

River Cruise & Iceland

Depart Cairns 12 October at 10.55AM arrive Singapore 3.25PM – Silk

Accommodation: Peninsular/Excelsior IN: 12 October OUT: 13 October

Depart Singapore 13 October at 11.55PM arrive Frankfurt 14 October at 6.45AM – Singapore airlines
Depart Singapore 14 October at 9.20AM arrive Budapest 10.50AM – Lufthansa

Commence the following river cruise with Travelmarvel on the 14 October and ending in Amsterdam on the 28 October

Day 1 - Arrive Budapest

Arrive in Budapest today and be met at the airport. Board your Travelmarvel river ship and later this evening, enjoy an elegant Captain`s Welcome Reception. After wards, set off on a twilight cruise back along the Danube through the glittering heart of Budapest. Pass under the Chain Bridge and glide by the sparkling Hungarian Parliament Building perched right on the edge of the Danube River.

Day 2 - Budapest

Today, enjoy views of one of the Danube`s most enchanting riverside cities as you explore the heart of Hungary`s capital, Budapest. Learn how the twin cities of Buda and Pest were unified in the 19th century and are bisected by the Danube. Each of these historic cities displays their own character. After breakfast, a local guide will lead your discovery through the city. See Matthias Church, the Fisherman`s Bastion and Heroes` Square. Learn about the turbulent history of the regal Buda Castle and take the chance to see the spectacular Hungarian Parliament Building by day.

Day 3 - Vienna

Embrace the splendour of the former Habsburg empire in Vienna, a cultural utopia of music, art and food. Discover the sheer elegance of this opulent city as you drive around the Ringstrasse. Learn about some of the city`s most famous buildings - the Vienna State Opera House, the Museum of Fine Arts and more - as well as the city`s rich classical music culture and history. Upon arriving in the city centre, join a walking tour for an insider`s view of a number of landmarks, including St Stephen`s Cathedral, the Graben, Hofburg Palace and the Albertina. Perhaps stop and taste for yourself the cafe culture that influences this city so much. This evening you might choose to attend a wonderful concert

featuring a range of different music through the ages, including some compositions by Mozart and Strauss as well as music from the movie 'The Sound of Music.

Day 4 - Vienna

With a day at leisure today, you decide on how to shape your experience in Vienna. Perhaps visit the Spanish Riding School, or head to the Hofburg area and the Imperial Treasury, brimming with crowns and precious gems. If you're feeling peckish, perhaps head to a cosy coffee house where you can try a traditional Sachertorte - a chocolate tart with a lush apricot filling. You'll be spoilt for choice in a city so rich in great cafes, impressive historical buildings and fabulous shopping opportunities, so be sure to ask your expert Cruise Director for any insider tips. Otherwise, embark on an optional excursion. Perhaps visit Schonbrunn Palace, to see one of Austria's finest examples of baroque architecture. Or cross the border into Slovakia for a tour of Bratislava, discovering a soviet history that only ended in the 1980s. See communist buildings and monuments and learn about life in the soviet era before enjoying free time in Bratislava's Old Town.

Day 5 - Durnstein, Melk

Dock in Durnstein where you have free time to explore at your own pace. The town is overlooked by castle ruins perched dramatically on a hilltop. It was here that King Richard the Lionheart was held captive when he was caught trying to return to England through mainland Europe after being shipwrecked in the Adriatic at the end of the Third Crusade. A stroll to the ruined Castle of Durnstein leads you to some of the most beautiful vantage points, giving spectacular views of the Wachau Valley below. This steep path is worthwhile for those keen to explore by themselves. A walk through the cobbled streets leads to 16th-century town houses and taverns, while surrounding vineyards provide the opportunity to taste some of the local wine or the apricot schnapps this lovely little town is known for. Continue to Melk for a tour of magnificent Melk Abbey, an active Benedictine monastery since 1089. After your tour here, catch the coach back down to the river, or stroll through the forest back to your ship, which departs shortly after lunch. Ensure you are on the Sun Deck or in the Lounge as you cruise through the picturesque Wachau Valley, one of the most beautiful and famous in Austria.

Day 6 - Passau

Today you are spoilt for choice. You can choose to disembark and ride a bike along the riverside to the 'Three Rivers City' of Passau, where the rivers Inn and Ilz join the Danube. Alternatively, you have the option of embarking on a fascinating day excursion to the city of Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic, home to more than 300 historical buildings. Or travel to Salzburg and enjoy a tour of the sights from the classic movie 'The Sound of Music', including the famous Wedding Church. Those not undertaking a day trip remain on board, spending a relaxing afternoon cruising to Passau. Here, stroll past the city's colourful buildings that line the riverbank. Discover Passau's baroque character, owing to the fact it was rebuilt in the style after fires destroyed it in the 1600s.

Day 7 - Regensburg

Continue cruising along the Danube River to Regensburg, located at the meeting point of the Danube and Regen rivers. Here, join a guided walking tour which highlights the medieval city's story through the ages. There are plenty of well-preserved sights to see as Regensburg was lucky to escape most of the devastating bombings of World War II. See the ancient Stone Bridge, which gracefully arches across the water, as well as the Old Town Hall, the World Heritage-listed city centre and the Porta Pretoria - gates to a Roman fort built way back in AD179. As you will spend the morning in this charming city, docked right in the heart of town, another option is to borrow a bicycle and head off to explore the city or surrounding countryside on your own terms. Re-board your river ship for lunch and relax on board.

Day 8 - Nuremberg

Today your ship will enter the Main-Danube Canal, a feat of engineering, and take you across Europe's Continental Divide (435 metres above sea level) thanks to the canal's 16 stair-step locks. Continue to Nuremberg, which played a pivotal role for the Nazis during World War II. Learn about the city's Nazi era as you see such sights as the Zeppelin Field and the Palace of Justice, before paying a visit to the site of Hitler's infamous Nuremberg rallies, held annually from 1927 to 1938. Nuremberg is a great place to explore in its own right, as you'll learn while wandering the cobblestone streets discovering boutiques and artisan stores.

Day 9 - Bamberg

Spend a morning cruising along the last stretch of the Main-Danube Canal before arriving at the World Heritage-listed city of Bamberg. Here you can choose between an afternoon of free time or a

guided tour, during which you'll gaze upon such sights as the Old Town Hall and the Bamberg Cathedral. A visit to one of the historic taverns, complete with locals enjoying pretzels and steins of smoked ale, is a great way to get a taste for the Bavarian culture.

Day 10 - Wurzburg

After an early breakfast, board a coach and travel through the green rolling hills and rich vineyards which sit on the fringe of the pretty town of Wurzburg. The architectural beauty that defines Wurzburg is on show today as you admire its magnificent baroque palace, the Wurzburg Residence. This impressive building brought together the leading architects of the 18th century from Germany and France. A walk through the Court Garden is a delight, with its terraced gardens and water basin encircled by stunning yew trees. Enjoy free time to explore. After lunch, you might like to enhance your journey even further with an excursion to medieval Rothenburg. On arrival embark on a walking tour and discover the magical Christmas museum and shop, as well as narrow cobblestone streets and alleys, overlooked by imposing towers and ramparts. With all guests back on board the ship this evening, sit down to a delectable dinner with your fellow travellers as you cruise this evening towards Miltenberg.

Day 11 - Miltenberg

Disembark your river ship and travel through the evocative town of Miltenberg, with its many half-timbered buildings dating from the 15th to 18th century. Later this evening, enjoy a superb dinner on board before settling into the Lounge to watch the glittering lights of medieval towns and villages glide past as you cruise through the night.

Day 12 - Rudesheim, Rhine Gorge

Dock in Rudesheim, and board the Winzerexpress mini-train, bound for Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. Admire delicate songbird boxes and curious musical dolls. Later, stroll back to your river ship, via alleys lined with shops and cafes, perhaps stopping for a decadent Rudesheimer coffee along the way. Though the colours of the Rhine Gorge change according to the season, the steep slopes and vineyards are always a beautiful sight to behold. As are Lorelei Rock and Pfalzgrafenstein Castle which, contrary to their surrounds, have remained largely unchanged

over the centuries. Ensure you are on the Sun Deck with your camera as you cruise this picturesque stretch of river.

Day 13 - Cologne, Bruhl

As you cruise into the riverside city of Cologne, the sheer magnitude of the history of the region becomes apparent as your Cruise Director tells of how the twin spires of the famous cathedral, the Kolner Dom, took over six centuries to complete. Head to the Sun Deck as this magnificent architectural masterpiece comes into view and marvel at the tenacity of its craftsmen and builders. Disembark your ship in Cologne and take the short drive to Bruhl. Later, return to Cologne and enjoy free time to discover over 2,000 years of history in the Old City. There is something for everyone - from artisan chocolates to architecture displaying each period through the ages.

Day 14 - Amsterdam

Today, cruise to the eclectic city of Amsterdam. Clustered by historic houses and studded with low bridges, Amsterdam's network of 17th-century canals lends the city its famous charm. Perhaps the best way to get to know Amsterdam is aboard a glass-top boat. Today, you'll join a local guide who will regale you with stories of daily life as you glide through the city's maze of waterways. Back on land, enjoy some free time at Museum Square with time for a photo in front of the 'I amsterdam' sign. Perhaps grab a map to explore the canal-crossed streets lined with unique tall and narrow buildings that epitomise this carefree, cosmopolitan city. Enjoy a myriad of great shopping opportunities, stopping to see the traditional blue and white Delftware pottery and making sure to visit one of the many artisan cheese makers or chocolatiers found in the traditional tall houses that line the canal shores. Perhaps visit the bustling Dam Square, or art lovers might want to explore the city's thriving art scene. Enjoy a Captain's Farewell Dinner back on board your river ship later this evening.

Day 15 - Disembark Ship, Depart Amsterdam

After breakfast, disembark your river ship and transfer to the airport for your onward flight

Accommodation: NH Amsterdam city centre IN: 28th October OUT: 29th October

Depart Amsterdam 29th October at 1.00PM arrive Reykjavik 3.10PM – Iceland air

Commence the following tour in Reykjavik on the 29th October and ending in Reykjavik on the 3rd November

[Day 1: Reykjavik](#)

Hallo! Welcome to Iceland. The world's northernmost capital of Reykjavik lies just below the Arctic Circle. The city sees around four hours of sunlight a day in winter and 22 hours or more in summer. Surrounded by volcanic peaks and crystalline ocean, and boasting a vibrant arts and nightlife scene, Reykjavik's contrasts are utterly beguiling. Why not arrive early and head to the National Museum, which depicts the history of Iceland from the 9th century, when the first Vikings from mainland Scandinavia arrived and settled, to the present day, or join locals who gossip and chatter in the Laugardalslaug Geothermal Pool.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information

Your adventure begins with a Welcome Meeting at 6pm today – see reception for more details. If you can't arrange a flight that will arrive in time, you may wish to arrive a day early. We'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability). If you're going to be late, please inform the hotel reception. We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so please have these on hand. You can check in at the joining point hotel anytime after 2pm. While early check-in is not guaranteed, feel free to store your luggage until needed. Please note that the guest rooms may be spread across a number of buildings all situated along a quiet street in central Reykjavik, a 5-minute walk from each other.

[Day 2: Reykjavik / Golden Circle / Hvolsvollur Area](#)

This morning take a short guided walk of Reykjavik, and visit the old harbour, the city center and the famous Hallgrímskirkja church. Following the route of the 'Golden Circle', visit Þingvellir National Park, the site of Iceland's first parliament, founded in 930, and a geological wonder where the American and Eurasian tectonic plates are pulling apart. Next, head to Iceland's Geysir geothermal area, where you'll see the Strokkur geyser shoot water 30 metres into the air. Be spellbound by the immense beauty and sheer power of the Gullfoss Waterfall, also known as Golden Falls, before continuing on to the Hvolsvollur Valley, where you'll spend the night on an Icelandic farm that has been converted into a guesthouse. The Northern Lights (also known as the Aurora Borealis) are a natural display of coloured lights in the night sky that are often visible in the high northern hemisphere. Colours of the Northern Lights vary from person to person, with most people seeing them as pearly-grey with hints of greens and reds. Far away from the city lights, the guesthouse is an ideal Northern Lights base. If the skies are clear tonight, why not take a stroll out into the snow and look skywards for the dancing green lights.

Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

Included Activities

- Golden Circle (Thingvellir National Park, Strokkur Geysir, Gullfoss Waterfall)
- Reykjavik Walking Tour

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

Total driving distance approximately 250 kilometres / 4 hours. Please note that while there is a good chance of seeing the lights of the aurora this far north, there is no guarantee, as they are a natural phenomenon and weather conditions can affect visibility. There are a number of apps you can download that show current and forecast activity of the aurora around the world. Some of these apps have a function that allow you to be alerted at night when the aurora becomes visible in your current location. Remember to pack warm clothes, as temperatures can drop to below -5°C .

[Day 3: South Coast / Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon](#)

Start the day with a trip to the eerily beautiful Skógafoss waterfall, one of the biggest waterfalls in Iceland. Skógafoss is a giant of a waterfall, 25 metres wide and also dropping down 60 metres. You can get up close and feel its power, and also climb a (long) windy set of stairs up to a stunning viewpoint. On a sunny day you should be able to spot a rainbow or two in the spray. Continue along Iceland's South Shore to take in more of the country's renowned natural wonders. From the stepping-stone rock formations of Reynisdrangar, the promontory of Dyrhólaey, and the night black sand beach of Reynisfjara, this is one of the country's most scenic regions. En route you will pass the lava of the Laki eruption of 1782 to 1783. In the afternoon, you will visit the famous Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon, a stunning sea of floating icebergs whose blue contrast with the charcoal coloured sand of the beach. Stop for the night at a farm stay on the South Coast. Weather permitting, there will be another opportunity to step outside and witness the natural wonders of the Northern Lights tonight.

Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

Included Activities

- Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon
- Skogafoss Waterfall
- Dyrhólaey & Reynisdrangar

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

Total driving distance approximately 350 kilometres / 5 hours

[Day 4: Skaftafell National Park / Vik](#)

Today drive to Skaftafell National Park, where you'll have the option take a walk on Europe's biggest ice cap – Vatnajökull – which has around 30 glaciers flowing out from it. No experience is necessary to partake in the hike. Alternatively just embark on a hike to the glacier's tongue. It's sobering to think that the glacier is retreating due to rising world temperatures, and in some years the glacier may be gone. Later on today, journey on to the black sand seaside town of Vik for lunch and some free time to explore. With the sea on one side and high cliffs on the other, this dramatically positioned quaint little village is Iceland's most southerly mainland settlement.

Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

Included Activities

- Skaftafell National Park

Optional Activities

- Skaftafell Glacier Walk - ISK9500

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

Total driving distance approximately 250 kilometres / 3-4 hours. Please note that today's optional activities are subject to a minimum number of participants. Your leader will advise you of details and can suggest alternatives.

[Day 5: Reykjavik](#)

This morning we make our way back to Reykjavik. Iceland's capital has an eclectic arts and music scene, an abundance of quirky cafes and a laid-back vibe. Perhaps browse some of the city's great art galleries. If you feel like something more active, you can take an optional ride on an Icelandic horse or see killer whales just off-shore on a whale watching expedition. Alternatively, if you haven't had enough of the Northern Lights yet, you could head out of town to chase them again this evening, or while away the hours with a soak in the geothermal waters of the famous Blue Lagoon. Whatever you choose, tonight perhaps gather together your fellow Icelandic adventurers and celebrate the end of this Northern Lights Escape.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities

- Blue Lagoon - ISK9500
- Settlement Exhibition - ISK1650
- Saga Museum - ISK2100
- Whales of Iceland Museum - ISK2900
- Maritime Museum - ISK1650
- Harpa Concert Hall - Free
- Volcano House - ISK1590
- Perlan Museum - ISK2900
- Silfra Fissure Snorkelling Day Trip - ISK20490
- Laugarvatn Fontana Geothermal Baths - ISK3800
- Nauthólsvík Thermal Beach - Free
- Fludir Secret Lagoon - ISK3000

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

Total driving distance approximately 200 kilometres / 3 hours. Please note that arrival back into Reykjavik is usually between 12 and 1pm. Please do not book any time slots for the Blue Lagoon before 3pm. Please also keep in mind that the Blue Lagoon has limited availability, and during peak times tickets sell out far in advance. We recommend you book your time slot online in advance if you would like to be sure of a certain time/date for your visit: bluelagoon.com.

[Day 6: Reykjavik](#)

Today is departure day and time to say 'sjaumst'. As there are no activities planned, you are able to depart the hotel at any time. Check out time is at midday. If you are departing later, you can arrange to store your luggage at the hotel. If you would like to stay longer, we are happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability).

Depart Reykjavik 03 November at 7.40AM arrive Amsterdam 11.50AM – Iceland air

Accommodation: Movenpick Hotel Amsterdam city centre IN: 03 November OUT: 04 November

Depart Amsterdam 04 November at 10.25AM arrive Singapore 05 November at 5.55AM – Singapore airlines

Accommodation: Peninsular/Excelsior IN: 05 November OUT: 06 November

Depart Singapore 06 November at 8.40AM arrive Cairns 5.20PM – Silk air

Cost per person \$11,395*pp and includes the following:

- Airfares
- Airport taxes
- 2 nights accommodation in Singapore
- 2 nights accommodation in Amsterdam
- 15-day river cruise in a French balcony cabin including all meals, sightseeing as per itinerary and drinks with lunch and dinner
- 6-day tour including sightseeing as per itinerary and breakfast daily