was discovered in 1941; it contained an exceptionally well-preserved mosaic of Dionysus that is now part of the exhibits. Artifacts gathered here span the period from prehistoric times to the early Middle Ages and include the world's largest collection of Roman glass vessels, a unique assortment of Roman jewelry, and numerous finds illustrating everyday life in the Roman Empire. Perusing the items on display will give you insight into the storied past of the Roman city of Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium (the Roman name of Cologne), which became the capital city of the imperial province of Lower Germania.

Featured Excursion: Exclusive Kölsch beer tasting

Following your tour, mingle with the locals at a tavern for an exclusive tasting of Kölsch, the celebrated pale ale that is unique to the city. It's one of the few German beers to have a regional appellation similar to that given to wines, and it is always served in a straight-sided narrow glass.

The rest of the evening is yours to spend as you please, whether you go back to re-examine the city's architecture, explore a museum, or engage in world-class shopping on the downtown pedestrian mall.

Day 7 | Königswinter, cruising the romantic Rhine River, Cologne BB, L

Featured Excursion: Exclusive visit to Castle Drachenfels by cogwheel rail   

Awaken in the quaint village of Königswinter, which lies at the foot of the Siebengebirge (Seven Mountains), a lovely wooded mountain area that is one of Germany's most beloved nature preserves. Many more than seven mountains provide the dramatic backdrop to this storybook part of Germany, where, legend has it, Siegfried slew the dragon and the sinister Hagen sank the treasure in the Rhine—a tale immortalized in Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*.

The famous ruins the 12th-century Castle Drachenfels rest on the hill above Königswinter. The stunning view of the Rhine Valley from the ruins—with the far-off spire of Cologne Cathedral visible on a clear day—has inspired artists and poets for centuries; Byron devoted stanzas to it in his epic poem *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. Fortunately, you won't have to climb up the hillside to enjoy that view; you'll ride on a nostalgic cogwheel rail up to the dragon's lair. You'll also have an exclusive visit to a newer castle, Schloss Drachenfels, a 19th-century fantasy structure built by a wildly successful German stockbroker that combines Gothic-style spires and modern-day comforts. It has recently been restored with period furnishings and, for the first time in decades, admits visitors.

Then relax onboard your ship, enjoying the castle-dotted shores of this ravishing region as you sail back to Cologne.

A special Captain's Farewell Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

Day 8 | Depart Cologne, transfer to Düsseldorf

CB/BB  

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to the Düsseldorf Airport for your flight home.



Gems of Germany, Belgium & the Netherlands with Floriade

Cologne to Brussels | 8 Days

Discover a multitude of architectural gems, breathtaking landscapes, and culinary delights

Sail through three countries, visiting some of the most exciting cities in Western Europe and discovering the sights and sounds of this dynamic region. Experience cosmopolitan Brussels, the “Capital of Europe”; sparkling Antwerp, heart of the world's diamond trade; hip and sophisticated Maastricht, famous for its antiques and its food; Venlo, site of Floriade 2012, a decennial expo of all things botanical; and Cologne, home to the Cologne Cathedral, the tallest Gothic structure in Europe. Along the way, you'll find a fairytale countryside rich in UNESCO World Heritage Sites, imposing castles, and the romantic Rhine at its most scenic.

Discover the best of the old and the new. Visit museums that house the treasures of the old masters and galleries that display cutting-edge contemporary work. See historic battlefields and peaceful gardens, quaint villages and bustling urban centers.

Epicurean Adventurer Program



Program includes: Chocolate demonstration and tasting at the artisanal Planet Chocolate factory | Family brewery visit with beer tasting | Special wine and food pairing dinner

Day 1 | Düsseldorf, transfer to Cologne D




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Day 2 | Cologne BB, L

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:

Cologne walking tour with cathedral  

OR

Roman-Germanic Museum   

Featured Excursion: Exclusive Kölsch beer tasting   

The first day of your boutique cruise begins with a tough choice: You may take a walking tour of Cologne or visit a fascinating museum devoted to ancient Roman artifacts.

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion: Cologne walking tour with cathedral

You'll stroll through the narrow streets of Cologne's Altstadt (Old Town) with your guide, passing tiny squares and little churches, until you reach the awe-inspiring Kölner Dom (Cologne Cathedral)—the city's most famous landmark and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of the most important Gothic churches in Europe and the largest cathedral in Germany, Cologne Cathedral took 632 years to complete; its foundations were laid in 1248, but after initial rapid progress, construction ceased until 1842. The cathedral's completion in 1880 was celebrated by the entire country as a symbol of German unification.

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion: Roman-Germanic Museum

The Römisch-Germanisches Museum (Roman-Germanic Museum) details the history of the Romans along the Rhine. The museum was built on the walls of a Roman villa that was discovered in 1941; it contained an exceptionally well-preserved mosaic of Dionysus that is now one of the prize exhibits. Artifacts gathered here span the period from prehistoric times to the early Middle Ages and include the world's largest collection of Roman glass vessels, a unique assortment of Roman jewelry, and numerous finds illustrating everyday life in the Roman Empire. Perusing the items on display will give you insight into the storied past of the Roman city of Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium (the Roman name of Cologne), which became the capital city of the imperial province of Lower Germania.




Featured Excursion: Exclusive Kölsch beer tasting

Following your tour, mingle with the locals at a tavern for an exclusive tasting of Kölsch, the celebrated pale ale that is unique to the city. It's one of the few German beers to have a regional appellation similar to that given to wines, and it is always served in a straight-sided narrow glass.

The rest of the day is yours to spend as you please, whether you go back to re-examine the city's architecture, explore a museum, or engage in world-class shopping on the downtown pedestrian mall. Cologne is a sophisticated, contemporary city; your local guides will be happy to put their expertise at your disposal with suggestions.

A special Captain's Welcome Gala will be prepared for you this evening.

Day 3 | Königswinter, cruising the romantic Rhine River BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Exclusive visit to Castle Drachenfels by cogwheel rail   




Awaken in the quaint village of Königswinter, which lies at the foot of the Siebengebirge (Seven Mountains), a lovely wooded mountain area that is one of Germany's most beloved nature preserves. Many more than seven mountains provide the dramatic backdrop to this storybook part of Germany, where, legend has it, Siegfried slew the dragon and the sinister Hagen sank the treasure in the Rhine—a tale immortalized in Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*.

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Then relax onboard your ship and enjoy the castle-dotted shores of this ravishing region as you sail to your next destination.

Day 4 | Venlo (Floriade or Venlo) BB, D

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:

Full-day at Floriade   

OR

Venlo walking tour  

During the night, the ship left Germany behind; you'll awaken in the Netherlands. Your first stop is Venlo, named Europe's greenest city a few years ago and gateway this year to the exciting international horticultural expo Floriade.

Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion: Full-day at Floriade



Floriade occurs just once every 10 years, and this year it is outside Venlo. Spend the entire day taking in art and cultural events that celebrate the botanical world. Shuttles will run throughout the day from the ship to Floriade Park. At the beginning of the day local guides will provide an introduction to Floriade's many offerings, and then you'll have free time to immerse yourself in the myriad horticultural, artistic, and architectural exhibits on display. The park is composed of five uniquely themed worlds connected by wooded areas. Dozens of countries from around the globe offer exhibitions; in addition to the stunning arrays of flowers, trees, fruits, and vegetables on display, each day features a cultural program of music, dance, literature, theater, and visual arts from around the world. The bustling entrance boulevard is lined with booths that reflect the international nature of the event; it's a great place to shop for souvenirs and sample cuisine from around the world as you enjoy lunch on your own.




Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion: Venlo walking tour

Venlo has been an important trade center since Roman times, a position it retains to this day as a European transportation hub. Because of its strategic importance on the River Meuse, it's been besieged many times, and during WWII it suffered considerable bomb damage. Your guided walking tour will show you some of its surviving Medieval buildings, including the city hall and Romer house. But Venlo is a lively regional capital, with cafés and shops galore, as well as museums. You'll have time to explore on your own after the tour. Take advantage of your guide's specialist knowledge and ask for advice to find the things that interest you the most.

Note: On the April 1 departure, the order of sights will vary to accommodate the April 5 start date of Floriade.

Day 5 | Maastricht BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Maastricht walking tour  

Irresistible Optional Excursion: WWII Netherlands and American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten   

Your ship arrives in Maastricht this morning and docks within easy walking distance of the city's core. The oldest city in the Netherlands, Maastricht is also the culinary capital of the nation.

Featured Excursion: Maastricht walking tour

This morning's guided stroll of the city center introduces you to the culture and history of this Dutch provincial capital that straddles the river Meuse (Maas). Maastricht has played a strategic role in European politics—most recently hosting the 1992 signing of the treaty that gave the European Union the Euro. The city has a beautiful, historic center and enjoys the cultural influences of an international population of students intermixed with antique dealers, outstanding restaurants, world-class art, fabulous shopping, and a green market every day but Sunday.





The afternoon is yours to do with as you will—you could check out the famous antiques shops, the labyrinth of tunnels under the city known as the caves of St. Pieter, or the trendy boutiques and art galleries of the Wyck Quarter. The ship's dock is within easy walking distance of the city center, so you can drop off your finds and go back for more if you like.

Or you could join us for a special optional excursion to the WWII Netherlands and American cemetery in Margraten.

Irresistible Optional Excursion: WWII Netherlands and American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten

A motorcoach will carry you from the ship to the rolling hills of Limburg, where 8,301 American soldiers lie under white crosses and Stars of David. The only American battlefield cemetery in the Netherlands, it was used for the interment of soldiers who died fighting in the area following the Normandy invasion. A memorial is inscribed with the names of another 1,723 whose remains were never found or identified. Not only Americans visit this memorial; thousands of families from the Netherlands and surrounding nations come to honor those who fell liberating their countries from the Nazi occupation.

Day 6 | Antwerp BB, L, D

Featured Excursions: Antwerp walking tour and exclusive Belgian brewery with beer tasting    

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Visit the House of Rubens   

Your ship will dock in Antwerp in the morning. Now the center of the international diamond trade, Antwerp has a long history as a mercantile center.

Featured Excursions: Antwerp walking tour and exclusive Belgian brewery with beer tasting

The motorcoach carrying you into the heart of town will pass some notable sights, including the central railroad station, so stately a building it's known as the Railway Cathedral, and the zoo, one of the oldest in Europe and internationally noted for its breeding programs to save endangered species, before reaching the Zurenborg district.

Zurenborg is a neighborhood developed by affluent individualists during the Belle Epoque. Nowhere else in the city will you find such a mixture of residential architectural styles—Moorish palaces, Art Nouveau houses, Renaissance Revival castles—cheek by jowl. Slated for demolition in the mid-1960s, it was saved by an outpouring of opposition from both residents and nationally known architects. Now 170 buildings in the district enjoy protected status.

But Antwerp does not live in the past, and you'll drive through a district of contemporary architecture as well, including the New Palace of Justice, designed by Richard Rogers, who designed the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Millennium Dome in London. Sometimes called the Butterfly Palace for its winged roofs, it's also known as “*omgekeerde frietzakken*,” meaning “twisted bag of french fries.”

Reaching the Steen Castle, the remnants of the oldest building in Antwerp, you'll begin your walking tour of the city's historic core, including the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekathedraal (Cathedral of Our Lady), an amazing Gothic church built between 1352 and 1521 that is considered one of the most beautiful structures in Belgium. It houses four masterworks by the legendary painter Peter Paul Rubens.

You'll then visit Grote Markt (Market Square) in the middle of the city, which is surrounded by stunning guild houses that boast 16th-century façades topped by gilded figures. You'll see the House of the Crossbowmen, the tallest guild house,

which is surmounted by figures of St. George and the Dragon. Next is the Coopers' House, with a statue of St. Matthew. The splendid city hall faces this square, with the Brabo Fountain in front of it. The fountain, a popular meeting point for locals, pays tribute to one of Antwerp's favorite legends.

Along with chocolate, the most beloved Belgian comestible export has to be beer, and this country takes its beer very seriously. We will take you on an exclusive visit to a family-owned brewery for a tasting, where you will learn how Belgium's brewing history traces its roots to the 17th-century Trappist monks who produced beer that they sold or traded for food for their community.

The afternoon is yours to spend as you will. You might check out the unusual boutiques in the pedestrian-only zone; Antwerp is a hub of avant-garde fashion, so these shops are full of unique clothing. Your local guide can tell you where to find whatever you are looking for—including the best Belgian ales or *frites* (french fries) when you want a break.

Remember that the city was home to an astounding concentration of artistic genius in the 16th and 17th centuries, among them Brueghel, van Dyck, and Rubens. You can explore exquisite museums on your own, or, for an intimate view of Antwerp's most famous painter, you might choose to join us on an optional excursion to the home and studio of Peter Paul Rubens.

Note: Cathedral may close without prior notice.




Irresistible Optional Excursion: Visit the House of Rubens

Rubens, a native of Westphalia, settled in Antwerp in 1609 and worked there for the rest of his life, until 1640. The palatial house he bought in 1616 is in a pedestrians-only zone in the heart of the city. A motorcoach will take you from the ship after lunch to a drop-off point, from which your guide will lead you past one of Art Nouveau architect Victor Horta's best-known buildings to the Rubens house. You'll see the studio where he and his assistants worked—the master generally painted the figures himself but left the backgrounds to others. While most of the masterworks he painted here have been dispersed to museums around the world, many fine pieces remain. The house is furnished in 17th-century style, as it would have been in the artist's time, and the garden has been re-created in its Baroque splendor; you'll have time to wander through both after an art expert has guided you through the exhibits.

Day 7 | Brussels BB, L

Featured Excursions: Brussels city tour and exclusive chocolate demonstration and tasting at Planet Chocolate



Irresistible Optional Excursion: Belgium Old and New—Waterloo and the Ronquières Boatlift   

Brussels, the capital of Belgium, is also headquarters for most of the European Union's institutions and is the political seat of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Featured Excursions: Brussels city tour and exclusive chocolate demonstration and tasting at Planet Chocolate

Your panoramic morning tour of the city will take you from the contemporary to the historic. From the Atomium Monument, built for the 1958 World's Fair and a symbol of a modern Belgium, you'll travel up grand boulevards, where elegant palaces rub shoulders with the gleaming modern structures, and down narrow lanes, where citizens have lived and worked for hundreds of years.

You'll pass Fort Breendonk, used as a concentration camp by the Nazis and now a memorial; the Royal Residence; the Chinese Pavilion and Japanese Tower; the Royal Botanical Gardens; Heysel Park; and the Royal Church of Laken. You'll continue through the center of Brussels, seeing the Brussels Willebroek complex, the Basilica of Koekelberg, the former Botanical Gardens, and the Botanical Palace. You'll stop for a photo op at the Column of Congress and memorials to the unknown soldiers from both WWI and WWII.

The drive will then move along Rue de la Loi, where you'll see the Federal Parliament, the US Embassy, and Royal Park. You will proceed to Quartier Leopold (named for the first Belgian king), which is the European Parliament district today. Other points of interest along the way include Royal Park, Place Royal, and the Belgian Supreme Court.

Arriving at Rue Lombard, you'll leave the motorcoach and walk to the famed Manneken Pis fountain and Grand Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to further explore the area on foot.

No visit to Brussels would be complete without experiencing Belgian chocolate. Your guide will take you to Planète Chocolat (Planet Chocolate), one of the city's premier artisanal chocolate makers, where the *maitre chocolatier* will share his secrets and offer a sampling of his specialties.

In the afternoon, following lunch onboard, you can take a shuttle back into town to explore the city on your own. Brussels has been famous for centuries for its lace and its tapestries, as well as its chocolate and beer. Your Cruise Manager and

other crew members can recommend the best places to find these and other items. Look for antiques on the Place du Grand Sablon, or browse along the Avenue Louise for designer fashions. Gallerie St. Hubert, a gorgeous glass-roofed arcade dating back to 1847, houses cafés and luxury shops.

Brussels was a center of Art Nouveau art and architecture, and the city brims with beautiful examples of the movement: the Horta Museum, designed by Brussels' most famous architect, Victor Horta, for his own use; the Paul Cauchie house, Square Ambiorix—it's almost impossible to narrow down your choices.

Perhaps, however, you would like to join us on an optional excursion that combines the historic, the battlefield of Waterloo, and the modern, a marvel of civil engineering, the Ronquières boatlift.

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Belgium Old and New—Waterloo and the Ronquières Boatlift

A motorcoach will carry you the area where the Duke of Wellington, commanding the British army, and his allies, including the youthful Prince of Orange, dealt Napoleon his final defeat and put an end to more than 20 years of warfare that ranged from Lisbon to Moscow. The Battle of Waterloo took place over three rainy days in June 1815, with both sides suffering astronomical casualties. These days the site is dominated by the Lion Monument, a man-made tor topped with a statue of a lion, a symbol of bravery. You can climb the 225 steps to the apex for a fantastic view or stay below in the museum and watch the movie or study the panoramic painting of the battle.

Leaving the battlefield, you'll go to Ronquières. A modern marvel of civil engineering completed in 1968, the boatlift at Ronquières replaced fourteen locks and substantially reduced the time it took for boats to travel the Brussels-Charleroi canal. Boats are loaded onto two enormous caissons containing huge tanks of water and are lifted via rail about 200 feet (68 m) along an inclined plane that compensates for changes in topography in the area. You'll visit the elevator tower for a view of the caissons and see the lift in operation. It takes about an hour for a boat to reach the top (or bottom) of the lift and continue on its voyage, and it's a fascinating sight.

A special Captain's Farewell Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

Day 8 | Brussels CB/BB

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Brussels Airport for your flight home.

Tour and General Information

Frequently Asked Questions

What about the weather?

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions depending on your travel season and the river you will be cruising on. Layering clothing items is always your best bet, as this allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperature, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

What should I wear ashore?

Comfortable, sporty, smart-casual daywear is appropriate both onshore and onboard. For holiday season departures, you'll find that coats, sweatshirts, heavier cotton or wool tops and long-sleeved shirts, and corduroy or heavy khaki pants perfectly suitable. You will find a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Don't forget to pack a waterproof jacket (preferably hooded), or even a heavier-weight coat for colder temperatures.

I have concerns about my physical ability.

What do I do?

Guests with mobility concerns need to discuss their concerns with Uniworld staff in advance of their departure. Guests requiring the use of a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, motorized scooter, or walker, may not be able to participate in many shore excursions or use them onboard the ships. Also, guests who may be limited in their ability to walk long distances may also have difficulties as there is often uneven terrain on many shore excursions.

How accurate are the shore excursion/tour descriptions?

Uniworld does everything possible to ensure that shore excursions are performed as promoted and as outlined in the previous pages. In certain circumstances or for reasons beyond the control of Uniworld, it may not be possible or practical for the excursion to be performed exactly as written. The decision to not operate, to alter the operation, change content, and/or otherwise adjust or modify any element of the excursion as advertised is at the sole discretion of Uniworld, always taking into account the safety and best interests of

the guests, and the intent of the overall product delivery. Any such modifications to excursions will not result in eligibility for a refund.

Can the itinerary change? What happens if it does change?

You can count on the value of Uniworld's experience and regional knowledge to make sure you enjoy your cruise/tour even when conditions beyond our control occur. The very nature of a river, its sources, and networks of bridges and locks means that there will be times when weather or other conditions in a region require Uniworld to make adjustments and modifications to the operation of an itinerary. Although every effort is made to keep itineraries as advertised, Uniworld reserves the right to make changes and substitutions as may be necessary to ensure the safety of our guests and the vessels. Itineraries may need to be altered specifically because of water levels. Time permitting, every possible effort will be made to alert guests in advance of boarding of any known changes. Otherwise, all guests will be informed onboard of changes and amendments. Any changes to itineraries, including the addition of extensive motorcoach touring to effect delivery of the intended itinerary operation, will not result in eligibility for a refund.

What time will excursions depart?

All shore excursions are carefully coordinated to the ship's daily schedule. Just prior to dinner each evening, or perhaps earlier, your Cruise Manager will brief all guests about what activities will take place the next day. This briefing includes information about departure times, specifics about the shore excursions/tours not covered in this booklet, suggested shopping and restaurant recommendations, and other important information about the port of call. In addition to the briefing, a daily program will be distributed to each guest's stateroom every evening. This program provides a written overview of all events taking place the next day—whether onboard or ashore.

How can I book the optional excursions listed in the booklet?

Reservations for the optional excursions on your cruise can be made directly with your Cruise Manager onboard the ship. Charges for optional excursions will be added to your onboard account. On pre- and post-cruise extensions, payment for optional excursions will be made directly with your Local Host via credit cards. We cannot accept cash payments for optional excursions. A briefing will be held the day prior to

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