

# The Great European Journey May 16 - 27, 2026

mbark on an exhilarating European adventure steeped in storied history, grand architecture and 11-night itinerary. In Switzerland, discover unforgettable Montreux, hub of music and culture. Marvel at the beauty of Lake Geneva on a sightseeing cruise and the sweeping grandeur of the Alps during a panoramic train ride. Then board the sumptuous Viva One, boasting luxurious amenities and impeccable service, to enjoy a deluxe 7-night river cruise. Soak up the timeless beauty of the Rhine and Moselle rivers as you wind past storybook towns, terraced vineyards and forested hills crowned by castles. After embarking in Basel, Switzerland, call at Strasbourg, France; Heidelberg, Germany; Rüdesheim; Cochem; Cologne and Amsterdam, Netherlands. Add to your amazing European exploration with an optional post-tour extension in Amsterdam.

#### **Exclusive Highlights**

- Seven-night river cruise aboard Viva One, an exclusively chartered, deluxe river boat.
- Three nights in Montreux, Switzerland at a first-class hotel.
- Four UNESCO
   World Heritage sites –
   in Strasbourg, France;
   Upper Middle Rhine
   Valley and
   Cologne, Germany;
   and Amsterdam,
   Netherlands.
- —One UNESCO Creative City in Montreux, Switzerland





#### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Traveling Bulldogs...

#### Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us for an exceptional, 11-night European journey carefully crafted with the ease of a luxury hotel stay and the carefree comforts of river cruising. You'll bask in Switzerland's sensational scenery along the shores of Lake Geneva for three nights, then wend your way along the Rhine and Moselle Rivers for seven nights through France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Begin your fascinating explorations in Switzerland with three nights at the first-class Royal Plaza Montreux. Cruise on Lake Geneva and explore Gruyères and Basel. Board the exclusively chartered, deluxe Viva One, and savor the unfolding riverside scenery of terraced vineyards, castles and fairy-tale towns as you relax on deck. Daily shore excursions introduce you to Strasbourg, the Alsatian capital, in France; then Heidelberg, Rüdesheim, Cochem and Cologne in Germany; ending in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

This well-rounded itinerary, featuring guided excursions, luxurious accommodations and delectable cuisine on both land and water, has been an enticing favorite among travelers. Make plans today to secure your place on this Great European Journey for the best value!

Sincerely,

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**Executive Director** 

MSU Alumni Association

Clahra P. Smith

Leanna Smith, '09, '16

Assistant Director

MSU Alumni Association

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.





#### Day 1 | May 16

Depart home city for Geneva, Switzerland.

#### Day 2 | May 17 R

Geneva, Switzerland | Montreux

Take a scenic guided transfer to beautiful Montreux, where you'll check in to the first-class Royal Plaza Montreux, with panoramic views of Lake Geneva and the Alps. This afternoon, take a guided walk of the town, known as the lewel of the Swiss Riviera. Stroll along the lakeside promenade and through the picturesque Old Town, with its cobbled streets and multi-colored stone buildings. Join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception this evening.

#### Day 3 | May 18

B-L

Montreux | Lake Geneva

Visit the 13th-century Chateau de Chillon, an imposing medieval castle situated at the lake's edge. Then board a belle époque paddle-wheel steamboat for a cruise along the shores of Lake Geneva.

This scenic body of water—the largest lake in central Europe—was a requisite stop on the Grand Tour of Europe during the 19th century, and its beautiful vistas inspired many artists and writers. Savor a delicious lunch in the ship's elegant dining room as forested hillsides and picturesque villages glide by.

# Day 4 | May 19

Gruyères

By train, travel along the
Golden Pass route —
gazing out at breathtaking
Alpine scenery — from
Montreux to Montbovon.
From there, a short countryside
drive takes you to the charming

medieval town of Gruyères. At a local cheese factory, discover the secrets of the town's world-famous cheese, watch its production and try some samples. After lunch in one of the charming restaurants lining the cobblestoned main street, continue to the small village of Broc. Tour a chocolate factory to learn the secrets of chocolate-making and taste the delicious final product!

# Day 5 | May 20 B-L-D

Montreux | Basel | Embark
Marvel at the beautiful
vistas on a drive to Basel,
Switzerland's only port.
Ancient Basilia was a Roman



В



settlement established in 44 B.C. — nowadays it's a vibrant, art-filled city. Enjoy a guided tour and lunch at a local restaurant. Embark *Viva One*, settle in to your cabin and unpack.

# Day 6 | May 21 B-L-R-D

Strasbourg, France

Discover the medieval grandeur of Grand-Île, the historic center of Strasbourg and a UNESCO World Heritage site, during a walking tour. See the bridges and watchtowers of the 13th-century Ponts Couverts, and meander past the half-timbered houses in the canal-lined Petite France district, where tanners, millers and fishermen lived during the Middle Ages.

Visit Notre Dame Cathedral, an exquisitely ornamented Gothic beauty. Join the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner tonight.

# Day 7 | May 22

Mannheim, Germany for Heidelberg

Journey to romantic
Heidelberg to visit the ruins
of its grand castle, built in the
13th century, overlooking
the picturesque Neckar Valley.
Take a walking tour in the
lively, cobblestoned Altstadt
(Old Town), filled with
Renaissance and Baroque
gems such as the old bridge,
Alte Brücke.

## Day 8 | May 23

B-L-D

B-L-D

Rüdesheim | Lorelei Passage Arrive in the heart of Riesling wine country today. Aboard the Winzerexpress, a mini train, tour the vineyards and take in a stunning view of Rüdesheim and the Rhine. Wrap up with a wine tasting in the picturesque Old Town.

Return to the riverboat to cruise the enchanting Upper Middle Rhine Valley, also known as the Rhine Gorge. This UNESCO World Heritage site is dotted with some 40 hilltop castles. palaces and fortresses. Marvel at the breathtaking vistas, complete with vineyard terraces along the steep valley walls. Admire the striking outcrop called Lorelei Rock — a symbol of Rhine Romanticism that inspired myriad poems and songs.







#### Day 9 | May 24

B-L-D

#### Cochem

Sail through a splendid, narrow section of the Moselle River, lined with colorful towns and tiered vineyards, then dock in charming Cochem.

On a walking tour, stroll the cobbled streets and take in the squares and half-timbered houses. Visit Reichsburg Castle, perched atop a forested cliff high above the river, valley and town...a wonderful photo opportunity!

#### Day 10 | May 25

D-L-D

### Cologne

One of the largest European cities in medieval and Renaissance times, Cologne is known for its lively spirit. On a walking tour in the medieval Old Town, appreciate the

colorful buildings, stately squares and riverfront views. Cologne may be most famous for its magnificent Gothic cathedral, Kölner Dom, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This location has been occupied by Christian churches since the fourth century, and the current cathedral was built over a period of more than 630 years, completed in 1880.

## Day 11 | May 26

B-L-R-D

# Cruising |

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Set off on a private cruise of

Amsterdam's world-famous UNESCO-inscribed canals, which have been connecting the city since the early 17th century. Glide under iconic bridges and past brightly colored houses, stately stone



Kölner Dom, Cologne, Germany

buildings and hundreds of cyclists! This evening, attend the Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner, and raise a glass to your great European journey!

# Day 12 | May 27

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Amsterdam | Disembark | Return to Home City

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.





#### Royal Plaza Montreux

Located on the quays of Montreux, the Royal Plaza Montreux offers a unique setting with panoramic views of Lake Geneva and the Alps. Their 155 rooms & suites will seduce you with a comfortable, warm atmosphere and a breathtaking view of the lake. All are equipped with air conditioning, Wi-Fi, an assortment of hot drinks, bathrobes, slippers and complimentary toiletries.

#### **POST-TOUR EXTENSION**



# **Amsterdam**

May 27 to 29 (Program Ends: May 29)

Explore this captivating city graced with leafy canals, gabled houses and an untold number of bicycles! Visit a local farm to learn about cheese-making and try your hand at making Gouda. Soak up the inviting ambience and historic architecture of the picturesque harbor town of Edam. And finally, view acclaimed art by great Dutch Golden Age masters at the incomparable Rijksmuseum. Accommodations for two nights at the Renaissance Amsterdam Hotel.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,195 Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,695

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

#### **INCLUDED FEATURES**

- 3 nights at the first-class Royal Plaza Montreux in Montreux, Switzerland.
- 7-night deluxe cruise from Basel, Switzerland, to Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Included meals | 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners.
- All beverages liquor, wine, beer and nonalcoholic drinks and minibar — throughout the cruise and complimentary house wine and beer at lunch and dinner and nonalcoholic beverages at all meals during the land program.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program. (1 for every 40 guests).
- Expert lecturers and local guides enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- Enjoy breathtaking Alpine scenery as you travel from Montreux to Gruyères on the Golden Pass train.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary water is available in your room and on excursions.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

#### GOHAGAN & COMPANY AIR | Your Air, Your Way

Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
- Free group transfers and luggage handling for arrivals and departures during the designated transfer window.
- 24-hour emergency support throughout the program to handle any schedule changes and unexpected delays.
- Flexibility to change or cancel reservations up to 60 days prior to departure with minimal penalties on applicable tickets.

# TERMS \*The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 10/17/25 and paid in full at booking.

These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.

- Single supplements apply in select categories at 125% of the per person cabin fare, plus taxes, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200%. Special Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)
- Deposit amount is \$1,500 per person. Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.
- Full ship information and deck plans are available on our website at gohagantravel.com.
- Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time.
   Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/



The MS Viva One debuted in 2022. Guests are welcomed on board by friendly, multilingual and international crew members who take care of guests' well-being and comfort from morning til night. The ship's appointments are luxurious, yet the feeling is relaxed and easygoing. All staterooms and suites are equipped with flat-screen TV, included minibar, beauty products from RITUALS®, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning and en-suite bathrooms. The upper and middle deck staterooms and suites all have French balconies.





#### 2026 DEPARTURE DATE | May 16 to 27 | Tour Begins: May 17

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
D	Stateroom with panoramic window (does not open). 183 sq ft   Emerald (Deck 1), mid.	\$6,495	\$5,495
С	Stateroom with French balcony. 183 sq ft   Ruby (Deck 2), mid/aft.	\$7,395	\$6,395
В	Stateroom with French balcony. 183 sq ft   Diamond (Deck 3), mid/aft.	\$8,695	\$7,695
Α	Stateroom with French balcony. 194 sq.ft   Ruby & Diamond (Decks 2 & 3), fwd/aft.	\$9,895	\$8,895
S	Stateroom with walk-out balcony; lounge area. 269 sq ft   Diamond (Deck 3), fwd.	\$11,095	\$10,095

All staterooms are river-view and feature: air-conditioning with in-room temperature control and fan; spacious en-suite bathrooms; table with two armchairs; hair dryer; toiletries; complimentary Wi-Fi; electronic safe; Nespresso coffee maker; refillable water bottles.

 $All\ rates\ are\ in\ U.S.\ dollars,\ per\ person,\ based\ on\ double\ occupancy,\ including\ taxes\ (unless\ otherwise\ stated)$ 

## The Gohagan Difference - An Inclusive Luxury Experience

For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

- All Excursions
- Wi-Fi/Internet
- Beverage Package
- Port Charges & Gratuities
- Travel Director(s)



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Traveling Bulldogs...

Mississippi State University Alumni Association

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SPECIAL SAVINGS\* AVAILABLE SAVE \$2,000 PER COUPLE!