# **CONNECTIONS** by Abercrombie & Kent

2024

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BOUTIQUE GROUP JOURNEYS

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# Experience authentic local access in Europe and beyond, on a revealing boutique journey led by experts.

I have found more travellers than ever before are looking for experiences that immerse them in the daily life of their destination. **Connections**<sup>®</sup> **Boutique Group Journeys** are designed to do just that, revealing local people, culture and cuisine at their most authentic and intimate.

Whether you travel on a land journey or a river cruise, A&K connects you to off-the-beaten-path locales for experiences as enriching as they are unforgettable: Learn pesto-making from an expert on Italy's splendor-filled Ligurian coast, explore pivotal sites of the Battle of the Bulge from a U.S. Army Jeep in Bastogne or sit down to a private dinner and fado performance on an elegant evening in Lisbon.

No matter which journey you choose, you will travel with a Resident Tour Director<sup>®</sup> who leads your group of just 24 guests from start to finish, and stay in expertly chosen boutique hotels that reflect the character of your destination.

I invite you to enjoy unrivaled local access — backed by our more than 60 years' experience in small group travel — on any of the inspiring Connections journeys presented in this 2024 portfolio.



Charlen leave

Geoffrey Kent Founder & Chairman Emeritus Abercrombie & Kent

Follow @geoffrey\_kent on Instagram

On the Cover: The charming Swiss capital of Bern. Visit it in style with A&K – see Page 20 for details.







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# From our earliest journeys up to the present day, we've set the standard for authentic and immersive travel.

# Our Unmatched Legacy of Service, Expertise and Authenticity

Abercrombie & Kent is the world's premier experiential travel company, with an unrivaled legacy of creating memorable adventures in the world's most compelling destinations. Our on-site experts work tirelessly to design authentic boutique experiences you won't find anywhere else, orchestrating every aspect of your journey down to the last detail.

Each Connections Boutique Group Journey combines the best of A&K expertise and style with handpicked boutique hotels and beyond-theguidebook access to daily life, all of which come together to create a true lifelong connection to each destination you visit, every time you travel with us.

# We Stake Our Reputation on Every Journey

A&K's service and reputation are tested every day against the most discerning audience: our guests. And time and again, we pass the test, creating seamless travel experiences in nearly any destination. More than sixty years in the making and backed by thousands of journeys and countless miles, our reputation rests on one singular goal: deliver the best-possible travel experience to every guest, every time. With numerous A&K offices in Europe part of a global network of more than 55 our local presence is unmatched by any other travel company.









# Our deep-rooted local access takes you places no one else can, with an authenticity no one else can match.

# The Difference Local Access Makes

For A&K, having our own local staff is only the beginning. We build lasting one-on-one relationships with the people who know your destination best, from craftspeople and chefs to experts in local art and history. What does this mean for you as an A&K Connections guest? It means you experience each stop on your journey from a truly local perspective. We don't just bring you to the beautiful hamlet of Oropos — you delve into the rich secrets of Greek cuisine with a local family and share lunch with them at their table. And you don't simply observe daily life in Morocco's High Atlas Mountains as a passerby, you visit with local Berber families in their private homes.

## Resident Tour Directors With Deep Local Ties

If there's one thing A&K guests consistently value most about their journeys, it is their Resident Tour Director — more than 95 percent of our guests rate them as "Excellent." Year-round experts, our Resident Tour Directors have lived for decades, sometimes even their entire lives, in the places you visit and possess the kind of insight into local culture that can only come from being a local themselves. Overseeing your entire journey, they accompany you every day, sharing their unique understanding of daily life as well as your destination's culture, history and cuisine. The result is a journey that reveals the real spirit of a place, connecting you to the people and places you encounter in a way you'll never forget.



"Our Tour Director made our Iceland trip extraordinary! His knowledge and expertise were vast and he shared his love of Iceland and made us love it as well!"

- Nancy; Los Angeles, CA

Share one-of-a-kind boutique experiences with fascinating local people.

Sit down to a private dinner accompanied by an evocative fado performance in Lisbon. **Portrait of Portugal** 

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## Immersive Travel at Its Finest

Connections Boutique Group Journeys reveal the distinct culture of a place, connecting you to it and its people in unexpected and unforgettable ways. Experience authentic local interactions at every turn, perhaps mingling with locals at Barcelona's La Boqueria on **Spain: Seven Cities** or getting the knack of yodeling in a fun class on **Switzerland & the Italian Lakes**.

#### Authentic Meals in Every Destination

Sampling delicious new food can be just as exciting as seeing the destination. We choose vibrant restaurants favored more by the locals than by tourists and arrange memorable dining opportunities that range from a fresh-made lunch at a geothermally heated greenhouse in Iceland to a tasting at an organic buffalo mozzarella farm in Campania, Italy. Every journey also includes festive welcome and farewell dinners, a wonderful way to connect with the new friends you've made.

# Intimate Groups of No More Than 24 Guests

Travel with no more than 24 guests, which allows for more intimate access to places and experiences that larger groups can't manage. Whether by land or by river, travelling in these privileged small groups also brings added opportunities to get to know your Resident Tour Director as well as your fellow guests in a relaxed, casual atmosphere.

## Connections European River Cruise Journeys

Discover the charm of the Old World on a small-group boutique river cruise experience that only A&K can bring to life. Every journey offers a comprehensive itinerary that reveals your destination on and off the water, including vital cultural hubs before or after your cruise, featuring the same carefully chosen boutique accommodations as our land journeys. Throughout, explore alongside local experts on enriching excursions that are exclusive to Connections guests. When dining on board, your Connections group sits at specially reserved tables, joined by your Resident Tour Director, and going ashore, your small group dines at local restaurants — something no one else on your cruise does.

"A fabulous experience, with history, a great museum, excellent hotels and good variety, and our guide made it wonderful for all guests. He was just a gem!"

— William; Webster, NY

Visit a Berber village and experience warm Moroccan hospitality at its best. **Morocco: Imperial Cities** 



with a local culinary expert. Italy's Jewels: Cinque Terre & the North



# Our experts handpick exceptional boutique hotels that complement your journey.

Chateau d'Urspelt Luxembourg

# One-of-a-Kind Heritage and Authentic Local Character

On your Connections Boutique Group Journey, unwind in intimate boutique hotels that sometimes began as private mansions, government residences or religious centers, and that feature a special heritage that lives on in every guest room and public space. With its own unique story, every hotel provides a palpable sense of place that feels like the destination of which it is a part. The Vintage House is set among the ancient vineyards of the Douro Valley, while Hotel Husafell, with its contemporary, eco-friendly design, showcases the beautiful Icelandic wilderness.

# Easy Access to the Most Desirable Neighborhoods

Perhaps the most important feature of a great hotel is its location, and that's why the experts who create Connections Boutique Group Journeys choose properties that put the heart of a neighborhood right at your doorstep. Stay at Catalonia Ronda in Spain for views of the historic bullring from a rooftop infinity pool, or at ROMEO Hotel, set in the heart of Naples and only steps from San Carlo Theater and the world-famous Spaccanapoli — crammed with boutique shops, bars, galleries, street musicians and fruit vendors.

# Just the Right Size for Comfort and Convenience

Because their clients travel in larger groups of 40 or more, other tour companies must accommodate their clients in high-rise chain hotels with no sense of intimacy. Our boutique hotels typically have around 100 rooms (many have far fewer), ensuring you don't return from a day's sightseeing having to reach your room through a crowd of other guests.



# Upgrade Your Accommodations

Talk to an A&K Travel Consultant or your travel advisor about elevating your experience with a higher room or cabin category.





# Wherever you travel, we deliver peace of mind from start to finish.

# A Reassuring Local Presence From the Moment You Arrive

The A&K difference becomes clear as soon as you arrive and meet your representative, who assists with your luggage and escorts you privately to your hotel — on a Connections Boutique Group Journey, you don't share a vehicle on arrival transfers, even with other A&K guests.

# Private Transfers and Gratuities Included

Private arrival and departure transfers are always included with your journey, regardless of when you choose to arrive or depart. Likewise, all of your gratuities are included, save for your Resident Tour Director, which is at your sole discretion.

## Departure Dates and Prices Are Always Guaranteed

Book your journey with confidence, knowing we won't cancel. A&K Connections Boutique Group Journeys are guaranteed to depart with a minimum of two guests.\* And if the price you pay for your journey drops after you book, we'll refund the difference.

# Stay Connected on Us

Don't wait for your trip to end to share photos and stories with the folks back home — enjoy complimentary Internet access during hotel stays, along with ship-wide Wi-Fi available free to Connections guests on each of our European River Cruise Journeys.



# Included With Every Connections Boutique Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Boutique Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- ► Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- ► Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- ▶ 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures
  With Just Two Guests\*

\*Iceland: Geysers & Glaciers Departures Are Guaranteed to Operate With Four Guests





# Add to your journey — or make it completely your own.

# Create the Comprehensive Travel Experience You're Looking For

A&K can craft an end-to-end adventure around your Connections Boutique Group Journey, adding anything from upgraded accommodations to completely customized pre- or post-tour itineraries, all with the goal of making your journey a one-of-a-kind trip of a lifetime. Whatever your tastes, A&K can connect you to each destination in ways no one else can.

# Travel on a Journey Made Just for You

Are you looking for a made-to-order journey that aligns exactly with your interests from start to finish? Our experts can create a Luxury Tailor Made Journey around all the things you like to see and do when travelling, allowing you to experience the destination the way you want. Contact A&K or your travel professional, and discover the world of possibilities available with Luxury Tailor Made Travel.





# When it comes to flying, let an A&K Air Concierge handle the details.

# Count on Our Air Experts to Always Go the Extra Mile

Thanks to our long-established partnerships with the world's premier carriers — not to mention decades of experience — booking your air with A&K affords you a multitude of benefits. Your Air Concierge always knows the best flights that work with your itinerary's start and end times, and in the event a flight is delayed or canceled, we're there 24/7 to assist you and make sure you enjoy your journey as planned. We offer special fares where available, as well as the freedom to earn mileage points as your carrier allows and to cancel your reservation up to a day before departure (fees may apply).

Contact us or your travel professional to learn more about the benefits of booking your flights through A&K.

# Purchase A&K's Guest Protection Program with optional Cancel for Any Reason.

A&K's Guest Protection Program helps protect your trip payment should you have to cancel your trip on short notice for covered reasons, if a medical emergency arises while travelling, or your baggage is lost or damaged. Serviced by Aon Affinity, with insurance benefits underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company, the Guest Protection Program provides coverage for trip and baggage delays as well as emergency medical evacuation. Aon also provides convenient online claims filing.

For increased flexibility, upgrade your Guest Protection Program benefits to include Cancellation For Any Reason, which if purchased within 14 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received, allows you to cancel your journey up to two days before your trip departure and be reimbursed – no matter the reason. Additional cost and terms apply.

To obtain your state-specific plan documentation that contains the complete terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions of the plan, visit www.affinitytravelcert.com/ABK/GPP.

For important disclaimers on A&K's Guest Protection Program please see page 67.

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# A rewards program made to order for passionate travellers.

# Welcome to Marco Polo Club®

Marco Polo Club extends complimentary membership to guests who travel on three or more journeys with Abercrombie & Kent, USA. Among the club's benefits is a five-percent discount on almost any new booking made within nine months of returning from an A&K journey — a savings that members can pass on to any immediate family travelling with them. As an added benefit, solo travellers are entitled to a 50-percent savings on most single supplements booked at any time.

Marco Polo Club members also enjoy recognition in other ways, with a place on the priority wait list for sold-out journeys, a members-only onboard reception on A&K Luxury Expedition Cruises<sup>54</sup> and a variety of exclusive communications and events. To learn more about A&K's Marco Polo Club, visit **akmarcopolo.com**.

Abercrombie & Kent



Experience the finest in authentic boutique travel.

To book your journey, contact an A&K Travel Consultant today by calling **800 323 7308** Monday through Friday (9–5 CT), or speak to your travel advisor. Find more information online at **abercrombiekent.com**.

# A&K Philanthropy partners with local communities to empower lasting change.

# Building on a Legacy of Partnership

Established in 1982, Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy (AKP) is dedicated to giving back to the vibrant environments and communities we are so privileged to explore. As part of our ongoing mission, AKP partners with local communities to improve education, conservation, health care and enterprise with nearly 55 projects spanning seven continents — a philanthropic commitment unequalled in the travel industry.

# Experience an AKP Project Firsthand

A number of our small-group journeys offer opportunities to visit an AKP partner community, affording a wealth of moving experiences you won't find anywhere else. Whether it's celebrating a newly opened maternity ward or serving lunch to local schoolchildren, many of our guests experience their journeys' most impactful moments during these visits.

# Sharing Genuine Perspectives

AKP employs a team of dedicated Philanthropy Coordinators stationed throughout the world, allowing for deeper, more meaningful cultural exchanges. AKP Coordinators facilitate the face-to-face interactions that reveal the true fabric of these communities, from speaking with a local teacher in a Kenyan village to witnessing the impact of clean water wells in rural Cambodia.

"In just the past few years, travellers introduced to our AKP-supported projects during their journeys helped improve the lives of more than 125,000 men, women and children worldwide through donations to nearly 55 programs in 24 countries. That's the impact that travel can make."

— Geoffrey Kent, Founder & Chairman Emeritus, Abercrombie & Kent











With more than 55 projects worldwide, these are just a few of the AKP visits you can experience firsthand.

## EDUCATION

Children of the Rainbow School

In Peru's Sacred Valley, visit a special school providing an oasis of education, nutrition, medical care and hope to the region's least-privileged children.

## CONSERVATION

Save the Albatross Learn about a campaign to protect Antarctica's albatross species, 15 of which are threatened with extinction by deep-sea fishing hooks.

## **HEALTH CARE**

Cambodia Clean Water Project

See how clean wells are turning the tides of waterborne illness and fostering a healthier future for local families in rural Cambodian villages.

## ENTERPRISE

Sishemo Bead Studio

Visit Nakatindi Village in Zambia to see how a small group of local women support their families and community through traditional glass bead making.



For a complete list of AKP projects and visit opportunities, or to make a tax-free donation, please visit **akphilanthropy.org**.

Stay in the heart of Palermo's historic city center



# Sicily, Puglia & the Amalfi Coast

11 days from \$8,795 | Limited to 24 guests





Experience the glories of Southern Italy on a panoramic journey revealing authentic cuisine and culture as well as the slow pace of rural life. Discover Sicily's ancient ruins, exotic landscapes and the rocky shores of breathtaking Capri.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Step back in time to explore Sicily's incredible Greek and Roman remains, as well as the mountain-carved city of Matera
- Savor the flavors of Italy with a private buffalo mozzarella tasting and a visit to a Puglian olive oil producer
- Take an A&K-exclusive guided tour of Palazzo Francavilla with the owner, and savor refreshing aperitifs
- Visit Roman Herculaneum a town once submerged by mud and lava – and drive the stunning Amalfi Coast Road to Positano
- Stop in Corleone for an introduction to the Sicilian Mafia, an aspect of life in the region for years

# DAY 1: Arrive Palermo, Italy

Arrive in Palermo, Sicily's lively capital, and transfer to your hotel located in the city's historic center. Sicily has a long history of stubborn independence from the political forces of mainland Italy, and today remains an autonomous region with its own distinct history and culture. Join your Resident Tour Director tonight for a welcome dinner. Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa | Meals: D



DAY 2: **Palermo** | Treasures of Norman Architecture Join a local guide for a walk through a ninth-century Norman Royal Palace with its glittering, mosaic-laden chapel. Still in use today as the headquarters of Sicily's Parliament, the palace is the oldest royal residence in all of Europe. Then, journey to the hillside town of Monreale and enter its extravagant cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dating from 1170, it is perhaps the finest surviving example of Norman architecture anywhere in the world, and its mosaic-lined walls are breathtaking to behold. Return to Palermo with the rest of the afternoon at leisure to explore more of this unique port city. Later, enjoy an A&K-exclusive visit to the beautiful Palazzo Francavilla for a private tour and an apéritif with the owner. Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa | Meals: B

DAY 3: **Agrigento** | The Dark History of Cosa Nostra Today, travel across Sicily's rugged, mountainous countryside to the southern coast. Stop in the small village of Corleone, birthplace of several Mafia bosses (including fictional characters in *The Godfather*). The Mafia — or, as its members call it, Cosa Nostra (literally, "our thing") — has vexed Sicily for well over a century, thriving in this land so famously resistant to official authority. Learn more about this troubled aspect of Sicilian history from a local expert. Proceeding to coastal Agrigento, discover the ancient Valley of the Temples, which includes the Temple of Concord, a superb example of classical sacred architecture. Explore the ruins before checking in to your hotel in nearby Favara. Alba Palace | Meals: B L D



Savor the nuances of fine Italian olive oils with a private tasting hosted by a local producer in the charming enclave of Locorotondo.

#### DAY 4: Piazza Armerina | Ancient Villa

Journey east to Piazza Armerina, a graceful countryside town, where you visit the incomparable Villa Romana del Casale. A prime example of a luxurious Roman villa, this UNESCO World Heritage Site houses breathtaking mosaics originally laid in the fourth century. Continue to the east coast of Sicily and up to the 6,000-foot-plus heights of smoldering Mount Etna, taking in panoramic views of the landscape and coast. Later, arrive in charming Taormina, which has allured visitors since the 19th century with its sweeping beaches and rolling hillsides. Gather for a special dinner and cooking class, and savor arancini, a delicious Sicilian specialty of deep-fried stuffed rice balls. NH Collection Taormina | Meals: B L D

Take in sweeping Amalfi Coast vistas from Positano's soaring cliffside perch



Explore the ruins of Taormina's ancient amphitheater with an expert

## DAY 5: Taormina | Majestic Vantage Point

Today, a local expert introduces you to the town's spectacular Greek amphitheater, set high above the sea. Still in use as an arts venue today, its permanent "show" is its extraordinary view of Mount Etna, rising in the far distance beyond the stage. Later, relax or catch up on shopping with time at leisure. NH Collection Taormina | Meals: B

DAY 6: **Matera** | In the Mountainous Città Sotterranea Rise early for the journey to Messina, where you board a ferry to cross the strait separating Sicily from the "toe" of the Italian mainland. Disembark in Villa San Giovanni in Calabria, and drive into Basilicata and to Matera, the ancient Città Sotterranea (Underground City) carved right into the Appenine Mountains. Thought to be one of the oldest cities in the world, Matera is a jumble of stone dwellings built alongside (and, in some cases, on top of) each other, linked by narrow, jagged lanes. Settle in to your hotel in the heart of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Palazzo Viceconte | Meals: B D

## DAY 7: Alberobello | The Trulli Houses of Apulia

Journey into Puglia to nearby Locorotondo, one of Italy's most beautiful towns, for a walking tour. Meet an olive oil producer for a private tasting, followed by a lunch featuring local products. Later, visit Alberobello and its rows of fantastic trulli houses, conical limestone dwellings unique to this province of Bari. Palazzo Viceconte | Meals: B L



#### DAY 8: Paestum | Making Mozzarella

This morning, depart for the sparkling Amalfi Coast area. Stop en route in Paestum, an ancient Greek city known for its well-preserved temples; see them after a tour and lunch at a nearby mozzarella-making farm. Arrive in Naples and check in to your hotel by the harbor. This evening, enjoy an iconic Neapolitan specialty at a traditional pizzeria. ROMEO Hotel | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 9: Positano | Coastal Glories

Enjoy a morning tour of Herculaneum, an ancient Roman settlement that was destroyed by the spectacular lava flows of nearby Vesuvius in AD 79. Drive the stunning Amalfi Coast to the cliffside village of Positano, where you have time for exploration and lunch at leisure before returning to Naples. ROMEO Hotel | Meals: B

#### DAY 10: Capri | Mediterranean ldyll

Cruise by ferry across the deep blue Gulf of Naples to the sun-kissed island of Capri. Visit Anacapri and charming Capri town, where cool cafés, designer boutiques and grand villas have lured everyone from emperors to celebrities. Tonight, cap off your journey with a special farewell dinner. ROMEO Hotel | Meals: B D

#### DAY 11: Depart Naples

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



#### NH Collection Taormina

Modern boutique hotel situated in the historic city center near dining and shopping with a chic poolside bar and gorgeous views of Naxos Bay.

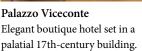


Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa Ideally located hotel set in a former convent with a lovely courtyard.



Alba Palace Boutique property in a reclaimed 19th-century palace.





ROMEO Hotel See Mount Vesuvius from this

modern boutique hotel in Naples.

# DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed	Double	Single
Departure Dates	Occupancy	Supplement
May 3-13, May 17-27, Jun 7-17, Jun 21-Jul 1, Jul 5-15, Aug 30-Sep 9,* Sep 6-16,* Sep 9-19, Sep 13-23,* Sep 16-26, Sep 20-30,* Sep 23-Oct 3, Sep 27-Oct 7, Oct 4-14, Oct 11-21, Oct 18-28	\$8,795	\$3,195

\*Days 8-10 at Hotel Royal Continental. Journey Details Minimum age is 10 years.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Contact A&K or go online for up-to-date availability and pricing information.



# Italy's Jewels: Cinque Terre & the North

10 days from \$8,495 | Limited to 24 guests





Experience all the charm and magic of Italy's elegant northern provinces, from exquisite food and wine to unique landscapes and cultures to some of the country's most distinguished cities.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Immerse yourself in the vibrant colors and rugged cliffs of the Cinque Terre while exploring its famed villages
- Explore beautiful Lake Como on a private boat cruise, surrounded by charming villas and steep, wooded hills
- Savor delicious meats, cheeses and Italian classics, taking part in a foodie tour in Parma and a pesto cooking class
- Go behind the scenes on a private tour of La Scala and its workshops
- Discover Turin, once the royal capital of Italy, and its renowned Egyptian Museum

## DAY 1: Arrive Milan, Italy

Transfer to Stresa. This evening, join your Resident Tour Director and fellow guests for cocktails and a welcome dinner. Hotel La Palma | Meals: D

#### DAY 2: Como | Charming Village of Bellagio

Drive to beautiful Lake Como and cruise its sparkling waters by private boat, taking in views of the many luxurious villas on the lakeshore. Go ashore for lunch at a restaurant in the village of Bellagio before returning to Stresa for the evening. Hotel La Palma | Meals: B L DAY 3: Milan | Prestigious La Scala Opera House Travel to nearby Milan, Italy's wealthiest city and the heart of its fashion industry. Go backstage on an exclusive tour of the famous La Scala opera house, where some of the greatest singers in the world have performed for over 200 years. Then, continue to your hotel in Turin. Grand Hotel Sitea | Meals: B D



Enjoy a Connections-exclusive bàcari tour in Venice, led by an A&K insider, sampling regional wines and popular Italian bar treats.

# DAY 4: Turin | Wine Tasting in Piedmont

Tour Piedmont's famous wine country, enjoying lunch and a wine tasting. In the afternoon, explore the fascinating city of Turin. After Italy was unified as a nation in 1861, Turin was named the capital of the fledgling state. Visit the Egyptian Museum, the oldest of its kind in the world and second only to Cairo in importance. Grand Hotel Sitea | Meals: B L

# DAY 5: Sestri Levante | Culinary Secrets of Liguria

Descend to the sunbathed Ligurian coast and the small port of Sestri Levante. Join an expert to learn the art of making traditional local pesto, then savor a delicious lunch. Grand Hotel Portovenere | Meals: B L D

# DAY 6: Cinque Terre | Beauty Along the Coast

Discover the extraordinary beauty of the Cinque Terre ("Five Lands"), exploring these scenic villages built along the steep coastal cliffs of Liguria on the Italian Riviera. **Grand Hotel Portovenere | Meals: B L** 

# DAY 7: $Parma \mid A$ Taste of Italy

Cross the Appenines this morning to the region of Emilia-Romagna, aptly known as the breadbasket of Italy. In the city of Parma, embark on a food-focused walking tour that introduces you to the bounty of produce and products available here. Spend the afternoon shopping in the many markets and specialty stores, or just sit in a café and watch the world pass by. Sina Maria Luigia | Meals: B D

# DAY 8: Verona | Spectacular Roman Remnants

Leave Parma today for Verona, once an important Roman settlement and still prominent today. On a walking tour, see the old Roman Forum area, the Roman arena and the remains of the original Roman walls. Stand beneath the balcony reputed to belong to Juliet, Shakespeare's most tragic heroine. Continue to Venice, where our local A&K staff will guide you on an exclusive stroll encompassing some of the characteristic bàcari (wine bars) of the city. Hotel L'Orologio Venice | Meals: B

# DAY 9: Venice | Palaces & Canals

This morning, explore the wonders of Venice with a local expert. Stroll the Rialto Market, tour the Doge's Palace and enter St. Mark's Basilica. Later, gather for a festive farewell dinner. Hotel L'Orologio Venice | Meals: B D

# DAY 10: Depart Venice

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departure flight. Meals: B

# BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS



#### Grand Hotel Portovenere

Monastery-turned-waterfront property situated on the Gulf of Poets and overlooking the romantic fishing village of Portovenere.



**Grand Hotel Sitea** Historic luxury hotel a few minutes' walk from Piazza Castello.



Hotel La Palma Romantic lakeside hotel surrounded by Stresa's natural beauty.



**Sina Maria Luigia** Elegant hotel in the heart of Parma, steps from Palazzo della Pilotta.



Hotel L'Orologio Venice A 42-room boutique hotel on the Grand Canal, near the Rialto Bridge.

# DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Jun 2-11, Jun 16-25, Sep 15-24, Sep 22-Oct 1, Oct 6-15, Oct 13-22	\$8,795	\$3,295
Jul 14-23	\$8,495	\$2,995

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Contact A&K or go online for up-to-date availability and pricing information.



# Switzerland & the Italian Lakes

11 days from \$10,995 | Limited to 24 guests





Take in some of Europe's most scenic vistas on this journey combining the beautiful Swiss Alps with Italy's glorious Lakes District. Soak up the stunning scenery and natural landscapes of the region, along with unique cities.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Arrive in Zermatt in style on the Glacier Express, which affords first-class seating, unique glass ceilings and views of Switzerland's beautiful mountain scenery
- Gain private access to Bern's landmark Zytglogge bell tower for an intimate guided visit
- Savor famously smooth Swiss chocolate during a tasting workshop at an independent producer
- Take a private boat tour of Lake Maggiore, and enjoy a special farewell dinner on beautiful Isola Bella

## DAY 1: Arrive Zurich, Switzerland

Arrive in Zurich, Switzerland's largest city and one with a well-deserved reputation for offering a high quality of life, among the best in the world. You are met and transferred to your hotel, where you meet your fellow guests this evening for dinner. The Storchen | Meals: D

DAY 2: **Zurich** | Breathtaking Views & Scenic Paths Enjoy a guided walking tour of Zurich this morning, taking in its alluring mix of modern and Old World architecture while strolling its wide, pedestrian-friendly avenues. Zurich is known for its churches, and your walk incorporates several noteworthy ones, including the Fraumünster, with its Marc Chagall-designed stained glass windows, and the Grossmünster, supposedly founded by Charlemagne and later playing a key part in establishing the Reformation in Switzerland. After lunch at a local bierkeller (beer cellar), gather for a sweet finish with a visit to an independent chocolate producer. Learn about the fascinating history and production of Swiss chocolate at the last manufacturer who still starts with the raw cacao beans. The Storchen | Meals: B L



Learn the history of Switzerland's iconic alphorn at a private demonstration, and take a turn at playing one yourself.

## DAY 3: Lucerne | Peaks of the Alps

This morning, travel to Lucerne, on the shores of its beautiful lake, and stroll the streets of this medieval jewel. The city's most famous landmark is the Chapel Bridge, the oldest covered wooden bridge in Europe. Its interior is decorated with vivid paintings, many of which date back to the 17th century and depict events from the city's history. You also visit Corn Market Square and the nearby Old Town Hall, built in 1602. There is time for at leisure for lunch or further exploration, Continue to Alpnachstad and board the cogwheel train for a ride on the world's steepest railway to the top of Mt. Pilatus. Descend via a cable car and alpine gondola. Continue to your hotel in Bern, named for the bears that may still be seen in the European wilderness. Hotel Schweizerhof Bern & Spa | Meals: B

#### DAY 4: Bern | Capital City

This morning, discover the charms of Switzerland's intimate capital, strolling delightful old streets and stepping inside the Zytglogge for a private, guided visit of this legendary medieval clock tower. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure, free to relax or explore on your own. Tonight, dine at your elegant hotel. Hotel Schweizerhof Bern & Spa | Meals: B D

#### DAY 5: Interlaken | Play the Alphorn

Travel to the pretty mountain village of Habkern and partake in two Swiss traditions. Enjoy a special class with a yodel teacher and a lesson in the history of the famous alphorn. In former days, these massive horns were used by herdsmen on the mountain slopes to communicate with people in the valleys below; today, they are played and enjoyed as musical instruments, and your lesson includes the opportunity to play one yourself. After lunch, visit scenic Interlaken and cruise beautiful Lake Thun, surrounded by the glory of Stay on the shores of Lake Maggiore as you explore Italy's glittering Lakes District





Look for the brilliant white peacocks in the gardens of Isola Bella

the Alps. Return to Bern for an evening at leisure. Hotel Schweizerhof Bern & Spa | Meals: B L

DAY 6: Zermatt | All Aboard the Glacier Express Begin your day with a drive to Andermatt, stopping in the scenic village of Fluelen for lunch on the edge of Lake Lucerne. Then, board the famous Glacier Express and settle into your first-class carriage as you traverse the majestic scenery, arriving in the mountain town of Zermatt - one of the most popular waypoints for adventurers exploring the Alps. Cap your evening off with a Swiss fondue dinner. BEAUSiTE Zermatt | Meals: B L D



Go behind the scenes with a private visit inside Bern's famed Zytglogge, discovering the clock tower's fascinating history and a rewarding view from the top.

DAY 7: Zermatt | The Mighty Matterhorn This morning, ride the Gornergrat Railway to a height of 10,135 feet for spectacular views over the Alps, the Gorner Glacier and the Matterhorn. One of the world's most



renowned peaks, the Matterhorn has a pyramid-shaped summit with four distinct faces, making it an endlessly fascinating sight. It is also a formidable technical challenge for mountaineers — the first successful summit in 1865 cost the lives of four climbers. BEAUSiTE Zermatt | Meals: B

#### DAY 8: Stresa, Italy | Shores of Lake Maggiore

A short train ride takes you out of Zermatt today. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in the spectacular Simplon Pass before arriving in the Italian Lakes District and the beautiful resort town of Stresa, nestled on the shores of Lake Maggiore. Ernest Hemingway set portions of his World War I novel A Farewell to Arms here, although he didn't actually visit in person until 1948. Settle in to your lakeside hotel before a fine dinner. Hotel La Palma | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 9: Stresa | Picturesque Island

Drive to Orta San Giulio, a charming medieval town resting upon a shimmering lake. The town occupies a promontory commanding wide views over the lake and farther shore, and its shaded streets are made for wandering. Take a boat to the nearby island of San Giulio to see its Benedictine monastery and church. Legend claims the island was once infested by serpents and monsters that terrorized local villages, until patron saint Julius of Novara arrived with a great storm at his back and banished them forever. Return to Stresa in the afternoon. Hotel La Palma | Meals: B

#### DAY 10: Stresa | Lush, Alpine Lake Maggiore

This morning, relax and enjoy the amenities at your hotel, stroll the local market in Stresa or just sit in a café and watch the world go by. Later, board a private boat for a tour of Lake Maggiore and its islands, renowned for their impressive gardens. On beautiful Isola Bella, enjoy a special farewell dinner with your fellow guests as the sun sets over the surrounding mountains. Hotel La Palma | Meals: B D

#### DAY 11: Depart Milan

Transfer this morning to Milan Malpensa Airport for your onward travel. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**





The Storchen

A 66-room boutique treasure located Classic 19th-century luxury hotel on the bank of the Limmat River and nestled in the heart of Switzerland's encapsulating Zurich's charm.

Hotel Schweizerhof Bern & Spa culturally rich capital city.



**BEAUSiTE Zermatt** Elegant contemporary boutique hotel with 67 rooms and suites set amid soaring alpine peaks.

Hotel La Palma

Romantic lakeside hotel surrounded by Stresa's natural beauty, featuring a gourmet restaurant and sky bar.

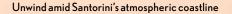
## DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed	Double	Single
Departure Dates	Occupancy	Supplement
May 23-Jun 2,** Jun 6-16, Jun 13-23,* Jun 27-Jul 7, Jul 11-21,† Jul 25-Aug 4,*† Sep 5-15, Sep 12-22, Sep 19-29	\$10,995	\$3,795

\*Days 1–2 at Hotel Schweizerhof Zurich. <sup>†</sup>Days 6–7 at Resort Hotel Alex. \*\*Days 6-7 at Hotel Sonne.

Journey Details Minimum age is 10 years. Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Contact A&K or go online for up-to-date availability and pricing information.



# Greece: Athens & the Aegean

10 days from \$8,495 | Limited to 24 guests





Discover an unmatched blend of ancient history and modern wonders in Greece, savoring the relaxed pace of island living and the lively bustle of Athens alike, and indulging in the rich variety of Mediterranean cuisine.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Learn the secrets to great Greek cuisine at a private inhome cooking class in Oropos
- Visit some of the most renowned wonders of the ancient world, including the Acropolis, Parthenon and Palace of Knossos
- Pay an exclusive visit to an organic cosmetics producer to learn about traditional Greek products
- Stroll through the Minoan Bronze Age settlement of Akrotiri (reputed to be Atlantis), admiring its beautiful frescoes
- Admire the majestic Temple of Poseidon, built during the Golden Age of Ancient Athens

# DAY 1: Arrive Athens, Greece

Arrive in Athens and transfer to your hotel. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner. NEW Hotel | Meals: D

# DAY 2: Athens | Temple of Athena

Visit the Acropolis Museum, marveling at artifacts Athenians used in everyday life, as well as finds from the slopes of the Acropolis. Next, stroll the Plaka, filled with flower shops, taverns and charming boutiques. Enjoy lunch at leisure. In the evening, explore the Acropolis, one of the greatest icons of the ancient world, followed by dinner. NEW Hotel | Meals: B D

DAY 3: Oropos | Hands-On Culinary Experience Depart for the ancient town of Oropos, where you meet a local family in their home for an exclusive hands-on culinary experience. Then, explore the fifth-century ruins of the Amphiareion of Oropos. NEW Hotel | Meals: B L



Learn the art of Greek cuisine with a hands-on lesson offered by a local family in their very own home.

DAY 4: Crete | Private Cruise to a Former Fortress Fly to the island of Crete and check in to your seaside accommodations in Agios Nikolaos, a coastal town that blends bustling city life with local art and a leisurely attitude. Embark on a private cruise to the island of Spinalonga, a protective outpost for the Cretan mainland built in 1579, where you wander the streets of this former fortress community. St. Nicolas Bay | Meals: B D

DAY 5: Crete | Palace of Knossos & Lunch at a Winery Discover the Palace of Knossos, Crete's most famous historic attraction, then enjoy lunch at a winery. Next, explore the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, home of the world's best collection of Minoan art. St. Nicolas Bay | Meals: B L

#### DAYS 6: Crete | Visits With Local Artisans

In eastern Crete today, visit the Byzantine church of Panagia Kera, a 13th-century structure with impressive frescoes. Call on an organic cosmetics producer, and then explore Kritsa, renowned for its traditional weaving, and visit an olive oil maker for a tasting. St. Nicolas Bay | Meals: B

#### DAY 7: Santorini | Mythical Atlantis

Journey to Santorini by high-speed catamaran. Travel north to Fira to enjoy lunch. Check in to your hotel, then continue to Akrotiri, a Minoan Bronze Age settlement preserved in volcanic ash from the ancient eruption of the island. The site has been suggested as a possible inspiration for Plato's story of Atlantis. Explore the beautiful village of Oia and enjoy dinner in a local restaurant. Vedema Resort | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 8: Santorini | Island Living

Start your day with the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, home to the island's finest collection of artifacts from the fourth and fifth centuries. Then, embark on an exploration of the life and sites of Santorini before enjoying time at leisure at your resort. Vedema Resort | Meals: B L

#### DAY 9: Athens | Breathtaking City Views

Fly to Athens and visit the Temple of Poseidon, travelling along the shores of Cape Sounion. Take in the gorgeous vistas over the Aegean Sea as you imagine life for the ancient Greeks who built the temple. Travel to your waterfront resort, where you settle in and enjoy some time at leisure. This evening, gather for a special farewell dinner in the hotel's restaurant overlooking the sea. Cape Sounio | Meals: B D

#### DAY 10: Depart Athens

Transfer to Athens Airport and board your onward flight. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



NEW Hotel Boutique hotel designed by Fernando Intimate seaside hotel with views of and Humberto Campana, located in the Gulf of Mirabello Bay and the the heart of the ancient capital.



St. Nicolas Bay fishing village of Agios Nikolaos.



Vedema Resort Landmark resort with 59 suites, nestled in a medieval village on Santorini, surrounded by vineyards. Cape Sounio Fronting the Aegean, this boutique resort is set amid an archaeological site and two private beaches.

# DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
May 15-24, May 22-31	\$8,495	\$2,895
Jun 5-14, Jun 12-21, Jul 19-28, Sep 4-13, Sep 18-27	\$8,995	\$3,395
Sep 25-Oct 4, Oct 2-11, Oct 9-18	\$8,495	\$2,895

Internal Air: Economy Class from \$575 Athens/Heraklion; Santorini/Athens

#### Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Contact A&K or go online for up-to-date availability and pricing information.



# Spain: Seven Cities

10 days from \$6,995 | Limited to 24 guests





Experience the best of Spain on a wide-ranging journey of cultural, historical and culinary discovery, contrasting the sun-dappled and atmospheric Andalusia region with the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Madrid.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Explore the historic Alhambra, an architectural masterpiece overlooking the ancient city of Granada
- Mingle with locals as you explore La Boqueria in Barcelona, a food paradise boasting a spectacle of top-quality Catalonian staples
- Experience an authentic bodega and privately sample sherry in the famed region of Jerez
- Ride in a horse-drawn carriage to a restaurant in Seville for authentic tapas, an integral and delightful aspect of Spanish culture
- Journey to a private palace in Seville, where local flamenco dancers and singers perform just for you

## DAY 1: Arrive Barcelona, Spain

Upon arrival, you are met by your A&K representative and escorted to your hotel. Get to know your fellow guests at tonight's welcome dinner. **Grand Hotel Central** | Meals: D

# DAY 2: Barcelona | Heart of Catalonia

Embark on a walking tour of culture-rich Barcelona. Let your inner foodie run wild on a stroll through La Boqueria — one of the finest food markets in Europe, where fresh



goods have traded hands for hundreds of years. Peruse the vast array of produce, meats, seafood and sweet treats, and perhaps stop by one of its many eateries to sample something on the spot. Explore the narrow cobblestone streets and wide plazas of the Gothic Quarter and the fantastic Palau de la Música Catalana concert hall. You also experience a tasting of Spanish olive oil, an essential component of the local cuisine. Enjoy more of this captivating city with an afternoon at leisure. Perhaps stroll Las Ramblas, the pedestrian-friendly avenue that draws equal amounts of visitors and locals, and browse the inviting shops and cafés. As with other cities in Spain, Barcelona truly comes alive at night, and this evening is a perfect opportunity to experience it firsthand, as taverns and tapas bars spill over with spirited conversation. **Grand Hotel Central | Meals: B** 

#### DAY 3: Barcelona | Gaudí's Extravagant Vision

Discover more of vibrant Barcelona, focusing today on the city's one-of-a-kind architecture. Visit the wild Sagrada Familia Basilica, the most-visited monument in Spain, begun by Gaudí in 1883 and still unfinished today; it is currently scheduled to be completed in 2026, the centenary of its architect's death. Drive past Casa Milà on your way to hilltop Montjuïc with its sculptural gardens and castle, a place with a checkered and often bloody history until it was designated a museum by Francisco Franco. Immerse yourself in the most notable creations of Antoni Gaudí, possibly the most famous Spanish architect of modern times. Gaudí was the premier proponent of Modernisme, a distinctly Spanish take on Art Nouveau, and his free-flowing, extravagantly detailed structures are unmistakable. After lunch, fly to Granada, an ancient Moorish capital. Villa Oniria | Meals: B L



Discover a private palace in Seville, where you are welcomed to dinner by the owners and witness a fiery flamenco performance arranged for you by A&K.

DAY 4: **Granada & Ronda** | Awe-Inspiring Alhambra Begin your day with a visit to the ancient palace and glorious gardens of the Alhambra, an incredible example of Moorish influence and Islamic architecture. Occupying over 1.5 million square feet, this sprawling complex served as the seat of power for Islamic emirs throughout the 14th century, later becoming a royal palace for Ferdinand and Isabella. Explore Granada at leisure before departing for clifftop Ronda, where you check in to your boutique hotel opposite the bullring. Enjoy a short walking tour that introduces you to the city's rich history, followed by dinner. Ronda is known





for bullfighting, and its Plaza de Toros is the oldest bullring in Spain. Ernest Hemingway did much to popularize both this controversial sport and Ronda itself, and a paseo (scenic walkway) bearing his name begins near the plaza. Another, dedicated to fellow aficionado Orson Welles, is located nearby. **Catalonia Ronda** | **Meals: B D** 

DAY 5: Gibraltar, United Kingdom | Last Outpost Travel to the Rock of Gibraltar, the most famous feature of what is technically an overseas territory of Great Britain, and a symbolic bridge linking Europe and Africa. Visit St. Michael's Cave and observe Gibraltar's Barbary macaques, the only wild monkeys in Europe. Return to Ronda with time to relax and explore one of Andalusia's most beautiful pueblos blancos (white villages). Catalonia Ronda | Meals: B

#### DAY 6: Seville | Sherry in Jerez

Travel through the mountains to Jerez, home of golden sherry, a distinctive fortified wine eagerly consumed the world over. Only wine from grapes grown in this region can properly be called sherry, and aficionados have many varieties to choose from, ranging from light-bodied fino to robust oloroso. Sample some of these for yourself during a visit to a bodega. Continue to Seville, later departing in style on a horse-drawn carriage ride for an authentic culinary adventure. Prepare for an evening tapas feast to remember, savoring delicious tapas from two of the city's traditional restaurants. Hotel Colón Gran Meliá | Meals: B L D



#### DAY 7: Seville | Sunny Santa Cruz

Explore the sites in this uniquely lovely city: the Royal Palace of the Alcázar, the enormous Gothic cathedral and, of course, the Santa Cruz district, with its sun-drenched avenues, venerable architecture and shaded squares. The afternoon is at leisure to venture out on your own. Tonight, stroll to a resplendent palace nearby, where the owners take you on a tour and host your private dinner. Then, enjoy a performance of flamenco dancing and singing on the patio of this historic home. Hotel Colón Gran Meliá | Meals: B D

#### DAY 8: Córdoba | Streets of Flowers

Set out for Córdoba to visit the Mezquita, the cathedral and former great mosque of the city, and an extraordinary fusion of European and Moorish styles that encapsulates much of Spanish history in a single structure. Continue for a stroll down the famous Street of Flowers, a picturesque lane in the city's Old Town where potted flowers dot the walls of the charming old houses. In the afternoon, board your high-speed AVE train to Madrid.

NH Collection Madrid Palacio de Tepa | Meals: B L

#### DAY 9: Madrid | Masterful Art & Architecture

View the Prado Museum's extensive collection featuring some of the greatest Spanish masters, including El Greco, Velázquez and Goya. Then, visit the Royal Palace, followed by a short walk to the Plaza Mayor and the marvelous iron-and-glass San Miguel Market, where locals have been hawking and buying since the early 19th century. Later, join your Resident Tour Director for a farewell dinner. NH Collection Madrid Palacio de Tepa | Meals: B D

#### DAY 10: Depart Madrid

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



**Grand Hotel Central** Calm, sophisticated luxury boutique hotel nestled in the bustling heart of Barcelona, steps from the architecturally rich Gothic Quarter.



Villa Oniria Contemporary luxury hotel set in a historic Granada manor house.



Catalonia Ronda

Stunning hotel boasting a rooftop infinity pool overlooking a bullring.



Hotel Colón Gran Meliá In Seville's city center, find plush comfort and rooftop skyline views.

NH Collection Madrid Palacio de Tepa Charming boutique hotel occupying a former 19th-century palace.

# DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Apr 29-May 8, May 13-22, May 27-Jun 5, Jun 10-19, Jun 24-Jul 3, Sep 9-18, Sep 16-25, Oct 7-16, Oct 14-23	\$7,495	\$2,295
Jul 22-31, Aug 19-28	\$6,995	\$1,995

Internal Air: Economy Class from \$210 Barcelona/Granada

#### Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years. Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Contact A&K or go online for up-to-date availability and pricing information.

Immerse yourself in the rich history of charming Porto

# Portrait of Portugal

9 days from \$6,995 | Limited to 24 guests





Explore the charms and rural traditions of Portugal, from the bustling capital of Lisbon to the idyllic Douro Valley and charismatic Porto, experiencing the wonderful cultural and culinary heritage unique to each place.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Enjoy a cooking class with a viscountess in the old kitchens of her family estate, and savor the results for lunch
- Sit down to a private dinner and fado performance in Lisbon, experiencing the iconic and expressive folk genre firsthand
- Dine at a fantastic seafood restaurant in Nazaré, one of Portugal's most picturesque traditional fishing villages, before exploring the coastal town from a funicular
- Ply the scenic Douro River on a private cruise, admiring the dramatic landscape of steep hills and vineyards
- Savor a winery visit, picnic lunch, tour and tasting among the picture-perfect Douro landscape

## DAY 1: Arrive Lisbon, Portugal

Arrive in Lisbon, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. This evening, join your Resident Tour Director and fellow guests for drinks and a welcome dinner. Bairro Alto Hotel | Meals: D

DAY 2: Lisbon | Sights, Sounds & Flavors of Portugal Enjoy a tour of Lisbon with an expert local guide. See the Belém Tower and visit the Jerónimos Monastery. Later, attend a hands-on workshop at the National Tile Museum, where you are introduced to this ancient Portuguese craft. This evening, experience a private dinner and performance of fado, the characteristic and emotional folk music of the nation. Bairro Alto Hotel | Meals: B D

DAY 3: Lisbon | Explore the Vibrant Pena Palace This morning, travel just outside Lisbon to the village of Sintra. In this town of palaces, enjoy a guided tour of the Pena Palace, decorated with vivid colors and evocative stone carvings. Return to Lisbon, where the rest of the day is at leisure for you to explore. Bairro Alto Hotel | Meals: B



Meet a viscountess in her home, then learn to cook in the old kitchens using the original wood-burning stoves.

## DAY 4: Nazaré | Wave Watcher's Paradise

Depart Lisbon for Alcobaça Monastery. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was founded by Portugal's first king in 1153 and became one of the most important monasteries in the country. Continue to nearby Nazaré, a picturesque coastal village that is also home to some of the world's largest surf. Savor a seafood lunch, then take a funicular to the old neighborhood of Sitio atop the cliffs. Later, arrive in Coimbra and check in to your hotel. Quinta das Lágrimas | Meals: B L

## DAY 5: Coimbra | Stunning University & Library

Join a local expert for a tour that introduces you to the University of Coimbra, the oldest in Portugal, and its Johannine Library. Built between 1717 and 1728, this library contains over 50,000 volumes and was constructed on the ruins of a medieval prison. Then, enjoy lunch at leisure and time to explore. Continue to your hotel in the Douro Valley. The Vintage House | Meals: B D

## DAY 6: Douro Valley | Views from the River

Drive along the beautiful Douro Valley, a place of lush, rolling hills terraced by rows of grapevines. Then, take to the water as the locals have for centuries on a traditional rabelo boat. Embark on a scenic cruise down the Douro Valley, admiring its vineyards and whitewashed estates. Cap off your cruise with a winery visit, picnic lunch, tour and tasting. Then, return to the hotel for an evening at leisure. The Vintage House | Meals: B L

DAY 7: Douro Valley | A Visit with a Viscountess

Meet a local viscountess to learn about the history of her family and their estate. Enter the old kitchens, where you learn to cook using the original wood-burning stoves. Indulge in the hearty lunch that you helped prepare, and then journey to Porto, Portugal's second-largest city, for time at leisure. The Lodge Porto Hotel | Meals: B L

#### DAY 8: Porto | Charming, Historic Waterfront

This morning, explore the Cais da Ribeira, the quayside of the fascinating Ribeira district. See some of the city's most beautiful monuments, including the São Francisco Church, the Romanesque Cathedral and the opulent 19th-century Palácio da Bolsa, which once functioned as a major stock exchange. The afternoon is yours to further explore. Afterward, savor a farewell dinner at one of the city's famous port lodges. The Lodge Porto Hotel | Meals: B D

#### DAY 9: Depart Porto

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departing flight. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



**The Vintage House** Overlooking the Douro River, this boutique hotel occupies a former winery dating to the 19th century.



The Lodge Porto Hotel Distinctively designed lodge nestled among centuries-old port wine cellars, set on the Douro River.



Quinta das Lágrimas Steeped in medieval legend, this charming hotel rests within an exquisite 18th-century palace.



**Bairro Alto Hotel** Boutique hotel in the heart of captivating Lisbon, balancing classic and contemporary elements.

# DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed	Double	Single
Departure Dates	Occupancy	Supplement
May 15-23, May 22-30, Jun 19-27, Jul 10-18, Sep 4-12, Sep 18-26	\$6,995	\$2,695

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Contact A&K or go online for up-to-date availability and pricing information.



# Iceland: Geysers & Glaciers

8 days from \$9,995 | Limited to 24 guests





Take in this stunning island nation on an unforgettable journey that spans volcanic landscapes, thermal swimming pools and glacial rivers, ancient Viking sites and cosmopolitan Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Pay a private visit to a local family farm and savor the delicious Icelandic foods produced there
- Discover Iceland's breathtaking Nordic landscape everything from lava caves and hot springs to waterfalls and fjords – and walk inside one of Europe's largest glaciers
- Visit a family-run greenhouse and sit down to a lunch of freshly prepared tomato-themed dishes
- Unwind with a relaxing soak in the bubbling thermal pools of the Blue Lagoon
- Cruise Reykjavik Harbour to spot myriad whale species

# DAY 1: Arrive Reykjavik, Iceland

Arrive in Reykjavik and transfer to your modern boutique hotel in the city center. Tonight, join fellow guests for a welcome dinner. **Hotel Borg** | **Meals**: D

DAY 2: **Reykjavik** | True Cosmopolitan Capital Spend the day exploring both the contemporary and traditional sides of this cultured coastal capital. Start with a visit to the National Museum of Iceland, which tells the story of Iceland's founding through some 2,000 objects, including a medieval ship of the type used to settle the



island. You then visit Hallgrimskirkja Church, the city's most prominent landmark. Pause to take in the exterior of the Harpa, a cutting-edge performance center built in 2011. This award-winning structure features a striking coloredglass façade designed to evoke Iceland's basalt landscape. Proceed to the Blue Lagoon for lunch and to experience its invigorating waters. The lagoon is fed by natural runoff from a clean geothermal powerplant, emerging rich in silica that lends the water its unmistakable blue hue. The water is also high in salts and algae, giving it therapeutic benefits sworn to by visitors from all corners of the world. Relax and enjoy the soothing pools amid beautiful volcanic landscapes. Continue to the Reykjanes Peninsula at the southwestern end of Iceland, a stark volcanic landscape of black lava fields and smoldering, sulfurous craters. Nearby Krysuvikurbjarg, which you visit next, is a series of cliffs known for harboring a range of birdlife as well as an area strong in Icelandic folk tradition. Following your visit, transfer to your hotel. Landhotel | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 3: Thorsmork | Forces of Nature

After breakfast, embark on a Super Jeep tour through Thorsmork ("Valley of Thor"), a vast nature reserve of snowy peaks, jade-green slopes and glacial rivers trickling through dark volcanic earth. In a land already known for scenic beauty, Thorsmork is a gem among gems, a paradise for trekkers and photographers. Explore today with a skilled driver-guide, who leads you along the trails and rivers while discussing the reserve's history, geology and wildlife. After working up an appetite in the great outdoors, stop in the midst of the wild for an al fresco barbecue lunch, taking in the fresh air and striking beauty of this rugged natural setting. Landhotel | Meals: B L D



Take to the sea for an opportunity to spot some of Iceland's numerous seagoing species, which include minke whales, blue whales, orcas and several varieties of dolphins and porpoises.

## DAY 4: South Iceland | A Stunning Coastal Drive

Along with the Amalfi Coast and Ireland's Ring of Kerry, the shore of southern Iceland offers one of the most scenic drives in all of Europe. Enjoy a morning's drive along this enticing coastline, stopping to explore waterfalls and black-sand beaches. Iceland is one of the world's most seismologically active places; learn how this has shaped the island with a visit to the Lava Center, where state-of-the-art exhibits reveal the fascinating facts behind earthquakes, volcanos and other natural forces. By contrast, the Skogar Folk Museum tells a





more human story, depicting life in Iceland from the Viking era and beyond. Landhotel | Meals: B L

## DAY 5: Golden Circle | Saga Sites

Thingvellir National Park is that rare locale that is significant both as a scenic wonder and a cultural treasure: a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the Vikings established the world's first democratic parliament more than 1,000 years ago. It's also one of the few places you can straddle two continents at once, as the conjunction of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates is exposed here. After exploring the park, continue to Fridheimar, a geothermally heated organic greenhouse, for a tour and freshly prepared lunch. Next, visit the regularly erupting Strokkur Geyser and stunning Gullfoss, where milky green glacial water plummets down Iceland's most famous waterfall. Your adventure continues at Deildartunguhver as you view the highest-flow hot spring in Europe, which provides heat to villages up to 40 miles away. Tonight, dine at your hotel. Hotel Husafell | Meals: B L D

DAY 6: Husafell & West Iceland | Langjokull Ice Cap Enjoy a visit to the magnificent lava tube Vidgelmir Cave. The lava tube was formed around the year 900 and is the largest volcanic cave in Iceland. Don a helmet and headlamp to explore the otherworldly interior, taking in the amazing colors and formations that lay hidden in darkness for centuries. Following your cave visit, gather at a local bistro for lunch. Then, ride in a specially equipped eight-wheeled truck on the



colossal Langjokull ice cap — Europe's second-largest glacier — which, at its highest point, sits 4,760 feet above sea level. Descend into man-made tunnels carved deep into the glacier, exploring stages of glacial formation, blue-hued dens and even a chapel. Hotel Husafell | Meals: B L D

DAY 7: Hvalfjordur & West Iceland | Family Traditions Today, enjoy stops at Hraunfossar and fabled Barnafoss Waterfall. Then, visit a local family farm in Hvalfjordur, a beautiful fjord in West Iceland. Due to the fjord's depth, the U.S. Navy was able to keep their warships hidden here during World War II. Experience Icelandic life firsthand at a local farm that has been in the same family since 1887 and where three generations now live together. You also taste delicious food and drink produced by the farmers, some of which are prize winners, such as smoked blueberrycured mutton, smoked lamb and home-brewed dandelion wine. In the afternoon, return to Reykjavik to embark on a thrilling whale-watching boat ride. About 20 species, such as blue whales, fin whales, minkes and humpbacks, each with its own characteristics and behaviors, visit Icelandic waters throughout the year. Marvel as these magnificent giants surface, sometimes within a few yards of your vessel, affording you an unforgettable, up-close wildlife encounter. Afterward, head to the city center, where you enjoy dinner at a restaurant specializing in traditional Icelandic cuisine. Hotel Borg | Meals: B L D

DAY 8: **Depart Reykjavik** Enjoy breakfast before your flight home. Meals: B

#### **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



#### Landhotel

Icelandic hotel sporting vibrant guest rooms, nestled within a magnificent, remote countryside.



#### Hotel Husafell

Near Langjokull Glacier, a modern, eco-friendly 48-room hotel set in nature with geothermal baths.



#### Hotel Borg

Classic hotel with original 1930s Art Deco façade featuring 99 rooms and suites, in a prime location fronting Reykjavik's iconic Austurvollur Square.

#### **DATES & PRICING**

Guaranteed	Double	Single
Departure Dates	Occupancy	Supplement
May 27-Jun 3, Jun 20-27, Jul 5-12, Jul 15-22, Jul 26-Aug 2, Aug 9-16, Aug 24-31, Sep 3-10, Sep 17-24, Oct 2-9	\$9,995	\$2,395

#### Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements. Minimum age is 10 years.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 4 guests.

 $Contact\,A\&K\,or\,go\,online\,for\,up\mbox{-}to\mbox{-}date\,availability\,and\,pricing\,information.$ 



# Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg: Benelux Gems

10 days from \$8,495 | Limited to 24 guests

NORTH SEA Amsterdam RLANDS Bruges Ghent GERMANY Aachen Brussels Liège UN Jrspelt, BOURG O ARRIVE/DEPART Luxembourg City 



Venture off the beaten path to explore some of Europe's hidden gems as you take in the tranquil landscapes of the Lowlands, explore pivotal moments from the Battles of Waterloo and the Bulge, and unearth the legacy of Charlemagne's former capital, Aachen.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Savor the sights and flavors of Flanders with a chocolate workshop in Bruges, followed by lunch at a Belgian brasserie
- Experience château living as you stay in a charming Luxembourg castle hotel
- Glimpse the former grandeur of the Dutch elite at Amsterdam's 17th-century Museum Van Loon
- Delve into the glories of the reign of Charlemagne during an expert-led tour of Aachen
- Explore pivotal sites from the Battle of the Bulge as you ride aboard a vintage U.S. Army Willys Jeep

#### DAY 1: Arrive Amsterdam, Netherlands

Arrive in Amsterdam, where you are met and transferred to your boutique hotel set alongside the city's iconic canals. This evening, gather for a welcome reception and dinner. Tivoli Doelen Amsterdam Hotel | Meals: D

DAY 2: **Amsterdam** | Heritage of the Dutch Capital This morning, join a local expert as you cruise Amsterdam's historic canals, revealing the waterways that form the nexus of this historic city. Continue on foot through the city center, pausing at Museum Van Loon, a sumptuous townhouse



built in 1672 for a pupil of Rembrandt. This canal house's impressive interiors, garden and coach house afford a glimpse into the lifestyles of the city's wealthy and powerful elite. Afterward, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure for your own explorations. Tivoli Doelen Amsterdam Hotel | Meals: B



Gain insider insight into the Battle of the Bulge as you ride aboard the U.S. Army's trusted workhorse of World War II, an authentic Willys Jeep.

### DAY 3: Liège, Belgium | Pastoral Flavors

Depart this morning for historic Utrecht, pausing at a local dairy farm for a tour and a tasting of Holland's worldrenowned cheeses. After lunch in Utrecht's charming old town center, continue to your hotel in Liège, Belgium. Van Der Valk Hotel Sélys Liège | Meals: B L D

DAY 4: Aachen, Germany | Glories of Charlemagne Cross the border to nearby Aachen, Germany's westernmost city. Once a Roman settlement, Charlemagne chose this city as his capital, and it remained the seat of the Holy Roman Empire for centuries. Dig into this history during a tour with a local expert. After lunch at leisure, embark on an e-bike ride through the countryside outside Maastricht, pausing in the ancient cellars of Château Neercanne to savor a wine tasting and view the Maastricht Treaty, the founding document of the European Union. Return to your hotel for an evening at leisure. Van Der Valk Hotel Sélys Liège | Meals: B

#### DAY 5: Bastogne | Battle of the Bulge

Delve into the Battle of the Bulge, a pivotal chapter of World War II history on a visit to the Bastogne War Museum, exploring history through scenography, witness testimonial and multimedia installations. Then, join a local guide to tour nearby battle sites aboard an authentic U.S. Army Willys Jeep, rolling through the quiet beauty of Ardennes landscapes that once raged with Germany's desperate gambit to mount a final offensive and the heroism of the Allied troops who turned back their assault. Continue to Luxembourg, where you check into your castle hotel. This evening, journey through pastoral farmland near Luxembourg to reach a local restaurant for dinner. Château d'Urspelt | Meals: B D

DAY 6: Luxembourg City, Luxembourg | Vianden Castle Today, explore the capital of one of Europe's smallest states, Luxembourg. Perched dramatically on a cliff overlooking the confluence of two rivers, Luxembourg City juxtaposes its





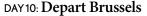
cosmopolitan lifestyle alongside fairytale castles, meandering casements and the trappings of its venerable grand duchy roots. Visit one of the largest castles west of the Rhine, magnificent Vianden Castle. With origins dating to the 10th century, the Romanesque castle was one of Europe's grandest, most luxurious feudal residences of the Middle Ages. Château d'Urspelt | Meals: B



Indulge your sweet tooth as you become an honorary chocolatier and discover why Belgium's decadent pralines are coveted the world over.

DAY 7: Ghent, Belgium | Legacy of the Middle Ages This morning, cross the idyllic countryside back to Belgium, pausing at Waterloo for views over the battlefield where British and Prussian forces defeated Napoleon Bonaparte, marking the end of an era of French domination in Europe. After lunch, continue to Ghent. Filled with cathedrals and museums, Ghent traces its roots to Roman times. It's now the capital of the province of East Flanders and one of Europe's largest inland ports. Here, a local expert reveals the town's

#### Travel back in time amid Ghent's medieval architecture



Today, you are transferred to the airport for your departure. Meals: B



pedestrianized city center lined with medieval architecture, pausing to take in the storybook grandeur of Gravensteen Castle. Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof | Meals: B L

#### DAY 8: Brussels | Beer Tasting & Storytelling

Drive to Brussels for an introduction to Belgium's busy capital, where medieval architecture mingles with shimmering high-rises. Throughout its tumultuous history, Brussels has been occupied by the Romans, Vikings, Spanish, French, Austrians and English. Today, Brussels is home to both the European Union and NATO. Explore this culinary enclave known for its fine chocolates, double-fried frites and distinctive beers on a pub crawl with a real beer sommelier, seeking out the city's rich history and tasting delicious local beers at favorite local haunts along the way, while your host tells fun tales about how they are brewed. Afterward, enjoy time for lunch at leisure before returning to Ghent for the rest of the day. Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof | Meals: B

#### DAY 9: Bruges | A Taste of Flanders

Drive to Bruges, the West Flanders capital known for its canals, cobbled streets and medieval buildings. Indulge in a hands-on workshop devoted to the artistry of fine Belgian chocolates followed by lunch at a traditional restaurant. Cap off your day with time at leisure to explore Bruges before returning to your hotel. Tonight, gather for a farewell dinner. Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof | Meals: B L D

#### **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**





**Tivoli Doelen Amsterdam Hotel** Recently renovated 17th-century hotel in the city's historic heart on the banks of the Amstel River.

Van Der Valk Hotel Sélys Liège Set in the historic heart of Liège, this contemporary luxury hotel blends elements of old and new.



Château d'Urspelt Secluded in the Luxembourg countryside, this castle hotel affords an authentic taste of château living.



Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof This peaceful property occupies the former mansion of Baron Reylof.

#### **DATES & PRICING**

Guaranteed	Double	Single
Departure Dates	Occupancy	Supplement
May 22–31, Jun 5–14, Jun 19–28, Sep 25–Oct 4	\$8,495	\$2,495

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

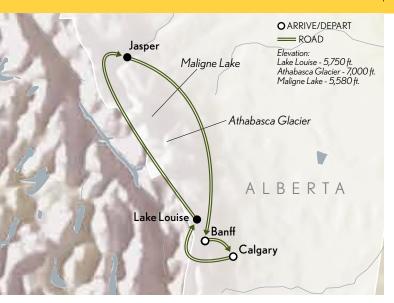
Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Set eyes on the turquoise waters of spectacular Maligne Lake

# North America: Canadian Rockies

8 days from \$8,495 | Limited to 24 guests

Discover Canada's breathtaking natural wonderland on an expertly led itinerary that reveals misty forests and flowery meadows, rapid rivers and vibrant lakes, and astonishing wildlife – all wrapped up in the stunning Canadian Rockies.





# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Discover Alberta's bright blue lakes, endless mountains and wildlife, experiencing epic hikes, floats and adventurous drives
- Take part in a hands-on lesson with a professional photographer at Moraine Lake, one of the most picturesque in the Canadian Rockies
- Feed your adrenaline as you traverse the massive Athabasca Glacier in a specially designed Ice Explorer
- Hike the vibrantly colored Emerald Lake region with one of the country's best naturalist guides

# DAY1: Arrive Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Arrive in Calgary, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight, gather with your fellow guests for a cocktail reception and welcome dinner. Fairmont Palliser Hotel | Meals: D

#### DAY 2: Lake Louise | Pristine Waters

This morning after leaving Calgary, meet your Cree guide of the Kwarakwante people of Jasper for a medicine walk that will teach about how their ancestors survived off the land for millennia. Continue the drive through the Bow Valley to glacially fed Moraine Lake in Banff National Park, where you experience an A&K-exclusive hands-on lesson in wildlife and landscape photography from a professional. Try your new skills on one of the most beautiful lakes in the Canadian Rockies. Finish the day at your historic resort set on Lake Louise. Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 3: Lake Louise | Flora & Fauna

Travel through serene Yoho National Park, pausing to view the Spiral Tunnel and explore Takakkaw Falls before proceeding to Emerald Lake, vibrantly colored by glacial sediment. Meet with your expert guide, who reveals the geological and natural forces behind this scenic lake and describes the breathtaking natural surroundings and habits of the endangered grizzly bear. After lunch, weather permitting, view the Kicking Horse Natural Bridge. Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise | Meals: B L



Join a professional photographer for an enriching hands-on lesson in the art of wildlife and landscape photography, right out in the field.

#### DAY 4: Jasper | Through the Ice Fields

Travel to the scenic Icefields Parkway for a full day of adventure. Set along the backbone of the Canadian Rockies and named after the area's sprawling ice fields, the parkway represents one of the world's great drives. See Crowfoot Glacier and stop at the massive Athabasca Glacier (7,000 feet) for an exciting ride across its surface on a specially designed vehicle. Also visit Sunwapta Falls, followed by a barbecue lunch in a stunning, remote setting before continuing to the town of Jasper. Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 5: Jasper | Canyon Skyscrapers

Cruise along the mile-high Maligne Lake to the famous Spirit Island, a tiny islet surrounded by the towering snowcapped Rockies. You may opt to join your fellow guests for a hike with your Resident Tour Director through the Maligne Canyon, taking in its impressive 200-foot-tall limestone walls. Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge | Meals: B D

DAY 6: Banff | Canada's Stunning First National Park Today, stop for photos of Athabasca Falls and Peyto Lake as you return along the Icefields Parkway to Banff National Park — a UNESCO World Heritage Site established in 1885 as Canada's first national park — stopping for a picnic lunch en route. Arrive at your extraordinary hotel, which is styled after a Scottish Baronial castle and known as the "Castle in the Rockies." Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel | Meals: B L

#### DAY 7: Banff | Nestled in Nature

Bordered on all sides by wilderness, Banff is a national park resort community surrounded by spectacular nature. Embark on a float trip down the majestic Bow River, before ascending to the summit of Sulphur Mountain on the Banff Gondola to take in the striking views. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner. Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel | Meals: B D

#### DAY 8: Depart Banff

This morning, drive to Calgary International Airport, where your journey concludes. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**





Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel A national historic site styled after a Scottish castle, complete with alpine views in Banff National Park.

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise Premium rooms overlook stunning Lake Louise within Alberta's Banff National Park.



Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge Set on Lac Beauvert and surrounded A historic landmark in downtown by the majesty of Alberta's Jasper National Park.



Fairmont Palliser Hotel Calgary, known for welcoming royalty for over a century.

# **DATES & PRICING**

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Jun 22–29, Jun 29–Jul 6, Jul 20–27, Aug 3–10, Aug 17–24, Aug 24–31,	\$8,495	\$3,695
Aug 31–Sep 7, Sep 7–14		

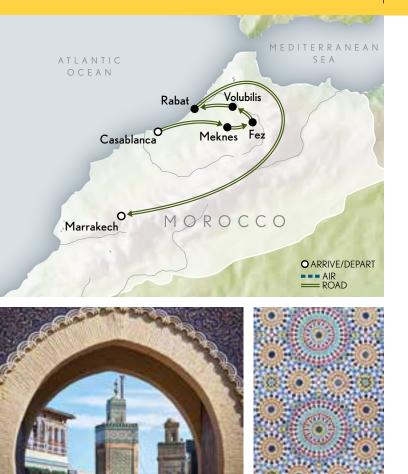
#### Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements. Minimum age is 10 years. Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.



# **Morocco:** Imperial Cities

8 days from \$5,995 | Limited to 24 guests



Explore exotic Morocco, dining in an authentic riad, navigating the lively medina of Marrakech and meeting the Berber people in a village beneath the peaks of the Atlas Mountains.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Explore Fez el-Bali, Morocco's cultural heart, on a guided walk through its winding alleyways and myriad souks
- Tread the ancient Roman paths at Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to marvel at soaring arches and vivid, well-preserved 2,000-year-old mosaics
- Savor the cuisine and sights of the beautiful "Red City" of Marrakech
- Experience authentic Berber hospitality with a visit to a village at the foot of the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains

#### DAY 1: Arrive Casablanca, Morocco

Arrive in Casablanca and transfer to your hotel. Gather tonight for a special welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Le Casablanca Hotel | Meals: D

#### DAY 2: Casablanca | Fez via Meknes

Explore the towering Hassan II Mosque, a wildly intricate building that holds 25,000 worshipers. Soaring above the ocean, its minaret stands as the tallest religious structure in the world. Proceed to a winery outside Meknes for lunch at a restaurant offering views of the region's sunbathed

vineyards and olive groves. Next, head to the city of Meknes. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Morocco's imperial cities, it was built in the 17th century by the powerful sultan Moulay Ismail. Continue to Fez, arriving at day's end at your boutique hotel set on a scenic hilltop. **Hotel Sahrai | Meals: B L** 



Witness bakers, craftspeople and shopkeepers at work in the heart of Fez el-Bali, a bustling labyrinth hawking everything from colorful carpets and fresh herbs to fish, olives and sweet dates.

#### DAY 3: Fez | The Medieval City

Step back in time into remarkably untouched Fez el-Bali ("Old Fez"), the cultural heart of Morocco. Wander among the 9,000 lanes, alleys and souks that shape its old quarter, where locals conduct their day-to-day business. Later, discover Fez el-Jadid ("New Fez"), home to the mellah, the old Jewish quarter, with its wrought iron-decorated windows and carved wood balconies. Tonight, dine at a traditional Moroccan riad (mansion with interior garden) with a female professor who leads a fascinating discussion on the role of women in modern Morocco. Hotel Sahrai | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 4: Rabat | Roman Ruins of Volubilis

After breakfast, drive to Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to Morocco's largest and most impressive Roman ruins, with excellently preserved mosaics. Continue to Rabat, the capital of Morocco, and view the 12th-century Moorish Hassan Tower. Visit the Mohammed V Mausoleum, dedicated to the founder of modern Morocco, and visit Oudayas Kasbah; its gate is considered among the most beautiful in the Moorish world. **Story Rabat | Meals: B L** 

#### DAY 5: Marrakech | The "Red City"

Drive to Marrakech, arriving in the afternoon. Considered the "Pearl of the South," Marrakech was once the capital of an empire that stretched from Spain to Senegal and is known as the "Red City" for the distinctive hues of its brick buildings. Hôtel & Ryads Barrière Le Naoura | Meals: B

#### DAY 6: Marrakech | Palaces & Performers

Discover Marrakech's exotic medina, the old walled section of the city. Explore the Dar El Bacha Palace or the Dar Si Said Museum of Moroccan Arts. Continue to El Badi Palace and view the 12th-century Koutoubia Mosque, a landmark Islamic religious structure in Marrakech. Stroll through Djemaa el-Fna square, where dancers, mime artists and street musicians perform. Hôtel & Ryads Barrière Le Naoura | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 7: Marrakech | Atlas Mountains

Today, choose to remain in Marrakech or enjoy a full-day excursion to the High Atlas Mountains. Admire majestic views of snow-capped peaks as you hike to a picturesque village and spend time with local Berbers in their homes. Learn about daily life while savoring traditional Berber bread and mint tea. Afterward, have lunch before returning to Marrakech. Tonight, attend a special farewell dinner. **Hótel & Ryads Barrière Le Naoura | Meals: B L D** 

#### DAY 8: Depart Marrakech

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**





Hôtel & Ryads Barrière Le Naoura

Hotel Sahrai

Boutique 50-room hotel on a hilltop between the New Town and medina, with fantastic views of Fez.





Le Casablanca Hotel Stylish, comfortable hotel in a quiet residential area, featuring Art Decoinfluenced decor. Story Rabat

Intimate property in Rabat's embassy district featuring lush, meticulously landscaped gardens.

# DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Feb 10–17, Apr 11–18, May 11–18, May 18–25, May 25–Jun 1, Sep 7–14, Sep 19–26, Oct 18–25,	\$5,995	\$2,295
Nov 7-14, Dec 14-21		

#### Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years. Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests. Long drives should be expected on this itinerary. This is the only way to experience the magical scenery that this exotic country has to offer.

# Embark on the finest small-group boutique river cruise experience in Europe.

### Expertly Crafted Itinerary on River and Land

Take advantage of the same authentic ambience of our land journeys on a boutique river cruise along Europe's most iconic waterways. Each unique river cruise journey is a complete itinerary that reveals the heart of your destination on land as well as on the water. Explore fascinating cities such as Zurich, Vienna, Prague and Amsterdam before or after your cruise, staying at smaller boutique hotels offering close proximity to delectable food and intriguing culture.

# A Small Group of No More than 24 Guests

While your river ship carries a complement of around 150 passengers, your touring and meals are enjoyed in a group of no more than 24 Connections guests, making for a far more personal, boutique-style experience. Your Resident Tour Director serves as your concierge on board and leads your Connections-exclusive excursions, where you experience your destination in a relaxed, intimate ambience. Whenever you disembark, travel as a group, not as a crowd, and explore together as like-minded travellers.

# Authentic, Exclusive Shore Excursions

Every trip ashore on your journey is an invitation-only affair — just you, your fellow Connections guests with your Resident Tour Director and local guide. Set out by private vehicle on visits to local neighborhoods and markets or meet one-on-one with remarkable artisans, musicians and culinary experts who lend an incomparable firsthand perspective of the local people and culture.

"An excellent journey with wonderful guides and an excellent tour director whose knowledge, wit and personality were second to none."

— Theresa; Loomis, CA



















# Relax aboard spacious, stylish river ships steeped in legendary Old World hospitality.

### Preferred Cabins and Suites With Balconies

On every Connections boutique river cruise journey, A&K offers only the cabins and suites most preferred by our guests, including those with full walk-out balconies or French balconies, all of which offer unrestricted views through wide glass panoramas.

#### Relaxing Atmosphere and Modern Amenities

Each vessel selected for Connections cruises features a welcoming, casual atmosphere and cutting-edge amenities you might expect from a fine hotel. Enjoy massage facilities and a fitness room on board, along with a sun deck for relaxation as well as a lounge, library and included Internet access.

#### Delicious - and Private - Meals on Board

Prepared fresh on board by a master chef and their team, every course features delicacies that take inspiration from the places you visit. Local wine, beer and soft drinks are included with both lunch and dinner, and you always dine with your Connections group at tables reserved exclusively for you. Enhance your culinary adventure with meals ashore at carefully selected local restaurants — something unique to your small group.

#### Service That Goes the Extra Mile

While cruising Europe, your needs are attended to by a seasoned crew that works on the river year in and year out, making them experts at anticipating requests before you even have to make them. Drawing on years of experience, the crew transforms your river ship into an inviting home away from home.

"An outstanding journey to a part of the world I never expected to visit. It exceeded expectations. Our tour director was knowledgeable, professional, patient and funny. Bravo!"

— Patrick; Wells, ME

# Cruising Holland & Belgium in Bloom

9 days from \$7,295 | Limited to 24 guests





Discover Holland and Belgium in flower-filled springtime, exploring amid vibrant blossoms and iconic windmills. Meet fascinating local people along the way who share the history, cuisine and crafts that make these countries truly unique.

### **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Cruise through Holland's and Belgium's finest cities and towns, experiencing nine days of exclusive Connections sightseeing led by your Resident Tour Director
- Indulge in a full afternoon at stunning Keukenhof Gardens, where you enjoy lunch surrounded by flowering bulbs
- Sample local cuisine during culinary experiences ashore, from a lunch of moules-frites to a tasting of Edam cheese
- Marvel at a family tulip farm on a private visit
- Visit the Watersnoodmuseum, which vividly recounts stories of the people who lived through a terrible flood
- Enter an esteemed diamond-cutting workshop to learn more about this fascinating practice

#### DAY 1: Arrive Amsterdam, Holland

Arrive in Amsterdam, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Later, gather for a welcome dinner. Anantara Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky Amsterdam | Meals: D

#### DAY 2: Amsterdam | Atmospheric Canals

This morning, set out on a private canal cruise and guided walking tour that reveals the history and architecture of this

fascinating city. Later, board your river ship with priority embarkation and time to unwind in your premium cabin or suite. Enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner, then cruise out of Amsterdam. Aboard Ship | Meals: B D

DAY 3: **Arnhem** | Market Garden Battle Site Arrive in Arnhem for an excursion to the Kröller-Müller Museum, home to the world's second-largest Van Gogh collection. Then, visit the Hartenstein Airborne Museum and nearby war cemetery. **Aboard Ship** | **Meals: B L D** 



Go behind the scenes at the Royal Delft workshops as master craftspeople carry on an artistic tradition passed down through generations.

#### DAY 4: Zeeland | Holding Back the Sea

Embark on today's remarkable excursion, seeing the Watersnoodmuseum and stopping in the charming village of Veere. Later, enjoy a private, pre-dinner cocktail party in the ship's Amadeus Club, followed by an exclusive Chef's Highlights dinner. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 5: **Bruges & Ghent, Belgium** | Historic City Centers Dock in Ghent, Belgium, and take an excursion to medieval Bruges, where you savor a delicious lunch of moules-frites (mussels and fries). Return to bustling Ghent for a walking tour and view Van Eyck's *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 6: Antwerp | Home of Rubens

Explore lively Antwerp, the most populous city in Belgium. View selected Rubens masterpieces at the city's magnificent cathedral, which took almost two centuries to build. Then, stop at a private workshop that demonstrates the art of diamond cutting. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 7: Delft & Keukenhof | Floral Glories

Disembark in Delft, where you visit the Royal Delft porcelain factory. Enjoy lunch and a full afternoon at Keukenhof Gardens. Open only in spring, its breathtaking floral displays epitomize the beauty of Holland. Discover extravagant gardens of tulips and other blooms ablaze with rainbow colors on an unforgettable experience. Tonight, enjoy a gala dinner on board your vessel. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 8: Amsterdam | Visiting a Tulip Grower

Back in Amsterdam, disembark to drive past tulip fields en route to a private flower grower. Meet the family who runs this farm and enjoy lunch ashore. Then, pay a visit to the Museum Mill, which can pump up to 16,000 gallons of water every minute. Climb to the ridge for a peek inside, admiring the gears and other fascinating mechanisms at work. Afterward, savor a cheese tasting near Edam. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 9: Depart Amsterdam

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and depart. Meals: B



#### Aboard Ship

Spacious cabins and suites — all with French or walk-out balconies — and an open, modern design make for a superb, stylish cruising experience.



Anantara Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky Amsterdam Newly reopened after extensive renovations, this distinctive hotel puts a modern twist on its storied history.

#### DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	B-4 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	B-1 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	A-1 Mozart-Deck French Balcony	Amadeus Suite Mozart-Deck Walk-Out Balcony
Apr 5-13 ('Amadeus Cara') Single Supplement	<b>\$7,295</b> \$1,795	<b>\$7,695</b> \$2,495	<b>\$7,995</b> \$2,995	<b>\$8,495</b> \$5,095
Apr 15-23 ('Amadeus Imperial') Apr 20-28* ('Amadeus Queen') May 1-9 ('Amadeus Riva')	\$7,595	\$7,995	\$8,295	\$8,795
Single Supplement	\$2,195	\$2,895	\$3,395	\$5,995

\*Departure features an alternate itinerary. Contact A&K for details.

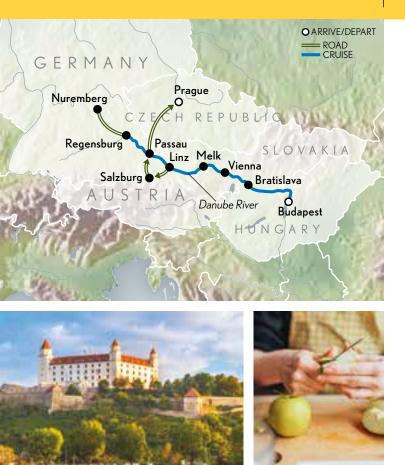
#### Journey Details

High or low water levels may impact sailing and require changes to the itinerary. Minimum age is 12 years.



# Prague & the Blue Danube

11 days from \$8,995 | Limited to 24 guests



Cruise the Danube for seven nights, sampling the history and culture of five countries. Visit a centuries-old castle, tour an underground bunker from World War II and attend an electrifying concert for a magical evening in Vienna.

### **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Cruise the Danube, with 11 days of exclusive Connections sightseeing, including a two-night stay in historic Prague
- Sit down to eight meals ashore, including a private garden party lunch at a private home in Budapest
- Take a private cooking class in Salzburg, accompanied by lunch and a hands-on strudel-making lesson
- Enjoy premier seating during a Sound of Vienna concert in the famous Kursalon
- Privately tour a World War II art bunker in Nuremberg

#### DAY 1: Arrive Budapest, Hungary

Arrive in Budapest, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. In 1872, the three Hungarian settlements of Obuda, Pest and Buda merged as one, and the illustrious capital of Budapest was born. Following its unification, Budapest underwent rapid growth and expanded its political sphere, setting the stage for the city's golden age. Tonight, join fellow guests and your Resident Tour Director for a welcome dinner. **Prestige Hotel Budapest** | **Meals: D** 

# DAY 2: Budapest | Evening City Cruise

Join your intimate group on a tour of the city's Jewish heritage,



visiting the Great Synagogue and the Hungarian Jewish Museum. Enjoy time for lunch at leisure, and then meet your ship for priority embarkation. This evening, cruise through Budapest, passing under the illuminated Chain Bridge while a local band performs traditional music on board. Aboard Ship | Meals: B D



Look forward to dinner at a local restaurant ashore, followed by a concert of classical masterpieces in Vienna's acclaimed Kursalon.

#### DAY 3: Budapest | Two Cities in One

See Buda's cobbled streets and Pest's 19th-century buildings. Throughout the course of your tour, admire Matthias Church; Fisherman's Bastion, oddly more decorative than defensive; St. Stephen's Basilica, which stands just as tall as the Parliament Building to symbolize the balance of church and state; and the Parliament Building itself, whose undulating Grand Stairway enchants with flowing crimson carpets and brilliant gold leaf. Enjoy a garden lunch ashore at a Buda villa, and then explore Baroque Godollo Castle and its gardens. During the reign of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the palace became a favorite summer residence of the royal family. Afterward, rejoin your ship at Esztergom. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 4: **Bratislava, Slovakia** | Splendors of the Old Quarter Arrive in Bratislava and visit its old quarter. In intimate company, visit the 18th-century Primate's Palace and view St. Martin's Cathedral. Back on board, enjoy a private cocktail party and an exclusive Chef's Highlights dinner. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 5: **Vienna, Austria** | Opulent Schönbrunn Palace Visit Schönbrunn Palace, the summer residence of the Habsburgs, before setting out on a guided walk of Vienna's historic center — an imperial masterpiece and the capital of Austria. Later, experience a fantastic dinner ashore, and enjoy preferred seating at a *Sound of Vienna* concert in the Kursalon. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 6: Dürnstein & Melk | Treasure Along the Danube Take a walking tour of Dürnstein, followed by a wine tasting and private lunch ashore at a restaurant in the Wachau Valley. Visit Melk Abbey, then enjoy a guided tour of Schloss Artstetten, home of the descendants of Emperor Franz Josef. Among the famous castle owners interred here are Emperor Franz I, the father-in-law of Napoleon Bonaparte; Duke Maximilian, an established opponent of the Nazi political party and among the first Austrians to be deported to the concentration camp at Dachau; and Archduke Franz





Ferdinand, whose startling assassination ignited World War I. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

### DAY 7: Salzburg | Beauty and History

Explore St. Michael's Basilica in Mondsee, which served as the backdrop for the iconic wedding scene in *The Sound of Music*. Then, discover Salzburg during a walking tour and private cooking class, which includes lunch and a hands-on strudel-making lesson. This evening, your captain hosts a gala dinner on board. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D



Step ashore for an astonishing excursion to a Nuremberg art bunker, gaining local insight into a collection of master works that narrowly escaped the ravages of World War II.

### DAY 8: Nuremberg & Regensburg, Germany

In Nuremberg, visit the Altstadt (old town). See the Imperial Castle and Palace of Justice, and have lunch ashore. Later, privately tour a World War II art bunker, an A&K exclusive. Back on board your ship in Regensburg, enjoy a Bavarianthemed evening. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D



DAY 9: Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic | Radiant City Disembark in Passau and drive to Cesky Krumlov, where you visit the city's Old Town and stunning 13th-century castle. Tucked away in the hills of the southern Czech Republic, Cesky Krumlov delights with its medieval detailing and pastoral countryside. Though occupied by German forces during World War II, the town managed to avoid any serious conflict and remains remarkably well preserved. After lunch, continue to Prague for an evening at leisure. BoHo Hotel | Meals: B L

#### DAY 10: Prague | Bohemia's Historic Capital

Explore Prague's Old Town and its Jewish Quarter, birthplace of Franz Kafka. An integral part of the city's cultural history, the Bohemian Jewish novelist spent many years in the Old Town, where cobblestone streets, enchanting spires and cozy

pubs create a fairy-tale atmosphere. As a proper send-off, there is even a memorial dedicated to Kafka on Dusni Street — a peculiar bronze sculpture depicting the writer riding on the shoulders of a headless figure. Take in the Town Hall's iconic astronomical clock, the Jewish Museum and the Jewish Cemetery. Following an afternoon at leisure, gather for a farewell dinner. BoHo Hotel | Meals: B D

#### DAY 11: Depart Prague

Today, transfer to Prague Airport for your flight home. Meals: B

### **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



Aboard Ship

Spacious cabins and suites - all with French or walk-out balconies - and an open, modern design make for a superb, stylish cruising experience.



Prestige Hotel Budapest Family-owned Hungarian hotel only Iconic boutique hotel occupying a steps from the radiant Chain Bridge. former factory building.



**BoHo Hotel** 

### DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	B-4 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	B-1 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	A-1 Mozart-Deck French Balcony	Amadeus Suite Mozart-Deck Walk-Out Balcony
May 20–30, Jun 2–12* ('Amadeus Imperial') Jul 6–16, Aug 19–29,* Sep 10–20, Oct 7–17* ('Amadeus Riva')	\$8,995	\$9,795	\$9,995	\$10,795
Single Supplement	\$2,295	\$3,195	\$3,895	\$6,095

\*Itinerary runs in reverse. Contact A&K for details.

#### Journey Details

High or low water levels may impact sailing and require changes to the itinerary. Minimum age is 12 years.

Walk the charming streets of historic Lucerne, surrounded by Alpine beauty

# Switzerland & the Rhine

11 days from \$10,495 | Limited to 24 guests



Cruise the Rhine from Amsterdam to Basel as you visit renowned Cologne Cathedral, take in the majesty of the Swiss Alps, and sample local beer, wine and chocolate for an authentic taste of Europe.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

PERSONAL PROPERTY AND

- Cruise the Rhine through four countries, experiencing 11 days of exclusive Connections sightseeing in your private small-group vehicle, escorted by your Resident Tour Director
- Explore the heritage of New England's founding fathers with special access to Leiden's American Pilgrim Museum
- Ascend Mount Pilatus to take in stunning, 360-degree views of the Swiss Alps
- Sample local food and wine during five specially planned meals ashore, including wine tastings in Rüdesheim and Strasbourg, and more

#### DAY 1: Arrive Amsterdam, Holland

Arrive in Amsterdam, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure. This evening, join your Resident Tour Director for a welcome dinner. Anantara Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky Amsterdam | Meals: D

DAY 2: **Amsterdam** | Canal Cruise and Rijksmuseum Take a private canal cruise in Amsterdam, the best way to see this city linked by 165 canals spanning more than 30 miles. Then, enjoy a guided visit to the world-famous



Rijksmuseum, home to an extensive collection of Dutch masters, followed by time for individual exploration and lunch at leisure. Finally, take advantage of priority boarding onto your river ship. After settling in to your premium cabin or suite, gather for a welcome cocktail and dinner aboard. Aboard Ship | Meals: B D



Taste local wine, cheese and beer while meeting those who produce them during enriching, immersive excursions along the storied Rhine River.

#### DAY 3: Leiden | Pilgrim Museum

This morning, transfer by coach to the university town of Leiden, where you enjoy a private (before-hours) visit to the American Pilgrim Museum. Afterwards, spend some time at leisure to explore Leiden at your own pace. Rejoin the ship in Utrecht for lunch as your cruise continues. This evening, enjoy a private cocktail party. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 4: Cologne, Germany | Gothic Cathedral Arrive this morning in Cologne, where you disembark to explore the major sites on a walking tour, including the Gothic cathedral, an edifice so massive its construction spanned centuries; it was only officially completed in 1880. Following your sightseeing, return to the ship for lunch and some time at leisure. Later this afternoon, gather to visit a 100-year-old brewery, where you enjoy a beer tasting and light snacks. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 5: Cochem | Hilltop Fortress

Arrive in Cochem on the Moselle River, a tributary of the Rhine, this afternoon. Disembark to visit the neo-Gothic castle, including its famous Witches Tower, the only part of the original Gothic structure still standing. Tonight, sit down to a private Chef's Highlights dinner aboard the ship. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 6: Koblenz & Rüdesheim | Scenic Gorge

Cruise to Koblenz, where you rejoin the Rhine River. Koblenz's history dates back to Roman times, when Julius Caesar built the first bridge to span the Rhine. Take a guided walking tour of the city this morning. Then, cruise the lovely Rhine Gorge, one of the most scenic stretches in all of Europe. Its magical mix of rocky, winding riverbanks, quaint riverside towns and castles perched high on the cliffside helped to earn it a spot on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. Arrive later in Rüdesheim, known throughout the region for its excellent wines. Join your Resident Tour





Savor a memorable treat on a visit to a chocolatier

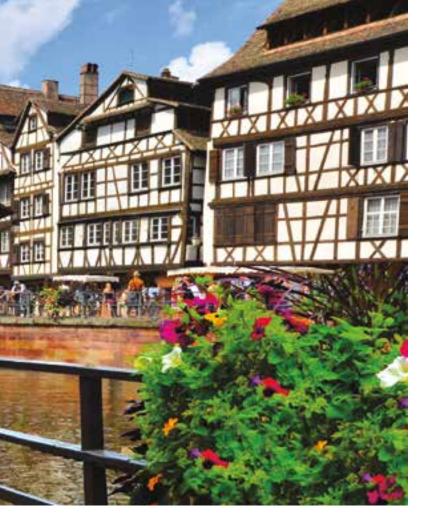
Director for a wine tasting and dinner ashore at a local restaurant. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 7: Heidelberg | Charming University Town Set out on a full-day excursion to Heidelberg, seeing the ruins of Heidelberg Castle. Abandoned in the 18th century, the crumbling fortress nevertheless remained a source of inspiration for later Romantic painters and poets, who seized on it as a symbol of faded glory. After lunch, proceed to the Altstadt (old town) for time at leisure; the Market Square is an excellent place to soak up local life. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 8: Strasbourg, France | Alsatian Capital

The capital of France's Alsace region, Strasbourg has been a focal point of French-German conflict for centuries, bearing the combined stamp of both nations as a result. Experience this for yourself on a walking tour of the old town that includes a specially arranged tasting at the Cave des Hospices, the city's oldest wine cellar. Cruise to Basel, Switzerland's third-largest city. Tonight, attend a captain's gala dinner aboard your vessel. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 9: Lucerne, Switzerland | Lakeside Panoramas Disembark and drive to Lucerne for a guided walk. Since the mid-19th century, this beautiful city has been the most visited in Switzerland, and today, it strikes an ideal balance between timeless historic beauty and modern development. Visit the Chapel Bridge, a city landmark



and the oldest covered wooden bridge in Europe. View its interior, decorated with vivid paintings, many of which date back to the 17th century and depict events from the Lucerne's storied past. Also stop at the Lion Monument, a rock relief commemorating the Swiss Guard. Savor lunch at a traditional wirtshaus, and then ascend Mount Pilatus by cable car to absorb the postcard-worthy mountaintop views. After descending via cog railway, continue to Zurich and check in to your hotel. The Storchen | Meals: B L

#### DAY 10: Zurich | Chocolatier Experience

Switzerland is synonymous with chocolate, and no visit here is complete without a stop at a Swiss chocolatier's workshop, where you enjoy some delectable treats. After time at leisure for lunch, gather for a guided walk of the city, taking in its alluring mix of modern and Old World architecture while

strolling its pedestrian-friendly avenues. Zurich is known for its churches, and your walk incorporates several noteworthy examples, including the Fraumünster, with its Marc Chagalldesigned stained glass windows, and the Grossmünster, supposedly founded by Charlemagne and later playing a key part in establishing the Reformation in Switzerland. Tonight, attend a farewell dinner. The Storchen | Meals: B D

#### DAY 11: Depart Zurich

Transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



#### Aboard Ship

Spacious cabins and suites - all with French or walk-out balconies - and an open, modern design make for a superb, stylish cruising experience.



Anantara Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky Amsterdam

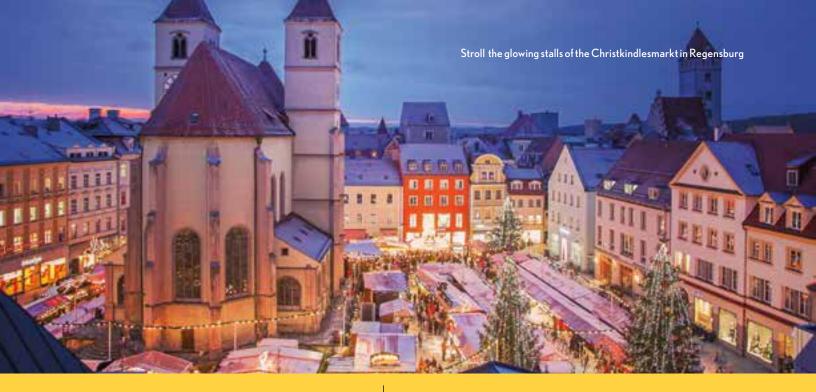
The Storchen A 66-room boutique treasure located A historic hotel with a modern twist. on the bank of the Limmat River.

### **DATES & PRICING**

Guaranteed Departure Dates	B-4 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	B-1 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	A-1 Mozart-Deck French Balcony	Amadeus Suite Mozart-Deck Walk-Out Balcony
May 18-28, Jun 15-25 ('Amadeus Queen')	\$10,495	\$10,995	\$11,395	\$11,995
Jul 14-24, Sep 20-30, Oct 4-14 ('Amadeus Star') Single Supplement	\$3,595	\$4,495	\$5,295	\$7,695

#### Journey Details

High or low water levels may impact sailing and require changes to the itinerary. Minimum age is 12 years.



# Christmas Markets Along the Danube

9 days from \$7,295 | Limited to 24 guests





Embark on a festive Danube River cruise, staying in handpicked boutique hotels in the heart of Vienna and Munich, and visiting Christkindlesmarkts, historic Melk Abbey and the Imperial Treasury in Vienna.

### **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Cruise the Danube River, experiencing nine days of exclusive Connections sightseeing in your private smallgroup vehicle, escorted by your own Resident Tour Director
- Visit the finest Christmas markets (Christkindlesmarkts) in southern Germany and Austria in the intimate company of your small group
- Enjoy private access to a World War II art bunker in Nuremberg, an A&K exclusive
- Set out on unforgettable excursions designed by A&K, including a private tour of the Hofburg Palace Treasury in Vienna with its glittering jewels

#### DAY 1: Arrive Vienna, Austria

Arrive in Vienna, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight, join your dedicated Resident Tour Director for a welcome dinner. Sans Souci Wien | Meals: D

#### DAY 2: Vienna | Handcrafted Porcelain

Visit the Belvedere, seeing the stately palace complex, tranquil gardens and its Christmas market. View works by Austrian painter Gustav Klimt. Then, enjoy lunch at a Viennese café before a privately guided tour of the Augarten Porcelain Factory. Transfer to your vessel, with priority embarkation. Settle into your premium cabin or suite with an open-air French or walk-out balcony. Enjoy a welcome cocktail before dinner on board. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D



Marvel at some of the world's finest handcrafted porcelain on a private guided tour of the Augarten Porcelain Factory and Museum in Vienna.

#### DAY 3: Vienna | A City's Christmas Best

Privately tour Schönbrunn Palace, enjoy a demonstration in strudel making and receive a private waltz lesson. After lunch, walk Vienna's old town with a local guide. Visit the Imperial Treasury at Hofburg Palace and see St. Stephen's Cathedral. Later, peruse the main Christmas market at the Rathausplatz. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 4: Melk | Palatial Abbey

Arrive in Melk, where you visit the Benedictine abbey, perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube. Originally constructed as a palace, the abbey boasts soaring gilded towers, an elaborately frescoed church and a vast library of medieval manuscripts. Pause for lunch ashore at a local restaurant in the scenic Wachau Valley. Later, enjoy a private pre-dinner cocktail party in the ship's Amadeus Club, hosted by your Resident Tour Director, followed by an exclusive Chef's Highlights dinner. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 5: **Passau, Germany** | Historic Christkindlesmarkt Arrive in Passau. Take a guided city walk, visiting the Christkindlesmarkt and St. Stephen's Cathedral for a private tour of its famed organ. Linger over an authentic Bavarian lunch with a glass of wine at a charming restaurant. Then, explore the historic center at leisure. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 6: **Regensburg** | Walking Tour & Market Visit Walk through Regensburg and visit one of its oldest breweries for a tasting. Tour St. Emmeram's Palace and stroll its Christmas market. Join the captain for a gala dinner back on board. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

### DAY 7: Nuremberg | Heart of the Old City

Transfer to Nuremberg and privately visit a World War II art bunker, an A&K exclusive. Then, walk through the old town to view its 900-year-old ramparts, Imperial Castle and Palace of Justice. Explore the Christkindlesmarkt, with time to shop or savor homemade gingerbread. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

### DAY 8: $Munich \mid$ Bavarian Capital

Disembark in Nuremberg and drive to Munich, famous for its beer halls and beer gardens. Take a guided walking tour of its old town. Visit the Frauenkirche cathedral and Marienplatz, with its bustling Christmas market. **Platzl Hotel | Meals: B D** 

#### DAY 9: Depart Munich

Transfer to Munich Airport for your departure. Meals: B

# **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



Aboard Ship

Spacious cabins and suites — all with French or walk-out balconies — and an open, modern design make for a superb, stylish cruising experience.



Sans Souci Wien Charismatic hotel situated in the cultural heart of Vienna.



Platzl Hotel Cozy, family-owned property featuring a traditional sausage house.

### DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	B-4 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	B-1 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	Mozart-Deck	Amadeus Suite Mozart-Deck Walk-Out Balcony
Nov 27-Dec 5, Dec 9-17 ('Amadeus Cara')	<b>\$7,295</b>	<b>\$7,695</b>	<b>\$7,995</b>	<b>\$8,495</b>
Single Supplement	\$1,695	\$2,195	\$2,595	\$4,095

#### Journey Details

High or low water levels may impact sailing and require changes to the itinerary. Minimum age is 12 years.



# Christmas Along the Danube 9 days from \$7,795 | Limited to 24 guests



Cruise the romantic Danube in celebration of the holidays, waking in festive Vienna on Christmas morning and experiencing local traditions. Visit holiday markets and revel in an organ concert at the superb Abbey of St. Florian.

# **A&K ADVANTAGES**

- Celebrate Christmas on the Danube River, experiencing nine days of exclusive Connections sightseeing escorted by your own Resident Tour Director
- Explore Munich from your centrally located, family-owned boutique hotel
- Go ashore for Connections-exclusive shore excursions, enjoying local Christmas markets (Christkindlesmarkts) and an organ concert at the Abbey of St. Florian
- Sit down to five meals ashore, just for Connections guests, coupled with the chance to bake a Linzer torte in Austria
- Awake Christmas morning in magical Vienna for a smallgroup tour of the city bedecked in its Christmas finery

#### DAY 1: Arrive Munich, Germany

Arrive in Munich, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. This evening, join your Resident Tour Director for a welcome dinner. Platzl Hotel | Meals: D

#### DAY 2: Munich | Christmas Crafts

Tour Munich's Old Town and visit the Frauenkirche with your small group. Shop for crafts in the Christmas market. Then, transfer to your riverboat in Passau for priority embarkation. After settling into your premium cabin or suite with an open-air French or walk-out balcony, enjoy a welcome cocktail, followed by dinner. Aboard Ship | Meals: B D



Learn the secrets of making the famed Linzer torte during a hands-on class at a patisserie in Linz, and sample the mouthwatering results on an A&K-exclusive experience.

#### DAY 3: Salzburg, Austria | Mozart's Home

Join your Resident Tour Director for a full-day excursion to Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart. Stroll the city's historic center, enjoy lunch and explore the Christmas market in Domplatz (Cathedral Square). Also visit the church of Mondsee, and later attend an exclusive Chef's Highlights dinner on board your vessel. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 4: **Melk & Dürnstein** | Charming Christmas Eve Disembark by small group to visit the Wachau Valley, with a guided visit to the Benedictine abbey of Melk and a tasting of glühwein (mulled wine) in Dürnstein. A special holiday celebration aboard your ship ends this festive day. Later, you may choose to attend mass in the picturesque village. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 5: Vienna | Enchanted Christmas Morning Arrive in Vienna this morning to visit Schönbrunn Palace with your small group. Enjoy a strudel-baking demonstration, privately explore the magnificent building with a guide and stroll the Christmas Market. After lunch aboard, drive along the Ringstrasse. See the State Opera and St. Stephen's Cathedral. Visit the Imperial Treasury at Hofburg Palace, and stroll through Vienna's Christmas market. Tonight, mark Christmas with a special A&K-exclusive dinner and concert ashore at the famous Kursalon. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

DAY 6: **Bratislava, Slovakia** | Historic Old Town See Bratislava's castle district and Old Town. Visit the Church of St. Elizabeth, known as the Blue Church, and view the historic fortress of the city's Castle District. Enjoy a private cocktail party in the ship's Amadeus Club, hosted by your Resident Tour Director, followed by a gala dinner. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 7: Linz, Austria | Half-Timbered Houses

In Linz, indulge in an exclusive Linzer torte baking class at a top local patisserie. Then, take a privately guided tour of the Abbey of St. Florian, where you pause for a moving organ concert. Aboard Ship | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 8: Munich, Germany | Bavarian Panorama

Disembark and drive to Munich, visiting the historic town of Landshut en route. Check in to your boutique hotel, with time to unwind. Gather for a farewell dinner. Platzl Hotel | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 9: Depart Munich

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and depart. Meals: B

### **BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS**



Aboard Ship

Spacious cabins and suites — all with French or walk-out balconies — and an open, modern design make for a superb, stylish cruising experience.



Cozy, family-owned property featuring a traditional sausage house.

### DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	B-4 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	B-1 Strauss-Deck French Balcony	Mozart-Deck	Amadeus Suite Mozart-Deck Walk-Out Balcony
Dec 21-29 ('Amadeus Queen')	<b>\$7,795</b>	<b>\$8,195</b>	<b>\$8,495</b>	<b>\$8,995</b>
Single Supplement	\$1,995	\$2,595	\$2,895	\$4,695

#### Journey Details

High or low water levels may impact sailing and require changes to the itinerary. Minimum age is 12 years.

# 'Amadeus Riva'

Designed to be as innovative as it is stylish, newly launched 'Amadeus Riva' incorporates the latest in sustainable travel technology while delivering hallmark features such as panoramic windows in all public areas, walk-out balconies in suites, and windows in A&K-selected cabins that transform into open-air French balconies.

# 'Amadeus Riva' at a Glance

- 67 cabins and 12 suites
- Launched in 2023
- All meals included on board, with house wine and beer at lunch and dinner
- Approximately 46 crew members
- · Floor-to-ceiling windows in public areas
- Amenities include hairdresser, massage room, fitness room and walking track

#### SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

With Strauss- and Mozart-Deck cabins of 188 square feet and suites of 284 square feet, accommodations aboard offer space and comfort.

#### GO ASHORF IN A PRIVATE GROUP

Your dedicated Resident Tour Director joins you as you disembark with a small group of no more than 24 Connections guests on private shore excursions, each led by an expert local guide.

### FINE CUISINE WITH SELECT WINES

Enjoy fine cuisine prepared by your onboard chef and served with house wines and select vintages relevant to regions on your route. Indulge in The Café Vienna, an onboard coffee and sweet shop that carries on the Viennese coffeehouse tradition.

#### AMENITIES WORTHY OF A HOTEL

The vessel features a fitness facility, massage room, sun deck, lounge, panoramic bar and hairdresser.

### **CRUISE WITH CONFIDENCE**

As with the entire privately owned Amadeus fleet, the vessel was designed and built in European shipyards for quality control.



# Deck Plan

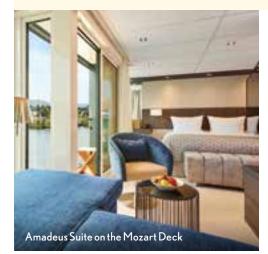
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STRAUSS-DECK

					Fitness Room	
					Massage Elevator	

- Amadeus Suite (284 sq. ft.), walk-out balcony A-1(188 sq. ft.), French balcony
- **B-1**(188 sq. ft.), French balcony B-4 (188 sq. ft.), French balcony





# 'Amadeus Cara'

Boasting a spacious interior design concept based on the award-wiinning Amadeus Silver series, modern 'Amadeus Cara' features cabins with panoramic drop-down window fronts, as well as 10 suites offering walk-out balconies. Launched in 2022, it also sports a newly designed sun deck ideal for relaxing along the river.

# 'Amadeus Cara' at a Glance

- 71 cabins and 10 suites
- All meals included on board, with house wine and beer at lunch and dinner
- Approximately 46 crew members
- Floor-to-ceiling windows in public areas
- Amenities include a hairdresser, massage room and panoramic bar

#### PANORAMIC VIEWS

Floor-to-ceiling windows in the lounge and a French balcony in Strauss- and Mozart-Deck cabins promise great views around every river bend.

#### PRIVATE SHORE EXCURSIONS

Disembark for private shore excursions with your small group of no more than 24 Connections guests and your dedicated Resident Tour Director, who also serves as your onboard concierge. Experience Europe at its most authentic, led by expert local guides. Enjoy opportunities to explore on your own as well, on foot or by complimentary bicycle.

#### SUPERB DINING AND FINE WINES

As you cruise Europe's great rivers, enjoy fine cuisine prepared by an onboard chef, paired with house wines chosen from the region you are exploring.

#### AMENITIES WORTHY OF A HOTEL

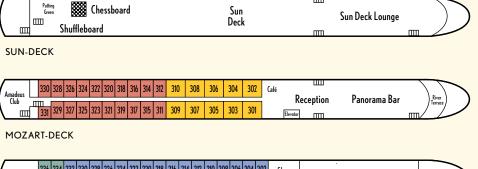
The vessel features a fitness facility, massage room, lounge, panoramic bar, sun deck and hairdresser.

#### **CRUISE WITH CONFIDENCE**

The vessel was designed and built in European shipyards for quality control.



# Deck Plan



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STRAUSS-DECK

$\square$					Fitness Room	
					Hair Salon/ Massage Elevator	

HAYDN-DECK

- Amadeus Suite (284 sq. ft.), walk-out balcony
  A-1(188 sq. ft.), French balcony
- **B-1**(188 sq. ft.), French balcony
- B-4 (188 sq. ft.), French balcony





63

# 'Amadeus Imperial'

Launched in 2020, exquisite 'Amadeus Imperial' is a proud addition to the Amadeus fleet. Conveying the serene ambience and refreshing vitality of a day on the river, the ship features a sun deck, river terrace, lowerable panoramic windows along the width of the cabins, and suites equipped with an added outdoor balcony.

# 'Amadeus Imperial' at a Glance

- 72 cabins and 12 suites
- All meals included on board, with house wine and beer at lunch and dinner
- Floor-to-ceiling windows in public areas
- · Approximately 44 crew members
- · Amenities include a hairdresser, fitness room, massage room, sun deck, wine bar and shuffleboard

# SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

With Strauss- and Mozart-Deck cabins of 188 square feet and suites of 284 square feet, accommodations aboard offer space and comfort.

GO ASHORE IN A PRIVATE GROUP

Your dedicated Resident Tour Director joins you as you disembark with a small group of no more than 24 Connections guests on private shore excursions, each led by an expert local guide.

# FINE CUISINE WITH SELECT WINES

Enjoy fine cuisine, prepared by your onboard chef and served with house wines and select vintages relevant to the regions on your route.

# AMENITIES WORTHY OF A HOTEL

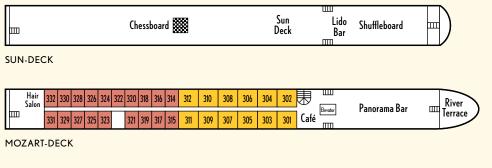
The vessel features a fitness facility and massage room, hairdresser, restaurant, and panoramic bar.

# **CRUISE WITH CONFIDENCE**

As with the entire privately owned Amadeus fleet, the ship was designed and built in Europe for quality control.



# Deck Plan



236	234	232	230	228	226	224	222	220	218	216	214	212	210	208	206	204	202	Shop Elevator	Restaurant	
235	233	231	229	227		225	223	221	219	217	215	211	209	207	205	203	201	Reception	Restaurun	/

STRAUSS-DECK

					Fitness Room Elevator	
					Massage	

- Amadeus Suite (284 sq. ft.), walk-out balcony A-1(188 sq. ft.), French balcony
- **B-1**(188 sq. ft.), French balcony B-4 (188 sq. ft.), French balcony



Interior of a spacious Amadeus Suite



# 'Amadeus Star'

Designed for serene and elegant river travel, 'Amadeus Star' sparkles with the same contemporary style and inviting comfort that has distinguished its sister vessels. With panoramic windows, walk-out balconies in every suite and a full slate of amenities, 'Amadeus Star' makes an ideal vessel for discovering Europe's best.

# 'Amadeus Star' at a Glance

- 70 cabins and 12 suites
- Launched in 2019
- · All meals included on board, with house wine and beer at lunch and dinner
- · Floor-to-ceiling windows in public areas
- Approximately 45 crew members
- Amenities include a hairdresser, massage room, fitness room and shuffleboard

#### SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

With Strauss- and Mozart-Deck cabins of 188 square feet and suites of 284 square feet, accommodations aboard offer space and comfort.

GO ASHORE IN A PRIVATE GROUP Your dedicated Resident Tour Director joins you, as you disembark with a small group of no more than 24 Connections guests on private shore excursions, each led by an expert local guide.

#### FINE CUISINE WITH SELECT WINES

Enjoy fine cuisine, prepared by your onboard chef and served with house wines and select vintages relevant to the regions on your route.

#### AMENITIES WORTHY OF A HOTEL

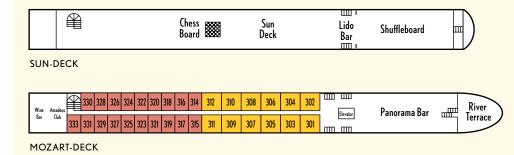
The vessel features a fitness facility, massage room, hairdresser, lounge and panoramic al fresco bar.

### **CRUISE WITH CONFIDENCE**

As with the entire privately owned Amadeus fleet, the ship was designed and built in Europe for quality control.



# Deck Plan



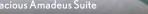
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STRAUSS-DECK

			Hair Salon Elevator	
			Massage	

- Amadeus Suite (284 sq. ft.), walk-out balcony A-1(188 sq. ft.), French balcony
- **B-1**(188 sq. ft.), French balcony
- B-4 (188 sq. ft.), French balcony







# 'Amadeus Queen'

Contemporary and elegant in every sense, 'Amadeus Queen' builds on the design successes of the award-winning Amadeus Silver series ships, boasting panoramic windows in all public areas, walk-out balconies in every suite, drop-down windows in premium A&K cabins and an enclosed swimming pool deck with an innovative retractable roof.

# 'Amadeus Queen' at a Glance

- 69 cabins and 12 suites
- Launched in 2018
- All meals included on board, with house wine and beer at lunch and dinner
- · Floor-to-ceiling windows in public areas
- Approximately 45 crew members
- Amenities include a hairdresser, massage room, fitness room, shuffleboard and retractable-roof pool deck

### SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

With Strauss- and Mozart-Deck cabins of 188 square feet and suites of 284 square feet, accommodations aboard offer space and comfort.

#### GO ASHORE IN A PRIVATE GROUP

Your dedicated Resident Tour Director joins you as you disembark with a small group of no more than 24 Connections guests on private shore excursions, each led by an expert local guide.

### FINE CUISINE WITH SELECT WINES

Enjoy fine cuisine, prepared by your onboard chef and served with house wines and select vintages relevant to the regions on your route.

### AMENITIES WORTHY OF A HOTEL

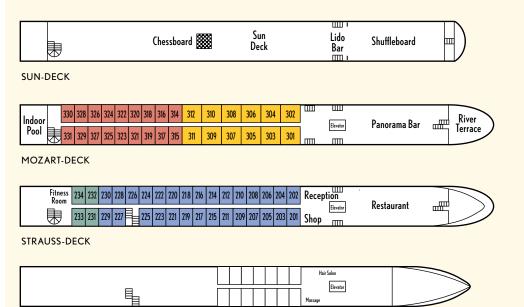
The vessel features a fitness facility, massage room, hairdresser, lounge, panoramic al fresco bar and retractableroof pool deck.

### **CRUISE WITH CONFIDENCE**

As with the entire privately owned Amadeus fleet, the ship was designed and built in Europe for quality control.



# Deck Plan



- Amadeus Suite (284 sq. ft.), walk-out balcony
- A-1(188 sq. ft.), French balcony
- **B-1**(188 sq. ft.), French balcony B-4 (188 sq. ft.), French balcony







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#### A&K'S GUEST PROTECTION PROGRAM

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This document contains highlights of the plans, which include travel insurance coverages underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company under form series T7000 et.al, T210 et. al. and TP-401 et. al. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best 2022. C&F and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The plans also contain noninsurance Travel Assistance Services provided by CareFree Travel Assistance." Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions. Insurance coverages are subject to the terms, limitations and exclusions in the plan, including an exclusion for pre-existing conditions. The purchase of travel insurance is not required in order to purchase any other product or service from your travel retailer. CA DOI toll free number: 800-927-4357. The cost of your plan is for the entire plan, which consists of both insurance and non-insurance components. Individuals looking to obtain additional information regarding the features and pricing of each travel plan component, please contact Aon Affinity.

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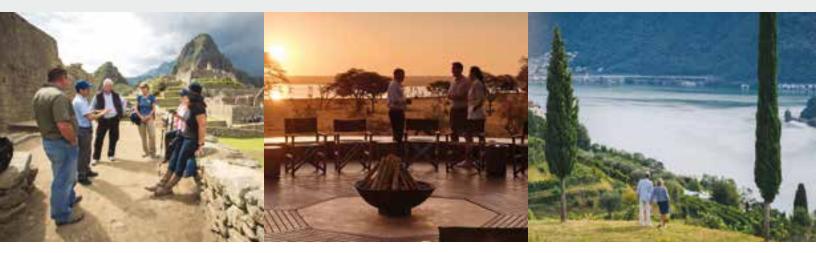
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# 2024 Connections Boutique Group Journeys

JOURNEY	PAGE #	PRICED FROM	# OF DAYS				[	DEPAI	RTUR	ЕМС	NTH:	S			
Land Journeys				JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	МАҮ	NNſ	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Sicily, Puglia & the Amalfi Coast	14	\$8,795	11					•	٠	•	•	٠	٠		
Italy's Jewels: Cinque Terre & the North	18	\$8,495	10						٠	•		•	٠		
Switzerland & the Italian Lakes	20	\$10,995	11					•	•	•		•			
Greece: Athens & the Aegean	24	\$8,495	10					•	٠	•		•	٠		
Spain: Seven Cities	26	\$6,995	10				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Portrait of Portugal	30	\$6,995	9					•	٠	•		•			
Iceland: Geysers & Glaciers	32	\$9,995	8					•	•	•	•	•	•		
Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg: Benelux Gems	36	\$8,495	10					•	٠			٠			
North America: Canadian Rockies	40	\$8,495	8						•	•	•	•			
Morocco: Imperial Cities	42	\$5,995	8		•		٠	٠				•	٠	٠	٠
River Cruise Journeys				NAL	FEB	MAR	APR	МАҮ	NUL	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC
Cruising Holland & Belgium in Bloom	54	\$7,295	9				٠	٠							
Prague & the Blue Danube	56	\$8,995	11					•	•	•	•	•	•		
Switzerland & the Rhine	60	\$10,495	11					•	•	•		•	•		
Christmas Markets Along the Danube	64	\$7,295	9											٠	٠
Christmas Along the Danube	66	\$7,795	9												•

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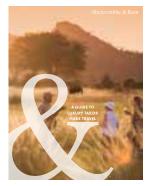
Small Group Journeys



Connections Boutique Group Journeys



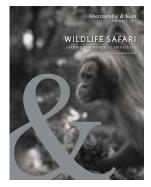
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